

A REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2017

The International Congress 2017 (IC 2017) of the International Institute of Welding was organized by the **Indian Institute of Welding** during **07-09 December 2017 at the Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai**. Concurrently, **Young Professionals International Conference 2017 (YPIC 2017)** & India's largest welding exhibition, **WELD INDIA 2017**, was held during the same period.

Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India was the **Chief Guest** and inaugurated IC 2017 on 07 December 2017. **Dr. Cecile Mayer**, Chief Executive Officer of the International Institute of Welding, was the **Guest of Honour**. **Dr. A. K. Bhaduri**, President, the Indian Institute of Welding, and Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, presided over the function. **Mr. Parimal Biswas**, Honorary Secretary General, the Indian Institute of Welding; **Mr. R. Srinivasan**, Chairman, National Organising Committee, and Immediate Past President, the Indian Institute of Welding; **Dr. Hasan Shaikh**, Chairman, Preparatory Committee; **Dr. Shaju K. Albert**, Vice President, the Indian Institute of Welding; **Mr. T. V. Prabhu**, Chairman, the Indian Institute of Welding, Chennai Branch; and **Mr. Hemant Kumar**, Secretary, the Indian Institute of Welding, Chennai Branch, were the other dignitaries to grace the dais.

In his address, Dr. Chidambaram, highlighted the important role of welding in joining of different alloys, varying from thin sections to very thick sections, by welding in the development of the Advanced Ultra Supercritical (AUSC) technology for coal based thermal power generation. He also dwelt on Additive Manufacturing as a means to manufacture components with functionally graded materials. In her address, Dr. Cecile Mayer emphasized on the strong relations between the Indian Institute of Welding and the international welding community. She lay emphasis on promoting regional ties among SAARC Countries in promoting welding technology. She foresaw India as a leader in this initiative.

Dr. Chidambaram released the Souvenir and Proceedings of IC 2017, and Dr. Cecile Mayer released the directory of WELD INDIA 2017. The Awards Function of the Indian Institute of Welding followed the inaugural Ceremony. The list of Award Winners is printed elsewhere in this issue.

After inauguration of IC 2017, Dr. Chidambaram inaugurated WELD INDIA 2017 by cutting the ribbon. He went around the exhibition with other dignitaries. This was followed by the Award Lectures. Dr. A. K. Bhaduri delivered the prestigious

Jaeger Lecture of the International Institute of Welding. This was followed by prestigious award lectures of the Indian institute of Welding - **Dr. Mahadev Shome** of Tata Steel, Jamshedpur, delivered the **Keith Hartley Memorial Lecture**; **Mr. T. V. Prabhu** of IGCAR, Kalpakkam, delivered the **Prof. Placid Rodriguez Memorial Lecture**, and **Mr. P. Ravikumar** of ESAB India Ltd., Chennai, delivered the **Prof. D R G Achar Memorial Lecture**.

The Post-Lunch Session began with a Plenary Session on Skill Development in Welding in India. **Mr. I. S. Gahlaut**, CEO, Capital Goods Skill Council; **Mr. Sushim Kumar Bannerjee**, CEO, Indian Iron & Steel Sector Skill Council; **Ms. Alka Pandey**, Sr. Consultant, Automotive Skill Development Council; **Mr. Maheshwaran**, Joint Director (C.T.), Director of Employment and Training, Govt. of Tamilnadu; **Mr. Parimal Biswas**, Hony. Secretary General, IIW India; and **Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatro**, Managing Director, Kemppee India Ltd., Chennai, delivered lectures in this Plenary Session.

The Technical Sessions of IC 2017 got underway after the plenary session on Skill Development. A total of 170 papers, including 35 talks by invited dignitaries, were presented in the International Congress in 23 sessions of Oral Presentations and One Session of Poster Presentation. The poster by Ms. R. Anbukkarasi of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, on **"Effect of tool offset position on properties of friction stir welded aluminium AA2024 alloy - copper joints"** was adjudged the Best poster Presentation. One of the 23 Oral Sessions was a Plenary Session, where Dr. G. Padmanabham, Director, ARCI, Hyderabad; Prof. S. S. Babu of The University of Tennessee, USA; and Dr. Andreas Klenk of MPA Stuttgart, delivered important talks in the latest in welding technology.

The Young Professionals International Conference (YPIC 2017) was held for the first time in India on 08 December 2017. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Nadège BRUN of the International Institute of Welding. 15 Technical papers were presented by young professionals below 35 years of age, in three sessions. The paper by **Dr. V. D. Vijayanand** of IGCAR, Kalpakkam, on **"An investigation on the Factors Influencing Creep Rupture Life of 316LN SS Weld Joints"** was adjudged the best presentation in YPIC 2017.

WELD INDIA 2017 had nearly 80 companies exhibiting on nearly 1800 sq.m. of floor area between 07 to 09 December 2017. A hall mark of the exhibition was participation by a number of new Companies, mostly start ups dealing with automation and robotics. Nearly 5000 business visitors visited the exhibition over the 3 days.