

Address by S. K. Burman, President - IIW at the AGM on 8th January 2000

Members of The Indian Institute of Welding, members of the outgoing council, Mr M.K. Mittal, President-Elect, Mr A.K. Basu, Past President, IIW & friends :

The year 1999 is just over a few days back and we have entered into a new millennium in the year 2000. Wide range of changes are being observed all over the world in many areas. Indian industry is waiting for a giant leap forward after investments are initiated in the infrastructure as well as other key areas. There are many Power Plants coming up in the country and similarly the investment in the oil related sectors are also continuing. With a population touching one billion, biggest opportunity exists in consumer sector industries like dairy & milk products, health care equipment & accessories, tea, jute & textile, various food products and so on. Besides within the country, one thing which needs to be observed very closely is that the world has become very small and investments in

Engineering industries made in other countries can also be utilized if the capability of any Company or Organisation exists. In fact, we should make our industries capable of manufacturing best quality products with minimum cost and consistency of supply.

Many societies in the field of welding are today operative beyond the barrier of the 'national sphere and providing services anywhere in the globe. In fact, certification services and examination by the ASNT is an example that has maximum number of candidates from India & such countries. American Welding Society, TWI and many other societies are also coming up in India with their offer of a wide variety of services including certification in the field of welding.

Your Institute has been left far behind the scene as we have not been able to build up a proper infrastructure to offer services to our industries, and a radical change is essential. During the last two years I had the privilege

of holding the charge of the Institute and have tried my best to make some changes but much more remains to be done. A few of the changes made are indicated below.

- 1. Your Institute has become a member of the International Institute of Welding. Those who are connected with our Institute for a longer time are well aware that we have been member of the International Institute of Welding till 1991 and discontinued paying our subscription for various reasons. However, the IIW did not terminate our membership and a huge arrear charged was due in our name. Prior to International Welding Conference (IWC'99) held, we had an opportunity to discuss the matter with some of the office bearers of IIW, with whom we have negotiated for payment of no arrears. Accordingly & in line with the advice of the council, we have paid*

subscription last year and regained our membership.

From the documents sent by the International Institute of Welding, copy of which is available here, we need to apply for becoming Authorised National Body (ANB) to the International Institute of Welding. Prior to that, our quality system will have to be written down and we should be ready for audit by the Lead & Peer Assessors. For all this purpose, a thorough change in working of our Institute is required and a technical secretariat will have to be formally started. In the past many of our Presidents have advocated appointment of a technical executive correctly but I see that only a single individual is not adequate for serving the above purpose. Therefore, total reformation of our Institute is necessary and I am sure that the next council headed by the new President would be able to feel the need for the same and take necessary steps since we have no other alternative.

We shall also have to identify some of the technical universities, training institutes, polytechnics, regional engineering colleges and others, who are offering training to welding

personnel, to act as an Authorized Training Body (ATB). The minimum requirement of such ATB also has been highlighted by the IIW and each ATB will be audited before they are allowed to operate. Currently the International Institute of Welding has curriculum for qualifications leading to International Welding Engineer, Welding Technologist and Welding Specialist, but these may be added up in future.

Besides individual personnel, the recommendation of ISO:14731- 1997 - "Welding Coordination Task & Responsibilities" also have to be addressed. This International Standard should also be coupled with ISO:3834 1, 2, 3 & 4 - "Quality Requirement for Welding" which will also have to be practiced. These Standards may help the manufacturing or fabricating organisation to get accredited by ANB. Therefore, gentlemen, we are talking today not for qualification of welding personnel alone but also for accrediting fabricating or manufacturing organisations as per International Standards.

The role of IIW in future is going to be very different if we are able to work according to above planning.

In today's context, our society and all its branches have to actively consider our role towards above discipline and this is only way I feel that we can be closer to industry and our membership, which currently is around 3,500 or so, would be many times higher in a period of 2-3 years.

2. Last year we have made quite a few changes inspite of our limitation. New certificates for industrial corporate members have been issued and Branch Chairmen & Secretaries were requested to visit the industry and hand over the same personally to revive the contact. Life Membership Cards with photograph were issued. A Members' directory with name, address, telephone / E-Mail Nos. of all valued members is being prepared for circulation. The Indian Welding Journal has become one of the most attractive medium with excellent content. Besides, being able to support its own cost through colour page advertisements, new features are being regularly added. The headquarters has been equipped with a computer but E-Mail & a Website for IIW is required to be installed. Our Institute

has joined hands with Indian Society of Non-Destructive Testing (ISNT) to conduct course on Interpretation of Weld Radiograph, which was of great demand around industries.

The approval of our AM IIW examination is again found to be in difficult water although in February last year we have been told that AICTE has approved the same. We are unable to find the reason of such hold up and attempts are being made to check up on the reason at Delhi.

3. During my tenure as President, I had chances to visit a few branches such as Mumbai, Delhi, Jamshedpur, Cochin, Baroda, besides Calcutta. While I did not get a chance to visit other branches, I have observed with concern that activities of some of the branches are not up to the mark and even Membership in some of the branches has become lower than the required number. This is alarming and something must be done. At the same time we are receiving requests for opening of new branches. Our Institute must take proper care to see that no such branch is opened only for a short period unless it is felt that enough activity would be continuing in such areas so that the

membership remains much above the required number.

In this context, I would like to inform all of you that the 11th branch of the Institute was inaugurated on 29th August 1998 at Baroda with large no. of members which was highly important in view of the increased industrial activity for Oil and Petrochemical Plants.

4. The International Welding Conference was held in February 1999 at New Delhi and those of you who have attended must have observed the high quality papers with excellent presentation by many national & international speakers including world leaders, which have made the conference a great success. The delegates and authors were found from countries like Australia, Austria, Brazil, Germany, Japan, Korea, Slovak Republic; Canada, Libya, The Netherlands, Sweden, U.K., U.S. etc. This is the first time we have organised International Welding Conference - IWC'99 in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and exhibition at Pragati Maidan, organised by CII with our help was also a great success. We have received quite a few complimentary letters for

the IWC'99 and credit for the same goes to the Chairmen of various Committees and Delhi Branch for their hard work and proper planning. We have again been requested by CII to collaborate in the Weld India International Exhibition 2001 at New Delhi when they want us to also conduct the International Welding Conference 2001 and the new committee and council will look into all aspects. They may also get in touch with the old committee to find out the lapses, if any, in organising the previous conferences in order to make a foolproof event.

5. During the last year we have signed agreement with Welding Technology Institute of Australia (WTIA) and the copy of agreement has been printed in the Indian Welding Journal (IWJ). As you all are aware, we have already signed agreement in the past with societies like American Welding Society (AWS), Singapore Welding Society (SWS), TWI, The Welding Institute of Cambridge, Romanian Welding Society etc. But, other than the visit by officials to each other's countries, not much of collaboration benefit has been achieved. We have also received requests from South Korea, Japan and Germany during their visit to

Delhi for the IWC'99 to sign such agreements.

At WTIA, The Asian Pacific Regional Congress of IIW is going to be held at Melbourne between 29th Oct. - 2nd Nov. 2000 and WTIA wanted the name of our President to be one of the members in the Organising Committees. Since this is an affair with International Institute of Welding, who also want us to hold such congress in India in 2001 and 2002, we must check up our own programme to see that there are no clashes.

6. For one or two things on our activities, I must speak on for the information of our members. The council meetings are being regularly held by the Institute at various branches and the deliberations taken after thorough discussions amongst council members present. Currently these are being questioned by some members who do not attend meetings. While the constructive criticism is always welcome, the decisions taken in the council can always be altered in the meeting itself if the representatives of branches are physically present & put their points and not afterwards. Many of the council members do not

attend the council meetings but wanted their names to be kept in the council. This is not proper and I must say that there is no point in holding a council post if it is not possible for him to attend the meetings either due to lack of sponsorship by their employers or for any other reasons. It is agreed that cost of travel and other expenses are mounting, but this is the reason as to why the council members are preferably selected & elected from the organisations who would be ready to sponsor them for such trips.

7. I welcome the newly elected President, Mr M.K. Mittal, to whom I am handing over the charge of the Institute today. Mr Mittal is a very senior public sector Executive, a Director of BHEL, CMD of Cement Corporation of India and holding many other honorary posts. He is a Graduate Mechanical Engineer from IIT, Kharagpur and has been associated with large organisations where welding has been the principal method of joining materials. He is a very capable person and I hope that the Institute will run to its best form under the direction of Mr Mittal. Let us give a big hand to Mr Mittal for becoming the President of

this august Institute with effect from today.

In conclusion, I would like to thank each & every council member, other members of the Institute for their support, trust & faith in me. I must thank my employer, M.N. Dastur & Company Ltd., Consulting Engineers, Calcutta for sponsoring all my trips all over the country & abroad on IIW business, whenever necessary, besides many other supports during Conferences, 'Seminars etc. The central secretariat with Mr S. Kumar, Asst. Secretary & others have done hard work and their support during my stay is acknowledged. My service to this Institute will always be available and for any advice, council members may get in touch with me.

I wish all of you Season's Greetings & all good wishes for a Happy Millennium.