

*While the yester year bids adieu
The new year ushered in
We fare thee all well
& Enjoin hearty greetings*

So say all of us here at the H.Q. to all of us not far away - in the country and at large.

In the mean time, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IIW was held on 22nd November '96, and the Office bearers for the year 1996-97 have been elected. We welcome our (IIW) President Mr. J. K. Nanda, Vice-Presidents, Mr. S. K. Burman, Dr. G. L. Dutta and Mr. M. P. Dhanuka, Hony. Secretary Mr. A. K. Mukherjee and Hony. Treasurer, Mr. S. K. Ghosh. We look forward to a Prosperous New Year for IIW — active in all fronts and ushering in new vigour.

One more MOU has been signed between the Singapore Welding Society (SWS) and The Indian Institute of Welding (IIW). Details of this MOU is published in this issue of Indian Welding Journal (IWJ). The scope of this collaboration interests us in that 'mutual care and share' cover such items as exchange of technical staff and members, make available journals, publications and literatures which would further enrich each other's resource - inventory. Dr. Placid Rodriguez, immediate Past President of IIW, has acted rightly and in opportune in concluding the MOU deserves our thanks many times.

"The International Welding Conference on Joining : The Art, Science and Technology" was held on 5th, 6th & 7th December '96 in Mumbai. In the summing up of the Conference Sri D. S. Honavar, veteran of the IIW, made the point that.... "We should (also) look at the fast developing human resources in the form of young engineers and authors..." Indeed it has been a successful endeavour from this point of view that a substantial number of the technical papers, presented at the conference, were presented by young practicing scientists and engineers from home and abroad, from technical and academic institutions much as from industrial houses. We are enticed to publish selected numbers of these papers in the coming issues of IWJ.

In this issue of the journal, welding education, safety aspects in welding environment have been highlighted along with broad technical issues involved in welding processes such as MIG, resistance spot welding, the selection of electrodes and the economics of plasma spraying process. Be it the economics and technical aspects, the quality or the R & D of welding technology - all embracing issue is the welding education and Mr. R. A. Walker in his paper, "The Importance of Training & Certification in Quality Fabrication", has introduced an area in the conceptual development of welding education for the welding inspectorate personnel in Europe. While we, in the IIW, are pondering actively and seeking recognition of AMIOW courses might find the contents in Mr. Walker's paper more than just interesting.

Health and safety aspects in welding environment has always been and is of concern to related industries and involved personnel. We carry two different papers in this issue of the journal, one by Mr. GL. Mukhopadhyay and the other by Mr. Anupam Haldar bringing the recent development aspects in this sensitive area to the fore. Informative and the approach being resource rich would benefit many users, in general.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Sd/-

Dr. P. Majumdar

Editor