

FOREWORD

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devoted to the subject, following previous special issues in 1981 and 1990. The period which saw the publication of the first special issue was characterized by a succession of large-scale expansions in pipemaking facilities of all kinds against the background of the so-called seamless pipe boom. When the second special issue was published, total demand for steel pipe was beginning a gradual recovery from the collapse that followed the seamless boom. However, the growing number of suppliers espe-

technologies while the announcements of new products and new technologies focus mainly on

recent technologies related to stainless ERW pipe and the automation of the UO mill. We sincerely hope that our readers will find this issue useful, and we invite your frank comments and criticisms.