

CORCON 2015 : International Corrosion Conference and Expo

November 19–21, 2015

Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, India

The CORCON 2015, 23rd Annual International Corrosion Conference and Expo was organized during 18th to 21st November 2015 at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai by NACE International Gateway India Section (NIGIS). The event was supported by Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals and Department of Commerce & Industry of Government of India, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Department of Commerce of United States of America. This year East Asia Pacific Area (EAPA) Conference EAP 2015 was jointly organized along with CORCON 2015.

With a vibrant theme of “Conquering Corrosion Worldwide” CORCON 2015 aimed at providing a platform to promote fruitful interactions between stake holders and policy makers; to present breakthrough achievements in corrosion control by research fraternity, to showcase world class products, to conduct brain storming sessions to solve challenging issues in industries, and to develop networking between corrosion professionals which will evolve into fruitful international collaborations.

The conference was inaugurated on 19th November, 2015 by Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog, Government of India, In his initial remarks on the impact of corrosion on the national economy, he expressed that “All Industries in India contribute significantly in the economic growth of the country. A substantial portion of our national GDP is lost due to corrosion and these industries are facing difficult conditions in corrosion estimation, effective prevention and control. In today's highly competitive environment it has become necessary for the Indian industries to increase production by minimizing loss by avoiding unwanted shutdowns and accidents due to corrosion. The setting up of a national organization for corrosion control which is in its final stages of approval, is in tandem with the Government of India's 'Make in India,' program, and that too with 'zero defects'. The country is losing nearly \$76 billion or 4% of GDP average each year due to corrosion. He also touched upon the importance of corrosion prevention in the defense and aviation sector and encouraged the corrosion fraternity to come up with novel solutions to combat corrosion.

Later in his Pleanary Talk on “Surface Protection Technologies”, Dr. Saraswat highlighted the development of polymer, ceramic, composite and metallic coatings for missile and other sensitive defense equipment applications. Guest of Honors for the inaugural function were Mr. Surjit K. Choudhary, Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India, Mr. B. Narayan, Group President, Procurement & Projects, Reliance industries Ltd., Mr. Jim Feather, President, NACE International, USA and Mr. Robert Chalker, CEO NACE International, USA. Mr. S. K. Chaudhary pointed out the significance of the need for technology to curb issues of corrosion in various sectors, and the Government of India has proposed to set up a National Bureau of Corrosion Control. He also elaborated his wide experience as Municipal Commissioner during early days of career and highlighted the importance of corrosion in day to day life and in maintaining public property. He stressed on a disciplined approach towards preventing corrosion as it can save industrial property and national assets.

Mr. Jim Feather described NACE as an organization working in various nations to prevent corrosion. He also informed that US Commercial Services will support the Bureau of Corrosion Control to be started in India. He further explained that the Bureau along with NACE can issue certification and also help companies to devise mechanisms of corrosion control. Mr. B. Narayan has highlighted the importance of corrosion prevention in large petrochemical industries. He stressed the importance of corrosion in the chemical plants, where corrosion prevention is a day to day activity. He expressed his anxiety and keenness for a well planned and disciplined procedure to combat corrosion in chemical industry. Mr. Robert Chalker stressed the importance of making people and companies to adopt the best strategies and practices to prevent damage of equipment due to corrosion.

Dr Samir Degan, Vice President Elect, NACE International and Trustee 2015 NACE International Gateway India Section (NIGIS), cited some of the accomplishments of the past year including the success of CORCON 2014 held in Mumbai and the successful hosting of over 40 educational and certification courses.

A host of other corrosion awareness programs were held in collaboration with RDSO, Lucknow; GAIL, NIRDESH, etc., with plans to expand to cities like Vishikapatnam in the coming year. "One of our biggest achievements has been the Government of India's announcement of the National Mission on Corrosion Technologies and Standards," said Dr Degan. Michelle Lau, Area Director 2014-2017, NACE International East Asia & Pacific Area noted that CORCON provides an excellent platform for your engagement with your peers and industry personnel, not just locally, but from many other countries around the globe. Earlier, Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali, Chairman, CORCON 2015 warmly welcomed the gathering and he brought out the importance of CORCON series of conference and expo and the need for bringing out innovative methodologies to combat corrosion. Mr. Anand Kulkarni, Chairman, NIGIS, proposed the vote of thanks.

CORCON 2015 presented a feast of 16 technical symposia with 175 technical papers including 3 plenary lectures, 29 invited lectures by professionals from reputed academic and research institutions, suppliers, fabricators and user industries in the field of cathodic protection, internal corrosion of pipelines and welded structures, structural integrity and reliability assessment, coatings and linings, microbial corrosion and inhibitors, corrosion monitoring and testing etc. About 55 young scientists from academia and R&D had put up posters and presented their work in Young Scientist Forum (YSF) which was highlight of CORCON 2015. Internationally reputed Corrosion experts chaired YSF and interacted with the young researchers giving them future guidelines in their fields. About 678 delegates including experts from USA, Japan, Canada, South Africa, China, Netherlands, Malaysia, Germany, Australia, France, Israel, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Indonesia, and Nigeria participated in this important event. CORCON 2015 was supported by Public and Private sector units and they also deputed delegates to attend this Asia's biggest congregation on Corrosion. The CORCON 2015 Expo had around 60 booths including an US pavilion, and many reputed manufacturers and service providers from India and abroad exhibited their products, technologies and services for combating corrosion. A cultural programme by Padmabhushan awardees "The Dhananjayans" was organized on the first day.

During CORCON 2015, 21st NIGIS Annual Corrosion Awareness Awards were presented on 20th November, 2015 at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. Mr. Jim Feather, President, NACE International gave away the awards in a glittering ceremony. Mr. A.K. Purwaha, Former CMD, EIL received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Jayanata Kumar Saha, Deputy General Manager, ISDAG, Kolkata received Excellence in Corrosion Science & Technology in Research and Education Award. Mr. Satendra Kumar, Sr. Manager, JSW and Dr. J. Jeyaraj, IGCAR Kalpakkam received Distinction in Corrosion Science and Technology Award in Industrial Organization and in Research & Education respectively. Dr. C. Arunchandran, Homi Bhabha National Institute, IGCAR, Kalpakkam and Mr. Anup Kumar Panindre, IIT Mumbai received Student Award for PhD and M Tech degrees respectively. Dr. Pradeep Jain, General Manager, NTPC and Dr. K. Thangavel, Head, CMPD, CSIR-CECRI received Meritorious Contribution Award in Industrial Organization and Research & Education respectively. L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering Ltd. Research & Development, Mumbai received Excellent Laboratory Award.

The valedictory function of CORCON 2015 was held on 21st November, and Mr. Sandy Williamson, Vice President, NACE International, USA was the Chief Guest. Nine best symposia papers and ten best poster papers were selected by eminent experts and presented with cash awards and certificates. Five Best Exhibitors chosen among the 60 booths were honoured by the Chief Guest. Another special feature of CORCON 2015 was the eight Technical Interactive Forums where special areas in the field of corrosion like regulations and standards, pipeline integrity management & cathodic protection, water treatment and management, corrosion monitoring, optimum coating specifications and corrosion issues in petrochemicals, automotive industry and shipyards were discussed by experts and stake holders for identifying issues that need urgent attention from corrosion community.

Conference received overwhelming response from industries, research institutions, academia, end user companies and marketing personnel. CORCON 2015 was unique as it brought together Government organisations, business and industry forum, and the international peers on the same platform which resulted in fruitful interactions. This will help us to take effective steps towards **Conquering Corrosion Worldwide the theme of CORCON 2015.**

Glimpses of CORCON 2015



Dignitaries during lighting the lamp to inaugurate the conference



Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali, Chairman, CORCON 2015 warmly welcoming the delegates



Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog, Government of India, addressing the delegates at the inauguration ceremony



Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat and Jim Feather inaugurating the CORCON 2015 exhibition.



Dignitaries on the Dias releasing the CORCON 2015 Technical Proceedings



View of the Delegates during the inauguration session

Glimpses of CORCON 2015



Cultural programme during the conference



Scholars during the Young Scientist Forum



NIGIS 2015 Corrosion Awareness Award winners



Jim Feather felicitating the sponsors



Panel discussions during Technical Interactive Forum



View of Exhibition area of the conference