

---

## From the Editor's Desk

---

The Indian Institute of Welding, Calcutta Branch had organised their Annual Seminar – Weld 2000 on “Developing Trend in Welding Technology” recently on August 11 & 12 at ICI Hall, Calcutta, in association with INSDAG, Calcutta and IE(I) MME Division, Calcutta. Details of this two day long seminar is highlighted elsewhere in this issue of the Journal. Selectively, in his address the Guest Speaker Dr. S. R. Mediratta, Director, INSDAG, naturally due to his enduring ‘Career in Steel’ Industries and correctly had outlined the ever increasing use of steel in the construction industries in general both at home and abroad. Dr. Mediratta using published data had also pointed out the gradual increase of consumption of welding consumables globally and without any exception in India as well. His wide and varied knowledge of steel industries in the country reflected in his calculated remark in regards to the demand and supply situation at home and abroad. While highlighting the prospect of the fabrication industries in the short term Dr. Mediratta sounded optimistic and opined whether the welding industries could meet the challenge. Highly informative nature of this paper was well received by the delegates.

Prof. S. R. Deb presented a paper on “Robotic MIG Welding”, co-authored by B. Bepari, emphasising welding process optimisation with higher productivity and constant quality using vision-aided, multi-sensor industrial robots responding to programmed process control. Based on the results obtained using PUMA A 560 Robot and a driving/operating system developed in their laboratory Prof. Deb and colleagues have demonstrated feasibility of the system for welding steel plate to near optimal condition. Such development works in the country exemplifies R & D works at its pinnacle in its teaching and off-line programming.

The International Welding Conference (IWC 2001) on “Advances in Welding and Cutting Technology” to be held on 15 – 17 February 2001 at the I.H.C. Auditorium, New Delhi, is now all set and over the past six months or thereabout, for many in the IIW, it has been a full time engagement to send, to receive, to collate, to disperse information and take calculated step forward to correct the course, if deemed necessary, leading to 15th February 2001 when both IWC 2001 at I.H.C. and the Weld India International Exhibition at Pragati Maidan would open gates to the guests and delegates from home and abroad. As stated, the objective of the conference is “to assess the present trends in various facets of welding science and technology in the national and international scene”. The Conference is to “focus on the changes and advances in Welding Technology” in the industries and in the institutions devoted to R & D, “in the field of welding process, metallurgy and welding equipment”. Indeed the success all around of the last Conference (IWC 99) has greatly enhanced ambition of the organisers this time around both in terms of the quality of technical papers expected to be presented highlighting the transparency of information available globally and at the technical exhibition where the display of the latest accessories from and for the welding industries are assured. On this occasion a souvenir will also be published containing the technical papers to be presented and catalogue of advertisers including the manufacturers and fabricators of welding consumables and equipment characterising the mood of Conference an industry R & D partnership reflecting the well held aspirations of the two organising institutions The Indian Institute of Welding (IIW) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Again, going by the experience gained during the IWC 99 it is aspiringly assured that engineers and technocrats engaged in designing, construction, repair and operation in heavy, medium and light industries offshore - inshore and others are expected to attend the Conference. We wish IWC 2001 a great success.

As we go to the Press we announce very happily that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has granted recognition of A.M.I.I.W. Examination. A brief announcement is in the preceding page.

Thank you,

**Dr. P Majumdar**  
– Editor