

**CHIEF DELEGATE'S REPORT  
2008 IIW ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
GRAZ, AUSTRIA – JULY 6-11, 2008**

**Introduction**

This year's IIW Annual Assembly and Conference was held in Graz, Austria. Canada's compliment at 17 (plus 8 accompanying persons) was one of the biggest ever. The respective commission focus is shown in the chart below.

***Canadian Delegation***  
(D = Delegate; E = Expert)

Doug Luciani	General Assembly; II (D); VIII (D); XIV (E); SC STAND; WG – Regional Activities
Ed Whalen	General Assembly; XIV (D); IAB Board Groups A and B
Eric Sjerve	V (D) and XI (D)
Craig Martin	V (E); VI (D); SC-ENV; SC-QUAL
Jeff Packer	XV (E)
Jacob Kleiman	XIII (E)
Yuri Kudryavtsev	XIII (D)
John Bowker	General Assembly, IX (D), X (D) and XI (E)
	XI (E); IX (D); General Assembly
Phil Bates	XVI (D)
Mick Pates	III (D) and IV (D)
Raynald Simoneau	Sub-Commission IX-L
Matt Yarmuch	XI (E) and XII (E)
Mingliang Chen	XVI (E)
Claude Choquet	XIV (E)
Mahesh Chaturvedi	I
Michael Moles	V
John Parker	Unknown

**General Assembly**

The General Assembly was attended by Messrs. Ed Whalen, John Bowker and myself and took place on Sunday afternoon at the Grazer Congress during which the normal business affairs of the IIW were conducted as follows:

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The IIW President, Mr. Chris Smallbone, welcomed all participants to the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly in Graz and thanked Prof. Horst Cerjak for the excellent organization of this Annual Assembly. He introduced the members of the IIW Board of Directors.

Mr. Smallbone mentioned the passing of Mr. Bevan Braithwaite. He asked everyone to observe a minute of silence which they did.

## **2. Confirmation of Quorum**

According to the list of participants, the required quorum (two thirds of the member countries) was achieved, and it was declared that the General Assembly was able to deliberate validly.

## **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved without any changes.

## **4. Adoption of the Draft Minutes of the General Assembly held on 01 July 2007 in Dubrovnik**

The draft minutes had been reviewed and adopted by the Board of Directors, which recommended formal adoption by the General Assembly.

## **5. Review of Actions Undertaken since the last General Assembly**

It was reported that all actions were completed.

## **6 IIW Membership - Approval of New Members**

**6.1** Mr. Smallbone reported that the Board of Directors recommended that LITHUANIA, (represented by "Lithuanian Welders Association" in Vilnius), be accepted as new member of IIW. This new member was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

**6.2** Mr. Smallbone reported that the Board of Directors recommended that TURKEY, represented by three Societies:

- "Gedik Education and Social Benefits Foundation" (GEV), (Istanbul), as Responsible Member Society;
- "Welding Technology and Non Destructive Research/Application Center" Middle East Technical University (METU-WTNDT), (Ankara) as "Other member"; and
- Welding and Joining Technologies Society (Istanbul)

as "Other Member", be accepted as new members of IIW. This was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

**6.3** Mr. André Charbonnier explained that, during the last General Assembly in Dubrovnik, it was decided that in case of non-payment by the end of September 2007, MEXICO, CHILE and EGYPT would be expelled from IIW.

EGYPT has paid its debts in due time and the 2008 subscription fees; CHILE was expelled; MEXICO: the decision was postponed due to the commitment of Mexico to pay all its debts according to a paying plan. Instituto Nacional de Soldadura, however, did not respect its commitment to pay its debts. Mr. Smallbone reported that the Board of Directors recommended that Instituto Nacional de Soldadura be expelled from IIW. This recommendation was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

Mr. Smallbone reported that the Board of Directors recommended to accept a new Responsible Member for Mexico: "**Corporacion Mejicana De Investigacion En Materiales**"(**COMIMSA**). This new member was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

Note: these three above mentioned memberships will only be considered as final after payment of the 2008 subscription fee.

## **7. Approval of the Annual Report of the IIW President**

Mr. Smallbone reported on the numerous activities carried out since the last General Assembly by the Board of Directors, the IIW Secretariat and various Working Units. The outcomes had been very successful and were well received by the General Assembly. The Annual Report was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

## **8. IIW 2008 Financial Situation including the Payment of Subscriptions and Arrears**

The Treasurer of IIW, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Detlef von Hofe, gave a short report on this item. The report was unanimously accepted.

## **9. Approval of the Treasurer's Annual Report**

### **9.1 Audited Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2007**

Prof. Dr.-Ing. von Hofe gave the report on these items. The report was unanimously accepted.

### **9.2 Final Reporting 2007 (GA-242-08, GA-247-08 and GA-252-08)**

Prof. Dr.-Ing. von Hofe gave the report for this item. The conclusion was that IIW was in a very good financial situation. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

## **10. Discharge of the Directors**

In accordance with Article 13 of the Constitution, the General Assembly gave full discharge of the Directors for the conduct of the activity of the Association since the General Assembly meeting of July 1, 2007.

## **11. Appointment of the Auditor for the Year 2008**

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, the General Assembly decided unanimously to appoint: **Mr. Xavier Christ** as auditor for the 2008 accounts. The IIW Secretariat will inform Mr. Xavier Christ.

## **12. Business opportunities for IIW ANB ANB-CC**

Mr. Charbonnier made a short presentation on one "implementation process" that could be used by the Member Societies for launching the IIW Education, Training, Qualification and Certification System (ETQC) in their own countries. Mr. Charbonnier reminded the General Assembly that it had been decided in 2006 in Québec City, to invest a total amount of 51k€ in a 3 to 5 year period for the promotion of this system. He mentioned that one of the five goals of

IIW was to identify, develop and implement the IIW Education, Training, Qualification and Certification Programmes on a global basis and that the main indicators are the number of diplomas and company certifications awarded per year. Each Member Society, ANB and ANBCC should take over this goal at the national level and define what could be its specific objectives and the corresponding planning. These objectives shall take account of the market, the clients, the competition and SWOT analysis at the local level.

The IIW Secretariat, with the assistance of Working Group Regional Activities and IAB, will identify the countries which want:

- to take advantage of the IIW membership and all Business opportunities for ANBs and ANBCCs regarding ISO 3834.
- to launch their "Implementation Process" and will assist these countries in their "implementation Process."

The project was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

Mr. Smallbone reported that the Board of Directors recommended that the presentation be given to the EWF Board meeting on Wednesday, July 9th, as well as other forums during the Annual Assembly.

### **13. IIW Web Site Project**

Mr. Charbonnier made a short presentation on the IIW New website project "*From a Website to a fully Collaborative Platform*". He explained the objectives of the project:

- Save time
- Supply a better Web content
- Give more efficient tools for everybody
- Attract young people.

The corresponding investment will be included in the budget of the coming years. The project was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

### **14. Approval of the 2009 Subscription Fees**

The principle for the increase in the 2009 subscription fees was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

### **15. Approval of the 2009 Budget (GA-249-08 and GA-250-08)**

The IIW budget for year 2009 was approved by the General Assembly, with one abstention from Portugal.

### **16. Renewal of the Board of Directors**

The terms of the office of:

President: Mr. Chris Smallbone (Australia)  
Treasurer: Prof. Dr.Ing. Detlef Von Hofe (Germany)  
Vice President: Prof. Slobodan Kralj (Croatia)

Director: Dr. Christoph S. Wiesner (United Kingdom)  
Director: Mr. Philippe Bourges (France)  
Past President and  
IAB Chairman: Mr. Bertil Pekkari (Sweden), and  
TMB Chairman: Prof. Bruno de Meester (Belgium)

were due to expire at the end of the 2008 Annual Assembly. The Board of Directors proposed the following new Board Members:

President: Prof.Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Dilthey (Germany)  
Past President: Mr. Chris Smallbone (Australia)  
Treasurer: Dr. Damian Kotecki (United States)  
Vice President: Prof. Bruno de Meester (Belgium)  
Director: Prof. Konstantin Yushchenko (Ukraine)  
Director and IAB Chairman: Mr. German Hernandez (Spain)  
TMB Chairman: Dr. Christoph S. Wiesner (United Kingdom)

These proposals were approved unanimously by the General Assembly. The IIW Secretariat will inform the new Board Members of their appointments.

The President of IIW, Mr. Smallbone, expressed his and the members' thanks to those leaving the Board by presenting each of them with a plaque as a token of appreciation for their efforts during their very successful terms of office. He gave a warm welcome to those entering the Board of Directors.

Finally, Mr. Smallbone introduced Prof.Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Dilthey (Germany) as President of IIW for the period 2008-2011 and wished him continued success. Prof.Dr.-Ing. Dilthey expressed his thanks to Mr. Smallbone for a very successful Presidency by presenting him with a plaque as a token of appreciation for his outstanding efforts.

## **17. Renewal of the Technical Management Board**

Mr. Smallbone gave his report and he noted that there was no change amongst members appointed by the Board of Directors. Two new representatives of the Working Units will be elected during this Annual Assembly and presented to the next Board of Directors Meeting.

## **18. IIW Business Plan Edition June 2008**

Mr. Smallbone presented the IIW Business Plan Edition June 2008. He was pleased for this excellent work and congratulated all who have contributed to this first edition.

## **19. IIW Project and White Paper**

Mr. Smallbone explained that the document was almost finalized and was in the editing stage. It would be circulated to all contributors before publication.

## **20. Future IIW Annual Assemblies**

There will be a change in India from Mumbai to Chennai and from September to July with dates of July 17-23, 2011.

The proposal to hold the 2013 IIW Annual Assembly in Essen, Germany, was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

## **21. Future IIW International Congresses**

Mr. Smallbone gave a brief report on the future International Congresses.

## **22. Any other Business**

There was no other item to be discussed.

## **23. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 12, 2009 at 1400H.

## **Opening Ceremony**

The Opening Ceremony took place in the same place as the General Assembly shortly after the General Assembly. The welcome address was given by the Head of the Organizing Committee, Prof. Horst Cerjak, who also welcomed the Mayor of Graz to say a few words. The Annual Assembly was then declared open by the President, Mr. Smallbone. The IIW Prizes and Awards followed with this year's recipients being:

Henry Granjon Prize	
Category A	Dr. Mehran Maalekian (Austria)
Category A	Dr. Kehai Li (United States)
Thomas Medal	Mr. Carl-Gustaf Lendewald (Finland)
Arata Award	Prof. Stephen Maddox (United Kingdom)

It is noted here that there were no Canadian entries for Prizes this year.

The Opening Ceremony was completed with an excellent Austrian opera and concert.

## **Concluding Remarks**

This Annual Assembly and Conference was extremely well attended by Canadians and well organized by our Austrian colleagues. Overall, a worthwhile event that was enjoyed by all.

Douglas R. Luciani, MBA, P.Eng.  
Chief Delegate  
August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008