FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As you are aware, the millennium conference on Welding Technology "IWC-2001' concluded on 17th February. The records show that a total of 250 delegates participated in the conference, and 86 technical papers were presented in 19 sessions spread over 3 days. Welding Institutes from Australia, Hungary, Rumania, Singapore and the International Institute of Welding (U.K.) were represented. A detailed report on the event is given by Shri N. K. Sarkar in this issue of the journal.

The Annual General Meeting of the Institute was held on 3rd March. The names of the newly elected members of the Executive Council are stated in page 1. We welcome our new members of the Executive Council as also Mr. A. K. Mukherjee elected Hony. Secretary. With his previous experience in this capacity for the years between 1996-99, Mr. Mukherjee may find his task this time around somewhat pleasant and less arduous. We look forward to an interesting work schedule for the year.

In this issue several papers presented at the "IWC-2001" are selected for publication. In his paper "Trends in Joining, Cutting and A sustainable world", the author Bertil Pekkari has covered existing, new and emerging joining processes highlighting "customer's need for tailor made" equipment for processes to enhance the quality and quantity in order to satisfy complex market demand of the day maintaining improved work condition in a sustainable environment.

In the characterisation of welding processes energy input criterion invariably underscores process efficiency. Authors G. Padmanabhan et al's attempt to characterise process efficiency using GMAW process in continuous and pulse mode in the welding of an Al-Li alloy is reported in their paper "Fusion Characteristics of an Al-Li Alloy in Pulsed-GMAW Process". Ever increasing demand of these alloys (Al-Li) in space and cryo-component industries in particular has created large enough space for need based research activities such as this report implies.

A novel way to study hydrogen assisted cracking (HAC) susceptibility of 9Cr-1Mo (T91/P91) is reported by S. K. Albert et al. In the process (UT-modified HS Test) the critical preheating temperature above which no cracking had occurred was measured for different levels of hydrogen input in the shielding gas (GTAW) and subsequently subjecting the test coupon to dynamic straining. The study infers interesting parameters for HAC of the alloy concerned used extensively in fossil power plants.

Al-Zn-Mg alloys are prone to stress corrosion cracking (SCC), particularly the areas adjacent to the fusion line with the base metal show greater susceptibility. Author P. K. Ghosh, in his paper "Electroless Silver Plating of Al-Mg Filler wire used in GMAW Process" has indicated improvement in susceptibility by introducing required amount of silver in Al-Mg Mig weld deposition by silver plating Al-Mg filler wire for deposition. Parameters for good adherence of Ag on the Al-Mg substrate have been reported.

"Any perfect weldment would require optimum welding skills" is an observation which underlines the pivotal role of human resource development (HRD) in the fabrication industry in general. Author M. Srinivasa Prasad, in his paper. "Human Resource Development in Welding" explores and expounds modern day HRD, sector wise, reflecting widely held experiences particularly those at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

Thank you,

Dr. P. Majumdar

— Editor