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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 from the ICA for your organization for the New Year 2012.

As usual, the acoustics community will have numerous meetings, conferences and conventions again in 2012. This will offer excellent opportunities to discuss acoustics and to start collaboration between associations, societies, groups and individuals. And we need collaboration indeed for contributing to the solutions of problems in our acoustic environment and to the technological progress as far as sound and vibration is concerned.

For example, joint meetings will be held in Nantes, France, between the Acoustical societies of France and United Kingdom, in Hong Kong between the Acoustical Societies of America and China, and in Évora, Portugal, between the Federation of Iberoamerican Acoustics, thus South America together with Spain and Portugal.

I take this opportunity to remind you to note the next ICA conference in your calendar: in June 2013 we will meet in Montreal, Canada. We are looking forward to visiting this beautiful city and discussing progress in acoustics. Please make all colleagues in your society aware of the next ICA conference in Montreal.

www.ica2013montreal.org/index.html

During 2011 the Board of the International Commission for Acoustics worked on key issues in internal business and in external relations. The vacant open seat in the board has been filled by Denmark and our new board member, Claus Møller Petersen, took part in the 2011 board meeting.

The 2012 Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 17 in Hong Kong at the occasion of the joint meeting of the Acoustical Societies of America and of China and the meeting for Wespac.

To summarise some of the major activities:

a) Governance and internal business

I am happy to report that we are in contact with new societies for membership in ICA. And we invited two more organizations to join ICA as International Affiliates.

In the board, the five executive officers (President, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary General and Treasurer) developed a draft document dealing with the ICA governance and in particular the future voting for permanent and open seats and the representation of International Affiliates in the board.

This document is being distributed to the board with time for board member consultation within their organizations prior to our 2012 board meeting. The aim would then be 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 we are considering:

- To change the current arrangement for permanent seats
 - To change the current arrangements for representation from International Affiliates
- 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. For the International Affiliates, the proposal adjusts the voting arrangement to allow for an increase in the number.

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 a very important organization in our external relations. During an informal meeting at the ICSU headquarters in Paris, three delegates from the board (Burgess, Blanc-Benon and Vorländer) discussed with ICSU representatives the opportunities for ICA to increase its standing within ICSU. Also, the activities of the ICA were displayed at the ICSU conference in Rome by our board member Alippi. For this purpose a poster and an activity report were created which are now available for download and display at national, regional and international events and for inclusion on newsletters or other publications for your members:

www.icacommission.org/archive/ICA%20Outreach/

Please use this poster whenever there is any opportunity to emphasize the relevance of acoustics in the context of science and technology at all levels in academia and engineering.

Finally, let me wish a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2012 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