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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/>

Contacts:

ICAPresident@icacommission.org

ICASecGen@icacommission.org

ICATreasurer@icacommission.org

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Dear Member Society,

We have just started into 2011. The new year follows a year with an ICA congress. This International Congress on Acoustics, ICA Sydney 2010, was a highlight indeed, with respect to a perfect organization, excellent location and venue, and with the participation of around 1,000 acousticians (30% students) from 39 countries. This is why my words of thanks go to the President of the Australian Acoustical Society, Norm Broner and in particular to the conference chair, Marion Burgess.

The world family of acoustics will meet again in June 2013 in Montreal, Canada. We are looking forward to visiting this beautiful city and to meeting there for discussing progress in acoustics. Please make all colleagues in your society aware of the next ICA conference in Montreal.

In between the conferences, of course, the Board of the International Commission for Acoustics is working on several other activities of international relevance and political impact. This is done in continuation of the work done by the previous team. Special thanks therefore go to past Past-President Phil Nelson, past Vice-President Sonoko Kuwano and past Treasurer Hugo Fastl, for their valuable contribution to the community of acoustics. Our new treasurer, Antonio Perez-Lopez, will now take care of all financial issues. And with pleasure it is noted that Samir Gerges and Marion Burgess serve another period as executive officers, as the Past-President and the Secretary General, respectively.

Let me now point out some key issues in internal business and in external relations.

a) Governance and internal business

In the board, the five executive officers (President, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary General and Treasurer) prepare the discussion papers and the decisions to be made the annual board meetings. The board itself includes permanent and open seats, and as you may have read in the Sydney meeting minutes, one vacant open seat can be filled. We will be happy to receive proposals from member societies. Of course it is important that any nominees have a commitment to the ICA Board and participate in the business at and between board meetings.

As concerns the open and permanent seats, the ICA seeks to better represent the rapidly growing discipline of acoustics on the global stage, and to enhance the coordination of international acoustical activities. The approval of the proposal at the 2010 General Assembly gives the Board the task to proceed with modifying the governance structure to allow an evolutionary expansion of the ICA into the future.

In order to provide internal regulations for voting and decisions, voting guidelines have been drafted. These will not only help to create quicker decision processes but also to improve representation of member societies and affiliate members in the Board and in the General Assembly, even if the official delegates cannot join those meetings.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 1st in Aalborg, Denmark, at the occasion of FORUM ACUSTICUM 2011.

I am happy to report that we are in contact with two societies for new membership in ICA: Greece and Morocco. Welcome! And concerning new and emerging societies, one of the main tasks of ICA is to help founding and development of acoustics in countries or regions which are not yet represented in ICA. As you know, we are supporting specialized symposia particularly in developing countries. Independently, a new funding procedure for national meetings of emerging societies will be installed which helps acousticians to cooperate and coordinate their activities where national societies don't yet exist, or are in a pre-mature state.

b) External relations

ICA is a commission of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics, IUPAP, and an affiliated commission of the International Union for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, IUTAM. And since 2006 we are a Scientific Associate of the International Council for Science, ICSU. ICSU is the most important organization in our external relations. The description of our particular integration in physics and mechanics sounds complicated, and it is! And this integration is not even the complete picture of acoustics. Acoustics is more than physics and mechanics.

Following-up the initiatives started by the pioneering work of the past ICA presidents Gilles Daigle and Phil Nelson, our aim is to get acoustics established in ICSU as its own scientific discipline covering more than physics and mechanics, thus forming its own Union. This process, however, is very tedious and can be continued only in small steps, year by year. We, as the new executive officers, will continue the discussion in ICSU, and we hope that in one year from now we can report about a progress.

Finally, let me wish a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2011 for your Society. Please stay in contact with the ICA Board, particularly with the Secretary General, Marion Burgess, with the Treasurer, Antonio Perez-Lopez, with Vice-President Charles Schmid, with Past President Samir Gerges and with myself. We would be happy to receive your comments and suggestions. Please consider my letter as a starting point for regular communication.

Aachen, Germany

Michael Vorländer
President ICA 2011-2013