**68th IIW Annual Assembly & International Conference**

**28th June – 3rd July 2015, Helsinki, Finland**

The Welding Society of Finland hosts the 68th IIW Annual Assembly and the International Conference in Helsinki, the capital of Finland. The event will be in the middle of the summer. The official opening will take place on Sunday 28th June and the content of the week is as follows.

IIW Working Units´ Meetings

For three days from Monday to Wednesday, the technical commissions and numerous other technical and administrative working groups will have their annual meetings and seminars. Up to 800 delegates and experts from 57 IIW member countries will discuss various aspects in welding and related topics. The 16 technical commissions work in the following topics: Thermal Cutting and Surfacing, Arc welding and Filler Metals, Resistance welding, solid state welding and allied joining processes, Power Beam Processes, Non-destructive Testing and Quality Assurance of Welded Products, Terminology, Health, safety and environment, Behavior of metals subjected to welding, Structural performances of welded joints - Fracture avoidance, Pressure vessels, boilers and pipelines, Arc welding processes and production systems, Fatigue of Welded components and Structures, Education and training, Design, Analysis and fabrication of welded structures, Polymer joining and adhesive technology, and Brazing, soldering and diffusion bonding.

International Conference

Advanced design solutions incorporating high strength materials provide considerable potential for raw materials and energy savings, improved performance and lower costs. The two days IIW International Conference from Thursday to Friday will focus on the Challenges and Applications of High Strength Materials. It will feature almost 80 speakers from the international scientific community and from the industry. Moreover, a poster session with about 30 papers will be arranged. Industrial sectors of interest include Shipbuilding, Transportation, Energy, Pressure and Process Equipment, and Aerospace. Technology-based topics will include Solid state welding, Innovative joining methods for high strength materials, Welding physics, Arc and power beam processes, Materials performance after joining, Fatigue and fracture, and Design and fabrication.

Social Program

In addition to the technical meetings a number of social events, sightseeing tours and technical visits have been arranged for delegates, experts and accompanying persons. The Opening Ceremony and the Welcome Reception of the 68th IIW Annual Assembly on Sunday 28th June will take place at Finlandia Hall. It is one of the landmarks of Helsinki, designed by the famous Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Also the Gala Banquet on Wednesday the 1st July, which officially ends the Annual Assemlbly part of the week, will take place in Finlandia Hall with a delicious dinner and great entertainment.

Monday evening 29th June is called the Finnish Evening. It will take place at the beautiful and traditional Hotel Kalastajatorppa, (Fisherman´s house) almost in the city and overlooking the Gulf of Finland. Several Finnish summer outdoor games as well as grill buffet will be provided. The summer night will beat its best and the surrounding nature is magnificent. The night will end in a performance of Finnish folkloric traditions.

This year, for the first time, a special “cool” event for young professionals and students will be organized. It will take place on Tuesday 30th June evening at Aalto University Campus and will be unforgettable.

 Sightseeing Tours

Sightseing tours and pre and post tours from Saturday 27th June to Sunday 5th July provide a moment of relaxation between the meetings. One of the tours covers the home museum of the famous Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. Moreover, one tour covers Helsinki itself and another, the maritime fortress and UNESCO Word Heritage Site Suomenlinna in the archipelago. Not to forget the tours to medieval city of Porvoo and the Nuuksio National Park, both only less than one hour away from the city center. The pre and the post tours to Tallinn and St. Petersburg offer the possibility to enjoy the Nordic and Eastern culture even longer.

Technical Visits

The technical visits and the pre visits from Saturday 27th June to Friday 3rd July will cover some the most advanced parts of Finland’s technology and metals industries and research units: Pre tour to Nuclear fuel final disposal characterisation facility ONKALO at Olkiluoto site by Posiva Oy and Teollisuuden Voima Oyj, Icebreaker production at Arctech Helsinki Shipyard Inc., Arc welding equipment and solutions for highly productive welding by Kemppi Oy, Advanced High Strength Steels and Quenched & Tempered steels production by SSAB, Production and welding automation solutions for heavy metal fabrication by Pemamek Oy Ltd., Cruise ships, car-passenger ferries and special vessels production by Meyer Turku, Education and scientific and applied research facility by the Aalto University School of Engineering and Materials and Structures Research facilities by VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd.

Official Sponsors

The major sponsors, which make the 68th IIW Annual Assembly & International Conference possible, are Kemppi Oy, voestalpine Böhler Welding GmbH, EWM AG, Gedik Kaynak San. ve Tic. A.Ş., Helsinki Region Transport, KISWEL, The Lincoln Electric Company, and Tampere Trade Fairs Ltd.

Registration and Accomondation

The registration, accomondation and the last updates of the program will be found at [www.iiw2015.com](http://www.iiw2015.com)

Welcome to Finland

On behalf of the Welding Society of Finland, the Organising and Scientific Committees and the city of Helsinki, “*The Pearl of the Baltic Sea*” I am pleased to invite all Delegates, Experts, Young Professionals, Students and Accompanying Persons to join us. We trust that everyone will find the most recent technological information useful and maritime city of Helsinki safe and easy to access and its people friendly and hospitable. For those who have never visited Helsinki before, the event offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the amazing light summer nights of the Nordic countries.

See you in Helsinki

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