45-year life member

Millet Wei and his wife, Julianne

Millet Wei

Millet Wei was born in Taiwan. He received his B.S. degree in civil engineering in 1960 from the National Taiwan University. In 1962 he came to America and received his M.S. degree in civil engineering in 1964 from the University of Rhode Island and his Ph.D. in civil engineering in 1967 from Carnegie Mellon University. In 1967, he began working at the Homer Research Center, Mittal Steel (formerly Bethlehem Steel), and later transferred to the home office Engineering Department in Bethlehem, Pa. He worked there for nearly 34 years until his retirement in 2001. Wei specializes in troubleshooting integrated steel plant problems that require the combined knowledge of interdisciplinary fields in structural, mechanical, metallurgical and ceramic engineering. He co-authored the vessel design chapter of *BOF Steelmaking* and was very active in the AIST (formerly AISE) committee work. He served as chair of the No. 9 Subcommittee on Ladles for 10 years in 1980s, and as chair of the No. 32 Subcommittee on BOF for 10 years in 1990s. He often served as the session chair at AIST conferences, where he presented and published numerous papers. Wei was the recipient of the Kelly Award in 1981 and 1986, and the Tadeusz Sendzimir Memorial Medal in 2007, and he holds two patents.

Dick Teets (left) presented Wei with the AIST Tadeusz Sendzimir Memorial Medal in 2007 (right).

What was your first involvement in AIST?

My first level of involvement was in 1969 or 1970 when I became a member of the AISE Subcommittee No. 9. Later I became chair of this subcommittee for about 10 years. Then became chair of Subcommittee No. 32 on Basic Oxygen Furnaces.

How has AIST membership benefited you in your career?

My AIST membership benefited me tremendously. I got to know and learned from a lot of people in steelmaking through the committee work and annual conferences. In 1997, I got a chance to present papers in Peijing, China, and toured steel plants in Peijing and Shanghai such as Baogon Steel. Through my arrangement, Chinese steelmaking personnel came in 1998 to Bethlehem Steel for technical exchanges.

How did you enter the steel industry?

I graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1967. The steel industry was booming then, and Bethlehem Steel personnel recruited me on campus before graduation.

You are a recipient of the Tadeusz Sendzimir Memorial Medal for your specialized expertise and knowledge in troubleshooting of various integrated steel plant problems which have required significant interdisciplinary knowledge in the fields of structural, mechanical, metallurgical and ceramic engineering. What did it mean for you to receive this award?

I felt I was not qualified for such a big award, it's more like a lifetime achievement award. However, the Tadeusz Sendzimir Memorial Award meant a big deal to me. A lot of my colleagues, classmates, friends and relatives sent their congratulatory notes to me. This award encouraged me as well as people from around the world that even a poor youth like me, from Taiwan, can achieve something through hard work in America.

If you were to recommend AIST to a new graduate, what would you tell them?

I'd strongly urge them to actively participate in AIST's annual conference and exhibits, Technology Committee work, local Member Chapter presentations, etc. ✦