

Special Steels Convention Concludes Special Steels Producers Need to Upgrade



Inauguration Session : (L-R) D. A. Chandekar, Editor and CEO, Steelworld, Samaddar, I/C RO, Joint Plant Committee, C. H. Sharma, Technical Advisor (Steel), Mukand Ltd, Shekhar Dhongde, Managing Director, BCL Forgings Ltd and Siddharth Shah, Chief of Material Management, Mukand Ltd.

'Steelworld', a publication of Chandekar Business Media Pvt Ltd, organised a 2-day conference, titled 'Special Steels Convention', between 18 - 19 December, 2009 at Hotel Le Meridien, Pune.

Joint Plant Committee (Ministry of Steel) was the co-organiser of the event.

The steel industry professionals gathered to impart innovative ideas, share experience and explore knowledge on special steels.

The event was inaugurated in presence of Siddharth Shah, Chief of Materials Management, Mukand Ltd, C. H. Sharma, Technical Advisor (Steel) Mukand Ltd, Samaddar, I/C RO, Joint Plant Committee, Shekhar Dhongde, Managing Director, BCL Forgings Ltd and D. A. Chandekar, Editor and CEO, Steelworld.

In the inauguration speech, Siddharth Shah said, "Pune is the automobile hub and it is the right place for special steels convention." Shekhar Dhongde and C. H. Sharma glanced at current international and domestic market scenario.

Following the inaugural session, the conference entered into serious debate with panel discussion, titled 'India Superpower in Automobile Industry - Truth or Myth?'. Pratap Parab, DGM (Materials Management) Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, L. Singh, Sr. Vice President (Marketing), REMI Metals Gujarat Limited, Shekhar Dhongde and R. B. Shetye participated in the panel discussion.

Illustrating the current situation of the special steels, L. Singh said, "Since last 3-4 years, Indian special steels products have been accepted globally." "Domestic market is picking up steadily compared with the western market and India is poised to become a leading special steels producer and a superpower in the automobile hub in the near future."

Shekhar Dhongde said, "The scenario of automobile industry is changing rapidly. Intelligent manpower, cheap labour cost and robust economic growth will drive India to become major auto industry destination." Glancing at the forging industry, he said that the forging industry must not



Panel Discussion : (L-R) D. A. Chandekar, R. B. Shetye, Pratap Parab, DGM (Materials Management), Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Shekhar Dhongde, Managing Director and L. Singh, Sr. Vice President (Marketing), REMI Metals Gujarat Limited.

depend on the auto industry even though it has an excellent future. Nuclear and aerospace would be the new end users of the forging products in the future. However, pointing out the major hurdles of the auto industry, Ajit Athalye, Chief Marketing Officer, Mid India Power & Steel Ltd, said, "Even though India is the one of the biggest markets of small cars, the competitions from China, Brazil and Mexico is very rigorous."

Adding to this, Shekhar Dhongde said, "China is the major threat for the Indian steel and auto industries. In China, power and labour costs are low compared to India, lower export duty and about 80 percent of mines are owned by the Chinese government also make it an industry."

Pratap Parab said, "Steel industry must work with other industries." While commenting on future of the auto industry, Siddharth Shah said, "India can be 2nd or 3rd in auto industry with the support of steel industry. The industry is poised for a gradual growth."

The panel discussion concluded that the industry needs interaction platforms like Special Steels Convention to become a superpower in auto and auto component industry. Paper presentations were kicked off with the business session -I on Market Analysis, which was chaired by V. Kulkarni, Sr. Vice President (Technical) Mahindra Ugine Steel Co. Ltd. Sayan Sen, Dy. Manager (Planning), Joint Plant Committee presented his paper on 'An Overview of the Indian Steel Industry, with Special Reference to the Alloy Steel Segment.' Citing various international reports, he said, "India is about to come out of the recession completely and set to register 8-9 percent GDP in upcoming months." He also glanced at the scenario of Indian steel industry since 2008.

N. Ramprasad, DGM (Marketing) & Regional Manager (West) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd and G. Rajaraman, (RINL) presented the second paper of the session. Ramprasad explained demand scenario in India and past performance of Vizag Steel Plant in special steels. While Rajaraman talked about technical developments at the plant.

Dr. Hakim Singh, Dy-GM (Stat) MECON presented the paper on 'Growth Prospects of Alloy and Special Steel in India.' His paper showed the growth of special steels industry in India and sectorwise usages of it. The paper also estimated the future demand for special steels.

The second business session, under the chairmanship of C. G. Patankar, ED, Kalyani Steels Ltd, was 'End Users' Perspective'. Sudhir Panse, Head (R&D), Tata Motors Ltd glanced at changing trends in demand in automobile industry. While Udayan Pathak, Assistant Manager (Materials Engineering) Tata Motors Ltd presented paper on 'Special Steels End users' perspective'. "Special Steels



Business Session - I : (L-R) Sayan Sen, Dy. Manager (Planning), Joint Plant Committee, V. Kulkarni, Sr. Vice President (Technical), Mahindra Ugine Steel Co. Ltd., N. Ramprasad, DGM (Marketing) & Regional Manager (West), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd and Dr. Hakim Singh, Dy-GM (Stat), MECON.



Business Session - II: (L-R) Sudhir Panse, Head (R&D), Tata Motors Ltd, Sachin Bhambure, Chief (R & D), Bajaj Auto Ltd, Pratap Parab, C. G. Patankar, ED, Kalyani Steels Ltd, Udayan Pathak, Assistant Manager (Materials Engineering), Tata Motors Ltd.



Business Session - III : (L-R) K. S. Ajmani, Executive Director, Kalyani Thermal Systems Ltd, D. A. Chandekar, Shekhar Dhongde, Tushar Joshi, Application and Service Manager, Kuebler Automation India Pvt Ltd.

Report



Business Session - IV : (L-R) Dr. S. Chakravorty, Vice President (Product Development & Marketing), Sunflag Iron & Steel Co. Ltd, Ananda Bhattacharjee, Dy-GM, Hospet Steels Ltd, C. H. Sharma, P. Sathyamurthy, DGM (SMS), JSW Steel Ltd, Hasan B. M., DGM (Quality Control), JSW.



Business Session - V : (L-R) Prakash Tatia, President, Welspun MaxSteel Ltd, H. K. Chati, Advisor-Coke Technology, Sesa Goa Ltd, Siddharth Shah and Aman Bhatia, Director, Bhatia International Limited.



View of Delegates

are preferred choice of auto industry.” Pathak said. While the second paper of the session was presented by Pratap Parab on 'Steel-Expectations from Auto Industry'.

The first day of the conference was concluded with Dinner at the Hotel .

The second day of the conference was begun with business session –III, titled 'Steel Components Making Industry'. D. A. Chandekar chaired the session.

K. S. Ajmani, Executive Director , Kalyani Thermal Systems Ltd ,talked on 'Forging Process Optimisation'. The paper focused on development of forging ,forging process and raw material cutting .Shekhar Dhongde's paper was on 'Forging Quality of Steel.' His paper covered commercial as well as technical aspects of the forging steel .The last paper of the session was presented by Tushar Joshi ,Application and Service Manager ,Kuebler Automation India Pvt Ltd . He explained various technologies ,used in steel mills .

'Special Steels Making' session was started with the paper of Ananda Bhattacharjee, Dy-GM, Hospet Steels Ltd. 'Steel Making by Energy Optimizing Furnace Route' was the title of the paper .He talked about the EOF history and the EOF process . Dr . S . Chakravorty , Vice President (Product Development & Marketing) Sunflag Iron & Steel Co. Ltd presented paper on 'Clean Steel Making : Continuous Casting Process'. P. Sathyamurthy, DGM (SMS) ,JSW Steel Ltd talked on 'Machinable Quality Steels From JSW Steel Limited , Salem Works . He talked about technical and mechanical facilities available at Salem Works. This session was chaired C. H. Sharma.

The last session of the day was reserved for 'Raw Materials'. Siddharth Shah chaired the session. 'Growth in the Indian Steelmaking Capacity & Energy Recovery Cokemaking' was presented by H .K .Chati ,Advisor -Coke Technology ,Sesa Goa Ltd .He guided the participants over selection of coke making technology and coal quality usage & coke quality. Prakash Tatia , President , Welspun MaxSteel Ltd presented paper on 'Gas Based DRI HBI'. Talking about coking coal scenario, Aman Bhatia, Director, Bhatia International Limited, presented paper on ' Raw Materials Panel – Raw Material Security & Options for Coke Consumers.'

The conference received encouraging response from industry professionals .