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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, Dear International Affiliate

Please receive best wishes for your organization for the New Year 2013- an important Congress year for the ICA!

The ICA is looking forward to meeting you on the occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> ICA congress in Montreal, Canada. This meeting is jointly organized by the Canadian Acoustical Association and the Acoustical Society of America and. Thanks to their efforts, and particularly due to the excellent planning and organization by the local team around Mike Stinson and Luc Mongeau, the congress will be the acoustic highlight of 2013. Almost 2000 abstracts have been received! The Palais des Congrès de Montréal is ready to be filled with sound!

In aiming at a more efficient and better balanced governance structure in the ICA there is a big step to be done in the General Assembly in Montreal (June 5, 2013). Please ensure that your organization is represented in the General Assembly and please be aware that nominations for the new ICA board shall be submitted in due time. Details on the nomination and election procedure will be sent out in early 2013 together with the agenda and other documents.

The governance document was distributed to you in June 2012. The aim is to seek approval at the General Assembly 2013 for immediate application in selection of the 2014-2017 board. There are two changes in Board governance that are proposed:

- To change the current arrangement for permanent seats into dedicated seats per region
- To change the current arrangements for representation from International Affiliates

As concerns the open and dedicated 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. For the International Affiliates, the proposal adjusts the voting arrangement to allow for an increase in the number of these International Affiliate members. In the last year we have been pleased to welcome the Audio Engineering Society (AES) and the International Commission for the Biological Effects of Noise (ICBEN).

Making the world aware of the science and technology of sound – this has been on our agenda already for some years. ICA is an Affiliate Member of the global organization for science, the International Council for Science, ICSU. Their current activities include the interdisciplinary discussion on global issues of sustainability. We as acousticians will have to ensure that these discussions include consideration of various aspects of noise pollution including the ocean. Participating in the ICSU world database and in their regional and disciplinary activities will be on our agenda for the coming years.

The new governance for ICA prepares our organisation well for the interaction with our external partners in ICSU and their world database as well as the IUPAP and IUTAM. It also will help with our planning for an International Year of Sound within the coming decade.

Further important information concerns the support of upcoming international symposia co-sponsored by the ICA. This includes the following events in 2013:

- Indo-French Conference on Acoustics Nov 20-24, New Delhi, India
- Symposium on Room Acoustics (ISRA 2013) June 9-11 Toronto, Canada
- European Symposium on environmental acoustics and noise mapping Oct 1, Valladolid, Spain
- Winter School on Therapeutic Ultrasound, March 17-22, Les Houches France

I am glad to announce that 35 young acousticians from all over the world are supported to participate in the ICA congress in Montreal. The prestigious Early Career award will be awarded at this congress and the recipient, Prof. Tapio Lokki from Aalto University in Helsinki, Finland, will present a plenary lecture. The ICA spends more than 15.000 Euros for this very important investment into the future of acoustics.

Finally, let me wish a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2013 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, and with myself. We would be happy to receive your comments and suggestions.

Aachen, Germany

Michael Vorländer  
President ICA 2011-2013