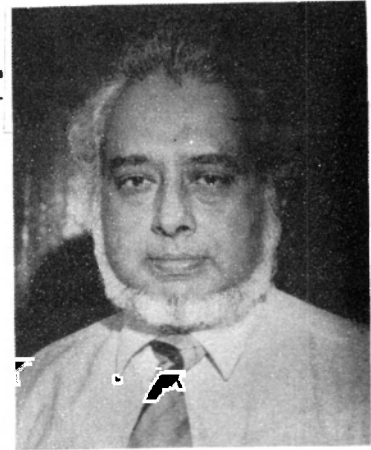# From the Editor's Desk

I wish you all the best for the New Year, 1990.

On the subject of working together, I was looking for a befitting task which can set a direction for achieving the objectives for the coming years, say the decade 1990-1999.

There is one aspect I find which needs to be addressed now, is the role of welding production in the overall management of manufacturing engineering. Even in the advanced countries, the general perception is that the welding production is not managed to the expectation. From the management point of view, the problem starts from the planning and implementation of the production welding programmes to produce sound welds which is not quite that simple as is normally thought of. The amount of re-work, repair welding and hold up time loss etc., if measured properly could reflect the in-built inefficiencies of the system which more often remains a secret but nevertheless the perception of low productivity prevails.

The problem persists because adequate knowledge and experience are not always visible when we try to evaluate most of the Managers and Engineers working at the shop floor level, barring a few exception. In this case, there is a need to have a supporting team of skilled and experienced welders and welding engineers adequately trained and exposed to production welding exercises where they can measurably contribute. Welding engineering plays a very important part in laying down the foundation and also updating the training needs to improve skills, importance of which can never be over-emphasised.

The industrial management in India is perhaps holding some perception about production welding and certainly there is a note of optimism about the way the industry has progressed so far. While we have post-graduate level courses in welding technology to look after the needs of the R&D Institutions and some large industries, it must be said that by and large this education has not transcended to under-graduate levels or even to technicians level to meet the needs of the industry.

It is, therefore, necessary to bring in the welding fabricators and the institutions under one forum and to create a "market place" situation for both to promote a healthy growth. If welding engineers can be provided with equal opportunity for growth as engineers in other streams of technology, the educationists perhaps would be able to take on more talented students to join welding engineering as a mainline stream.

Such an approach, ultimately may result in, upgradation of welding production in industry - a desirable management goal.

Editor