



Engineering feats can start anywhere – both the kites and the house on stilts appear to defy the laws of gravity, don't they?

The image above is one of the winners of ABB's second international photography competition, the theme of which was 'What is Knowledge?' The best photographs from the 950 entries from 60 countries will be published in a high-quality, limited edition book which can be ordered from rosalba.lopez@lb-log.ch. Proceeds will go to charity. The winning photos will be displayed on www.abb.com/photographycompetition throughout 2001.



With this issue, we end the first year of the re-launched *ABB Review* – one of the most exciting years in the long history of the magazine. Apart from a new structure and layout, we now also have a new Chief Editor.

After over 15 years of producing a magazine of consistently high quality, unmatched by any other in the industry, Werner Honisch took a step back in May to let someone else take on this hectic job. Werner will, of course, still continue to use his encyclopaedic knowledge of ABB and the industry in general to support the *ABB Review* team.

A short word about myself, as the new Chief Editor. After studying Pure Physics in Scotland, I started my career there in telecommunications before moving to Germany to work on hardware and firmware development. I spent the last 10 years in a fascinating job at the ABB Corporate Research center, Switzerland, in sensor development and R&D management. This wide experience should stand me in good stead for the huge range of topics to be dealt with at *ABB Review*.

And the range really is huge: Our last three issues have each focused on one particular area of ABB expertise – Industrial IT, Oil, Gas & Petrochemicals and Power Transmission & Distribution. In our next edition we will look at ABB's activities in building technologies, including topics such as e-business, smart products and service. However, in this issue we concentrate on how apparently mature types of product, such as pipelines, cables, power grids, circuit-breakers, etc, can be radically improved by making them clever and making them cleverly.

You can read how it is possible to extend the use of advanced cables to ever-higher voltages. Or how the split-second timing necessary in the Volvo car crash test center can be perfected by ABB control and motor systems. Or how the gremlins in industrial power grids can be



quickly located and banished by intelligent diagnosis and analysis.

But I won't spoil the stories by revealing everything here; the authors can tell it much better.

In future editions we will continue to chronicle how ABB's activities as a knowledge-based and service-oriented company continue to generate customer benefit. A wide selection of the newest technical advances and breakthroughs will be featured.

And we will continue to report on new products emerging from the R&D kitchen and the successes arising from our university collaborations.

The *ABB Review* is free of charge to those with an interest in ABB's technology and objectives or those in management positions who need to be kept informed of the latest technology advances in order to have a firm knowledge base for investment and strategic decisions. Existing subscribers should feel free to recommend persons they think may benefit from receiving the magazine.

Remember, the magazine is available in English, Swedish, German, French and Spanish. Beginning in 2001, a Chinese edition will also be available.

For more information contact your local ABB office or consult our Web page [www.abb.com – *Technology – Publications – ABB Review*].

With that piece of good news, I will leave you to enjoy this issue of *ABB Review*. And remember that we always like to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

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This issue of *ABB Review* looks at how knowledge is used to dramatically enhance the performance of products.

The cover photograph shows children in China and is one of the winners of ABB's second international photography competition, which had 'What is Knowledge?' as its theme.