



Handing over the IIW flag on behalf of the Chennai-2011 organizers is (from left) R. Ravi, president of the Indian Institute of Welding, along with co-chairs of the IIW 2012-Denver Organizing Committee, Thomas M. Mustaleski and Damian J. Kotecki. (Photo courtesy of the IIW Secretariat.)

BY DAMIAN J. KOTECKI AND THOMAS M. MUSTALESKI

The objectives, technical activities system, and the upcoming Annual Assembly in Denver of the International Institute of Welding are explained

Out of the ashes and rubble of World War II, a number of international organizations, including the United Nations, arose to foster international cooperation. At a symposium organized by the Netherlands Welding Society in Utrecht on June 5, 1947, the notion of an international welding organization was first expressed publicly. Over the next year, representatives of 11 Western European countries along with representatives from Australia, South Africa, and the United States developed a constitution for the International Institute of Welding (IIW). The IIW was formally founded at a meeting in Brussels on June 9, 1948. Thirteen countries became founding members: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Australia origi-

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nally declined to become a member, but reversed that decision six years later.

The IIW had three original objectives:

- To promote and encourage the development of welding and provide for the exchange of scientific and technical information relating to welding research and education;
- To assist in the formulation of international standards for welding in collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO);
- To organize periodical congresses.

It is noteworthy that all of this information exchange originally took place by standard mail, with face-to-face meetings often involving travel by ocean liner or propeller-driven aircraft.

That was then; this is now, but the objectives of IIW remain the same. The IIW now consists of Member Societies on every continent except Antarctica. More than 50 countries have Member Societies. Information exchange is virtually instantaneous, over the Internet via www.iiwelding.org. The official language of the IIW is English. Any person in a country with a Member Society can identify himself/herself to the Member Society and obtain an identifier and password allowing access to all technical documents of the IIW.

Most Member Countries have a single Member Society. However, the United States has three: the American Welding Society (AWS), the Edison Welding Institute (EWI), and the Welding Research Council (WRC). In the event that a member country has more than one Member Society, one must be identified as the lead Member Society. In the United States, the lead Member Society is AWS, and the contact person is Andrew Davis [adavis@aws.org; (800) 443-9353, ext. 466]. United States involvement in the IIW is coordinated by the American Council of IIW, which meets twice annually, once during the Annual Assembly and once during the FABTECH week.

The Commission System

On the technical level, IIW is organized into 16 groups, called Commissions. Each Commission organizes technical sessions, usually over a period of three days during the IIW's Annual Assembly, to present and discuss the work of interest to the Commission.

The 2012 Annual Assembly is scheduled for July 8–13 in Denver, Colo. Annual assemblies have been held three times previously in the United States: 1961 in New York, 1984 in Boston, and 1997 in San Francisco, so this is not a very frequent event in the United States. The Commission meetings are to take place Monday, July 9, through Wednesday, July 11. The Annual Assembly also includes a

two-day International Conference on a topic of the host country's choice. The theme of the 2012 International Conference is "Welding for Repair and Life Extension of Plants and Infrastructure." It will take place on Thursday, July 12, and Friday, July 13. Most Commissions also organize their own annual intermediate meeting between annual assemblies to discuss technical issues in more detail than is possible during the Annual Assembly. The individual Commissions organize their own intermediate meetings and set them at a place and date(s) of their members' choosing.

Following are the 16 Commissions:

- Commission I — Thermal Cutting and Surfacing
- Commission II — Arc Welding and Filler Metals
- Commission III — Resistance Welding, Solid-State Welding and Allied Joining Processes
- Commission IV — Power Beam Processes
- Commission V — NDT and Quality Assurance of Welded Products
- Commission VI — Terminology
- Commission VIII — Health, Safety and Environment
- Commission IX — Behavior of Metals Subjected to Welding
- Commission X — Structural Performances of Welded Joints — Fracture Avoidance
- Commission XI — Pressure Vessels, Boilers, and Pipelines
- Commission XII — Arc Welding Processes and Production Systems
- Commission XIII — Fatigue of Welded Components and Structures
- Commission XIV — Education and Training
- Commission XV — Design, Analysis, and Fabrication of Welded Structures
- Commission XVI — Polymer Joining and Adhesive Technology
- Commission XVII — Brazing, Soldering, and Diffusion Bonding

You will note that Commission VII is not listed. This is not an oversight. Commission VII has evolved into the International Authorization Board (IAB), another activity of IIW, which administers certification of personnel and companies to the programs developed in the IIW.

Additional Technical Opportunities

If you cannot find a welding subject to pique your interest among the Commissions, or if you would like to delve further into certain subjects, there are other opportunities for technical information in IIW. These include Study Groups, Select Committees, and Working Groups, as follows:

- Study Group 212 — The Physics of Welding
- Study Group RES — Welding Research Strategy and Collaboration
- Select Committee AIR — Permanent Joints in New Materials and Coatings for Aircraft Engineering
- Select Committee AUTO — Automotive and Road Transportation
- Select Committee MICRO — Research Developments in Micro- and Nano-Joining Technologies
- Select Committee QUAL — Quality Management in Welding and Allied Processes
- Select Committee SHIP — Shipbuilding
- Joint Working Group VIII-XIV — Qualification and Certification of Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Welding Coordinators
- Joint Working Group XIII-XV — Fatigue Design Rules
- Joint Working Group X-XIII-XV — Residual Stress and Distortion Prediction in Welded Structures
- Working Group COM — Communications and Marketing
- Working Group RA — Regional Activities
- Working Group STAND — Standardization

To get involved in one of these groups or committees, you need to contact that particular group's chair, who can be found on the IIW Web site. Andrew Davis can assist you in that effort as well.

Other Activities

One of the more important activities of the IIW is publication of its journal, *Welding in the World*. This journal is published bimonthly. The papers published in the journal are those recommended for publication by the Commissions, Study Groups, Select Committees, and Working Groups from among the documents considered at Annual Assemblies. The papers are all peer reviewed, and the journal is included in the Science Citation Index.

A not-to-be-overlooked part of the Annual Assembly is the social program. This provides opportunities for you to mingle with your peers and counterparts from other parts of the world. You will find that your problems are not unique to the United States. The Annual Assembly social program begins with a reception following the Opening Ceremony Sunday evening, and continues with the national evening Monday, the banquet Wednesday evening, and the International Conference reception and dinner Thursday evening.

You can learn more about the 2012 Denver Annual Assembly at its Web site <http://iiw2012.com>. ♦