To the AIST Community,

As previously announced, the AIST Board of Directors made the difficult decision last month to cancel AISTech 2020 — The Iron & Steel Technology Conference and Exposition as scheduled for 31 August–3 September in Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

AISTech represents one of the world’s largest in-person learning platforms for iron and steel technology. It is also a networking catalyst whereby many companies, large and small, generate the business that drives the steel economy. While we may be disheartened by the decision, the rationale for canceling the event was sound in light of the pervasive COVID-19 pandemic and the many unique in-person programs that define AISTech. As an industry, Safety First shall always prevail.

We want to thank our many attendees, presenters, exhibiting companies and sponsors for their unwavering commitment to AIST through this unprecedented situation. Your encouragement and support of AIST and the steel industry is genuinely appreciated.

As human beings, and as representatives of the steel industry, we must all continue to navigate — with a steady hand — the uncertainty of these times. Through it all, there is a valuable lesson to be learned: “Life is 10% what happens to us, and 90% how we react to it.”

Though COVID-19 can never change AIST’s mission and vision, it has changed the way we will serve and provide value to our membership. In recent months, the AIST Board of Directors and the AIST Foundation Board of Trustees have guided the strategic integration of our conventional programs with virtual technology platforms.

In this regard, we have launched virtual meeting platforms for each of our 30 Technology Committees. In addition, AIST now provides weekly webinars, crossing the full spectrum of iron and steel technology while also reaching a global audience. As we look ahead, our upcoming schedule includes a full lineup of fundamental technology training courses, many of which will be offered with a hybrid format.

AIST remains committed to providing our global steel community with valuable networking and educational experiences, whether in-person, virtually or a hybrid combination of both. We will leverage our immense bandwidth to disseminate knowledge, share ideas and raise our collective level of performance.

The opportunities for steel to succeed are endless, and we look forward to your continued participation!

Sincerely,

Ronald J. O’Malley

President’s Message