

From the Editor's Desk

In this issue there are two interesting papers that speak substantially about Welding Development in India. The first paper deals with the subject 'Welding Systems Development at BHEL, Tiruchirapalli'. The second paper is written as an overview of Welding Research, Education and Training at the Welding Research Institute. For any one of us who would like to have a knowledge capsule on how welding technology has advanced in our country through research and educational activities and has been adopted by the industry in general, these two papers will provide some insight to the key areas of work that we need to keep under sharp focus.

Any attempt to change the level of technology and to grow in an environment would also mean raising the overall standards which could mean considerable amount of co-ordination work mainly at the grass roots level. Vocational training on upgradation of welders' skills has been identified as one of the key areas where maximum emphasis is needed to meet the economic demands on welded fabrication.

In this context it is encouraging to note that the Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) have taken the lead role in the recently organised 'Work Skills India' competition on a National basis to emphasise the importance of Work Skills and vocational training. This competition covered 7 trades including Welding. Altogether 45 Companies nominated 204 trade persons for this competition. The course covered theoretical tests and project work and the faculty was drawn from teachers, educationists, shopfloor managers and technical experts. The National Final was conducted at the Advanced Training Institute (ATI) and Prototype Development And Training Centre (PTDC) in Howrah on 4 - 8 March 1989. This competition was in line with the Skill Olympics Movement where about 20 countries usually participate from all over the world. Skill Olympics - 1988 was held in Australia and the top three positions had gone to the Asian countries. We shall publish more about this in future issues.

May be we in India, atleast in the area of welding technology, can aim for participating in the future Skill Olympics against the backdrop of technological advances and the considerable research work that is going on in our country. There could be an air of optimism that a co-ordinated effort could bring us a 'Gold' in the next Skill Olympics!



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