

CORCON 2017 : International Corrosion Conference and Expo September 17-20, 2017

CORCON has earned a name for itself as a unique platform for exchange of information, and development of solutions on matters pertaining to corrosion.

"As one of the largest and most active sections of NACE International, the Gateway India Section's contribution towards generating awareness, and developing corrosion management strategies over time, is commendable. The annual CORCON has earned a name for itself as a unique platform for exchange of information, and development of solutions on matters pertaining to corrosion, said Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. Speaking at CORCON 2017 as the Chief Guest at the inaugural function, he also brought out the various challenges faced by the Indian Navy in tackling corrosion, and the management strategies and practices in vogue. CORCON 2017 was held on September 17 – 20, 2017 at Hotel Sahara Star, Mumbai.

"As for various sectors of the industry, corrosion is also a phenomenon that has a very high bearing on asset management, in the Navy. We, therefore, acknowledge the initiatives taken by industry, and academia, to not only address the issues associated with corrosion, but also in making efforts to evolve solutions for practical applications and cost-saving. The Indian Navy has been associated with NACE for many years now, and has benefitted from the interactions and knowledge-base available with the organization," he emphasized.

"Over the years, CORCON has grown to become one of the world's largest corrosion events after CORROSION," said Dr Samir Degan, President (2017-2018), NACE International. "This success is due to the Gateway India Section team being a cohesive unit of committed and decision making individuals over the past 25 years."

Dr Samir Degan also highlighted before the delegates the various initiatives that keep Gateway India Section at the forefront. He said, "The India IMPACT Study is scheduled to be released in January 2018. We are now a key stakeholder in the National Mission on Corrosion

Control Technologies and Standards as well as the Bureau of Corrosion Control. We have recognition from the Government with support from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, besides key partnerships with the United States Commercial Services (USCS), Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). We are also setting up a training center in Mumbai in association with NACE HQ. With this strong partnership, we look forward to more initiatives with NACE such as IMPACT Plus, NACE International Institute Contractor Accreditation Program (NIICAP), and Master Painters Institute (MPI)."

"This year too, CORCON 2017 has received an overwhelming response from a large number of national and international eminent specialists across various industries, academia and R&D addressing on diverse topics pertaining to refinery, petrochemical, chemical, fertilizers, power plants, and utilities, etc.," said Mr N Manohar Rao, Chairman, CORCON 2017.

The technical program of this conference had over 160 paper presentations, 14 poster presentations, five plenary speakers, and 23 invited talks across 12 symposia and other topics besides four technical interactive forums. There was also an expo area with over 70 booths including an exclusive United States Pavilion, where throughout the day, one could see exhibitors and visitors busy in product demonstrations and animated business discussions.

An added attraction was the CP station that provided an insight to those who were new to methods / functionality of applying Cathodic Protection as an option to reduce corrosion especially in pipelines. The complimentary photograph at CORCON'S portrait station was also widely made use of and appreciated by the delegates.

CORCON 2017 had a day of special focus on corrosion in the oil and gas industry including plenary talks and 'Jung Se Jung' sessions. 'Jung Se Jung' was organized to take care of the focused requirement of a large number of delegates from oil and gas industry.

Amongst the major highlights was the workshop 'Empowering Women to Achieve their Ambition,' that attracted over 60 delegates. The workshop gave the participants an opportunity to enhance development and networking opportunities intended to inspire attendees to pursue leadership positions in the corrosion industry; provide personal and professional development and mentoring strategies through interactive activities; deliver ways to support and mentor others along the path to leadership success; and convey ideas about organizational preparedness and awareness of the need to have diverse leadership teams. The workshop was conducted by Elaine Bowman, Project Manager for the NACE Sponsored IMPACT Study, and a Past President of NACE International; Ms Helena Seelinger, Executive Director, NACE International Institute; and Ms Michelle Lau, NACE International Institute Certification Commission Chair.

The four-day conference was just not scientific and problem solving, brain-storming sessions, but also had its share of lighter moments. Day one, started off with a golf tournament at The Bombay Presidency Golf Club, which saw 120 participants, including many who had never played golf in their life. The energetic, melodious and soulful violin concert performance by Ms Sunita Khaund Bhuyan, on the second day, took delegates into a trance as she weaved her music through the various regions of India.

A glittering award winning function was the highlight of the third night. The NIGIS Corrosion Awareness Award Winners 2017 were Dr Sublime Ningshen, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam for Excellence in Corrosion Science and Technology in Research and Education; Mr Sahab Singh Gurjar, Cairn India Ltd., Ahmedabad for Excellence in Corrosion

Science and Technology in Oil and Gas; Dr A. Ravi Shankar, IGCAR, Kalpakkam for Distinction in Corrosion Science and Technology in Research and Education; Mr Rukmangad Kondamgire, GSPL India Gasnet Ltd., Gandhinagar for Distinction in Corrosion Science and Technology in an Industrial Organization; Dr T. Siva, CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute, Karaikudi, Student Award for Ph. D. Degree; Mr Sooraj Kumar, A. O., IIT Madras, Chennai, Student Award for M. Tech; and Dr N. Rajendran, Anna University, Chennai, Meritorious Contribution to Research and Education.

Mr Om Prakash Degan, Chairman, Osnar Group, was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award in appreciation of his excellent contribution to the development of NACE International Gateway India Section and his pioneering work in industrial paints and coating application in India.

The organizers of CORCON 2017 also placed on record the overwhelming support from the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India, and support from partners: United State Commercial Service, Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Australian Corrosion Association, Inc., amongst others.

The dates for the next edition CORCON 2018 were also announced. The event is scheduled to be held September 30 – October 3, 2018, at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Glimpses of CORCON 2017



N Manohar Rao, Chairman, CORCON 2017 warmly welcoming the fellow delegates



Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command delivering the inaugural speech



Dignitaries on the Dias releasing the CORCON 2017 Souvenir



Delegates during the inauguration session



Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali Chairman & Chief Executive Heavy Water Board, delivering the Plenary Talks



Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission interacts with conference Exhibitors

Glimpses of CORCON 2017



Dignitaries with winners of
Corrosion Awareness Award 2017



Panel Members of Technical Interactive Forum
"Corrosion in RCC Structures"



Cultural programme during the conference



Golf tournament organised for delegates at
The Bombay Presidency Golf Club



Workshop organised on 'Empowering Women to
achieve their Ambition'



Best Paper awards presented during the
Valedictory function