

CORCON 2016: International Corrosion Conference and Expo September 18 - 21, 2016

"A recent study has shown that 30 percent of failures on ships and other marine structures and assets occur due to corrosion," said Director General Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh, while speaking as the Chief Guest at the inaugural function of The 24th Annual Corrosion Conference and Expo (CORCON 2016) at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, New Delhi. "The cost of corrosion is estimated to be around 3.2 percent of the global GDP. Corrosion has an enormous impact on the military. There are direct costs like manpower and materials and indirect costs like vessels' downtime. The drag and propulsion power required due to marine fouling and corrosion can increase the consumption and cost of fuel by as much as 40 percent. Therefore, it is of prime importance to look at ways to prevent and mitigate corrosion."

CORCON is organized by NACE International Gateway India Section (NIGIS), one of the largest and the most active section of NACE International. CORCON is a unique event where the world corrosion fraternity comes together to present breakthrough research achievements, showcase latest technologies and products, conduct brain storming sessions to solve challenging issues in various industries and topping all to develop a network of corrosion professionals that soon evolves into fruitful international collaborations, control prevention and maintenance activities.

This year the event was held on September 18 – 21, 2016, and attended by over 800 delegates and 80 exhibitors from around the world. The theme of the conference was, "Managing corrosion prevention, inspection and mitigation from inside out".

CORCON is supported by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers of Government of India, Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce of the United States of America, Petrofed, Petrotech and the Australasian Corrosion Association.

Welcoming the guests and delegates, Dr U. Kamachi Mudali, Chairman, CORCON 2016 extolled the virtues of the discoveries made in India ages ago by kingdoms who had mastered the art of corrosion mitigation. "The centuries old Iron Pillar in Delhi and the bronzes of South India are some of the outstanding examples," he said.

Mr Anand Kulkarni, Trustee 2016-19, NIGIS, said: "Declining oil prices and global recessionary trends have forced organizations to seek ways to optimize costs. To this end, effective management of corrosion can in fact provide a competitive edge to asset owners. A critical component of effective corrosion management is proper training of our work force. Also important for creating a climate conducive to implementing corrosion management across organizations is government policy and legislation."

Mr B. Narayan, Group President (Procurement & Projects), Reliance Industries Ltd, said: "CORCON has always been a learning experience for me. Being a person from the refinery industry I would say that the cost of corrosion in this industry alone worldwide is estimated to be US\$ 9 billion. Ensuring a coatings and corrosion mitigation program right from the beginning itself will ensure that the plant has its run for its lifetime."

"It's exciting times for NACE International," said Mr Sandy Williamson, President, NACE International 2016-17, "as our strategic plan has continued to be challenged and optimized by the Board of Directors and now encompasses the areas of product and service diversification, member engagement, public policy, operational excellence, and board sustainability. These initiatives will ensure that NACE continues to grow in the right direction."

Robert H. Chalker, Chief Executive Officer, NACE International, noted that the organization is making a difference in over 100 countries. "The initiatives we started have started to blossom now. For example four years ago, we decided to invest heavily in education and certification programs. Next we decided to have outreach programs to reach out to government officials, lawmakers and regulators. We are working hard in regions such as the Middle East, China, Canada, Australia and looking at Europe. We are also looking at partnering with societies and organizations having common agendas. Today, we are now a 36,000 member organization with staff strength of 170 spread over 100 countries."

Dr Samir Degan, Vice President 2016-2017 noted that NACE International's recently released global cost of corrosion study – International Measures of Prevention, Application, and Economics of Corrosion Technologies (IMPACT) has found that the cost of corrosion world wide is over US\$2.5 trillion. "We at NACE International believe that at least 15 to 35 percent of this cost can be saved by using available practices and technologies in our routine working environments. Further costs can be reduced by incorporating corrosion prevention technologies and practices at the design stage of the asset. The IMPACT study also emphasizes the necessity of incorporating corrosion management systems in all organizations as a standard practice to maximize the benefits of reducing costs due to corrosion." CORCON 2016 also saw the launch of NACE International Gateway India Section's India focused IMPACT study for which participation and interactions were invited from the corrosion mitigating fraternity from all over the country.

Spread over four days, CORCON 2016 was a technical fest with six plenary lectures, 19 invited talks, 188 technical papers in 14 symposia including a poster and two student symposia, besides six technical interactive forums along with an innovative event '*Jung se Jung*,' (Fighting Corrosion) jointly organized with GAIL.

The six technical interactive forums had an excellent participation with purposeful discussions. The topics covered were: Delivering Performance through Optimum Coating Specifications; Water Treatment; Water Transmission Pipelines; Corrosion in Concrete; Regulations and Standards in Corrosion; and Corrosion in Refinery and Petrochemicals.

A cultural program was held on the first day of the event with a colorful and educative entertainment program.

22nd Annual Corrosion Awareness Awards were also presented CORCON 2016. The winners were: For Excellence in Corrosion Science and Technology in Research and Education, Dr Bharat Bhushan Jha, CSIR – Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar; Excellence in Corrosion Science and Technology in Oil and Gas, Mr Shailesh D. Javia, SGB Scaffolding and Industrial Services Pvt Ltd., Ahmedabad; Distinction in Corrosion Science & Technology in Research and Education, Dr R. Balaji Naik, Naval Materials Research Laboratory, Ambernath; Distinction in Corrosion Science and Technology in an Industrial Organization, Mr Rituraj Mishra, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Mumbai; Student Award for PhD, Dr L. Mohan, Anna University, Chennai; Student Award for M Tech, Ms Krishnaveni, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Peelamedu; Meritorious Contribution to Research and Education, Dr Rani P. George, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam; Meritorious Contribution to Industry, Dr Anil Bhardwaj, ONGC, Panvel; Excellent Laboratory Award, Tata Steel – Advanced Corrosion Research Centre, Jamshedpur; Lifetime Achievement Award, Prof K. A. Natarajan, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; and Recognition of Excellent Service of Late Shri R. P. Nagar, for the growth and development of the NACE International Gateway India Section. The awards were presented by Mr Sandy Williamson, President, NACE International.

The valedictory function was held on September 21, 2016 where the dates for CORCON 2017 were announced. It will be held in Mumbai, September 17 – 20, 2017.

Glimpses of CORCON 2016



Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali, Chairman, CORCON 2016 warmly welcoming the fellow delegates



Dignitaries during lighting the lamp to inaugurate the conference



Dignitaries on the Dias releasing the CORCON 2016 Souvenir



Delegates during the inauguration session



Director General Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh inaugurating the CORCON exhibition



Dr. Indranil Manna, Director, IIT Kanpur delivering the Plenary Talks

Glimpses of CORCON 2016



Panel Members during Technical Interactive Forum



Sandy Williamson, President, NACE International addressing the delegates during Jung se Jung workshop



Dignitaries with the winners of Corrosion Awareness Award 2016



Exhibition premises of the conference



Cultural programme during the conference



Best Paper awards presented during the Valedictory function