

Report of National Welding Seminar and Weld India Exhibition 2016

THE PROGRAMME

After a gap of 7 long years, Kolkata Branch of IIW-India organized the mega event of National Welding Seminar (NWS 2016) at Science City, Kolkata, the largest science centre in the Indian Subcontinent under National Council of Science Museums; along with the concurrent event **WELD INDIA 2016 – 11th International Welding Technology Exhibition** at Milan Mela, the fair ground opposite to Science City.

The preparation was started more than a year ago and took its shape day by day by the efforts of Organizing Committee Members as well as IIW-India officials. However, taking consideration of the limitations by the members, two separate Event Management organisers were deputed for these events; CIM Global, Kolkata for NWS 2016 and ITEI, New Delhi for Weld India 2016.

This prestigious annual events of The Indian Institute of Welding was held between Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th December, 2016. The theme of this year's National Welding Seminar was **"Challenges and Developments in Welding and Fabrication Technology"**. It was really a great challenge to organize such events in the current national scenario. Even though these events attracted by large gathering of Scientists, Technologists, Research Scholars, Practising Engineers, Professionals, Students and Academicians from all over the country and abroad to know and share their knowledge about the welding science and technology. The Exhibition was a huge success, where the leading manufacturers from different welding sectors displayed their products, based on the latest technology.

On 15th December, Weld India Exhibition was inaugurated first in the morning session by Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. P. K. Das, Past President, IIW-India and Chairman,

Organizing Committee. Then the speeches were delivered by Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, Mr. R. Srinivasan, President, IIW-India, Mr. David McQuaid, President, American Welding Society and Mr. Parimal Biswas, Hony. Secretary General, IIW-India. All the speakers discussed about the importance of this type of exhibitions in brief. A total of 46 Exhibitors took part in the Exhibition.

Then, in the afternoon of 15th December, the inaugural session of NWS 2016 took place in the mini auditorium of Science City in the presence of an august gathering. The Chief Guest of the event was Mr. G. K. Pillai, Managing Director and CEO, Walchandnagar Industries Limited. The Guests of Honour were Dr. Arun Kumar Bhaduri, Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and Mr. Neeraj Kant, Managing Director, Indian Steel & Wire Products. The occasion was chaired by Mr. R. Srinivasan. Again the welcome address of NWS 2016 was delivered by Mr. P. K. Das. Apart from these dignitaries, Mr. Parimal Biswas and Mr. David McQuaid were also present on the stage at the inaugural session. In this occasion, Mr. McQuaid presented a trophy to IIW-India for its notable presence in the welding fraternity. Since it was also the Golden Jubilee year, the role of IIW-India and its history of contribution to Nation Building was discussed by the speakers and was appreciated by all. The Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. Pillai.

THE RECOGNITION

The award ceremony was conducted by Mr. Ranajoy Banerjee, Executive Director, IIW-India. The Golden Jubilee Excellence Award for International Relations was given to Mr. Ray Shook, Executive Director, AWS, for sharing and dissemination of knowledge base in welding science and technology globally through his active presence. Mr. R. R. Bhattacharjee was awarded this year's Life Time Achievement Award, for his outstanding contribution towards promotion of welding science and

technology in India. The Minati Bhattacharjee Memorial Award for Excellence was handed over to IIW-India Chennai Branch by Mr. R. R. Bhattacharjee as the best performing branch during 2015-16. Apart from these, 19 more award were given to the authors of best technical paper, research papers, young engineers, best welders, best welding engineer and in other categories. This will not be out of place to mention that just before NWS, between 12 to 14 December, National Skill Competition for Best Welder and Best Welding Engineer was organized in Kolkata, where the nationwide winners from initial screening were participated.

The inaugural session ended with the Vote of Thanks by the Organizing Secretary of NWS-2016, Mr. Debajyoti Debnath.

MEMORIAL LECTURES

After the Hi-Tea, it was the time for Memorial Lectures. Sir L. P. Misra Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Hasan Shaikh, on the subject 'The Saga of Environmental Degradation of Welds'; Prof. Placid Rodriguez Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. P. Venkata Ramana, on the subject 'A Study on Welding of Ultrahigh Strength Steels'; and Er. Soumitra Kumar De Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mr. Rahul Sengupta, on the subject 'SMAW Electrodes – the Growth, Boundaries and Beyond'.

GALA EVENING

In the evening, a cultural programme with modern dance and unforgettable songs from golden era were staged and enjoyed by the delegates and guests. This was followed by a Gala Dinner with a variety of Indian Cuisine, to end the opening day of NWS 2016 with a high note and in a pleasant manner.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Keeping in mind the 'Make in India' mission, a special plenary session on Skill Development was organised on the 2nd day of NWS, i.e., on 16th December in the morning session. This session was chaired by Mr. Sushim Banerjee, CEO, Indian Iron & Steel Sector Skill Council.

The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. Pradip Chakraborty, Director of Vocational Education and Training, Govt. of West Bengal. Cdr. J. S. Bhogal, Sr. Director, NABET, Quality Council of India, Mr. Ranajoy Banerjee, Executive Director, IIW-India, Mr. Nirbhay Srivastava, Assistant Director, Capital Goods Skill Council and Mr. S. Ghosh, Representative of M/s Quivan India Technical Institute were the other distinguished speakers. The whole spectrum about Skill Development in India by the Government, different Sector Skill Councils, Training Bodies and IIW-India was deliberated in this session through presentations and generated keen interest among the audience.

After the tea break, the 2nd plenary session was organized, which was chaired by Mr. D. V. Kulkarni, Chairman, Technical Committee, IIW-India. Among the speakers, the presentation of Prof. P. K. Ghosh, Deputy Director, IIT Roorkee, was 'Knowledge of pulse current GMAW – A new horizon to welding engineering'. The presentation of Mr. David McQuaid, President, AWS, was 'Welding – A global bridge to the future'. And the presentation of Dr. Herbert Stauffer, Chairman, IIW Commission IV, was 'Using innovative CMT process for industrial applications'.

THE PRESENTATION

In the afternoon session of 16th December and on 17th December, a total of 82 papers were presented by the Invited Speakers and Authors in multiple halls spread over 6 sessions. Different sessions in different halls were dedicated to various important topics related to welding. The highlighted topics were, (1) Arc Welding Process, (2) Solid State Welding, (3) Mechanical Property, (4) Welding Metallurgy, (5) Corrosion, (6) Weld Fabrication, (7) Structural Welding, (8) Dissimilar Joint, (9) Modelling and Process Optimization, (10) Brazed Joint, (11) Automotive, (12) Laser Beam Welding, (13) Residual Stress, (14) Repair Welding and Maintenance, (15) NDT and Quality, (16) Hard Facing, Cladding & Reclamation, (17) Automation and Process Characteristics, and (18) Safety. The different sessions were chaired by renowned personalities from welding

fraternity. It was really a 360 degree vision on welding technology; the credit of such an all-round Technical Session goes to Prof. Dr. T. K. Pal, which is also supported by Mr. Rahul Sengupta and Prof. Dr. Santanu Das. A valedictory session was held after completion of the presentation of papers.

THE CLOSING

In the evening of 17th December, the closing ceremony of year long Golden Jubilee Celebrations as well as NWS 2016 was took place, and again it was chaired by Mr. R. Srinivasan. It was indeed a colourful session. After the address by Mr. Srinivasan, a hearty respect was shown to the past presidents Mr. S. K. Burman and Mr. A. K. Mukherjee and requested them to say few words. Thereafter, reports on different year long programmes were presented by different speakers. Report on Golden Jubilee Celebration programme on 22nd April, 2016 by Mr. P. K. Das, Chairman, Organising Committee, Golden Jubilee Celebration Programme; report on 6th IIW Welding Research & Collaboration Colloquium from 7 to 9 April, 2016 by Dr. P. Venkata Ramana, Hony. Secretary, IIW-India, Hyderabad Branch; report on National Quiz Contest at School levels on 29th July, 2016 by Mr. T. V. Prabhu, Chairman, IIW-India, Chennai Branch; report on Young Professional Seminar on 1st October, 2016 by

Mr. D. V. Acharya, Chairman, Baroda Branch; and report on Young Engineers Competition on 10th and 11th November, 2016 by Mr. Jose P. Philip, Chairman, IIW-India, Cochin Branch.

Next programme was the felicitation to all Council Members, Office Bearers, Chairman of IIW-India Branches and NWS 2016 Organizing Committee Members by Mr. R. Srinivasan, President, IIW-India. This was a proud moment for all the professionals on stage.

A Panel discussion on Looking Beyond Gold-Road Ahead was done by the IIW-India stalwarts Mr. C. C. Girotra, Dr. R. S. Parmar, Dr. Hasan Shaikh and Mr. G. A. Soman. Finally the Vote of Thanks was given by Mr. Parimal Biswas, Hony. Secretary General of IIW-India, who has taken IIW-India to a great height during his long tenure in IIW-India Council.

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The overwhelming success of the entire event would not have been possible without the generous and spontaneous sponsor support from the welding and allied industries. It was really a pleasant experience to all the Organizing Committee Members to execute such a huge task with the leadership of Mr. P. K. Das, which was appreciated whole heartedly by all the dignitaries.

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