

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



Fellow members of TSI,

I deem it a privilege to have the opportunity to address this communication to you. I thank you for the confidence reposed in me, in electing me as the President of our Society. I cannot but feel humble when I see the illustrious

lot of eminent personalities who have held this position in the past.

My formal induction into TSI took place in 1996 at the instance of my friend and former colleague Dr J. Bhatia. This happened after a decision was taken by the then Executive Committee under the leadership of Mr Sudhir Singhal, President of the Society, to hold the first international conference (ICIT 1997) at Kolkata to commemorate the silver-jubilee of the commencement of the Tribology movement in India. My employers, Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd., had, in principle, agreed to conduct the conference on behalf of TSI. Since Dr Bhatia had taken another assignment within our group and was based at Mumbai, he suggested that the responsibility for organising the conference be entrusted to me. I was thus nominated as the Organising Secretary of ICIT 97. It was baptism by fire.

Reflecting the multi-disciplinary character of Tribology, our society is quite unique as a professional body in the sense that it brings together people of diverse technical disciplines from every type of organisation- a variety of industrial organisations, research institutes, academic institutions, services sector, etc. While we benefit from the diversity, which also enriches the development of the science as such, it also poses a challenge to evolve activities of wide interest and progress the charter of the Society. We, the office bearers and other members of the new Executive Committee, propose to draw up a mission for the next two years along with a comprehensive action plan. We would share this with you shortly and with the feedback, support and guidance of our predecessors, the regional chapters and all members, we shall endeavour to implement the same. The mission would encompass

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MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY Let us Hear you – The Tribologist

Dear Tribologist,

This is the first issue of TSI Newsletter since the new Executive Committee of Tribology Society of India took over for year 2005-2007. In a way, it has been an event similar to earlier events from the history pages of TSI. At the end of a biennial conference, a new EC is elected. Many old faces continue with induction of a few new ones. Yes! There are always winning combinations. Let us hope the new EC makes a winning team with you in the lead. There are challenges to be won over – Constitution is to be redrafted in tune with current needs; local chapters are to be revitalized; and overall rapid decline of Tribology education in even premier academic institutions like IITs need to be corrected. There are many more challenges in the minds of all those who call themselves students of Tribology. In 1972, just after six years of the Jost's report, IIT Delhi was host to a truly International conference on Tribology, and subsequently a center of Tribology (ITMMEC) came into existence. Many such activities started in 70s and in later years in the country with much fanfare. But did we reach anywhere near excellence in Tribology education and research? Or we all have learnt the art of politicizing even the science and finally end up like increasing poverty despite the best practices on paper. Then some where down the line, the scientists get together, make NGOs, Societies to support the government initiatives or to further the cause wherever governments fail, but then end up in the glory of their own portfolios. Like poverty gets lip service, Tribology too is in the same category. Failures of elected democracy to honour their deliverables has been quoted often to have roots in the indifferent attitudes of the elected and the electorates.

Can we in TSI escape the inevitable – the indifference of attitudes? Please write to me what you think TSI should do to further the education of Tribology in the country. I assure you that at the EC we are listening carefully to what members suggest and from this will emerge the TSI charter of activities for the year 2005-2007.

With best wishes,

(G K SHARMA)



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increasing the membership of the society, activating and supporting the regional chapters, increased number of workshops & training programmes, TSI-academia interaction, setting up of a permanent secretariat, regular and frequent communication through Newsletter/Journal etc. We request and welcome suggestions from members in formulating the mission and action plans.

Yours sincerely,

(V Narayan Sharma)

Best PhD Thesis Award

TSI Announces the **Best PhD Award** for the best Doctoral Thesis submitted during the past 5 years related to Tribology i.e. those leading to an award of the Ph D degree after 1st April 2000. Only those who have been awarded the degree may apply. Applications with a brief write up not exceeding 1000 words about the work may be submitted to the Secretary (TSI) by 30th June 2005.

4th International Conference on Industrial Tribology 15th to 18th December 2004 - A Round Up



Chief Guest Mr. MS Ramachandran flanked by Mr. C Mishra President TSI and Dr. NG Kannan Director (M) IOCL , releasing the Proceedings of ICIT -04

The Fourth International Conference on Industrial Tribology was off to flying start on 15th December 2004 at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Mumbai. As you all know the conference is held biennially under the aegis of Tribology Society of India. It is for the first time that the conference was organized by a consortium of four leading industrial faces of India, viz.; Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Larsen and Toubro Limited. The conference was spread over four days from 15th December 2004 to 18th December 2004.



Mr. Ramachandran spends a moment with the Press.

The conference was inaugurated by Mr. M S Ramachandran, former Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., in a glittering ceremony held in the Regency Ball Room of Hotel Hyatt Regency Mumbai. A number of dignitaries from major industrial organizations as well as Heads of Academic and Research Institutions along with a large number of delegates,

who have come from far and near places in India, and a significant number from abroad, were in attendance during the inaugural function. Mr. Ramachandran briefly touched upon the progress of Tribology globally, and in particular in the Indian scenario. He recalled the contribution made by Mr. Indu Vira, the Founder President of Tribology Society of India , who happened to be a member of IndianOil fraternity. He underlined the need for adoption of good tribological practices and reaping its benefits as envisaged in the Jost report of 1966.

In his Presidential address, Mr. C Mishra stressed the



Mr. Mukesh Rohtagi, Director (Refineries), BPCL, delivers the Theme Lecture



A Daneuse renders the Saraswati Vandana

need for a condition based maintenance programme for Equipment Reliability. He re-emphasized the need for a systematic programme for maintenance of plant equipment to get maximum output from them and their availability for increased production. Tribology has an important role to play in this. The effective maintenance programme will not only increase equipment life but also reduce the cost of production which is so vital in the present times of severe global competitive market.

Mr. Mukesh Rohtagi, Director (Refineries), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, presented a very informative and thought provoking theme lecture on the theme of "Tribology in Equipment Reliability" which was widely appreciated.

Proceedings of the conference both in CD and hard copy form and Souvenir were released for the delegates by the Chief Guest.

Mementos were given to the dignitaries present on the dais by Mr. C Mishra and Mr. VN Sharma, President and Secretary of the Tribology Society of India respectively.

The Inaugural Session came to an end with a Vote of Thanks from Mr. SK Swaminathan, Organising Secretary, ICIT 04.



Mr. SK Swaminathan, Organising Secretary ICIT-04 proposes Vote of Thanks

Education Courses

On the eve of the Conference on 15th of December 2004, two education courses were organized for the benefit of the members of Industry and educational institutions. The first course on "Basics of Tribology" was coordinated by Mr. A K Mehta, Dr A Sethramaiah, and Mr S J Inamdar. The second course "Automotive Lubrication" was coordinated by Dr GK Sharma and Mr. Mukesh Gupta. Each course had



Mr AK Mehta conducts Basics of Tribology course

about 20 participants. However, this was below the expectation of the organizers. The participants had indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the course content as well as the mode of presentations in their feedback. It is hoped that more and more members and other professionals will participate and benefit from such courses in future.



Dr GK Sharma conducts Automotive Lubrication course



A view of the participants

Enrolment as a Member of Tribology Society of India

You can become a member of Tribology Society of India if you are interested to know the activities of Tribology in India. For this please log into the society website www.tribologyindia.org and submit your application online. Follow the instructions as given thereafter to send your fee and membership regularization.

Appreciation

The Executive Committee of TSI would like to place on record special appreciation to the Organising Committee of ICIT - 04, specially to Mr. SK Swaminathan, the Organizing Secretary and Mr. TL Nanda, Mr. AB Pai, Dr G Vasudev & Dr Barun Chakrabarti, Deputy Organizing Secretaries for organizing the ICIT -04 very successfully in Mumbai.

