Dear Colleagues,

In January 2020, the date of our previous newsletter, most of us could not have imagined a world as it is today in the midst of this pandemic. On behalf of the ICA Board, I wish the best for all of our friends and colleagues during this extraordinarily difficult time. Our health and that of those around us should always be our top priority.

International Acoustics Meetings

A consequence of protecting our personal safety during the past year has been a major disruption of our in-person scientific conferences due to cancellation, rescheduling, or conversion to web conferences. This in turn affects how we interact within our scientific community and disseminate results of our research. A primary mission of the ICA is to provide information in support of, and to help coordinate, conferences on acoustics held around the world.

Therefore, in response to the pandemic, as described below under Future Meetings, the ICA convened a web meeting in December involving the organizers of eight major international acoustics conferences, either already held in 2020 or scheduled for 2021, in order to learn from each other’s experiences. It became apparent during the meeting that ICA should schedule another such meeting to discuss how best to archive conference proceedings and other materials in this new era.

The next International Congress on Acoustics to be organized by the ICA will be held in Gyeongju, Korea in October 2022. It is expected that by then the pandemic will have ended and in-person attendance may be expected. This Congress is discussed below under ICA 2022.

The subsequent ICA Congress is scheduled for May 2025 in New Orleans, USA, and the ICA Board is currently soliciting preliminary proposals from ICA Member Societies for the 2028 ICA Congress. Preliminary proposals may have the form of a letter of intent, and they should be sent to the ICA Secretary General by summer 2021, or at least in advance of the 2021 ICA Board Meeting. Ultimately a formal proposal is required, the contents of which are described on the ICA website under Hosting the Congress.

ICA Board Meeting

The ICA Board meets once per year and conducts business between meetings via email and online meetings. Both the 2020 ICA Board Meeting and the 2020 ICA General Assembly were originally scheduled to meet in Prague in July during the International Congress on Sound and Vibration, which was ultimately postponed to 2021. Instead, the 2020 Board Meeting was held in July as an online conference, a first for the ICA. A screenshot of the participants is shown below. The key decisions made at the Board Meeting were reported to the membership at the General Assembly held online in November, also a first for the ICA. One major decision was the appointment of the ICA Office Director in Spain, Antonio Perez Lopez, identified below under New ICA Office.

The 2021 Board Meeting will be held in a manner yet to be defined due to the evolution of the pandemic underway and the restrictions imposed on travel. If any Member Society wishes to have any matters discussed at this meeting, please contact the General Secretary well in advance of the Board Meeting. It is anticipated that the 2021 Board Meeting will not be held before July.
ICA General Assembly

The ICA General Assembly was held online in November, at which votes on recommendations made by the Board were recorded electronically. A formal procedure was developed to facilitate both participation in the discussions and electronic voting. There were 54 full Members and International Affiliates attending the meeting as registered delegates (in total, 93 delegates were appointed). Of these, 37 full Members and International Affiliates actively participated in the meeting, and 83 delegates voted. Overall, 160 out of 223 shares (71.7%) were represented.

The current financial balance of the ICA, as well as changes in the ICA Internal Regulations, were presented, discussed, and approved by the General Assembly. The majority of the changes in the Internal Regulations are associated with registration of the ICA under Spanish Law, in particular the procedures to be followed by the Annual General Assembly. Also approved was an application for full ICA Member status from Association of Acoustics and Vibration Indonesia (AAVI).

All other business will be carried out by the ICA Board as it has in the past, with email communication to the Member Societies when appropriate.

The minutes of both the ICA Board Meeting and the ICA General Assembly can be found on the ICA website under the menu item “Governance”.

Mark Hamilton
ICA President

Future Meetings and Congresses in Acoustics

The International Commission for Acoustics maintains close contact with international, national and regional acoustical societies and associations to assist with coordination, exchange of information, and support for international conferences in all areas of acoustics.

The health emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic has forced the organizers of various events to cancel or postpone their events, or transfer them online. ICA is constantly monitoring the evolution of the organization of events to prevent possible overlaps or conflicts.

An open meeting organized by ICA was held in December, inviting the organizers of major online events that were recently concluded or are planned for next year. Representatives of EAA, IIAV, I-INCE, AAS, AIA, ASA, DEGA and SFA attended the meeting.

This meeting was very useful for gathering the impressions and experiences regarding the transformation of a large traditional international event into an online event. This information should be of assistance to those who are planning to do the same during this coming year or beyond.

Antonino Di Bella
ICA Secretary General
International Year of Sound 2020-2021

The International Year of Sound 2020 (IYS 2020), an activity that the ICA has been working on for many years, came into existence at the opening in Paris on 31 January 2020. Soon after this opening it became clear that the impact of Covid-19 would curtail the outreach events that had been planned throughout the year and around the globe. The approval for the extension of IYS 2020 into 2021 was granted by the ICA Board. Thus, the IYS is now a two year celebration. The logo has been slightly modified to reflect the continuation, and the official reference to the Year is now International Year of Sound 2020-2021.

Unfortunately, very few of the activities planned for the IYS 2020 were held with physical presence of the participants. However, the Opening of the IYS on 31 January 2020 in the Grand Amphitheatre of the Sorbonne, just before the outbreak of the pandemic, was an outstanding success. The report on the opening including photographs is at https://sound2020.org/news/spectacular-opening-ceremony/.

One photo of historic value is reproduced in this newsletter and shows those who have guided the IYS to fruition over almost a decade.

Many other activities, including major International Conferences, such as Inter-Noise 2020, the ASA Fall Meeting in Chicago, and FORUM ACUSTICUM 2020 were held as e-conferences with considerable success.

Other conferences were rescheduled for 2021. The extension of the IYS to 2021 allows more outreach activities, meeting the goals of IYS events to be scheduled. We have been very impressed with the innovative approaches exploiting modern technology opportunities for activities, along with the range of impressive resources that have been inspired by the goals of the IYS, and which will remain accessible into the future and provide a valued resource.

The IYS has inspired other Organizations to support or promote relevant activities or resources. These projects are listed on the website and identified as an IYS activity as long as they meet the IYS goals.

The website https://sound2020.org is the primary reference location for the events/activities/resources related to the IYS and has required constant revision and updating. It contains much information on both long-term activities and individual events as well as of a variety of resources, and there are still more than 3500 visitors per month.

Among the centrally coordinated projects of the IYS, the video on the importance of sound in our world “Sounds of our Life” was produced by Antonio Fischetti, sponsored by I-INCE, with the premier showing at the opening. The full 9-minute version is supplemented by a shorter 2-minute version and both versions are available freely from the website and from YouTube: https://youtu.be/eK-ApCMQNhY and https://youtu.be/Y6HgT1iuwjQ.

The Student competition, sponsored by the HEAD-Genuit Foundation, was launched in late 2019 with the view of having entries in the first half of 2020 and the selection of winning entries and production of presentations towards the end of 2020. The students of the primary schools are asked to produce a drawing inspired by the motto of IYS2020 “Importance of Sound for Society and the World” and by melody and the refrain of the song “The Sound of the World”. High school students are asked to write a stanza of 4 verses (lines) in their own language and/or in English, inspired by the melody and the refrain of the song.

In view of the disruptions in 2020 it was agreed to extend the competition to the Italy has been outstanding, and they have recently prepared short video clips promoting the competition.
In addition to the communication by member organisations via their emails, newsletters, journals etc, there were various publications and presentations in the media from the members of the IYS steering committee. Some examples include the article on the motivation for the IYS and its continuation into 2021 by Marion Burgess and Michael Taroudakis, published by invitation in the 2020 Loudspeaker Industry Sourcebook and a similar editorial in the Hearing Journal. The IYS was also featured in an article on ‘Sortir du bruit: penser notre environnement sonore de demain’ and published in Le Monde, written by a group of French academics and Marion Burgess. Communication and sound have been demonstrated to be important to our social cohesion, for example people singing from balconies, people clapping and banging in unison to thank the front-line workers.

We are grateful for the support from the Sponsors of the IYS2020 (https://sound2020.org/about/sponsors/). However, the achievements so far would not have been possible without the enthusiasm of all those involved including the Steering Committee, the Liaison Committee, the Coordinating Committee and of course the members of the national societies. We look forward their continued support and encourage all those who understand the importance of sound in our world to make use of the extension of IYS to continue to hold outreach activities and develop resources during 2021.

Marion Burgess, Michael Taroudakis, and Jean-Dominique Polack Co-convenors IYS 2020

Mike Stinson
IYS 2020 website manager

Symposium Sponsorship

The ICA allocates up to EUR 5,000 annually for sponsorship of specialty symposia in acoustics. In conjunction with the Acoustical Society of America (ASA), the ICA accepts applications for allocation of up to USD 2,000 for specialty symposia that comply with the conditions for the special ASA support.

There was one application for 2021 funding from the ICA/ASA Specialty Symposia sponsorship program. This application was evaluated by a committee comprised of the ICA Executive Committee and the ASA Committee on International Research and Education (CIRE), and the funding allocations were approved by the ICA Board.

The symposium receiving funding is:

- International Conference cum Workshop on Rhythm of Happiness - Rhythm 2021 (India).

Symposia funded in 2020 that were not held due to the pandemic will be rescheduled as soon as conditions allow.

Antonino Di Bella
ICA Secretary General
ICA NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

ICA 2022 Gyeongju, Korea

The 24th International Congress on Acoustics, ICA 2022 (www.ica2022korea.org), will be held in Gyeongju from October 24 to 28, 2022.

Gyeongju is a city located in the southeastern part of the Korean Peninsula, which had been the capital of the Silla Dynasty for a thousand years during AD 1-9c. For more info http://www.gyeongju.go.kr/open_content/eng/index.do.

The venue of ICA2022, Gyeongju Hwabaek Convention Center (HICO, http://www.crowncity.kr/hico/en/main/main.do) was built specifically for international meetings and conventions. During ICA 2022, all participants will have exclusive use of all HICO facilities to themselves.

The Acoustical Society of Korea (ASK, http://en.ask.or.kr/) is ready and eager to host ICA 2022, which will be the first ICA congress in Korea. Over the years, ASK has contributed to the development of acoustic education and research, and the economy in Korea, by emphasizing the importance of sound in various industrial fields. It also has participated actively in the ICA, and had hosted international conferences like Inter-Noise 2003 and ICSLP 2004. ASK will be honoured to help promote the global advancement of acoustics by hosting a successful ICA 2022.

The participant will be able to enjoy a unique Korean culture as well as ICA 2022. Koreans have a well-known love of music, from K-pop to Western classical music to reinterpretations of traditional Korean music. It follows then that Koreans are highly sensitive to the quality of sound, not only in musical instruments but also in everyday products and environment. As the cradle of the country’s religion, philosophy, arts and of course, music, Gyeongju can offer visitors an insight into the development of acoustics in Korea. Furthermore, the entire city is an open-air museum full of ancient constructions and relics, including four UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Bulguksa Temple, Seokguram Grotto, Yangdong Traditional Village, and the Gyeongju Historic Areas. In short, the unique and authentic glimpse of Gyeongju City into Korean culture makes it the ideal backdrop for ICA 2022.

For the preparation of ICA2022, the organizing committee is now active: Prof. Jeong-Guon Ih (Mechanical Eng.) is the General Chair, Profs. Chan-Hoon Hann (Architectural Eng.) and Han-Seok Ko (Communication Eng.) are the Co-Technical Chairs, and Prof. Sung-Hwan Shin (Automotive Eng.) is the Secretary General.

News from IUPAP

ICA is an affiliated commission of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). The relationship between ICA and IUPAP is kept at a very good level.

IUPAP supports the International Year of Sound (IYS), and their President Michel Spiro participated at the opening ceremony of the IYS that was held in Paris, on 31 January 2020, making a short greeting on behalf of IUPAP.
After the financial support of the ICA Congress in Aachen, during the C&CC meeting that was held as an e-conference in October 2020, IUPAP approved the proposal to support the ASA-AAD-WESPAC Conference originally scheduled for 6-10 December 2021. This Conference was however rescheduled for 2023, which means that a new proposal for its support will be submitted to IUPAP.

The C&CC meeting was attended by ICA President Mark Hamilton and ICA Past President Michael Taroudakis. Reports covered matters including strengthening connections between IUPAP and industry, reducing the gender gap in physics, revising the statutes, and moving the IUPAP administrative office out of Singapore, possibly to Europe. Michael Taroudakis presented briefly an update of the IYS 2020 events and mentioned that the IYS is extended to 2021 due to Covid-19. IUPAP is considering adoption of a similar format for the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD), which is their goal for 2022. IUPAP expects to get the approval of UNESCO and the UN for an official International Year. A possible extension to 2023 following the model of the IYS 2021 was discussed. ICA has already expressed our availability for helping IUPAP in the organization of the IYBS based on our experience with the IYS, if IUPAP asks for our contribution. The year 2022 is also the year celebrating the centenary of IUPAP, so there was a discussion of the events to be scheduled and the possible association with the IYBSSD. The main event of the IUPAP centenary celebration will be a Centennial Symposium to be held probably in Switzerland (CERN) if the situation with respect to Covid-19 allows it.

Mark Hamilton
ICA President

Michael Taroudakis
ICA Past President

ICA on Social Media

Communication has a very important role for anyone who aims to facilitate the sharing of knowledge. The evolution in the media is very rapid and there are plenty of options to connect anyone interested in acoustics.

The ICA web pages remain the main reference for our coordination activities between Members and international Affiliates. the renewal and enhancement of the ICA website is planned. In the meantime, our Twitter account has been activated and you can find us at the account @ICAcommission.

We invite you to follow us on this social network and to contribute with suggestions, reports and sharing of all that you think is useful for the diffusion of acoustics at all levels.

Antonino Di Bella
ICA Secretary General
World Hearing Day 2021

World Hearing Day 2021 marks the launch of the World Report on Hearing, presenting a global call for action to address hearing loss and ear diseases across the life course.

The theme of the World Hearing Day is

Hearing care for ALL!

Screen. Rehabilitate. Communicate

The World Hearing Day 2021 and the World Report on Hearing present a global call for action to address hearing loss and ear diseases across the life course.

The key messages of World Hearing Day 2021 target:

Policy makers

- The number of people living with unaddressed hearing loss and ear diseases is unacceptable.
- Timely action is needed to prevent and address hearing loss across the life course.
- Investing in cost effective interventions will benefit people with hearing loss and bring financial gains to the society.
- Integrate person-centred ear and hearing care within national health plans for universal health coverage.

General public

- Good hearing and communication are important at all stages of life.
- Hearing loss (and related ear diseases) can be avoided through preventative actions such as: protection against loud sounds; good ear care practices and immunization.
- Hearing loss (and related ear diseases) can be addressed when it is identified in a timely manner and appropriate care sought.
- People at risk of hearing loss should check their hearing regularly.
- People having hearing loss (or related ear diseases) should seek care from a health care provider.

International Noise Awareness Day

International Noise Awareness Day is a global campaign, founded in 1996 by the Center for Hearing and Communication (CHC), aiming to raise awareness of the effects of noise on the welfare and health of people. Noise affects people in many ways, but only deafness and annoyance receive actual interest from the general public. Worldwide, people are called upon to take part via various actions on this occasion: open days on hearing from acousticians, lectures in public health departments, universities and schools, panels of experts, noise level measuring actions, and readings.

The 26th Annual International Noise Awareness Day will take place on 28 April 2021.

More information on this initiative is available on the INAD website: https://noiseawareness.org/
ICA Membership

The following list comprises the national acoustical societies that are full Members of the ICA.

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Observers: Belarus, Latvia, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa.

If you know of any group that you think should be included, please let us know the contact details and we will follow up.

In addition, the following are the International Affiliates of ICA:

- Audio Engineering Society (AES)
- European Acoustics Association (EAA)
- IberoAmerican Federation of Acoustics (FIA)
- International Commission on Biological Effects of Noise (ICBEN)
- International Congress on Ultrasonics (ICU)
- International Institute of Acoustics and Vibration (IIAV)
- International Institute of Noise Control Engineering (I-INCE)
- Western Pacific Acoustics Commission (WESPAC)
International Year of Sound
2020-2021

Importance of Sound for Society and the World

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