



## Report from AC3 International Commission for Acoustics (ICA) to IUPAP

August 2020

### 1. ICA Governance.

**ICA Governance.** The ICA is composed of the acoustical societies from member countries plus international affiliate organizations which themselves have individual members distributed across the world and also organize international conferences every one or two years.

Since October 1, 2019, and following the elections held during the General Assembly in Aachen, Germany, the new board consists of the following members: The Executive Board members are President Mark Hamilton, Vice President Jeong-Guon Ih, Past President Michael Taroudakis, Secretary General Antonino Di Bella, and Treasurer Martin Ochmann. The other Board members are Manfred Kaltenbacher (Austria), Bruno Masiero (Brazil), Umberto Berardi (Canada), Jorge Arenas (Chile), Fenghua Li (China), Torsten Dau (Denmark), Jean-Dominique Polack (France), Akio Ando (Japan), Antonio Pedrero (Spain), and Jo Webb (United Kingdom).

The ICA is now composed of 47 Member Societies, 8 International Affiliate Members, and 5 Observer Members.

The 2019 ICA Board meetings were held in Aachen, Germany, on September 8 and 12. The meeting venues were Aachen University (September 8) and Eurogress Congress Center (September 12). Eurogress was the location of the 23rd International Congress on Acoustics, which was held September 9-13. The ICA General Assembly convened on September 11 at Eurogress, at which time the Board members were elected and financial matters were approved.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the recent Board meeting of the ICA was held as an e-conference on July 15 and 16, 2020.

Michael Taroudakis, Past President of ICA, represented ICA at the IUPAP C&CC meeting held in London (England) in October 2019. Michael Taroudakis presented the concept of the International Year of Sound 2020 (IYS), which was well received by the participants. It was agreed that IUPAP will support the IYS.



## 2. International Year of Sound.

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 will be a two-year celebration (IYS 2020-2021).

The IYS is supported by IUPAP, following the decision made during the C&CC meeting in London, October 2019. The IYS is also supported by ISC and IUTAM.

The website of the IYS is **[www.sound2020.org](http://www.sound2020.org)**. It contains information and links to all activities associated with the IYS plus news and reports. It is interesting to note that despite the new situation that the spread of Covid-19 imposed on the scientific community the number of visitors is considered high, reflecting the impact of the ICA initiative for an International Year of Sound. The same is true for the events associated with the IYS, despite the fact that some have been rescheduled for 2021. Also, some events have changed their format to e-conferences, but they are still conveying the message of the IYS.

The opening of the IYS 2020 on the evening of 29 January 2020 in the Grand Amphitheatre of the Sorbonne was an outstanding success. Representation from a range of premier international and national scientific organizations, coupled with cultural performances, provided a worthy event. During the opening ceremony Prof Michael Spiro, President of IUPAP, gave a short greeting confirming the support of IUPAP to the IYS and announcing the IUPAP efforts towards an International Year of Basic Sciences. The report on the opening including photographs is at <https://sound2020.org/news/spectacular-opening-ceremony/>.

A video on the importance of sound in our world, "Sounds of Our Life", was produced by Antonio Fiscetti and was shown for the first time during the opening. The film was sponsored by I-INCE. The full 9 minute version is supplemented by a shorter 2 minute version. Both films are available through YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK-ApCMQNhY&t=8s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK-ApCMQNhY&t=8s) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6HgT1iujwQ&t=2s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6HgT1iujwQ&t=2s)



Main contributors to the IYS 2020.  
**From Left:** Sergio Luzzi, organiser of the student competition; Christian Hugonnet, President LSdS; Michael Vorländer, Past Past President ICA; Marion Burgess, Past Past President ICA; Michael Taroudakis, Past President ICA; Mark Hamilton, President ICA, Jean-Dominique Polack, Board Member ICA.



Prof. Michel Spiro, President of IUPAP at the opening of the IYS 2020

A student competition was first launched in late 2019. The students of the primary schools are asked to produce drawing inspired by the motto of IYS2020 “Importance of Sound for Society and the World” and, possibly, by melody and refrain of the song “The Sound of The World”, which was the main subject for students of the high schools. These students are asked to write a stanza of 4 verses (lines) in mother tongue and/or in English, inspired by the melody and the refrain of the song “The Sound of The World” as well as by the motto of IYS2020 “Importance of Sound for Society and the World”. In view of the disruption to schooling in 2020 it was agreed to extend the competition throughout 2020 with a view to announcing the winners at events in 2021. This Student Competition is being sponsored by the HEAD-Genuit Foundation.



### 3. ICA Congress.

The ICA Congress (**23rd ICA Congress**) was held in the historical city of **Aachen, Germany, 9-13 September 2019**. This congress was jointly organized by the German Acoustical Society, DEGA, and the European Acoustics Association, EAA. EAA’s EUROREGIO conference with its “EAA Summer School” for young acousticians were integrated into ICA 2019. The Summer School was held in Leuven, Belgium with a series of special training courses for both undergraduate students and students on MSc and PhD level. The technical program of the congress included five plenary lectures as well as keynote, invited, contributed, and poster papers covering all aspects of acoustics. A rich social program and program for accompanying persons was also been prepared.

The Congress Chairman was **Prof. Michael Vorländer** (RWTH Aachen University), former President of the ICA.



During the Opening Ceremony of the ICA 2019, the ICA Early Career Award was presented to Prof. Jeremie Voix from the École de Technologie Supérieure (ÉTS), Montreal in Canada. Prof. Voix presented a plenary talk during the Conference. The ICA Early Career Award is presented to an individual who is relatively early in his/her professional career (about 10-15 years of active career), who has contributed substantially, through published papers, to the advancement of theoretical or applied acoustics or both, and who has been active in the affairs of Acoustics through his/her National Society, other National Society(ies), Regional or International organizations.

Three satellite events were associated with ICA 2019:

- ISRA 2019 – International Symposium on Room Acoustics, Concertgebouw Amsterdam (September 15-17).
- ISMA 2019 – International Symposium on Musical Acoustics, Detmold, Germany (September 13-17).
- EAA Spatial Audio Signal Processing Symposium (SASP), Sorbonne Université, Paris, France (September 6-7).

ICA is grateful to the **IUPAP** for the financial support of the ICA 2019 Congress. During the last IUPAP C&CC meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Council of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics approved the sponsorship and funding for ICA 2019 with a total grant of €10,000. The allocated grant was used to support young participants and delegates from developing countries.

As decided by the ICA Board in the meeting held in Buenos Aires on 2016, the 2022 ICA congress will be held in in **Gyeongju, South Korea 24-28 October 2022**. **Prof. Jeong-Guon Ih** (Vice President of the ICA) will be the General Chair and **Prof. Chan Hoon Haan** will be the Technical Program Chair. Preparations for this Congress are well underway.

During the ICA Board meeting held in Aachen on the occasion of the ICA 2019 Congress, it was decided that the 2025 ICA congress will be held in New Orleans (USA).

#### **4. Symposia Support.**

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 were eight applications for 2020 funding from the ICA/ASA Specialty Symposia sponsorship program. These applications were 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 symposia chosen to receive funding in **2020** are:

- Annual Physics Symposium APS 2020 - International Year of Sound (India)
- 24th Conference on Acoustic and Biomedical Engineering (Poland)
- Baltic-Nordic Acoustic Meeting 2020 (Norway)
- 36th Symposium on HYDROACOUSTICS 2020 (Poland)
- Current trends on ocean sound and impacts on marine biodiversity (Portugal)
- ICUA2020 International Conference on Underwater Acoustics (UK)
- 67th Open Seminar on Acoustics (Poland)

Several of these symposia were postponed due to Covid-19.

## **5. ICA Registration.**

The International Commission for Acoustics is now registered under Spanish Law. More specifically, it is now included in the “Spanish National Register of Associations: Section 1st – National Number 618394”. The confirmation of registration was received by the Spanish Ministry for Home Affairs and the official start date was October 3, 2019. The official registration of the ICA became necessary following new requirements for all International Scientific Societies which have to declare a formal address for their office and obtain regular tax status.

The Registered Office of the Commission has now been established in Madrid, Calle Serrano 144, postal code E-28006, Spain, which is also the registered Office of the Spanish Acoustical Society (SEA). The new Internal Regulations were approved during the ICA Board meeting and General Assembly held in Aachen in September 2019.

## **6. Planned activities for 2020.**

Apart from the symposia financially supported by ICA, the ICA promotes all the events of our member Societies and International Affiliates which are associated with the International Year of Sound (IYS). A list of these events appears in [www.sound2020.org](http://www.sound2020.org). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most of these events will be held using web-based technology, or will be postponed. The IYS students’ competition inspired by the melody and the refrain of the song “The Sound of the World” composed especially for the IYS as well as by the motto of IYS “Importance of Sound for Society and the World” is underway with deadline for the submission of the entries at the end of 2020. The steering committee of the IYS will select the winners, who will be announced in 2021.

*Mark Hamilton, President 2019-2022*

*Michael Taroudakis, Past President 2019-2022*