

KEY NOTE SPEECH

“Opening a New Century with TPM”

**By Ani Lahiri,
Senior Vice President Corporate MAST, Unilever**

This speech will provide an insight into the background of Unilever, one of the world's foremost FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) companies. It will explain how Unilever is globally positioning itself to challenge the demands of the next century and in particular the role of TPM.

Unilever has been implementing TPM since the early 1990s. The initial successes have stimulated widespread application of TPM in all of Unilever's Business Groups. The concern now has well over 150 factories implementing TPM worldwide and this is expected to rise to well over 200 by the beginning of the millennium. Global implementation has been stimulated by the tremendous benefits that many factories have obtained from their TPM programmes. Mr Lahiri will present some examples.

TPM roll-out is also enhanced by effectively transferring the learning from well-established TPM programmes to those factories beginning the journey; this is an example of “Unileverage”.

Some strategic challenges have been included to stimulate debate. Such challenges have to be met effectively if business survival is to be assured. Unilever sees TPM as a major methodology for supporting its businesses in the continued drive for excellence.