



# AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

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As a university sophomore in India, I had the privilege to attend a talk by the late Prof. R. Balasubramaniam of Indian Institute of Technology – Kanpur on the metallurgical marvel of the Iron Pillar of India that continues to remain rust-free even 16 centuries after its erection in Delhi, India. His lecture led me to dwell deeper into the science of ferrous metallurgy and subsequently steered me into learning more about steel. My first feel for the steel industry took place during a class tour of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in my junior year. The massive size of the steel plant stunned me and I never imagined an industrial unit could be as vast as an entire town.

I graduated in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, India, and obtained a Ph.D. in materials science from the University of North Texas in 2014. I loved learning physical metallurgy and mechanical behavior of metals. I joined the steel industry in 2014 soon after graduation, and only after that was I introduced to AIST, when the AIST Road Show visited our plant in 2015. I immediately learned the value of AIST membership, and over the past two years, AIST's programs have provided me with a solid platform to grow and advance my career as a young professional.

Immediately after joining AIST, I got actively involved with the Metallurgy — Processing, Products & Applications Technology Committee. Attending the committee meetings heightened my knowledge of technological developments in steel processing. I now realize that there is a huge potential for collaboration between the steel industry and universities

for the advancement of steel technology. Networking with the professors and engineers from other steel mills helps me to perform my job more effectively.

As a student, listening to talks at conferences enabled me to adapt to the latest technology used in the steel industry. Interacting with leaders at those conferences helped me understand the industry culture. Visiting various steel plants organized by my university allowed me to learn the dynamics of running a steelmaking facility. Reading articles published in steel-related journals such as *Iron & Steel Technology* enhanced my desire to learn steel metallurgy.

I would like to encourage students to visit any steel plant through the student tours conducted by AIST. Also, take advantage of the AIST student training programs, which will provide a great opportunity to learn from industry leaders in different steelmaking fields. AIST also offers various student scholarships, if they would like to pursue internships in a steel mill. My internship at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant provided me with the kind of industry exposure that was required as a student and that experience has aided me to land my first job in a steel mill as a metallurgical engineer.

I plan to continue participating in the AIST Technology Committees and technical conferences, and to become an integral part of the organization. I would like to continue to work toward publishing papers in *Iron & Steel Technology*, as there is no better platform to share your work that will benefit our industry globally. ♦



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