



This editorial page has, in the past, pointed out the fact that good, profitable steel production can coexist with a clean and healthy environment and has pointed out the excellent operations being conducted on a daily basis in Scandinavia.

We have also been unstinting in pointing out the careless abandon that has existed in some of the Eastern European countries, where, in some instances, the level of pollutants has been officially shown on television to be 700% of the maximum value that the governments (of the affected areas) have declared to be a health hazard.

World-wide television programs have shown the effects of industrial pollution in, for example, the Silesia region of Poland.

But now news comes from those very same areas that the situation is changing...for the better for all concerned.

And ASM International is playing a vital role in this new wave of ecological consciousness.

The European Council of ASM and its Recycling Division are sponsoring the **SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RECYCLING OF METALS** on October 19-21, 1994, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In all fairness to all the sponsors, it is important to mention that the others who have joined ASM are: Organization of European Smelters (OEA), Aluminum Can Recycling-Europe, Benelux Metallurgie, Centre des Metaux Non-ferreux, and the Bureau International de la Recuperation.

The exciting aspect of the conference comes from the topics that will be presented. Just consider for a moment:

- Reduction of Pollutant Emissions by Means of Dust Collectors
- Vitrification of Blast Furnace Slag and Electric Arc Furnace Through a Sol-Gel Process
- Recovery of Copper from Rinsing Water after Electroplating
- Effective Processing of Steel Waste Fine Dust and Slurry Deposits
- Utilization of Red Mud from Alumina Production
- Concentration of Zinc and Lead from Electric Arc Furnace Flue Dusts
- The Behavior of Arsenic During the Processing of Spent Co-Mo and Ni-Mo catalysts

And the list goes on.

And the most exciting aspect is that the papers come from companies and research institutions in the very same countries where the environmental problems have been the most severe:

Hungary, Rumania, Spain, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Russia, Croatia, Estonia, Bulgaria, Ukrania, Turkey

as well as from the United Kingdom, United States, Finland, Norway, Netherlands, and Belgium.

It is pleasing to read that the research activities in these nations are being directed to cleaning the environment, and that ASM International is at the forefront in disseminating reliable data on the important aspect of materials processing.

Our hope is that research results will be applied to the metallurgical operations just as soon as possible.

John R. Ogren

