



On the invitation of the Editor - Indian Welding Journal, it is a privilege for me to share with Members some momentous achievements during our one year's term, as we traverse the 33rd year of our Institute. Working "hands-on" but thinking long term, the G. P. Committee held 11 meetings in a flexible, but firm and decisive approach. This was to leverage the strengths – and repair perceived weaknesses - of our Institute's systems, to advise and act for the Council in matters relating to the Membership, Meetings, Library Information Services, Publication, Branches' affairs and other activities of the Institute, and to Education as affecting Welding. Across the board approach was made to all sections of IIW, the national body of Welding professionals. Everyone offered suggestions, and we listened, and took 32 small steps to help raise the profile of IIW.

With an eye on the approaching Millennium (1st January, 2001) principal actions implemented/initiated are listed below:

1. Membership grew from 3573 to 3796 individual members, and 171 to 188 ICMs. Vice-Presidents agreed to help actively interact with ICMs and Branches in their zones. Introduced Certificates of Industrial Corporate Membership, Life Member cards (with photo), and re-launched annual member cards. (Outstanding subscriptions remain an area of concern).
2. Our 11th branch took birth at Baroda, with the largest membership at inception of any branch. Centres at Pune, Durgapur, Angul & Bhopal are on the anvil. Five branches were personally visited by me.
3. Indian Welding Journal, our 'flag-ship' journal, was systematically made financially self-sufficient for the first time in IIW's history. Dramatic changes in 4-colour format and improved layout & content helped raise the standard, with sponsors' gracious support and members' involvement.
4. Reading Room (initially 57 books in Text & Reference sections) launched at Headquarters. The photocopying service and reading facility is to benefit interested members, AM-IIW students and professionals. New books were procured for the first time for our Headquarters Library, and bound volumes of International Institute of Welding documents in process.
5. IIW's first-ever Certification course & examination held at Headquarters : 'Interpretation of Weld Radiographs' conducted successfully with 17 participants, jointly by IIW, ISNT and Association of Engineers, India. Further programmes planned were not launched.
Asian International Welding Competition, Singapore entered by a FCAW Welder from Mumbai.
AICTE approval for AM-IIW system pursued towards recognition in 1999.
6. Proposal mooted for adopting EWF-ISO training & qualifications. Representation on Bureau of Indian Standards sought for harmonising with ISO standards on welding & related technologies. Careful steps initiated to rejoin the International Institute of Welding in future, to restore our former status.
7. Concept developed for International Welding Conference, and Organising Committee drafted to support the President & Convenor, IWC'99.
8. Computer application commissioned at Headquarters to raise effectiveness of Secretariat; specially designed software installed for IWC'99 activity.
9. Glossy Corporate Brochure *About IIW* published (supported by ICM sponsor).
10. Members' Directory in process of publication before IWC-'99; lists being examined by Branch Chairmen.

All the above, and more was the result of friendly team-work by all interested members, and keen understanding of the Indian scenario and international trends by our constituted Sub-Committee Chairmen and their members. The appreciation and ideas from all members shall continue to aid the Committee in future.

New Year greetings to our family of Members from my colleagues and me.

Sd/-

J. C. SHAHANI

Chairman - G. P. Committee