From Hony, Secretary General's Desk



Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all at the 64th Annual Assembly & International Conference of the International Institute of Welding (IIW) being organized in the historic City Chennai, India between July 17 - 23, 2011. In particular I would like to welcome all the overseas delegates and authors and hope they have a pleasant stay in India and take back lasting memories of our culture, heritage and hospitality.

The history of the Indian Institute of Welding (IIW-India) begins with that of the Indian Branch of the Institute of Welding, London formed on the 21st April, 1948. Our profound thanks to Rai Sahab Late N. G. Chatterjee and Late Sir L. P. Misra for pioneering the efforts to form The Indian Institute of Welding in 22nd April, 1966. Since then during the last 45 years a lot of changes have taken place both in the global as well as in Indian context. IIW-India became a member society of the International Institute of Welding in the year 1970.

Since then one of our Institute's major dreams was to organize the Annual Assembly of the International Institute of Welding in India. As a first step we organized to hold IIW's International Congress for the first time in India in 2005 at Mumbai and then again in 2008 at Chennai. Considering the great success of these two events the International Institute of Welding decided to award IIW-India the honour of organizing the 64^{th} Annual Assembly and International Conference in 2011, which is currently being held at Chennai. Along with this mega event the 6^{th} International Welding Exhibition Weld India 2011 will be an added attraction.

I am very pleased that the Editorial committee of IWJ has thought it fit to bring out this special issue of IWJ in July 2011 to commemorate the occasion. It contains a number of invited papers from leading experts which I am sure you will find informative and interesting.

I must thank all the Branches for completing their AGM within the stipulated time and we will be holding our Annual General Meeting on 24^{th} September'11 and I , on behalf of Central Council, invite all members of the Institute to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Institute on 24^{th} September at Kolkata.

With warm regards,

Parimal Biswas

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