



The new Council of the IIW took over in December 1997 and took sometime to plan activities. There has been some change in the market with the slowdown of the economy, with rise of inflation, and lack of investment. Added to above, currently the economy is further down graded by the sanctions being imposed by advanced countries on India after the nuclear test in the month of May 1998.

The activities concerning the Institute are growing at a rapid rate. There has been gradual change in the working of almost all committees and many issues are being assessed in the smallest details to give a shape. All these are being done in order to serve the members much better, closely interact with industries through the industrial corporate members and place our Institute in the forefront of societies both in the country and outside.

To mention a few activities, some of the Council Members visited Japan, Singapore, USA & UK in the recent past to take part in the invitations extended by the member societies and initiate discussion with them in various areas. The activities of the newly formed technical committee are getting into a shape and expected to gain a firm foothold shortly. The Indian Welding Journal at long last is on the way to become economically self-reliant after the introduction of four coloured sponsored covers from July'98 edition. This has been a tremendous achievement. The library at the headquarters is getting renovated with the purchase of new books; the Membership Certificate for ICMs and Membership Cards for individual members are being issued with all promptness. A database has been created at the Institute's premises with complete and latest details of the members and it is the intention of the G. P. Committee to publish a Directory of members shortly. Most of the branches are quite active with activities while a few of them need to catch up.

The activities for the forthcoming event of the International Welding Conference (IWC'99) and the Weld India International '99 Exhibition being jointly organised by CII & IIW in February 1999 at New Delhi, are gaining momentum. It is understood that exhibition space is already booked to the extent of about 1,700 sq.m and those who have not yet booked, may immediately do so by contacting CII. The Organising Committee of IWC'99 with its Chairmen for various activities are planning to make the conference one of the most successful events. It is expected that IWC'99 will see a lot of overseas speakers & delegates, besides delegates from all sections of Indian Industry. All above are being done as a team effort with contribution from each & every individual in the Committees formed.

It is hoped that, with the growth of our Institute, the situation in the country as well as industry will also make a change for the better with revival of the economy, so that the benefit of our services to it's members can be fully utilized.

**S. K. Burman**  
President - IIW