

The Indian Institute of Welding organised the Third International Welding Conference at the India Habitat Centre Auditorium, New Delhi in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry from 15th to 17th February, 2001. The Theme of the Conference was : "Advances in Welding and Cutting Technology". It was co-sponsored by Engineers India Ltd., Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd, Advani Oerlikon and MEMCO Ltd.

At the beginning, two minutes' silence was observed in memories of the victims of the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, including the members of our latest branch - Baroda. After this, **Smt. Sumita Majumdar** prayed for the welfare of the people in general and the members of the IIW in particular in her Invocational song.

**Shri M.L.Gehani**, Vice-President, IIW welcomed the Chief Guest, invitees, authors from the country as well as abroad, sponsors, the advertisers and the delegates. He said that due to the recession in the industry and the tragic earthquakes in many parts of the country we could not get more delegates this year. We have about 250 delegates.

**Shri S. Samidas**, Chairman, Technical Committee gave a brief on the technical papers. He said that 86 papers out of 125, received were accepted for presentation including 19 papers from foreign authors. The papers were grouped into 6 areas and covered in 19 technical sessions. Papers which were considered for different Awards were presented during the afternoons in 3 different halls, while all other papers were presented during the morning sessions in the main Hall. A departure from the past that there was no Poster Session this year.

**Shri M. K. Mittal** in his presidential address said that despite the shocks and economic aftermath of the natural disaster, the Indian economy was well past the crossroads and the country was certainly on the path of a giant leap forward. During the first half of the year, the industrial production had grown by 5.5 %. The manufacturing sector had shown a 6% growth, as compared to the other sectors. In the past three decades, developments in welding technology have been stupendous. State of the Art developments in Power electronics and controls have enabled highly reliable processes like MIG, Electro-slag, Electro-gas, Flux-cored arc and Narrow gap welding etc. become more productive and welder friendly. 'Welding' has almost been replaced by the term 'Joining of materials'. Welding has grown HIGH-TECH. He also touched upon Health, Safety and Environment in Welding. Lastly he elaborated upon the comprehensive training and education, when he declared that the Govt. of India has recognised the AM-IIW Examination as equivalent to the Degree Examination in WELDING.

**Shri Keshav Saran**, Chairman and Managing Director of EIL, while inaugurating the Conference, highlighted the importance of Welding in the day-to-day affairs of the Industry and said that the country's progress was very much related to the Advanced Welding and Cutting Technology. He emphasised the use of more automation to

cut down the Project completion time as well as its cost-thereby matching with the advanced countries. He also cautioned to keep the Quality Aspect in very high esteem. He said that their all important and large Projects involve a huge amount of welding. He stressed upon the need of the Infrastructure for speedy progress including high standards.

He then lighted the traditional Inauguration lamp followed by **S/Shri M. K. Mittal**, President, IIW, **K. G. Ramachandran**, CMD, BHEL, **M. L. Gehani**, Vice-President, IIW, **Anupam Haldar**, Vice-President, IIW, **J. K. Sur**, Hony.Treasurer, IIW and **J. C. Shahani**, Hony. Secretary, IIW. **Shri Saran** also released the Souvenir as well as the CD of the technical papers. **Shri Shahani** proposed the Vote of Thanks.

After the Inaugural session, **Shri R. S. Babu**, General Manager, BHEL, Ranipet plant and ex-Vice-President IIW presented the Keith Heartly Memorial lecture. He narrated the 'Appropriate welding technologies for fabrication in the present day Indian context'. He was given a silver medallion by the President,IIW. This lecture was followed by another Memorial lecture, which was delivered by **Dr. U. D. Mallya**, Professor, Mech. Engg., IIT, Mumbai and Chairman, Mumbai Branch of IIW. His topic was : 'Welding Education : Destination 2010 - Problems and Prospects'. He was also given a silver medallion.

The Technical Sessions started after the lunch was over on 15th February and continued for the next two days. Though 86 technical papers were accepted for presentation, about 12 papers could not be presented due to the absence of the authors. Couple of papers from foreign authors were presented by their Indian representatives. It had created problems for the participants as their questions could not be answered. Only two papers each were presented on HRD & Safety in Welding and four papers on welding of Non-ferrous metals. We have to look into this aspect in future. However, it was heartening to see a large no. of young authors including ladies coming forward for presenting their technical papers through the Laptop. The Slide Projector was not at all used by any author – however a few, especially from the Govt. Sectors had used the Overhead Projector. It was a sign of technical progress in presenting technical papers alongwith this year's proceedings being in CD Rom.

The Valedictory programme started on 17th February afternoon with the welcome address by **Shri Anupam Haldar**, Vice-President, IIW. He also introduced **Prof. R. S. Sodhi**, Director, IIT, New Delhi. **Shri M. P. Dhanuka**, another Vice-President, IIW, summed up the technical proceedings of all the three days. Then, after the Presidential address by **Shri M. K. Mittal**, **Prof. Sodhi** delivered the Valedictory address. He stressed upon the Education, Quality and Safety in welding. **Shri M. P. Jain**, Hony. Secretary, Delhi branch proposed the Vote of Thanks and curtain came down on this Mega Event.