



**From: Francois Abrial, AIGA Board President**

**To: AIGA Members and National Associations**

Dear Member/National Association

Greeting to all of you as we welcome the New Year 2021 with new hope and bright future for the world!

The year that passed by threw unprecedented challenges to mankind all over the world with millions getting affected by the Covid-19 virus. Asia also faced its share of difficulties but Industrial Gases Companies showed tremendous resilience and social commitment in sustaining the medical gases supplies to healthcare facilities thereby saving precious lives. Please join me in appreciating the effort by COVID-19 warriors from the Industrial Gases industry who continued to play an exemplary role in spite of adversities faced - frequent lock-downs, protecting employees from infections while delivering medical oxygen in high-risk areas, dis-infecting the cylinders, driving the delivery trucks, working for long hours, meeting increased demands for medical Oxygen etc.

I also thank member companies of AIGA and various National Associations of the gases industry in Asia for effectively playing their role round-the-clock during the extended period of COVID-19 pandemic in order to meet the higher demands of medical oxygen from hospitals and COVID-19 care centers.

AIGA Technical Committee and Work Groups have shown tremendous amount of team spirit and commitment during this difficult time of Covid Pandemic in 2020. In spite of Lock Downs and mostly working from home, AIGA TC & WGs members remained active and engaged all through the year thus making 2020 one of the most productive years for AIGA. Apart from quickly changing into virtual mode of meetings and engagement, AIGA held 5 Webinars, published a record number of 38 publications and also guided the industry with Covid-19 related information about what was a need of the moment. I thank all members of AIGA Technical Committee and Work Groups.

I understand National Associations also quickly aligned with the requirement of "New Normal" and remained highly active with at least 9 Webinars organized by National Associations and Rep Offices in the year 2020, worked on various safety initiatives and most of the team meetings being held virtually so that activities and engagement levels were sustained. 3 of our National Associations GIA, MIGMA & SIGA also launched pilot projects in the year 2020 what would help to create awareness on preventing fatalities & serious injuries in product vehicle accidents involving 3<sup>rd</sup> party two wheelers. I thank all National Associations and specially compliment the efforts by the three national associations.

I sincerely thank all of you for your support and cooperation in the activities of the Associations thereby making the industrial gases industry in Asia safer and more valuable. Wishing a happy, healthy and bright new year 2021!

*Francois Abrial*