

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



The year 1997-98 is just over and the AGM of your Institute is expected to be held shortly at Calcutta. The Council has completed one year and it is necessary to take a stock of situation with all Members and others who are interested in the growth of IIW.

As a President of the IIW; I must say that I was given the entire freedom to plan and execute various outstanding issues which needed special attention. In the past one year I have been able to visit a few branches such as Mumbai, Delhi, Baroda, Jamshedpur, besides Calcutta and have kept myself apprised of the activities. There has been a growth of Membership both in capacity of Individual Member as well as ICMs and trend is clearly visible that the figure will increase adequately in the months to come.

For your information, all the ICMs have been provided with a new certificate which was handed over to the Chairmen of branches requesting them to visit ICMs and deliver the Certificate in person in order to keep in contact. Life Members are given Identity Card with their photograph. The Indian Welding Journal (IWJ) is being published in time and with a completely changed look having colour pages on the cover and inside and many new sections introduced. This has not only resulted in a greater acceptance by the Members and other readers but has also saved the losses which the journal was making in the past, by way of earning better revenue. New books are purchased at the Headquarters and the reading service is in operation now, which will be useful for those who want to appear in the AM-IIW examination. The Headquarters has been equipped with a computer and planning is being made to get a separate line for Internet / E-mail service so that the information from any place can be received and transmitted instantaneously. Many of our branches are also equipped with computer at their own premises and it would be possible for all of us to communicate in a closer manner. The new branch of Baroda has taken birth during this period; I must say that the enthusiasm created by the new branch was unparalleled and I am sure that the tempo will be maintained. There are talks in progress to open other branches and centres and suitable progress is being made to this effect.

With regard to training and certification, I am glad to inform that the approval by AICTE for AM-IIW examination is no more a distant talk, as most of the queries by the panel of experts were satisfactorily replied and it is now limited to issues e.g. the selection of suitable examination centres. There are various training courses being organised by many branches and recently a certification course on "Interpretation of Weld Radiograph" conducted by Headquarters jointly with other societies like ISNT has gained immense popularity. It is the aim of your Council to initiate various training and certification programmes all over the country and suggestions from all of you are most welcome. Many such work are being done by dedicated professionals at the General Purposes Committee & Sub-Committees under it.

With regard to International front, your Council Members have visited countries like Singapore, Japan, USA etc. on invitation from societies with whom we have MOU and have made access to the forefront of Welding Technology by participating in the meetings, conferences, annual events and exhibitions. We are receiving requests from many other societies to sign MOU with them, which include Australia, Japan, South Korea etc. The re-entry at the International Institute of Welding for our Institute has been revived and it is most likely that we shall be able to reinstate our membership shortly.

The biggest event is coming up in February '99 at New Delhi namely, International Welding Conference - IWC'99 organised by your Institute as well as the Weld India International '99 Exhibition, by CII. We have received tremendous response on technical papers specially from outside India and we are expecting many luminaries and international experts in the field of Welding to be visiting the IWC'99 for presenting their papers, and the delegates will have benefit of interacting with them. The exhibition area is almost full and CII with support of IIW has done wonderful work in this regard. I would request all of you to register yourselves as a delegate in the IWC'99 especially those who have not yet done so. The Council Members and the Secretariat have done tremendous work during last one year in their respective areas of operation and I must thank each of them for their splendid work. The new year will see further changes and development of your institute and it is the intention of the Council to make our society as one of the most vibrant and useful institutions for benefit of our ICMs and individual members.

Wish you all a happy & prosperous New Year.

Sd/-
S. K. BURMAN
President - IIW