



The National Welding Seminar 2005 (NWS 2005) organized by Bhilai Branch on December 15-17 was an event, well organized and well attended. The exhibition "Weldex 2005" also attracted quite a number of exhibitors and visitors. Thanks to the active support from Bhilai Steel Plant and the dedicated teamwork of the organizing committee, Bhilai Branch deserves appreciation for the good show.

Kolkata and Mumbai Branch are going ahead with hectic preparations for their forthcoming branch seminars to be held in February 2005. While the theme of the Kolkata seminar is on the role of welding in infrastructural development, the Mumbai seminar will deliberate on welding for refineries, oil and gas. It is time now for the other branches to hold their annual events, as these branch seminars benefit those who find it difficult to travel great distances to attend such conferences. A series of lectures by internationally acclaimed expert are also being arranged at Pune, Mumbai, New Delhi, Trichi and Chennai on Chrome-Moly Creep resistant steels.

The institute is also gearing up for attaining the ANB (Authorized National Body) status of the International Institute of Welding at the earliest possible time. The next step after that would be to set up ATB's (Authorized Training Bodies) at different locations which will provide opportunity for Welding Engineers and practitioners to get themselves trained and qualified with internationally acknowledged degrees. Simultaneously, the AMIIW examination of our institute, which is recognized by the Ministry of H.R.D. is being regularly conducted for career upgradation of welding professionals.

On the whole, the thrust given by our institute on training, education and dissemination of the latest technological developments is visible.

But all was not so well with our IWJ. In spite of our best efforts we could not bring out the October issue in time due to financial problems. We therefore decided to make this a combined issue for October 2005 and January 2006 so that the backlog is removed. All efforts will now be made to publish the forthcoming issues on time.

In this issue we have papers based on process parameters and other studies on GMAW, SMAW, SAW and Laser Beam Welding, in addition to a paper on use of professional grade soft ferrites for welding inverter type power sources contributed by experts of the related topics. All these should make for useful reading.

Wishing you a happy new year from IWJ

P. K. Das
Editor