

## **Address of the President, Mr. R. Srinivasan at the 48th Annual General Meeting of The Indian Institute of Welding in Kolkata on September 20, 2014**

Dear Members of this prestigious institute,

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you all and accept the responsibility of leading this great Institute of our country as the 24th President. I sincerely thank one and all for giving this opportunity to me. Every president from our first President Late S. K. Dutta to Mr Pabitra Kumar Das has contributed significantly for the growth of this Institute.

Over the last 10 years, the IIW India has made significant progress due to its active involvement with the International Institute, and with other segments thereby helping to raise the status of IIW India, on the global platform. The excellent team work that we have all put in, along with the support of our industrial corporate members has made us an internationally credible organisation. Corporate India today looks upto IIW and hopes that we are able to meet their requirements and expectations.

As organization grows, it also has the responsibility to fulfil the objectives of the organization. Now the infrastructure is fully available in our own IIW-India House, we must execute our new activities swiftly so as to meet the needs of the industry. For this, I call upon all youngsters to come forward and take charge of various responsibilities that the organisation has to offer. It is time for us to generate the next set of team to take the Institute to much higher level both within and outside the country.

Industries today are in constant need of trained personnel and basic welding engineers. It is time, we support these demands by ensuring the availability of trained personnel. IIW India offers transition arrangement for the International Diploma Certification programs under ANB and hence, we must take this segment of business to greater heights at the shortest period by active marketing as the transition arrangement may not be available for long. As a Knowledge partner in the Skill Development programs in the Capital Goods, Automobile and Steel sectors, major thrust and the role played by IIW India must be known to industries.

Presently these activities are being managed partly by few individuals at the HO level. But it is time, for all branches of our institute to take these up as regular branch activities and

support the same. As of today, only a few of our branches participate in all organisational activities. I appeal to all branch chairmen and committees to identify the relevant workforce in all our branches and implement the same.

As mentioned earlier, meeting the large scale demand of welding personnel such as welding engineers and supervisors for industries is a big necessity. In order to aid this move, the basic welding engineering course needs to be introduced in colleges, both private and government aided, as a 4-year undergraduate Engineering course. I advise the IIW-India foundation to explore this possibility by taking up the matter with the appropriate authorities such as the ministry of HRD, AICTE and various engineering colleges. At IIW India, we have the AMIIW examination, but this has limitation in the absence of proper coaching and teaching aids. Some branches have approached the final year Engineering students to take up AMIIW. But the results can be far more different.

Today, we have over 8,000 engineering colleges in India but no other college apart from Sant Longawal Institute at Taran Taran, Punjab and a few others offer welding engineering course at the under graduation level. IIW India has a large pool of experts from Educational institutes, Research Associations and Industries, who can closely associate with various educational institutes and guide them to meet the syllabus. Even if a minimum of 2 colleges in each Indian state, set up a welding engineering course in the undergraduate level, India will generate at least 500+ specialized welding engineers each year, within the next 5 years time. Very few Indian institutes offer Post graduate programs in Welding technology. Need of the hour for industries is to get candidates with knowledge in welding science and technology at shop floor levels. If we succeed in this endeavour, I am sure the industry will come forward to help IIW India establish the same all over the country. I appeal to the chairman of the IIW foundation to look into these prospects and present the country's need with the relevant authorities in convincing them regarding the same.

Similarly, today we have a large no ITI's in the country, but a many of them are unable to effectively conduct the welding courses due to reasons best known to them. I appeal to each branch/centre of our institute to approach with our Syllabus

and support at least 5 such ITI in their area and establish welding courses and training with efficient support. We, at IIW need to spend every year 85% of surplus earnings for the cause that the Institute has been established. We have a social responsibility to fulfil the objective of IIW India, failing which the surplus earned and parked in banks as fixed deposits will be subjected to tax after lock-in periods. Effective utilisation of the surplus generated is to be looked at.

Introducing e-coaching, distant education and e-communication is the need of the hour and it is time, we need to change our methods and explore these avenues. Introducing electronic communication for effective communication with members, branches, will give an opportunity to every member to participate in the various activities of the Institute. For all this to bear fruit, it is important that these facilities be introduced at HO and branch levels and also be implemented at the earliest. For this, I seek the whole-hearted support of all members, council members and the respective committees so that active participation of every member can be possible. (any change will of course have much resistance also)

On the basis of the annual report of the institute, I find that while we have made sufficient progress in various fronts, we have definitely not grown in membership at the same pace. The growth of corporate and general membership in the last 4 years is also a big concern. With the Government's Vision of substantial growth in manufacturing and other sectors, it is time, we work towards increasing our membership base. It is necessary that we induct the young students in our institute in the student category, there is also an opportunity to register Educational Institute. I request the membership committee to explore methods to increase the base and if needed, by suitably amending the rules to utilize the opportunities.

The financial status of IIW today, is of concern to all of us. Our commitment to International Institute fees, the statutory expenses of various professionals employed is a big worry for the chairman of the finance committee to raise the resources. We can no longer depend only on the income through seminars

and exhibitions from branches as well as NWM, NWS. It is necessary to develop a system by which most activities can be self-sufficient. The Modular Employment Scheme (MES) assessment, NWCTS plays a big role in collecting outstanding dues from State Governments for services rendered and ensures that future bills are collected on time.

I request the Chairman of the Finance committee and the Branch Hony. Treasurers and Secretaries to closely co-ordinate with each other so that the accounts are presented properly as per the guidelines well before the due dates and take care not to repeat the lapses as already a substantial amount is held up with IT department cases. We have to bear in mind that we are not a manufacturer to absorb these large funds as it affects the total working capital of the Institute.

With the support of the members I propose to make few changes in the working which will create a road map and plan for the next 10 years

It is a proud moment for all of us as IIW India will be entering into its 50th year since inception from 22nd April 2015 and it is our wish that FY15 be known as the Golden Jubilee year of IIW. We hope to celebrate this full year as a year of activities throughout the nation which we will plan and circulate to all of you in the beginning of 2015.

I would like place on record the excellent work done by Mr. Pabitra Kumar Das and under his leadership two new branches were formed after a lapse of 14 years. I seek his support and help to me for to discharge my duties.

I sincerely thank all the members of our Institute for their confidence imposed on me to lead the institute. I also wish to thank all the council members present and past, all branches, particularly my home branch Mumbai and my earlier Home branch Chennai who have stood behind me in all my achievements at IIW. With all of your support, I am confident, that together we can create a better India in the true spirit of our corporate slogan **"Welding for Nation Building."**

Thanks for your attention.