



DR. D. DE SARKAR

The Indian Copper Development Centre (ICDC) is a non-trading and non-profit making organisation. It was founded in the year 1966 in Kolkata, initially as a branch of erstwhile International Copper Development Council, CIDE, Geneva. It was reborn in 1976, on the dissolution of the parent body as Indian Copper Information Centre, a registered Indian Society recognised by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, as a Scientific Research body devoted to the cause of copper and copper alloys.

In 1986, the Centre was renamed as Indian Copper Development Centre (ICDC) in line with its change in outlook from just an information dissemination body to one capable of providing a more comprehensive range of services aimed at overall growth and development of copper based industry comprising of both manufacturers and users.

Dr. D. De Sarkar, CEO of ICDC since 2005 graduated in Metallurgical Engineering in 1976 and obtained Ph. D. in Metallurgy in 1989. He did Diploma in Management in 1992. He started his career with Indian Copper Development Centre in 1976 as Metallurgist and was subsequently elevated to the position of Technical Manager in 1978.

His areas of special interest include melting, casting, rolling,



GST a Welcome Move for Copper Producers

extrusion and drawing of copper and copper alloys, development of newer alloys and market development for copper base products. He is also actively involved in market research activities. He has authored over 50 technical papers, and made presentations in several national and international Seminars / symposia.

Sarkar is a Member of various committees formed by Ministry of Coal & Mines, Govt. of India; TIFAC, etc., on issues related to five Year Plans, recycling of secondary copper, Indian copper market

assessment, etc.

He has been an active member of the Copper & Copper Alloy Sectional Committee MTD:8 of Bureau of Indian Standards for over two decades and is the Chairman of this Committee since 2006. He is the Joint Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of The Indian Institute of Metals. He is "Life Fellow" of The Indian Institute of Metals.

Speaking to **Sanjay Singh, Associate Editor of Metaworld, Dr. D. De Sarkar** said that GST should be a welcome move for all the established copper based product manufacturers. Excerpts

ICDC recently held a seminar in Mumbai for its members. What were the major points covered in this event ?

- ICDC, which was founded in the year 1966, celebrated its 50 years of glorious journey by organizing an event at Mumbai on December 15-16, 2016.

About 200 Indian and overseas participants from around 100 organisations representing primary copper producers, downstream copper product manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, industry associations, traders, research institutes as

well as end users of copper based products attended the programme. Eighteen papers were presented during the two day conference.

Mr. K. D. Diwan, Chairman & Managing Director, Hindustan Copper Ltd. inaugurated the programme. In his inaugural address, he mentioned about the important role played by ICDC for the growth of copper industry in the country and also highlighted the achievements and the future plans of HCL.

Mr. P. Ramnath, Chief Executive Officer, Sterlite Copper and Mr. J. C.



Laddha, Chief Executive Officer, Birla Copper addressed the participants as Special Guests. Both complimented ICDC and suggested areas in which ICDC has to be more active for the benefit and growth of the industry.

Mr. Rajive Kaul, President, Indian Copper Development Centre while addressing the participants, recollected how Late Dr. Dara P. Antia and Late Dr. L. R. Vaidyanath were instrumental in setting up of the Centre in 1966. He also elaborated the various activities of the centre over the years and how it helped the copper industry.

Mr. D. K. Jain, Chairman, Organising Committee & Managing Director, Agrawal Metal Works Pvt. Ltd. addressed the participants. He mentioned his long relationship with ICDC and how the centre helped him in adopting newer technologies during all these years. He also added the various reforms of the Government which affected the copper industry and the various challenges the industry is facing at present.

As an apex body for copper development, what are the issues facing the industry, and what steps are you taking to rectify the same ?

- There are certain issues which are causing difficulties to the industries to maintain production level and planning further developments.

The most important one is "FTA" - which is a big challenge to the industry. ICDC is trying to take all stakeholders together i.e. primary copper producers and downstream semis manufacturers - so that

the problem is sorted out by the concerned authority.

As budget is approaching, any representation have you made to the government to look into your grievances ?

- ICDC does not make any representation.

“ Per capita consumption of copper in India is still very low (around 0.6 Kg) in comparison to global average of 3 Kg. ”

The GST is going to be implemented this year. What impact do you see on the copper industry and its manufacturers ?

- GST should be a welcome move for all the established copper based product manufacturers.

How do you see the growth potential of copper in the coming years, and according to you which industry will be biggest user in future ?

- With Government's thrust on developing infrastructure sector including electrical and railway sector - there appear to be good demand growth potential in India - may be 6 - 8% annually.

The electrical sector will continue to be the largest user of copper.

What is the per capita consumption of copper in the country compared to world average. What steps are being taken by ICDC to encourage its usage ?

- Per capita consumption of copper in India is still very low (around 0.6 Kg) in comparison to global average of 3 Kg.

In terms of technological advancement, are the Indian copper manufacturer keeping abreast with latest developments or in your opinion more needs to be done ?

- Indian primary copper manufacturing industry is operating with latest technology. Many downstream industry manufacturing conductors, rolled and extruded products have updated their product technology to meet global standards. However, there is further scope to improve yield and reduce cost of production by improving operational efficiency.

What role is ICDC playing to promote the cause of copper industry in the country ?

- ICDC through focussed seminars, workshops, etc. create awareness among the ultimate end users about benefits offered by copper over the substitutes in terms of efficiency, long & guaranteed service performance, and 'end of life' value of the copper base products. ICDC is trying to promote the concept of "Life Cycle Cost" rather than "First Cost" among the end users of this "Green" metal.