Minutes of the
International Committee on Nondestructive Testing (ICNDT)
Meeting held on the 8th, 9th and 12th December 1996

along with the
14th World Conference on Nondestructive Testing (14th WCNDT)
December 8 – 13, New Delhi, INDIA

The 23rd Meeting of the International Committee on Nondestructive Testing (ICNDT) was held on the 8th, 9th and 12th December 1996.

The following minutes have been recorded as per the circulated agenda for the Meeting. The agenda for the Meeting is enclosed in Annexure –I.

The list of those who were present for these Meetings is given in Annexure – II.

8th December 1996, 1600 hours, Mumtaz Mahal, Hotel Taj Palace

1. Dr.Baldev Raj, President, International Committee on Nondestructive Testing (ICNDT), invited every member to India and to the Meeting. He reported on the events that shaped the 14th World Conference on Nondestructive Testing (14th WCNDT), right from the time of bidding for the conference by India. A short summary of his Report is as follows:

   He recollected that a team of members from the Indian Society for Nondestructive Testing bid for India, to host the 14th WCNDT in Amsterdam in 1989. He mentioned that preparations for the 14th WCNDT started in the right earnest from that time itself and that the first announcement of the Conference was distributed during the 13th WCNDT in Brazil in 1992. Agfa was the first company to cosponsor the event he added. Subsequently the special flyer for the International NDT Technical Exhibition and Trade Fair – 1996 (INTEXT NDT '96) was released in 1992 / 1993 and the second announcement in 1994. A very active and sustained communication was maintained with all the NDT societies around the world as with the NDT professionals in every country. The support received from individual societies, NDT professionals and NDT publications is well appreciated and acknowledged, he added. Dr. Baldev Raj took this opportunity to thank all the NDT societies and the ICNDT members from around the world for this marvellous support.

2. Mr. K.Viswanathan, General Secretary, ICNDT, explained in detail the statistics of the Conference. A summary of his Report is given below:

   He mentioned that more than 5000 first announcements, 8000 second announcements and 3000 flyers of the INTEXT NDT `96 have been dispatched in the last four years to promote the Conference, apart from about 25,000 posters (of two themes) sent around the world. In addition a number of Updates were prepared and sent to all the NDT professionals, along with a series of 14th WCNDT Newsletters. Major journals around the world were requested to publish information on the 14th WCNDT in their pages, which a majority of journals did,

adding to the publicity level. Apart from these print media, a dedicated World Wide Web (W W W) she was operated from Japan, thanks to Dr. Morio Onoe of Ricoh, Japan, which disseminated information about the Conference, the Pre-Conference Tutorials and the INTEXT NDT `96 on the information superhighway.

Mr.K.Viswanathan added that a record number of papers were received for presentation in the 14th WCNDT, 736 to be precise. These were faxed to various reviewers worldwide and their review reports on a scale of 100 were collected and analysed for determining whether a paper should be selected and what the mode of presentation should be, as poster or oral presentation. All the papers, including a number of them which were submitted after the deadline, were sent to Messrs. Oxford-IBH who took upon them the job of bringing out the Proceedings of the Conference.

The Pre-Conference Tutorials, a new venture in the history of World Conferences on NDT received good support, primarily from the budding NDT practitioners. Top notch NDT professionals from around the world with proven pedagogic experience were requested to handle the Tutorials, while the Tutorial notes which they had prepared were made ready for distribution among the participants.

Industry Experts Meet was another new idea that increased the professional value of the Conference for those who attended. Mr. K.Viswanathan mentioned that the cost of the Conference is about Rs. 2.7 crores (about U.S. $700,000) and concluded that approximately 30 – 40 man years of professional hard work has gone into the successful realization of the Conference. He took this opportunity to welcome all the ICNDT Members and their colleagues to the 14th WCNDT and the INTEXT NDT`96.

3. Dr. Morio Onoe presented the NDT activities of the International Standards Organization (ISO) and compared its standards to that of the CEN. He stressed the need for faster implementation of the processes of standardization. A brief summary of his presentation is given below:

Many standards have been developed to ensure the consistent, reliable and effective use of NDT. Recent rapid growth of global trade and international activities calls for truly international standards, rather than numerous national and regional standards. ISO/TC135 is devoted to this aim as a part of International Organization of Standards (ISO). ISO/TC135's new strategic policy emphasizes: setting priorities, compliance with ISO 9000 series Quality Management System and 14000 series Environment Management System, implementation of Vienna agreement and utilization of modern communication.

The rapid progress of communication network technology, especially the Internet, offers many opportunities in the field of international standardization to improve mutual understanding, encourage discussion in early stage and speed up every step of standardization with a substantial saving in cost, time and manpower. Specifically a trial use of the World Wide Web (WWW) and other services in the Internet are proposed. This is not to replace the present processes based on conventional mail and facsimile, which will remain as an official channel for communication.

Two WWW home pages of ISO/TC 135 have been set up. The first web is open for public to disseminate information related to TC 135 activities. Its URL is http://www.ricoh. co.p/net-messena/NDTWW/ INTERN / ISO135.html. The another web, which is linked from the public web, in exclusive to members of

TC 135 and hidden to general public. Its access is controlled by an ID pair of user name and password to avoid premature disclosure of drafts and encourage free discussion among members.

Prof. Dr.Gerd Dobmann, German delegate in Commission V of the IIW and Chairman of the sub-commission VE "Weld Inspection Topics based on Electrical, Magnetic and Optical Methods," presented the activities of the International Institute of Welding (IIW) and mentioned its objectives as the development of welding and the exchange of scientific and technical information. He also detailed the activities of Commission V of the IIW. A brief summary of this presentation is given below:

IIW was founded in 1948 by the welding institutes or societies in 13 countries, who felt the need to create it to make rapid scientific and technical progress possible. Experts from around the world are working in more than 20 Commissions or other units on a permanent basis to stimulate and coordinate research and to disseminate information of welding processes, their application in terms of material, design and inspection and other associated subject such as health and safety education training and qualification, terminology and documentation.

The working units of the IIW have supplied the technical basis of the great majority of welding standards issued by ISO over the past 30 years. Since 1989 the IIW has been authorized by ISO to prepare final texts of international welding standards as an international standard organization.

The concern of Commission V is quality control and quality assurance of welded products. The Chairman is Dr. Thomas A.Siewert, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A. The technical scope in Commission V is Radiography and Radioscopy of welds and reliability of methods; ultrasonics-based inspection methods; Electrical, magnetic and optical methods; Quality management in welding technology including monitoring, on-line inspection and fitness for purpose principles; a special working group is set up for offshore inspection.

The Objectives of IIW are: To organize the exchange of scientific and technical information and provide for the transfer of knowledge related to these techniques. To prepare recommendations, state-of-the-art reports and guidelines related to the technical field. To promote by all appropriate means the organization of national welding institutes or associations in countries where these do not exist. To organize Annual Assemblies, International Conferences and Regional Congresses. To define guidelines for the education, training, qualification and certification of personnel involved in welding and rules for their application. To prepare and to assist in the formulation of international standards in collaboration of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). To promote and encourage the development of sustainable environment within welding activities.

Dr.Pierre Priester of the CEN highlighted the new approach of the CEN. While mentioning that it is headquartered in Brussels, he compared the CEN's initiative in this area with that of TC 138. Dr.Priester also mentioned about the eight working groups of the CEN. A brief summary of this presentation is given below:

One of the basic principles, in the frame [work] of European Union, is that standardization is used as reference for the free circulation of goods.

CEN/TC138, created in 1988, is in charge to claborate standards on certification and qualification of NDT personnel and general standards on the NDT methods (general principles of the method, characterization and verification of the equipment, terminology). Its programme includes 77 work items and 11 standards are already

published. Furthermore, CEN/TC 138 collaborates with ISO/TC135 in order to have indentical standards, when it is possible, in the frame [work] of the Vienna agreement.

NDT general application standards from CEN/TC138 can be considered as basic documents for a quality approach because these standards give the requirements and all necessary information for the application of an NDT method.

Dr. Kishan Lal mentioned the activities of the UNIDO in the area of Nondestructive Testing and its intention to setup a Centre on the lines of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Italy. This Centre would be known as the International Centre for Materials Evaluation Technology (ICMET). He highlighted the scope, objectives and mission of the proposed ICMET. A brief summary of his presentation is given below:

The International Centre for Materials Evaluation Technology (ICMET) has been established at the premises of Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS), Taejon, Republic of Korea. The Institute is a collaborative activity of UNIDO and the Republic of Korea. This Centre aspires to be a key-institution for promoting international collaboration between developing and developed countries for materials evaluation technology, thereby assessing the formulation of national / regional /international standards and codes of practice. It will help in awareness building, cooperative R & D*, advisory services, training, developing and establishing databases, promotion of international cooperation and liaison with bodies such as International Standards Organization (ISO), Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards (VAMAS), national / regional standard bodies and other centres of excellence. It is proposed to establish common standards, guidelines and codes of practice for testing, evaluation and characterization of new advanced materials. ICMET will prepare technical reports and pre-standards documents for ISO to be published as ISO Technology Trends Assessment. This will be used by relevant ISO subcommittee as the basis for preparation of International Standards.*

The contact points for the Centre are:

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None were present to talk about the NDT activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Solution

The ICNDT resolves that it will correspond to enable sending one member to all these international organizations and inviting one from these to the ICNDT as a representative. This exchange, it feels will help sustain long term cooperation among each of these organizations with the ICNDT, reduce duplication and strengthen the activities.

Resolution Unanimously Passed

Action: Dr. Baldev Raj

4. All the resolutions (vide point number 4 in the ICNDT Meeting agenda – Meeting held on 26th October 1994, Nice, France) were referred to the Policy and General Purposes Committee for discussion and will be finally ratified in the ICNDT Meeting on 12th December 1996.

   Dr.Guo Chengbin of China brought forth a resolution regarding the nomenclature to be followed by the ICNDT in referring to the Beijing and Taipei NDT Societies. The proposal from Dr. Guo Chengbin, dated 26th November 1996, is as follows:

   Old Version as mentioned in the Terms of Reference of the ICNDT

   "In ICNDT, China's representation will be a special case. There will be one China, but two voting delegates: one from China-Beijing and one from China-Taipei"

   New Version to replace the old one, in the Terms of Reference of the ICNDT

   "ICNDT realizes that there is only one Chine in the world, however, China's representation in ICNDT is a special case. China may have two voting delegates: one from China, representing the Chinese Society for Nondestructive Testing; and the other from Chinese Taipei, representing the Nondestructive Testing Society of Chinese Taipei."

   Dr.Baldev Raj, President, ICNDT, suggested that Dr. Guo Chengbin and Dr. David S.Chu from Taipei may discuss among themselves and put forth a mutually acceptable resolution to the Members of the ICNDT, on 12th December 1996, for their approval and adoption. Dr. Guo Chengbin and Dr. David S. Chu agreed to this suggestion.

9th December 1996, 1600 hours, Mumtaz Mahal, Hotel Taj Palace

5. Regarding membership of new states, Dr.Douglas Marshall mentioned that the Committee that was formed to recommend the new entrants will put forth its proposals in consultation with the Policy and General Purposes Committee (P&GPC). He also mentioned that in this Committee, Dr.Wu of Taiwan would be a member instead of Dr.Rossi of Brazil.

   The membership of Slovenia, Croatia, Belarus, Czech and Bangladesh, are to be decided.

   Regarding the Pan-American Committee for Nondestructive Testing, Dr. Baldev Raj opined that instead of proliferating the number of such groups, they should be encouraged to become members of the ICNDT. Dr.Douglas Marshall mentioned that the Pan American Group needs recognition. Dr.Mike Turnbow of the American Society for Nondestructive Testing mentioned that the Pan American Group is organizing a pan American Conference on NDT and is bound to get recognition anyway. A consensus emerged that in any case, the members of the Pan American Group who are not members of the ICNDT are to be requested to become members of the ICNDT in the first place.

6. Dr.Morio Onoe described the progress made in the use of the Internet by the ICNDT. While highlighting the advantage of the Internet and the WWW, he presented examples of the Web pages created by him for the 14th WCNDT. Dr.Nardoni promised to make the best use of the Internet and the WWW for the promotion of the 15th WCNDT. A summary of the presentation and recommendations of Dr.Morio Onoe is given below:

   The rapid progress of electronic communication technology, specifically the Internet, has provided much opportunities to support and enhance activities of the ICNDT, especially during the period between the World Conferences on NDT. Benefits of electronic communication are: fast and always updated dissemination of information, saving in material,time a labour by eliminating printing and mailing, reusable electronic documents for easy editing and version control, etc. The Internet further provides global coverage with speed and economy, multimedia capabilities, search engines and agents, interactivity, etc. ICNDT-Net was first proposed at Nice meeting of the ICNDT in 1994 to explore these opportunities. With the approval and the encouragement of Dr. Baldev Raj, the then ICNDT President,Dr.Morio Onoe has run a WWW home page for ICNDT http://www.ricoh.co.jp/net-messena/NDTWW/INTERN/ICNDT.html which has enjoyed accesses from all over the world for more than two years now. It consists of two parts. The first part in open for public and contains all the information on the 14th WCNDT, from the very first announcement to the complete program details. Another part is exclusive to ICNDT members and its access is controlled by password. It contains, among other things, minutes of Nice Meeting and agenda of the present Delhi Meeting. Beside the WWW, there are such features of the Internet to be explored as E-mail network, FTP, bulletin board, etc. Dr.Morio Onoe proposed the following:[a] ICNDT has recognized the usefulness of the Internet and will further explore its full benefits,[b] Network Working Group will be set up to plan and conduct future experiments and [c] Participating member societies will nominate people having E-mail access.

7. Regarding changes to the Terms of Referenced of the ICNDT, Dr. Farley, while cautioning hasty changes to the Terms of Reference, welcomed suggestions from the members on this issue and promised to table them in the P&GPC Meeting. The P&GPC, after careful consideration would recommend changes, if any, to the full house of the ICNDT.

8. It was decided that the new Chairman of the Policy and General Purposes Committee (P&GPC) would be decided as per the rules mentioned in the Terms of Reference. Dr. Farley mentioned that the President of the ICNDT, in consultation with the two honorary members will decide the new Chairman of the P&GPC.

9. Dr. G.Nardoni described the arrangements that have been made for the 15th world Conference on Nondestructive Testing (15th WCNDT) to be held in Rome. He mentioned the dates of the Conference and the broad outline of the technical sessions' structure of the 15th WCNDT. The 15th World Conference will be held in the Palace of Congresses (EUR) Room, Rome, 15-21, October, 2000.

10. Dr. Nardoni and Dr. Baldev Raj explained their views on the future directions to be taken by the ICNDT. Dr.Nardoni emphasized the need for harmonization in the ICNDT.

Action: Dr. Baldev Raj and Dr. G. Nardoni

11. Dr. Douglas Marshall, Dr.E.Romero and Dr.Chengbin Guo, of Canada, Spain and China respectively, presented their cases for holding the 16th World Conference on Nondestructive Testing (16th WCNDT) in the year 2004. The final decision on this issue would be taken on 12th December 1996, either by consensus or by voting as required.

12. Regarding honouring longstanding members in the ICNDT, Dr.Nardoni proposed the name of Dr. Baldev Raj as one to be honoured. Dr.Farley mentioned the rules in the Terms of Reference for such procedure. In accordance with the terms of reference, he mentioned, the ICNDT may honour "a meritorious retired or long-acting member on the occasion of a meeting of the committee." It was decided by the Members that a small subcommittee consisting of Prof.Paul de Meester and Dr.G.Nardoni may recommend the names of probable persons who could be honoured, in the next ICNDT Meeting, to be held on 12th December 1996.