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## MESSAGE

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On behalf of the American Welding Society, I would like to congratulate the International Institute of Welding on its plan to hold the 64th IIW Annual Assembly in the vibrant and fast-growing city of Chennai, India. Similarly, we would like to extend our appreciation and best wishes to the organizing staff of the Indian Institute of Welding, host of this year's IIW Annual Assembly. In particular, we would like to commend the efforts of R. Ravi, Chair of the Organizing Committee IIW 2011, and C. C. Girotra, Convener of the Organizing Committee.

The American Welding Society has a strong cooperative relationship with the Indian Institute of Welding, in that each issue of the Indian Welding Journal carries a special supplement of welding articles from our own AWS Welding Journal. The Indian Institute of Welding does a thoroughly professional job reproducing these articles, and of producing the Indian Welding Journal, overall. We know they will apply the same level of professionalism to hosting this year's IIW Annual Assembly.

As a location for the IIW Annual Assembly, the port city of Chennai, with an estimated population of more than 8-million people, is a near-ideal location for this year's Assembly. In addition to being easily accessible from all over the world, Chennai is a major industrial base. Contributing nearly 40% of India's Gross Domestic Product, the Chennai Zone is where more than half of the country's automotive exports are produced, earning the nickname of "The Detroit of Asia". Moreover, Chennai is one of the world's largest exporters of computer software, information technology, and IT-enabled services. With all this going on, it is a highly appropriate venue for both the IIW Annual Assembly and the accompanying Conference on "Global Trends in Joining, Cutting and Surfacing Technology".

Once you have experienced the cultural charm and industrial might of India, we hope you will make plans to attend the 65th IIW Annual Assembly, set for July 8-13, 2012, in Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. Hosted by the American Council of IIW, the 2012 Assembly will offer a taste of the American Rocky Mountain West, mixing world-class meeting facilities with attractions ranging from live rodeo to major art museums. The accompanying IIW International Conference will focus on "Welding for Repair and Life Extension of Plants and Infrastructure". Learn more at [www.iiw2012.com](http://www.iiw2012.com).

Sincerely

**John L. Mendoza**  
President  
American Welding Society