PMAI Newsletter

Every generation has some fool who will speak the truth as he sees it! Boris Pasternak

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35TH PMAI NATIONAL CONVENTION THIS JUNE

The 35th National Convention and Annual General Meeting of the Philippine Metalcasting Association will be held on June 21, 2007 at the Sulô Hotel in Quezon City.

Four technical papers and a Special Paper on Electric Energy will be presented:

1. "Usage of Morex Crucibles in the Foundry" by Shigenori Yamamoto of TYK Corporation.

2. "Gating and Risering in the Foundry" by Andrew Kim of AIT Global

3. "Making Your Foundry Operations Effective and Efficient to Remain Competitive" by Danieper Carlos of Foseco Philippines.

4. Special Paper on: "Electric Bill Savings through Power Quality Improvement" by Orlando Rense of ***ElectroFlow System***.

5. "Treatment of Copper Alloys" by Tomas Merdegia, Jr. of Pure Magic Enterprises and PMAI President.

The Guest Speaker is Dr. Adolfo Jesus Gopez, FEATI President.

The Master of Ceremonies is Antonio Dimaguila of Feabcor.

The incoming President of PMAI is Danny Panganiban of Mary Check Trading, who is the present Vice-President of PMAI.

This is the 35th Anniversary of the PMAI which was inaugurated as the Philippine Foundry Society in 1972 (actually this was a revival of the original Philippine Foundrymen's Society that was inaugurated in 1965, but faltered due to lack of funding). In 1990 the name was changed to its present form in order to graciously accommodate all metalcasters — foundrymen and diecasters. So, on its 35th anniversary, the Association is actually 42 years old today.

As we look back, we find that the Association has a very satisfactory record of cooperation with foreign similar industrial association; but the most outstanding is its relationship with Japanese Associations and government agencies, most notably JICA, JETRO, ECC, JFS, and APO-JPC.

TIPS ON ELECTRICAL ENERGY

PUMPS-

- Reducing the speed of a centrifugal pump by half would reduce the power consumption by 8 times.
- A reduction in 10% impeller diameter would reduce power consumption by 40%

ELECTRIC MOTORS-

- For every 10°C increase in motor operating temperature over a recommended peak, the motor life is estimated to be halved.
- If rewinding is not done properly, the efficiency can be reduced by 5-8%.
- Variable speed drive option can result in input energy consumption reduction by 5-15%. In some pump/fan applications, saved energy could be as high as 35%.

LIGHTING-

- Ensure proper illumination and efficacy (lumens/watt).
- Install photocells.
- Use timers.
- Retrofit occupancy sensor.
- Use servo-stabilizer in the lighting circuit.
- Replace High Pressure Mercury-Vapor lamps with High Pressure Sodium-Vapor lamps.
- Replace conventional chokes with electronic chokes.

INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERING

In 1989, I had the good fortune to visit South Korea as a consultant-representative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). There I found that South Korea had started preparing for the forthcoming "globalization" of the world's economy. This meant making practically all things equal between different countries, despite the discrepancies on the levels of their economic developments.

South Korea had already three industrial sites in various stages of development, with a forth in the offing. I visited one of these sites — one that was dedicated to the engineering industries (casting, forging, fabrication, machining, and finishing, including final assembly). Looking at the system, I could not help but visualize how this system could benefit our own Metal Engineering Industry — it is a sensible, practical and very potent approach. It gets companies in different phases and aspects of Metal Engineering to work together in such a way that there is synergy that greatly multiplies the strength of the cluster. The key is complementation and cooperation. If this can be done, you have a working cluster.

In 1990, I talked on this in the Annual Convention of the PMAI of that year. Today, I feel that I had been talking to myself then. After seventeen years, no one — repeat, no one — even asked me a question about it. The least I expected at the time was someone who was interested enough to ask for a more comprehensive study in order to identify all the problems that would arise in the Philippine context. No, no one was interested. I tried to figure this out: I think it is our mixed (defective or damaged?) culture that prevents the implementation of something like this. We are too individualistic that we prefer to rise or fall on our own. We prefer to pull towards our own direction. We find difficulty in pulling together towards one direction. *Capice?*

FLASHBACK IN CONTRASTS

Imagine it's 1960. Alfred the foundryman has just gotten home from the steel foundry after walking home from the bus stop.

"Hi, honey, I'm home."

"Hello, Alfred, did you have a good day and how did the four new apprentices go today? That's 12 apprentice-molders you've got now. Our son, Johnny, is looking forward to being an apprentice molder when he leaves school next year."

"Yes, dear, and I will give him the molding tools his grandfather gave me which I started with."

"Alfred, are you going to the pub before dinner?"

"Yes, as I usually do, and have a few cold beers with my brother who works at the new iron foundry down the road. By the way, I will be on overtime all weekend as well."

"That's good. It'll help pay off the new washing machine we bought."

Now, imagine it's 2007. Alfred the foundryman has just gotten home from the steel foundry and parked his Toyota Echo next to his wife's Revo in the garage.

"Hi, honey, I'm home."

"Hello, Alfred, I didn't expect you home early."

"I know, but the furnace tripped out again and the new furnace lining material didn't arrive as promised."

"That's a shame. Couldn't you have done something else?"

"We were going to put some molds down for tomorrow, but the mixer needs calibrating and the resin port is blocked, anyhow the new moldwash isn't working right and we ran out of gimmicks."

"Will everything be OK tomorrow?"

"Don't know. We are having our quality meeting tomorrow and I'm not certain if the cores we bought were made from the correct box. Anyhow, I'm knocking off early to get the car serviced tomorrow."

"Won't that leave them short-handed because they don't have any more apprentices now?"

"Not at the moment, dear, we are also held up with some defective valve body castings. The patternmaker, of course, claims the pattern is okay, and the boss doesn't want to make them again because Nickel prices have gone through the roof. We will just weld them and hope the customer takes them."

"That sounds a bit risky, doesn't it?"

"Not for me, I just make them. It's a job for the salesmen. It'll give the smart sales guys something to do." ☺☺☺

Paging Pure Magic and Foseco! Maybe you can help them out at Alfred's foundry. Wonder why they haven't heard of you, guys.

REPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Automotive Components Manufacturing Industry

Report date: July 2003

Prepared for New Zealand Trade and Enterprise by Vantage Consulting Group

The Automotive Components Manufacturing (ACM) industry encapsulates New Zealand's competitive advantage in the manufacturing sector – innovative, adaptable and focused on targeted niches in global markets.

It also shows the way ahead for other manufacturing industries with their investment in research and development and design.

This report was commissioned by NZTE to identify the industry's capabilities and its opportunities.

>>The New Zealand Automotive Components Manufacturing Industry (PDF, 957KB)

Manufacturing+: A vision for world leading New Zealand manufacturers

Publication date: November 2006

Manufacturing+: A Vision for World Leading New Zealand Manufacturers identifies issues, challenges, and opportunities for the sector, which is a critical part of New Zealand's economy in its own right and also an important enabler to other industries.

A Vision Group representing manufacturers, trade unions, industry groups and public sector officials was formed 18 months ago to develop the strategy and chaired by Professor Mike Pratt of Waikato University.

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise facilitated the formation of the Vision Group and has helped it coordinate a series of workshops with manufacturers throughout the country to discuss their industry's future.

Manufacturing+ outlines a Value Creation Model that identifies the most important drivers of success for manufacturers to be based around strategy, creativity, operations, and connections to the world and customers.

Download the summary of key findings of Manufacturing+ (PDF, 1MB)

Download the full Manufacturing+ report (PDF, 3MB)

ANNUAL FDRY. CONFERENCE - NZ

The Casting Technology New Zealand Inc. (CTNZInc.) will hold its annual conference and AGM on the weekend of **28-29 July** and will be held in Wellington , New Zealand .

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38TH AUSTRALIAN FDRY. CONF.

"Solid Solution" will be held on **Oct. 21-24, 2007** at Novotel Vines Resort, Swan Valley, Perth, Western Australia.

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