

September 15, 2008

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Canadian Council of the International Institute of Welding (CCIIW)  
7250 West Credit Avenue  
Mississauga, ON  
L5N 5N1

Attention: Mr. D. Luciani, Chairman

**Re: CCIW Bursary 2008 Report**

Dear Mr. Luciani,

This letter outlines my personal analysis of the 61<sup>st</sup> IIW Annual Assembly in Graz, Austria. Also enclosed are two detailed reports from Commissions XI and XII and comments on the social functions attended, from the point of view of benefits to the Canadian Industry. The following summarizes the events and my impressions of the IIW Assembly.

**Commission XI - Pressure Vessels, Boilers and Pipelines**

This commission was co-attended with Eric Sjerne (Canadian delegate), and a co-authored report is enclosed with this letter. Dr. Martin Prager (USA) is the Commission Chairman and he encourages and promotes active communication and discussion amongst the delegates and experts. The meetings with Commission XI were done in the form of papers given by experts in the field of welding and weldment service performance. There will be an intermediate meeting in Cleveland 21-23 October 2008 for the IIW-XI.

The focus of IIW-XI was pressure piping, vessels and pipelines, and is directly linked to the scope of work currently covered by the appropriate ASME (pressure equipment) and CSA (pipelines) Codes in Canada. Therefore, the CCIW should encourage representation from provincial regulatory authorities (such as ABSA, TSSA, etc.) at future XI meetings. The results of XI Commission activities meetings could be presented to the Canada's pressure equipment industry at the annual IPEIA Conference (International Pressure Equipment Integrity Association [www.ipeia.com](http://www.ipeia.com)). Pressure welding represents a significant percentage of the Canadian welding industry (current and future) and there are excellent opportunities for networking and technology exchanges via the IIW-XI commission.

**Commission XII - Arc Welding Processes and Production Systems**

There was no Canadian delegate at this commission; therefore, a detailed report on the Commission activities is enclosed with this letter. The Chair was Professor W. Lucas who did an excellent job of keeping activities on track and fostering good questions and discussion. Each meeting also had a sub-commission Chairman who provided expertise on the specific topics. The presentations were very well executed and covered numerous topics related to all of Canada's welding and fabrication industries.

There were numerous presentations on new/modified welding processes that could be incorporated into Canadian industries to improve fabrication/construction productivity. In particular, a lot of development efforts, from around the world, were concentrated on optimizing high-productivity wire-feed welding processes for all applications (including structural, pressure welding, offshore, shipbuilding, etc). Considering Canada's shortages of skilled labour and skilled welders, these developments should be investigated further for possible adoption into Canadian industry. It was also interesting to note that many other countries are facing 'skilled-labour shortages' and this is not a Canada-only issue. The activities of the IIW-XII Commission should be closely monitored in the future to harness opportunities for technology exchange. For example, the Alberta Research Council is now in discussions with Fronius regarding their controlled waveform processes (referred to as CMT) for incorporation into the pipe welding industry. There are likely numerous other opportunities that should be investigated further to improve the productivity of the Canadian industry.

### **Social Activities**

The social activities were also well attended by delegates and their spouses. The events were extremely well prepared and executed (i.e. indeed 'world class'). The atmosphere was very collaborative, social and inviting. Numerous networks were developed and personal relationships were initiated. It was also great that the spouses had events to attend and that they felt part of the IIW Assembly.

### **Closing Comments**

The experiences gained by participation in the IIW Annual Assembly will be directly transferable to my activities at the Alberta Research Council (ARC). Considering ARC's broad scope of work, we have the potential to influence a number of Canadian industry sectors. In addition, I intend to promote the IIW (and CCIW) via my direct contact with industry as Chairman of the American Welding Society (AWS) Alberta Section and as Assistant Adjunct Professor in the University of Alberta's Canadian Centre for Welding and Joining.

Thank you for providing me with the CCIW bursary and facilitating my attendance at the conference. I hope to support the IIW in future years.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Yarmuch, MSc, PEng, IWE

Program Leader, Welding Engineering  
Advanced Materials Business Unit  
Alberta Research Council