

Report on the International Welding Conference - 1996

by
N K Sarkar, Secretary, IWC-96

IWC-96, the International Welding Conference-1996 along with an International Exhibition on Welding and Cutting equipment was organised by the Indian Institute of Welding for the first time at Mumbai from 5th to 7th December 1996. The theme of the Conference was : "Joining - the Art, Science & Technology".

About 400 delegates from all over the country and abroad congregated at the Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai to participate in the Conference and the Exhibition. Thirty exhibitors including 8 from abroad took part in the exhibition, which was well attended by the general public as well.

The Conference started with an invocation song and lighting of the traditional lamp on 5th December 1996. Mr C C Girotra, Chairman of the Mumbai Branch of IIW, welcomed the delegates and guests. Mr J K Nanda, President-IIW and Co-Convenor of IWC'96, presided over the inaugural function and delivered the Presidential Address. Prof P Rama Rao, Director, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Govt. of India, inaugurated the Conference. In his address, he stressed the importance of quality of Joining - the theme of the Conference. Mr. Sanat Bhattach-

haryya, Managing Director, ESAB India Ltd. delivered the keynote address. He gave the welding scenario in the country. Dr J E Key, President, American Welding Society, inaugurated the exhibition. He portrayed the current status of the Welding Research Programmes in U.S.A. and outlined the future areas of particular interest, considering the fact that the U.S.A. has a very broad and diverse industrial base, which required the full range of welding processes.

Awards/Prizes were given away by Mr. Nanda to the winners of best papers presented during the National Welding Seminar held at Cochin in December, 1995. Mr S V Nadkarni, Ex-President of IIW and a doyen of the Welding Fraternity in the country, was felicitated during the function.

The technical sessions commenced with the Keith Hartley Memorial Lecture by Dr R S Parmar, Professor, IIT, Delhi. His lecture on "Welding - its past, present & future" was very exhaustive and it drew applause from the participants. Seventysix more technical papers including 11 invited papers and 9 poster papers, were presented in 19 technical sessions spread over 3 parallel sessions by both Indian

and foreign authors. The highlight of the 2-hour opening session on 6th December'96 was the presentation of 3 invited lectures by Mr Santos of Portugal, Mr. Boehm of Romania and Mr. Dobman of Germany. They outlined the welding research activities, the task, function & qualification of Welding co-ordinators, and the contribution of lifetime extension of the low and multi frequency Eddy current system to assure the integrity of cladding techniques in Europe.

It was very heartening to see a large number of young Indian Engineers with hardly 5-6 years' experience in the industry, presenting their papers with authority and confidence. All the papers were of very high standard. The discussions on the papers were very lively. Full texts of all the papers were printed in a Souvenir, which was given to the delegates free of cost. However, a few Souvenirs are available for sale at a cost of Rs. 500.00 per copy and the same may be acquired from Mr Nanda, President of IIW & Co-convenor of IWC'96.

The valedictory session on 7th December'96 was chaired by Mr. P S Visvanath, ex-President of IIW and a well-known veteran

Welding Technologist. Mr. D S Hanavar, ex-Vice-president of IIW and another key figure in the welding industry of the country, summed up the proceedings of the Conference with his usual wit and humour.

M/s. Advani Oerlikon Ltd., and M/s. ESAB India Ltd., were declared the best and second best exhibitors and were given the Awards by Mr. Nanda, who

also distributed a Memento each to all the exhibitors as well as to the organising committee members, who had worked day in and day out for the success of the conference and the exhibition. All the past Chairmen of Mumbai Branch of IIW were also felicitated and given a memento each.

Mr. N K Sarkar, Vice-Chairman of Mumbai Branch of IIW and

Secretary of the Organising Committee of IWC'96, proposed the vote of thanks. He bade 'Adieu' to all, with a hope to meet again at the next National Welding Seminar to be held at Bangalore in the first week of December 1996.

Sd/- N K Sarkar
9th December 1996

We request all our members to furnish the following information in order to update our membership record.

Name / Membership Number / Address for Communication
Telephone Number : (a) Residence, (b) Office, (c) Contact (in absence of a or b), (d) STD Code
Qualifications, besides those recorded with IIW (if any).

*Please send it to
The Chairman, Membership Sub-Committee,
The Indian Institute of Welding, 3A, Loudon Street Calcuta - 700 017.*

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