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The purpose of the ICA is to promote international development and collaboration in all fields of acoustics including research, development, education, and standardisation.

<http://www.icacommission.org/>

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Dear Member Society,

I am writing to update you regarding a number of matters related to the International Commission for Acoustics (ICA) and in particular, the prospects for the further development of the activities of our Commission.

Following the General Assembly and associated Board meetings in September I wish to introduce to you the members of the board who are listed at the side of this page. I have been given the honour of President of the ICA for the period till 2010. I would like to sincerely thank Philip Nelson for his excellent work in leading the Commission for the last three years and I look forward to his continued support and advice in his role as Past President. After three years as Secretary General, Sonoko Kuwano has taken on the role as Vice President and Hugo Fastl continues as the Treasurer. Marion Burgess is the new member of the executive as Secretary General. Special thanks must be made to Gilles Daigle who has completed his term as Past President but continues to be an active contributor to the ICA Board and its activities. I look forward to working with all the board members over the coming years to achieve the goals of the ICA.

First it is important to note the outstanding success of the 19th International Congress in Acoustics held in Madrid in September. With over 1400 registrants and over 1200 presentations this congress provided an excellent demonstration of the width and breadth of acoustics around the world. All involved with the congress are sincerely thanked for their efforts and in particular the central organizing committee including Juan Gallego-Juárez, Antonio Pérez-López, Carlos Ranz-Guerra, J. Salvador Santiago and Antonio Calvo-Manzano. It was wonderful to see the Honorary President, Andrés Lara, participating in the congress as he has been a leader for acoustics in the region for many decades.

We now look forward to the next ICA in Sydney, Australia in 2010 and will be seeking the assistance of your society in this important activity.

You may recall from previous correspondence that ICA has been engaged in the process of achieving better international recognition for our subject discipline. The International Council for Science (ICSU) has formally admitted ICA as a Scientific Associate which recognises ICA's role as the representative international body in acoustics. We are now planning an application for full Union membership, once we have firmly established a greater degree of coordination and cooperation from other International organisations involved in the discipline of acoustics. To this end the Board of the ICA has representatives from the following international affiliates: European Acoustics Association (EAA), IberoAmerican Federation of Acoustics (FIA), International Institute of Noise Control Engineering (I-INCE), International Institute of Acoustics and Vibration (IIAV), Western Pacific Acoustics Commission (WESPAC) and the International Congress on Ultrasonics (ICU). The board has set up an International Conference Coordination Committee as a first step towards bringing about better coordination of these international activities.

Your society will have received the request for payment of the annual subscription to the ICA. As always, we would be extremely grateful for the timely payment of these subscriptions, and as has been the case during the last few years, we also invite you to make any additional voluntary contributions to particular activities of the ICA, especially the ICA Young Scientist Conference Attendance Grant Scheme. This scheme will of course be used to support the attendance of Young Scientists at the 20th International Congress on Acoustics to be held in Sydney in 2010.

I also draw to your attention the support that is available from the ICA for Specialty Conferences in Acoustics. These ICA-sponsored conferences are normally limited to a specialized topic with an expected attendance of about 100. Support for regional or national conferences, especially in developing regions, will be considered as long as the conference has an international character. The details of the application are available from the ICA web page <http://www.icacommission.org>

Effective communication with our member societies is very important and I urge you to check and update the details for your society in the recent email.

We thank your society for its continued support of the activities of the ICA and wish you all the very best for a prosperous and successful 2008.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Samir Gerges
ICA President.