With the increasing globalization, availability of large-scale language resources, affordable computing power and maturing technologies in linguistics, statistics, and artificial intelligence, new opportunities as well as new challenges in Language Engineering have been thrown open in recent times. Language Technologies are maturing very fast and a transition from academic research to product development is already taking place. I am happy to note that this International Conference on Language Engineering is being organized at this right time.

Under the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) programme, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India, has taken a number of initiatives to promote research and development in Language Technologies. India has a very long and rich linguistic tradition, going back to several thousand years. Several language families and a large number of languages have co-existed in India from ancient times. There are more than a dozen centres of excellence in India where leading-edge R&D in Language Technologies is currently under way. I am happy to note that this International Conference on Language Engineering is being organized in India. I am sure that LEC 2002 will give us an opportunity to present the work being done, take stock of where we stand today, and plan to address the greater challenges that lie ahead. I wish the conference a grand success.

Om Vikas

General Chair