In 2010, World Corrosion Organization (WCO) established Corrosion Awareness Day and set its date on **April 24** each year. On this day there are various events organized in different countries in order to depict the harmful influence of corrosion on our everyday life, economy and environment. What is more, the aim of this undertaking is also to inform citizens, industry representatives, politicians and educational institutions about any solutions or activities that are necessary while combating corrosion.

Corrosion is a factor contributing to numerous disasters, consequences of which are hazardous for both people and environment. There are some noticeable examples of such situations, like: corrosion of pipelines transporting petroleum products, water and soil contamination caused by leakages resulting from pipelines corrosion, corrosion leading to significant water loss, cases of swimming pool roof collapse stemming from corrosive effects of chlorides as well as cases of building or bridge collapse; cases of tanker disasters, e.g. the Erika oil tanker, a hull of which broke as a result of corrosion, leading to the oil spill of 20,000 ton in the Bay of Biscay.

In 2009, WCO published a White Paper document *Global Needs for Knowledge Dissemination, Research and Development in Materials Deterioration and Corrosion Control* which makes people aware of corrosion protection importance in everyday life and presents a current situation taking into consideration any visible progress in the corrosion control field. There is an undoubttable need for corrosion awareness raising in order to start to perceive corrosion as a hazard to both health and life as it was highlighted in the WCO document.

In Poland, there is a better chance for a quick success in corrosion losses reduction than in other European countries because very little has been achieved in terms of corrosion so far. We hope that Corrosion Awareness Day will raise our government's awareness of the fact that the reduction of corrosion losses may be one of elements which could boost our economic situation. Maybe constant appeals of the Polish Corrosion Society supported by the attention paid to the corrosion problems by the rest of the world will help to achieve satisfying results.