



香港聲學學會

The Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics

THE 9th HKIOA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dr CM MAK

The ninth Annual General Meeting was held on 12 March 2002 at the Nikko Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui with a cocktail reception started at a half hour earlier. About 60 participants including members and guests attended the meeting. The Institute held a spring dinner in the hotel after the meeting.

The chairman, Ir Richard Kwan declared opening of AGM and the proceedings of the 8th AGM was received. The reports by the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer were received and presented to the members. The chairman also proposed to amend the Memorandum of Association to create two new membership classes "Honorary Fellows" and "Overseas Members". There were no objections and the motions were passed. Of the executive committee members, Mr Tommy Wan, Ir Dr Westwood Hong, Ir Daniel Chan and Ir Maurice Yeung retired. Ir Dr KM Li was elected as the new Chairman. Ir Tom Ho, Ir Alvin Leung and Mr James Lo were elected as new Executive Committee Members.

This year, it is our honour to have Professor Norman W M Ko to give a talk. He has recently retired from his active service to the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the University of Hong Kong. He shared with members many of his experience on the development of acoustics in the past few decades.

Certificates were presented to graduates of the Professional Diploma of Acoustics and Noise Control course offered jointly by IVE(Chai Wan) and HKIOA.

The chairman concluded the AGM and thanked all members for their presence.



Dr KM Li (left) &
Mr Richard Kwan (right)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dr K M LI

It is my pleasure to be the Chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics. Looking back in the past four years since I have returned to Hong Kong, I can still remember the first day I joined the Institute. Maurice Yeung, the then Chairman, asked me to join the Committee as a Co-opted member. My first impression was that the Institute was a very dynamic and active learned society. Although the membership number was not significant - just slightly over 150 people or so, I could sense the enthusiasm among the committee members and also among the members themselves.

I served in the last two years as the Honorary Secretary under the leadership of Richard Kwan. In the past two years, I have more chances to meet with a lot of professionals both inside and outside the Institute. I learn a bit more about the evolving and progressing young society - HKIOA. It is a proud organization going to be 10-year-old next year.

We have to be particularly grateful to our founders, chairmen and many committee members who served us so well in the past nine years. Of course, most of us may still remember, we have Westwood Hong as our first chairman who was followed by KK Iu and then Maurice Yeung who was Chairman from 1998 to 2000. In the past two years, we have Richard Kwan who took up the leadership and took us to where we are now. Last, but definitely not the least, we have Daniel Chan, who was the last Chairman of UK IOA (Hong Kong chapter). Daniel successfully steered the Institute to an Independent Society. It is more akin to 1997 where Hong Kong returned to China only that we did it a few years earlier than Mr. Tung Chee Wah. The transition process was so smooth that many of you (myself inclusive) barely noticed there were a UKIOA (Hong Kong Chapter) in Hong Kong before.

With the efforts from my predecessors, we have inherited quite a few legacies. In Hong Kong, we have organized WestPrac twice with HKIOA as the major host back in 1997. We have helped the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to organize the 8th International Symposium on Sound and Vibration. We have organized a roadshow promoting the knowledge of sound and noise to our school children. A lot of events that marked us as an active and distinguish learned society. Not only are we promoting our interest well, our previous Chairman also gave us a financially sound institution.

With all these admirable records, it is a great pleasure and an honour for me to serve the Institute in the next two years as the Chairman. I hope with the support of our Committee Members and most important of all, your support, we are in a position to represent your interest and to serve you by providing many interesting activities and useful seminars for you to keep up with the leading edge technologies. We also hope to provide a nice and enjoyable social environment for you to relax and to entertain your guests.

友 來 友
Members' Talk

"NATURAL FREQUENCIES" & "RESONANCE"

I must congratulate the editorial board for turning out such a splendid publication. The Sounding Board of today is such a sharp looking product that I am sure even those who worked in its earlier versions will admit that the current presentation is light years ahead.

Let me first briefly give you a picture of myself. I aim to complete all my classroom requirements by August 2003. I will then be devoting an unknown number of years to try to complete my dissertation. How quickly I can finish that depends on a host of variables. The best thing about it is that I can do the research anywhere in the world, not necessarily on campus. Exactly where, I do not know yet.



That is all about me. Now, if I may, let me use a couple of paragraphs to take you down memory lane. For it was once said, "if you control the present, you control the past; if you control the past, you control the future."

If you have read the latest EPD Environment Report, you must have noticed many excellent noise decks and enclosures. These measures have come a long way. No doubt it took gutsy policy makers to mandate them; it also called for a lot of hard work by noise control professionals of the Institute to bring them into fruition. But I would like to recall a few individuals who were not Institute members but were no less instrumental in making possible the earliest of these measures. One of them is Mr. Dennis Lau, the architect in charge of the Sceneway Garden in Lam Tim. He asked "why not" when he saw the opportunity to reduce train and traffic noise and enhance the master plan of the development. Residents can now enjoy the well-designed facilities on the podium deck without the intrusive noise. The other person is Mr. Wong Wah Lun, who was the engineer in charge of the Route 5 project in Shatin. He was prophetically sensitive of both the aspiration of the community and the politics of the time. He didn't even blink when he adopted the first set of transparent noise barriers to protect Mei Lam Estate. The third person is Mr. Steve Jones, an environmental consultant working on the Tate's Cairn Tunnel Kowloon Approach project. It was Steve who designed perhaps the first enclosures on viaduct in Hong Kong. Not only that, there was the combination of engineering innovation and pragmatics to open up one side of the enclosure to meet other technical requirements when such a design had already possessed adequate noise reduction.

I am not putting down our own Institute members when I omit to mention people like Rob, Sam and Westwood plus many others who have contributed in one way or another. We should not be surprised to find they had a hand in these successes because they are committed noise control professionals. The challenge, it seems, for continued or greater success in the fight against noise, lies in finding more people like Dennis, Mr. Wong and Steve. The challenge, is for the Institute to collaborate with individuals of other professions who are innovative, practical, sensitive to emerging community aspirations, and determined to get at a solution. The challenge is for the Institute to find these individuals. Many of them are already in Hong Kong. The qualities I just mentioned are like what we in the field may think of as "natural frequencies." The challenge, it then becomes obvious, is for the Institute to work hard at making these individuals resonate at these natural frequencies, for noise control outcome.

[Contribution: Raymond Chan in Chicago, USA]

*“The New Trend in Managing Environmental Noise in EU and Asian Cities”**One day Symposium (30 May 2002)**Maurice YEUNG*

Invited speakers and Organizing Committee members gathered after the Symposium



The Mechanical Engineering Department of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University hosted the captioned one-day Noise Symposium on 30 May 2002 as one of the many events to celebrate the PolyU 65th Anniversary. The Symposium attracted more than 130 local and overseas attendants. The Symposium was co-organized by various engineering institutions including HKIE (MMNC Div., Environmental Div. & BS Div.), ASME(HK), IMechE(HK), IEAust (HK) and HKIOA. HKIOA is proud to be one of the organizers as well as the sponsoring and supporting organizations.

The Symposium had the honour of inviting Ir Dr Joseph Chow [President of HKIE] to welcome all delegates and Prof Norman Ko [Professor Emeritus of the University of Hong Kong] to open the Symposium. Both guests of honour considered this Symposium held at the right time in their welcoming speech and opening speech, and that engineers and environmentalists are facing increasing challenges in noise control under a growing general concern on improving the environmental quality. Formulating new policies are imperative to cope with the new challenges in this difficult but important branch of engineering. Ir Dr Joseph Chow rated highly the Symposium and he suggested that the proceeding should be sent to the new minister who looks after the environmental issue so as to get himself well prepared for the noise protection works. Prof Norman Ko gave a retrospective view on the development of environmental noise in HK and its relationship with culture aspects. He further urged the local professionals to step up actions to contain the noise problem.

World-renowned experts in environmental noise were invited to share their views and experience. Dr J Roland [Director of “Centre Scientifique Et Technique Du Batiment” of France] presented the latest progress and development of noise policies in the European Union, and in particular, the adoption of LDEN and LN as the noise unit for assessing environmental noise in EU member countries. By 2004, cities in the EU of population exceeding 250,000 would be required to provide “noise mapping” which details the noise situation in that city for public to be involved in deciding noise action plans. Professor Tian [Director of Acoustic, Chinese Academy of Science] updated the delegates the latest development of noise policies in China. Among other things, we were impressed to note that mandatory buffer zone of 50 to 100m would be provided when constructing expressway in Beijing.

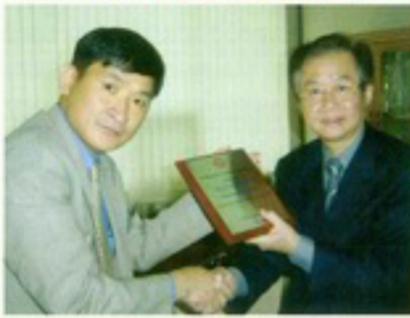
Government officials from Korea and Hong Kong were also there to report the progress of the effort in controlling environmental noise. Dr Kang [Director of Noise and Vibration Unit of Ministry of Environment, Korea] gave us an overview of noise control policies in Korea. He also highlighted the works done in controlling vehicle noise in Korea. KS Chan [Principal Noise Officer from EPD of HKSARG] updated the past work done in Hong Kong. Notwithstanding that many efforts have been inserted to deal with noise problem in HK, integrated and innovative approach would be required to avoid degradation of the situation due to vehicle growth forecasted in the next 10-15 years.

Representatives from acoustic professionals from Hong Kong, Taiwan and GuangZhou also took the opportunity to share their views and experience of controlling noise in their cities. Mr Wang from GuangZhou shared the experience of an innovative design of ventilated acoustic window. Mr Yu from Taiwan briefed us the latest development of environmental noise in Taiwan in particular the noise abatement programme in the vicinity of Taiwan International Airport. Richard Kwan, our immediate Chairman, spelt out the need of professionalism, innovation and cooperation in controlling environmental noise.

After keynote speeches and paper presentations, an open forum was arranged to have a more intensive and in-depth discussion on the related issues. Symposium attendants eagerly participated in the discussion. Questions on how EU decided on adopting “LDEN”, how to make good use of “noise mapping”, the experience of “noise mapping” in EU city, how to decide which forms and extent of noise mitigation measures etc. were raised.

Overall, delegates were highly impressed by the quality of the speakers and the usefulness of the presented materials. We have no doubt that the Symposium has had a profound contribution to the sharing of knowledge and experience in the new trend of managing environmental noise in EU and Asian cities.

Dr Li & Dr Eun



would be held in the island of Cheju, a well-known scenic spot, off the southern peninsula of Korea in August 2003. The HKIOA was invited to send a delegation to attend this Inter-Noise 2003 Conference.

On 3 May, we traveled to Daejeon, which was about 300 km south of Seoul and in the heart of Korea. Apart from being the 4th largest city, Daejeon was also famous for the research. In the morning, we visited Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS). Dr. H J Eun, the President of KRISS who was also the Chairman of InterNoise 2003 Organising Committee, welcomed us. We then held discussions with Dr WS Cheung, Leader of Noise and Vibration Group of the Institute. Dr. Cheung briefed us on their activities and then led us a tour around the site where we viewed the various testing facilities that included several large reverberation rooms for flanking and floor/ceiling transmissions. We were impressed by the overall set-ups, particularly, their automatic and top-level calibration systems. In the afternoon, we visited Korea Institute of Machinery & Materials (KIMM) and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). As we entered the site of KIMM, we noted a prototype Maglev train.



Dr Kang of KIMM presenting Maglev



Prototype Maglev

Dr H J Kang, the Principal Research Engineer of Acoustic Research Group told us that his original plan was to give us a ride on this prototype Maglev train. Unfortunately, the heavy rains 2 days before our visit had damaged the motor so they were unable to demonstrate the Maglev to us. Nevertheless, Dr Kang showed us the various facilities in KIMM that included a comprehensive ship modeling and testing laboratory, a fatigue, shock & impact testing laboratory to an acoustic and material testing laboratory. At the material testing laboratory we learnt the various set-ups for the testing of absorption in materials which designed by Dr Kang himself. Afterwards, we visited KAIST, and Prof K J Kim guided us a tour of the Centre for Noise & Vibration Control. Again, we were shown some highly interesting development and experimental projects thermal acoustic refrigerator, SAW-ultra-

After the tour, we held a meeting with Engineering (KSNVE). Prof CW Lee, the rectors were there to welcome us. Both duce their respective Institute, their ous topics such as possible future als in Asia region, the direction of re-over 1 hour of talk, it was proposed that a drafted between HKIOA and KSNVE to



HKIOA delegation at KAIST

such as a small-scale anechoic chamber, sonics to noise from telephone exchanges. the Korea Society of Noise and Vibration President of KSNVE and most of their di-Institutes took the opportunities to intro-history, activities and organization. Vari-collaboration, role of acoustic profession-search projects etc were discussed. After Memorandum of Understanding would be facilitate and foster further relationship



Meeting with KSNVE

and cooperation between two Institutes. In the evening, KSNVE hosted a traditional and very enjoyable Korean dinner for the HKIOA delegation. The HKIOA delegation team members had the opportunities under a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to exchange further in aspects of cultures, professional practices, and academic research especially when drinking the "Hite" beer and "Pak Shui Ju" over the many delicious Korean courses.

Our stay in Korea was sadly, rather short. However, we were very pleased to have the opportunity to visit those Institutes relevant to our fields and enabling us to broaden our horizon and to bring us insights in areas and fields where we, in Hong Kong would not normally be exposed to. The delegation was well impressed by the recent advances and development of acoustic and noise control research in Korea. Dr KM Li, our Chairman encouraged HKIOA members to submit papers and to attend the Inter-Noise 2003 in Cheju and you will be very sure that HKIOA will have another delegation visit to Korea next year for the Conference. Please watch out and don't miss this meaningful event.



Dr Li & Prof Lee

SEMINAR ON NOISE BARRIERS IN HONG KONG, MAINLAND CHINA & OTHER PLACES - DESIGN & APPLICATION

Dr Westwood HONG

On 27 April 2002, a joint seminar on the design and application of noise barriers was held by the HKIOA with the support of The Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment (HKIEIA) and the City University of Hong Kong (CityU). The seminar was a half-day event with the aim to provide an overview on the design and application of noise barriers in Hong Kong, Mainland China and other places.

The 3 speakers (Mr Maurice Yeung, Mr NC Cheung and Mr KK Iu) shared their knowledge and experience with the 30 people present at the seminar.

The presentation by the speakers covered useful areas relating to the design and application of noise barriers:

- * legislation/standards/assessment methodology;
- * process/challenges in design; and
- * materials/equipment/installation.



NC Cheung (right) receiving vote of thanks from Marcus (left)

DELEGATION VISIT TO KOREA

Maurice YEUNG & Albert CHUNG

Visiting NSV



The HKIOA's delegation led by Dr KM Li, our Chairman, visited our Korean counterparts from 1 May to 4 May 2002. Apart from exchanging professional knowledge and sharing of experience, we achieved our aim in obtaining first hand information on the latest development of acoustic and noise control technologies in Korea. The delegation comprised of NC Cheung, KK Iu, Andy Chung, Albert Chung, Tom Ho and Maurice Yeung. The days we spent at Korea were full of activities, from early morning to late at night, busier than a typical working day but far more enjoyable.

On 2 May, the first day of our visit, we went to Incheon where the new International Airport was located and about 50 km west of Seoul. We visited NSV Co. in the morning and National Institute of Environmental Research, Ministry of Environment of Korea in the afternoon. NSV Co was a specialist manufacturer of noise, shock and vibration control equipment and materials. Mr Yoon Eun-joong, the President of NSV received us and briefed us on the products and then led us a tour of the manufacturing facilities of the factory. We were able to observe how NSV products were made, the manufacturing processes as well as how the products were developed and tested. Mr. Yoon also showed us NSV semi anechoic chamber and research facilities on site. After



Discussion with Dr Kang, NIER



Dinner with Prof Cha

lunch, we visited the Noise and Vibration Division of National Institute of Environmental Research of Korea and met with Dr DJ Kang, the Director. Apart from discussing and exchanging noise control legislation and practices between Hong Kong and Korea, Dr Kang led us a tour around the Institute. We were impressed by the facilities of the Institute, in particular the purposely designed track-ground for testing and measuring of running-vehicle noise. In the evening, we hurried back to Seoul where the InterNoise 2003 Organising Committee hosted a dinner for the delegation. We were delighted to meet up with Professor Cha, the Honorable Chairman of the Organising Committee and Mr. S. H. Lee, the Treasurer of the Committee. We were pleased to learn on the good progress made in organizing Inter-Noise 2003, which



Vehicle Noise Test track in NIER

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE (NCO)

Richard KWAN
Immediate Past Chairman

The government has proposed that the NCO be amended. To put it simply, the proposal is to hold the directors of a body corporate responsible if that body corporate commits an offence under the NCO.

The Legislative Council has formed a Bills Committee to examine the proposed amendments and the HKIOA was invited to voice its views. The HKIOA expressed the following points and I attended the meeting of the Bills Committee on 22 March 2002.

- The HKIOA supports initiatives which aim to provide a better noise environment for the community.
- Better and more effective enforcement of the provisions of the NCO would be a step forward in maintaining tranquility;
- The proposed amendment would be a useful mechanism to foster better and more effective enforcement; and
- If Hong Kong aspires to be a world-class city, we would need a quality noise environment to match that aspiration.

However, not all the views from different organisations voiced before the LegCo Bills Committee were in support of the amendment. The Bills Committee is studying the issues further and it is not expected that a decision will be made before the start of summer.

JOINT SEMINAR: FOR A BETTER ACOUSTIC ENVIRONMENT

YN AU YEUNG

Active participation in Q&A



The half-day joint seminar "For a Better Acoustic Environment" on 2 March 2002 marked another collaboration between the Department of Engineering, Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi) and the HKIOA. Besides students and young practicing engineers in the acoustic discipline, professionals in the safety audit field were the main target audience. The Institution of Registered Safety Auditor was therefore one of the co-organisers.

The Seminar was held in the Tsing Yi campus of IVE. It aimed at giving the participants background theories on noise, the legislative requirements and noise control. Totally four speakers gave their talks:

1. Basic Theory and Noise Measurement Technique: Prof. K.M. Li, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
2. Noise Control Ordinance: Dr. K.W. Cheng, Member of HKIOA
3. Noise Control and Mitigation Measures: Ir. Prof. Daniel P.C. Chan, Managing Director, Daniel Chan & Associates Ltd.
4. Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Noise at Work) Regulation: Ir. K.L. Yeung Maurice, Member of HKIOA.



Speakers & the organising committee

The Seminar started with Mr. Brian O, Principal Lecturer of the Department of Engineering, giving the welcoming speech on behalf of the Indoor Environmental Quality Technology Centre of the Department. Each speaker then took turn to present his paper. Mr. Andy Chung represented HKIOA to give a closing speech and the Seminar ended after the presentation of souvenirs

by Mr. K.T. Leung, representative of The Institution of Registered Safety Auditor, to various parties.

The Seminar was well received by around 100 participants. The practicing safety auditors showed great interest and response during the question and answer session and the programme was overrun. It is obvious that further collaboration opportunities exist between the safety auditor Institution and HKIOA.



Mr. K.T. Leung presenting souvenir to Mr. Brian O

Professional Enhancement

It was once suggested that code of practice and code of conduct could be developed to enhance the professionalism of the industry and the government or the professional institute could take the lead. It is considered that if the personnel involved can behave himself and perform his duties with ethics, he can get his recognition from the public. The codes may not be of urgent need to the profession and their evolution can be left as a natural process. The codes themselves are only means to obtain quality and standard while the actual implementation depends on individuals. Proper training of practitioners to have the right mindset is utmost important. Similar situation exists when a proprietor is required by law to employ a competent person to carry out noise assessment. No rigid guideline is laid down regarding the qualifications of the competent person. It is up to the industry to regulate. The government intends to have a free hand and not to intervene unnecessarily.



Mr. Sam W.H. Wong

The same approach is adopted by the government towards setting up a list of qualified suppliers, contractors and consultants as compared with the registered contractor lists established in the building services industry. There is no agenda at the moment for such a system of registration.

To enhance the status of the acoustic profession, there has been a proposal from the industry to have a clause included in every government project that any acoustic submission has to be checked and endorsed by a competent person who should preferably be a member of HKIOA. Another suggestion is for the government to lead and set up a disciplinary board to control the quality of practising personnel because of her impartiality. Again, the attitude of the government is open and would like the industry to carry out self-regulation. The industry should not rely heavily on the government. Too much intervention may hinder the development of the profession. Besides, the interest of various parties and professional bodies has to be balanced without bias. The argument of impartiality of the government in setting up a disciplinary board may not be valid. The government may not have all the required expertise to give judgement. It is likely that expert opinion from the industry has to be obtained frequently and the degree of impartiality may be in question. The answer to the requests is to let the profession grow and develop in its own pace and at its own needs. What the government can and should do is to help the profession to achieve self-enhancement and actualisation.

On the other hand, the OSHC can help the industry by organising training such as seminars and symposia to make the profession known to the public and to attract new blood. In fact, the activity undertaken by the Council is of much wider variety including for example the Employees' Participation Scheme, fun fair and Occupational Health Day to promote the health and safety aspect related to noise.

Conclusion

The public is in general more noise conscious in recent years and people's perception of the acoustic profession is positive. The legislative control on environmental noise is more structured and comprehensive upon the establishment of the Environmental Protection Department. Similar condition applies to the control related to health and safety at work. The noise policy will be reviewed to suit the changing local environment. However, those regulations and practices existing in other parts of the world may not be directly applicable because of the peculiar local conditions. Similar argument applies to the merging of practices with the mainland. The attitude adopted is to maintain a "small government" so as not to intervene unnecessarily. It would be left to the profession to develop itself with support from the government to achieve self-enhancement. Training of individuals for a proper mindset and correct attitude is more important towards success than reliance on control.



The three speakers

themselves from excessive noise. Besides, they have to follow the safety instructions of their employers in order to keep their jobs. The increase in inspection by Occupational Safety Officers of the Labour Department and the requirement to carry out noise assessment of workplaces by competent persons help to enhance the awareness of noise.

Future Legislation and Overall Noise Policy Review

It is considered that the existing legislation should be enough to balance the needs of society in noise control. It is not so simple as to have just right or wrong when legislation is concerned. It is in many aspects a matter of consideration. Using the control of the use of percussive piling in construction noise to illustrate, what the authority can do, in the absence of a substitute, is to limit the time of operation so as to balance the interest of the construction industry and the public.

Legislation related to building insulation for residential and institutional buildings is being considered in UK but this may not be particularly applicable to Hong Kong because of her high population density. In overseas countries, normally plenty of spaces exist between houses with front and back yards. People can have a choice to stay in a quieter place in their houses to avoid any noise from outside. Suitable building insulation can play its part. In Hong Kong, buildings are closely packed together and people have to face neighbourhood noise from all sides. They frequently have to open up windows for ventilation. There is virtually no place for them to "hide". It would better be dealt with through the changing of people's attitude in reducing noise production. Nevertheless, floor-to-floor insulation would be an area that deserves further attention.

Regulation of indoor noise through the setting of noise objectives similar to indoor air quality is considered not very appropriate. To certain extent, noise to people is rather subjective. It is a nuisance to somebody but may not be so to others. The noise environment in restaurants in which many people enjoy staying is a good example. It is considered that the authority should not always regulate by legislation; otherwise, it will result in "Big Government". Similar argument applies to the noise labeling policy for consumer products. It would better be left to the market and self-regulation.

The government will continuously review the policy and legislation to suit the needs of changing environment. The various amendments of the Noise Control Ordinance and Regulation are example. As the local and mainland economic relation gets closer, there has been a suggestion from the acoustic profession to have a gradual merging of the practices together so that there is a common ground for data measurement, exchange and comparison. It is admitted that there should be cooperation between the mainland and the local government but reservation exists in the necessity to have merging of the practices currently in place in the two entities. Hong Kong is operating under the policy of "one country two systems" and people should treasure their own characteristics and practices. The review should be a comprehensive one including worldwide policies and practices for the development of the most suitable model to be used. Nevertheless, the sharing of information should be encouraged.

R & D and Education

Views exist in the profession that research and development should be reinforced and government subsidy should be available to support the industry in terms of large scaled acoustic chambers and testing facilities/equipment. It is opined that the bond between industry and academia should be tightened. The industry should also have a large share in responsibility similar to that exists in western countries with industry-sponsored projects. The Environmental Protection Department has accordingly formed partnership with industries to solve various environmental pollution problems. In fact, R & D is a considered a big issue and deserves a dedicated discussion.

The existing education and training provided by tertiary institutions is considered appropriate from technical knowledge point of view. It is expected that basic theories will be introduced in the college/university while further development has to be carried out through practice in industry. Notwithstanding this, training in presentation and negotiation skills should be reinforced. Graduates are seen in general weak in presenting themselves to others. This echoes with comments from the industry that acoustic engineers should endeavor to "publicise" and "sell" the goodies of the profession to public.

Continuous professional development of individuals is highly regarded. Short courses, seminars and conferences are welcome and the government strongly supports her employees in CPD related activities. OSHC also takes an active role in organising the same for the public.



Mr. Dik Choy

PERSPECTIVE OF THE ACOUSTIC PROFESSION: AUTHORITIES

Guest Speakers: Mr. K.S. Chan, Principal Environmental Protection Officer,
Environmental Protection Department, HKSAR
Mr. Dik Choy, Consultant, Occupational Safety & Health Council
Mr. Sam W.H. Wong, Principal Environmental Protection Officer,
Environmental Protection Department, HKSAR

Facilitator: Mr. Y.N. Au Yeung, Chairman, Publication Sub-committee, HKIOA

(Note: The paper includes the opinion of the guest speakers and it does not represent the view of the Institute.)

Development of Noise Control Legislation

Mr. K.S. Chan

Noise control related legislation was fragmentary and once scattered throughout various ordinances and regulations in Hong Kong such as the Summary Offences Ordinance and the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance under the responsibility of different government departments.

Upon the establishment of the Environmental Protection Department in 1986, the noise control related legislation turned more centralised and developed to cover a much wider aspect. After detailed planning, consideration and public consultation, the Noise Control Ordinance was enacted in 1988 to cover wider areas such as industrial and construction noise. However, environmental noise such as noise from transportation is more amenable to control through land use and infrastructure planning process. The Environmental Impact Assessment process was first an administrative one for major infrastructure projects since

the mid 80's and it became a statutory process with the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance in 1998.

Another important area of legislative control on noise is the health and safety of employees. It falls within the ambit of the Labour Department and the first related regulation is regulation 21A of Factories and Industrial Undertakings Regulations which was upgraded to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Noise at Work) Regulation in 1992. The upgraded regulation requires that an assessment of noise exposure has to be carried out for protection of workers in scheduled workplaces where the workers are likely to be exposed to a high noise level. Subsequently in 1997, the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance was drawn up to give protection of workers at large.

While the Labour Department is responsible for enforcement of the legislation, the Occupational Safety and Health Council helps to promote hearing conservation through education and training, advisory services to the industry and research. It organises promotion schemes including for example publications, quizzes and activity sponsorship.

Public Awareness and Acceptance

The awareness of environmental noise in Hong Kong increased substantially over the past ten years. In the late eighties, there were about 250 odd complaints a year on noise pollution. In 1992, the complaints increased to around 2,400. Last year, there was a further increase to about 10,800 cases which was nearly 40 times that of the late eighties. Among those complaints, around 40% were in connection with neighbourhood noise such as noise from playing majoh or Hi Fi, around 30% originated from industrial activities while the rest was of commercial nature. It is obvious that people are becoming more aware of their living environment.

The status of acoustic professionals is considered well accepted by the public. It may partly be due to the allocation of resources by the government to fight against noise. Besides, when government officers and acoustic engineers carry out noise impact assessment and related activities, presentations with detailed calculation and explanation have been frequently given to various parties concerned including the district council members. In general, people are convinced through the discussion and they show respect to the profession.

At the same time, employees are more concerned about their safety and health. They are more aware of protecting



The Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics

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