
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

50 Years of our Independence : In this Golden Jubilee Year of our Freedom, we join the nation in remembering the sacrifices, the toils and sufferings of our countrymen in achieving our independence, and we humbly pledge ourselves to uphold the ideals and values that we have inherited.

The National Weld Meet : NWM '97 was held on 26th July of this year, the theme of the seminar being "Welding for Energy Sector". The venue was the Science City, Calcutta. Not long ago, the Science City, built as a conference and pleasure centre, was inaugurated in the presence of a distinguished gathering which included some Nobel Laureates. The complex houses a host of auditoriums with avant-garde facilities for conferences and exhibitions, besides museums and a Dinosaur Park for the young but appealing to all. NWM '97 was the first seminar to be held at this venue, and the organisers IIW Calcutta Chapter have thus made a notch here for this record.

The seminar was inaugurated by Shri Bhakti Bhusan Mandal, Hon'ble Minister, Dept of Co-operation, Govt. of West Bengal. The Hon'ble Minister, in his inaugural speech, emphasised the role of man and machine in the development of the society. The cascading effects of the contemporary changes brought about by the open door policies in general, he felt, ought to bring in harmony and not hardship. The Chief Guest of honour Shri Kshiti Goswami, Hon'ble Minister, PWD, Govt. of West Bengal, congratulated IIW for its role in extending technical education and training facilities to a wider section of the populace for a greater return in HRD - which indeed is a point to be noted.

In the technical sessions nine papers were presented reflecting the theme of the seminar. We intend to publish selected papers in the coming issues of IWJ.

M.O.U. : Recently, the Indian Institute of Welding has concluded an M.O.U. with the Romanian Welding Society (RWS). The M.O.U. bears the signature of amity, mutual cooperation and benefit between IIW and RWS, as indeed has been the spirit with the other MOUs that IIW has concluded in the recent past. In the progress of IIW, we feel each MOU signed is a milestone of achievement. We welcome this latest MOU, the text of which is printed at page 60 in this issue.

Keith Hartley Memorial Lecture : For the year 1996, this lecture entitled "Welding - its Past, Present and Future" was delivered by Dr. R. S. Parmar, Prof. IIT, Delhi, and a Life Fellow of the Institute, at the International Welding Conference held at Mumbai, on 5th December 1996. The Lecture traces the development of the concept of welding, deals with emerging technology through the history of welding, discusses the present status and probable future trends - all of which are very refreshing. Included, under Future Prospects, is a reference to 'Residual Life and Fitness for Service assessments'. In-service structural integrity of welded structures is constantly undermined by brittle failure which is unpredictable. Complexities that lead on to such failures include such engineering aspects as mode of loading, the effect of which is further compounded by the environment the welded structures are subjected to. Life potency assessment of integrated structures includes consideration of stress corrosion and corrosion fatigue propensities are credibly highlighted.

Thanking you,

Sd/- **Dr. P. Majumdar**
Editor