

36-year

AIST Life Member Pinakin Chaubal



Pinakin Chaubal began his career in 1987 at Inland Steel and joined the ArcelorMittal group in 1998 after the acquisition of Inland Steel by Ispat International. He has a background in process metallurgy and has held several positions in research, operations and technology for various organizations. With the creation of ArcelorMittal Global R&D in 2007, he moved to Europe as general manager responsible for process research and development globally. In 2014, he relocated to the U.S. and took on additional responsibilities as head of research management Americas, while continuing to act as process portfolio leader and a member of the global R&D leadership team. He has been vice president — chief technology officer since May 2019. Chaubal holds a bachelor of technology in metallurgical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology – Madras. He also holds an M.S. degree in metallurgical engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology and a Ph.D. in the same discipline from the University of Utah.

When did you first hear about AISE/ISS and how?

As a graduate student I joined The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS). The student chapter was active and my thesis

advisors Art Morris and Tom O’Keefe urged me to get involved. I remained active with TMS subsequently for my doctoral program at another university. TMS was the right society as my research work was in process metallurgy of non-ferrous metals.

I continued with TMS during the early stage of my academic career, and when I left to join Inland Steel, it was natural that I moved my membership to the Iron & Steel Society (ISS) and have continued ever since.

What was your first level of involvement in the organization? How did your involvement progress over the years?

As a member, the first involvement was having the opportunity to develop a network in our industry, as I had come from the non-ferrous side, with contacts mainly in TMS. With guidance and support from senior members, I had the opportunity, besides presenting at the conferences, to organization special training seminars, become member of the Ironmaking Technology Committee. The latter gave me the opportunity to be involved in program development for the annual conference and specialized conferences. I also had the opportunity to serve on several award committees.

Have you received any honors from AIST (and predecessors)?

I have been fortunate to receive several awards — J.E. Johnson Award, Kapitan Award for Best Paper in Ironmaking and a best paper award from the (then) Computer Applications Technology Committee.

How has membership benefited you in your career?

The most important point is that you get out of your membership what you put into it. Without a doubt, I gained tremendously from being exposed to new technology and building a network, which over the years so many of the members became colleagues, and in some cases even direct supervisors. There is no better way to learn than by interacting with the senior members of the society. As the organization grew, it provided a platform to meet specialists from all different fields that influence our industry. For me, AIST also opened the door for international networking — it is indeed a small world. I really urge all people entering our industry to take an immediate step and become members,

participate at both the regional and national level. The members are eager to share and provide their insights, of course within the boundaries of competitive regulation. The wider your knowledge base, the more you bring to your organization and to your own personal growth. My regret is that in recent times, my own position in the company has not allowed me to interact with AIST to the extent I would like to.

How have you seen the industry change over the years? What do you foresee in the (near or far) future for the steel industry?

Our industry is never stagnant. The technological advances are actually stupendous. When I look back at the development of the properties of the steels we make, the immensely wide array of applications that have been developed, and the significant improvement of our environmental impact, one can't help but marvel at the ingenuity and resilience of our peers in the industry. Despite being a cyclical and capex-intensive industry, we have shown that we are ready to move forward and take steps to ensure our sustainability. Steelmaking is at the core of a nation's industrial growth and we are at the forefront. We have one of the greatest challenges in front us: contributing to the solutions to the climate change effects. It has the potential to be a game-changing transformation — and we will be taking advantage of all the technological advantages.

If you were to recommend AIST to a new graduate just coming into the industry, what would you tell them?

Become a member of AIST ASAP — becoming a part of this organization will be highly rewarding in ways you cannot imagine today. Seek out the others in the organization. You will be amazed by the level of technology we apply. When I joined as a young engineer, I was told by a senior member of the industry, “We are high-tech” — and we still are — using the latest developments in making us better. ♦