

Expanding Horizons of I-INCE Technical Activities

As most of you know, I-INCE is the sponsor of the INTER-NOISE series of congresses that are held annually in leading cities of the world. This of course requires the coordination of the technical program and careful planning. I-INCE undertakes technical initiatives on critically-important issues of international concern and this initiative has resulted in several reports and a number of active technical groups. Over the last 3 years, I-INCE has allocated funds to assist young scientists/engineers in attending the INTER-NOISE Congresses. Further, I-INCE has now also established a symposium series to meet the expanding needs of the field of noise control engineering. Some of the activities are discussed below.

The principal technical activities are carried out by Technical Study Groups (TSGs), as authorized by the I-INCE General Assembly on recommendation of the I-INCE Board of Directors. The Technical Study Groups tend to address one specific problem in the area of noise control. For instance, Technical Study Group 1 is finalizing its report on "Noise of Recreational Activities in Outdoor Areas". Technical Study Group 9 continues to study "Metrics for Environmental Noise Assessment and Control". A new Technical Study Group is forming to study the issue of "Buy Quiet" programs. Previous groups have written authoritative reports on topics ranging from "Technical Assessment of Upper Limits on Noise in the Workplace," "Assessment of the Effectiveness of Noise Walls," "Noise Emissions of Road Vehicles: Effects of Regulations," "A Global Approach to Noise Control Policy," "Survey of Legislation, Regulations, and Guidelines for Control of Community Noise," to "Guidelines for Community Noise Impact Assessment and Mitigation." Readers of the NNI are encouraged to download one or more of these reports from the I-INCE's website (www.i-ince.org) under "Technical Activities."

The Future Congress Technical Planning (FCTP) sessions are held at each INTER-NOISE congress. The principal task of the FCTP is to assist the organizing committees of future congresses with planning for structured sessions as well as poster sessions. The primary efforts focus on the next congress, but ideas may be considered for up to the next three congresses. The FCTP may offer advice on other aspects including the maximum number of parallel sessions, special sessions on selected topics

of contemporary interest, suggestions for key speakers, etc. About one-third of INTER-NOISE congress's papers come from ideas offered or sessions organized at the FCTP meetings.

Effective INTER-NOISE 2010 in Lisbon, Portugal, the I-INCE began a grant program for young professionals and scientists (typically within 10 years of the beginning of their careers) to attend the conference (each grant is worth 500 Euro). The applicants are asked to submit an extended abstract of their paper as well as some other data, and winners are chosen from the best of the submissions. In 2010, 13 grants were given out of 29 applicants. Twelve young scientists received grants for INTER-NOISE 2011 out of 47 applications, and for INTER-NOISE 2012, 18 will receive the grant out of 47 applications.

All young scientist applicants are invited to the Young Professionals workshop for networking opportunities and technical presentations by experts in the industry. Winning applicants were presented with certificates recognizing their accomplishments. Attendees of the Young Professionals Workshop at INTER-NOISE 2010 were treated to talks on a variety of topics, including "Reducing Road Noise with Quieter Pavement," "Industrial Noise Control," and "Control of Structure-borne Sound in Wood Frame Floors." At Inter-Noise 2011, attendees of were advised on the following mentorship topics: "How to Publish" and "How to Formulate Research Problems" and "How to Network". This will be a subject of feature article in the Sept. 2012 issue of NNI.

The I-INCE also held a symposium for "Buy-Quiet" in Paris (5-6 July 2011) since this concept may offer a significant improvement in the acquisition of low-noise machines, as well as an effective management of occupational noise risks. The extension of the "Buy-Quiet" concept to consumer products should lead to an increased awareness by the public in the choice and availability of quieter products. Finally, I-INCE is assuming leadership role in formulating global noise policies; this includes an ongoing collaboration with CAETS (International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences).

If you are interested in participating in any of the technical activities, please contact me at singh.3@osu.edu. 

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