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Chairman's Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to this new electronic issue of Sounding Board (SB). In the coming years, we are planning to deliver SB to you electronically that will us to serve you better. First of all, as the Chairman, I would like to offer my gratitude to our infatigable Editor, Y N Au Yeung for his effort in bringing this idea in fruition.

In the past few months, we have a relatively quiet period as most of our events have been suspended due to the adverse impacts of SARS. With the recede of SARS, we are finally seeing lights at the end of the tunnel and getting back to our normal daily routines. An imminent event will be our delegation visit to Jeju, Korea this Summer in August. For those of you who are interested to join the event, please contact Maurice Yeung (mklyeung@epd.gov.hk) for more information.

Yes, as time slips past us quickly, the HKIOA is 10 years old by December 2003. In the next few months after the summer break, we shall be arranging a series of events, both socially and technically, marking the 10th Anniversary of the HKIOA. The Executive Committee has been working hard in recent months to arrange activities for celebrating this memorable day. We shall announce these events very soon. Please keep an eye on these activities as I hope you will join us for the celebration.

Finally, I wish you will enjoy reading the SB. If you have any comments and suggestions, please feel free to contact us.

Best wishes

Dr KM Li

REPORT ON THE 10TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HKIOA

Ir Dr CM MAK

The tenth Annual General Meeting was held on 18 March 2003 at the Marco Polo Prince Hotel with a cocktail reception started at half an hour earlier. About 40 participants attended the meeting.

The chairman, Ir Dr. K.M. Li (see photo) declared opening of the AGM and the proceedings of the 9th AGM was received. The reports by the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer were received and presented to members. The chairman then proposed to incorporate "The Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics Limited" by offering decisions on two motions:

- HKIOA shall incorporate a "company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital" and register as "HKIOA Ltd" or similar approved by the Companies Registry"; and
- The executive committee of the HKIOA shall be empowered to follow the procedures for formation of the new company and shall be appointed as the first directors of the new company. All existing members of the HKIOA at the date of incorporation of the new company shall be the members of the new company.

Ir. K.K.lu introduced the background and reasons for the incorporation of HKIOA Ltd and members expressed their views on this matter. There were no objections and the two motions were passed. The executive committee members, Mr. Andy Chung, Ir. Y N Au Yeung, Mr. Martin Chan, Dr. Kin Cheng and Dr. C.M.Mak retired. Ir. N.C.Cheung, Ir. Y N Au Yeung, Mr. Martin Chan, Dr. Kin Cheng and Dr. C.M.Mak were elected as new Executive Committee Members.

The chairman concluded the AGM and thanked all members for their presence. The spring dinner was held immediately after the meeting.



SOUNDING BOARD

歌劇院聲學設計研討會

姚景光



2002年12月10日，北京市建築設計研究院教授級高級建築師、國家一級註冊建築師項端祈教授應邀出席了香港聲學學會“歌劇院聲學設計的回顧與展望”研討會(參閱相片)，並在研討會上作了精彩報告，就歌劇院的發展史，歌劇院的音質設計要點，世界著名歌劇院的音質對比等問題作了詳細的論述，並對二十一世紀的歌劇院設計提出了方向。報告會在熱烈的氣氛中進行，並針對一些問題進行了討論；研討會後，學會更邀請項教授頒發每年一度的「Meyer Poon Memorial Award」給獲獎論文作者。是次活動約有三十多名會員出席，包括前主席、康冠偉、姚景光、楊國良及多位學會理事。這是香港聲學學會與國內的聲學專家又一次成功的學術交流，將兩地聲學界友誼推到了一個新的高度。

MEYER POON MEMORIAL AWARD 2002 CEREMONY

Dr. Westwood HONG



The Meyer Poon Memorial Award Ceremony was held on 10 Dec 2002 following the Technical Seminar with the speech delivered by Prof Xiang from Beijing. We had the honour of having Prof Xiang to present the prizes to the winners of the 2002 Meyer Poon Memorial Award Competition: Mr Tang Siu Hong (1st prize) (see photo), Mr Leung Cheuk Hang (2nd prize) and Mr Chan Chi Lung (3rd prize). Mr Tang gave a short speech to enlighten our 30 members on his good piece of work titled "The Predicted Effects of a Barrier in an Urban Environment", which was elected after the hard work of the

judging panel with precious time and opinion offered by Maurice Yeung, Daniel Chan, Sam Wong, Tommy Wan, CM Mak & Westwood Hong.

REPORT ON TAIWAN TRIP - NOVEMBER 2002

K. K. IU, Dr. Westwood HONG & N. C. CHEUNG

On 15 November 2002, Westwood Hong, N.C. Cheung and K.K. Iu represented the Institute to attend the 2002 Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Acoustical Society in Taiwan (see photo). This Year, the Institute has been invited to give a keynote speech, which was nicely prepared by Maurice Yeung and presented by Westwood Hong. The speech, titled "How to solve the Hong Kong road traffic noise problem" was well received by over 200 delegates.

After having a nice lunch, a walk around the campus of the host "Leader University" was arranged (with the company of the President of the University, Prof. Hung-Chih Shih and his Directors) to help us to digest the great food. Following that, we took an escorted coach trip and headed for the bird sanctuary. We learn that Chiku is very famous for having a near-extinction migrating bird, Black-faced Spoonbill. We actually saw some twenty of them and other birds and cranes at the sanctuary and on our way through the wetland and ponds. We also visited other scenic spots including climbing a salt mountain near the Chiku wetland (see photo), enjoying the special salty ice cream and not missing the famous selling of Ping Long fruits from attractive girls alongside the Tainan motorway.

After the bird-watching, we rushed back to attend the technical sessions, which included the topics of Architectural Acoustics, Applied Acoustics, Environmental Noise, Psycho-acoustics, Basic Research, Underwater Acoustics, Signal Processing, Noise & Vibration Control, System Dynamics Analysis & Noise Measurements.

Amongst the 40 papers presented, an interesting one was from Mr. Terry Yu about the Taipei Song Shan Airport noise research. The busy day was ended with a delicious banquet, which was well attended by over 60 delegates and guests including the Director of Department of Engineering, Tainan City Government, Mr. Fu-Tzu Huang.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

YN AU YEUNG

Very probably you have already realised a change in format and approach in this issue of Sounding Board. Firstly, there does not exist any particularly fancy layout. Secondly, the number of pages is four instead of the previous eight or twelve. Thirdly, members no longer receive hard copies via mail; instead, a soft copy would be obtained via e-mail. Of course, the file will be uploaded to the Institute website as usual. This change follows the environmental conservation concept by reducing the amount of bulk printing required. There is an immediate benefit of cutting down the cost which will be more pronounced when the layout of the newsletter is done in-house to save up the printer cost. Real thanks to Maurice who agrees to take up this additional task as a try. This issue is his first effort. I personally think and am sure you will agree with me that it is marvelous. The no. of pages will be limited to four for ease of handling and any necessary subsequent printing for various functions. The total no. of issues per year may be increased to four (three in previous years) when needed. This can also help to enhance communication among members. **Just a reminder, keep us informed about your e-mail address so as not to miss any e-copies of your newsletter.**



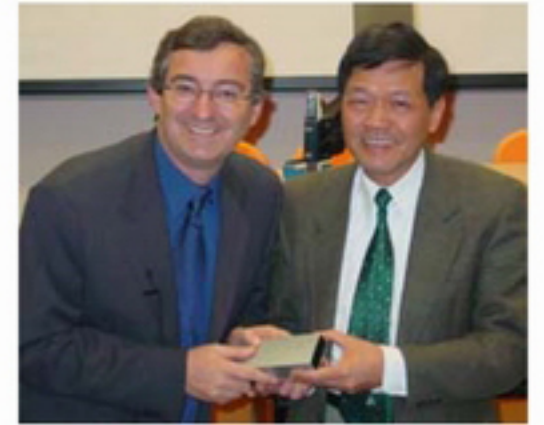
Report on "Latest Development of Tackling Environmental Noise in EU" Seminar

Maurice YEUNG

On 15 January 2003, the HKIOA and the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University jointly hosted a seminar on how the European Union (EU) tackles environmental noise problem.



We had the honour of inviting two distinguished speakers from France, Dr Michel Vallet and Dr Jacques Lambert (see photos). Dr Vallet is the former Research Director at Institute National de Recherche Transports et Sécurité (INRETS) which is the French National Institute for Studies on Transportation Noise. He was and is still a member of many EU Working Group on noise issues. Dr. Lambert is currently the Research Director at INRETS-LTE and was the Chairman



of EU Working Group on dose/effects issues, and is now a member of the new Working Group on health and socio-economic aspects of noise.

Dr Vallet gave us an update report on the latest development of EU Noise Directives including the noise descriptors to be used, the reasons and rationales behind of the actions and studies so far. By and large, for cities of population not less than 250,000, noise mapping exercises would need to be conducted and results of the noise problem (i.e. number people exposed to high level of environmental noise) should be made available for public by 2007. Action plans would also be developed by individual city by 2008. There are also other progresses like setting up of new working groups to oversee various noise related issues like application of low noise road surfacing, new harmonizing method for assessing Lden and Lnight, studying long-term health effect on children due to noise etc.

Following Dr Vallet's presentation, Dr Lambert introduced to us the method adopted commonly in EU in evaluating economic value of transport noise. He took us through in good details with illustration about the "Hedonic Pricing" and "Contingent Valuation".

More than 40 members and students attended the seminar. Questions were raised with regard to the rationales of the ways adopted in tackling environmental noise and how to evaluate the economic value of transportation noise. They all found the evening very interesting, insightful and informative as Dr Vallet and Dr Lambert have wide experience of traffic, railway and aircraft noise surveys, of sleep research on physiological disturbances of noise, and of the economic valuation of benefits of transportation noise policy. The seminar no doubt brought the local acoustic and noise control professionals and practitioners a new dimension.

澳門考察之行 (2002年12月6日)

龔穎穎

我懷著興奮的心情，頭一趟參加聲學會外地考察團，地點是澳門特別行政區。過去來濠江只為吃喝玩樂，今次有機會和不同機構部門交流，可更清楚澳門的民情，相當有意義。



報章還未讀完，船已經靠近澳門碼頭。抵步後第一件事是來一個大合照，這是指定動作，之後我們便驅車直往澳門環境委員會，委員會的辦公室位於一幢黃色古老建築物內(參閱相片)，外表甚討好，贏得各人的稱讚(小妹心想在此處上班一定很寫意，光是對著一排排的榕樹，及在木樓梯上上落落，肯定比坐在商業大廈對著間板房好得多，這亦是很多會員的心聲)。



委員會的代執行主席黃蔓荳小姐為我們介紹了該會的工作性質，以及簡介澳門現時的环境。黃小姐雖然在交換紀念品後忽忽離去(參閱相片)，但仍細心為我們準備[澳門環境狀況報告[2001]]的小冊子及光碟，謹此向她致謝。其後另外有同事向我們介紹流動噪音量度車，這部車停在辦公室對面的街上，各會員都十分好奇，細察車內量度噪音的儀器。一架小小的汽車，已差不多度了全澳門的噪音平均指數，這可見港澳合作的重要性。

其後我們坐車經過高士德大馬路，看見其中一個噪音監察站，所以車子就停皇朝區，而我們就下車仔細觀察，並讓有關人員向我們詳細講解這個監察站的運作及功能。當日下午我們還參觀澳門國際機場，並有機會在停機坪上觀察機場的運作，而機場管理局的陳先生向我們講解機場如何在晚間減少用電量，去達到環保的要求。

澳門考察之旅在下午四時結束，總結今次考察會員得益良多，我們都熱切期待下一次的實地考察，據知地點將會是韓國濟洲，到時各會員千萬不要錯過。

專訪地球之友

(採訪者: 歐陽耀南 (香港聲學學會出版委員會主席))



在過去幾期的通訊當中，我們已經和多位專家，探討聲學在本港的發展，其中得到的一個印象是，噪音污染在香港，並未如空氣及水質污染，受到廣泛重視，今期我們請來民間環保團體組織-地球之友，再談談這個問題。

地球之友香港分會現時有 15 位職員，主要負責本港的環保教育，以及香港環保政策研究，最近的大型研究為再生能源，提倡利用風力發電去減少空氣污染。

地球之友環境事務統籌馬雅燕(參閱相片)表示，由於資源有限，加上相對於空氣污染及水質污染等環保問題，噪音污染問題的迫切性及嚴重性較低，所以該會暫時並未有計劃積極研究香港的噪音污染問題。



她表示，香港雖然有很多環保問題，但很難引起市民的關注，地球之友較為多做空氣質素研究，他們要花上數年，搜集很多的數據，例如電廠及汽車廢氣每年排放量的多少，如何影響社會醫療成本上升，及導致生命或經濟上損失，這些統計數據一定要很實質的，才能說服大眾；但噪音污染方面，暫時無人長時間研究及搜集有關數據，證明人受到噪音實質影響，包括身體、精神及經濟上的損失有幾大，所以相對來說，市民對噪音污染的重視程度不是太大，但環保團體都認同，噪音研究其實是有需要的。

馬雅燕說，政府在開展一些基建工程前，會進行環境影響評估，當中亦包括噪音的範疇，而地球之友就很重視環境影響評估報告的質素，一些環評顧問曾經向他們指出，如果有人要操控環評報告並不難，以噪音不能超過 70 分貝為例，在不同地方量度，所得的結果會有差異，例如在天橋及住宅中間量度，噪音可能超出 70 分貝，但在住宅大廈後面量度，就可以得出較低的數字，所以環評報告是否有質素及公正，要視乎顧問的專業性及操守。

她又表示，政府在處理環保政策欠缺彈性，有需要改善，以平衡及提升整體環境質素。

馬雅燕以吐露港公路為例，吐露港公路一帶，是香港少有無遮無擋的天然海景，地球之友認為在環保考慮上，是值得保有，而附近居民在衡量過景觀，以及公路所帶來的噪音後，仍然傾向保留原有的海景，希望令到物業升值。不過，當期時政府就因為公路噪音超標幾個分貝，不理民間反對，在公路邊設置隔音屏障，雖然現已因應市民要求保護吐露港景色而卸拆部分隔音屏障，可以說是一件好事，但就已經費時失事，浪費大量公帑。

她表示，在地球之友的角度來看，政府即使要減少吐露港公路的噪音，在良好的規劃下，其實有很多環保又美觀的方法，例如可以考慮在公路旁邊築起種滿小樹的山丘，並將隔音屏障藏於樹木中，可以隔音之餘，亦可以保留海景，令到更多人可以享受開揚景緻。

汲取吐露港公路隔音屏障事件的經驗，地球之友認為，政府在開展工務工程前，都應事先聽取環保組織以及民間的意見，按不同情況彈性處理問題，其中新區的規劃，包括西九龍填海區，希望政府在住宅、公路及天橋等一併規劃興建，令市民的生活質素可以提升。

馬雅燕舉例說，政府興建元朗市中心環迴公路時，並無顧及公路離住宅太近，居民因而會受噪音影響，而這樣的情況其實可以避免，只要有關的政府部門，例如規劃署及路政署等，在工程開展前先行作出協調。

另一個地球之友關注的，是海裏面的噪音，例如在海內挖泥對海洋生物的影響；起新機場時就關注到爆石的噪音，如何影響到中華白海豚；而最新的是興建西部通道，涉及要在海底起幾條大樁柱，相信會對海洋生態構成影響。

總結而言，地球之友認為，政府的噪音管制條例及政策，有需要檢討，配合現況及未來發展，如果可以的話，進一步和內地加強溝通，促進兩地環保的交流及合作。

[An interview with the Campaigns Coordinator of Friends of the Earth (HK), Ms. Daphne Mah, on her views towards noise pollution control in Hong Kong: importance of quality EIA, increased flexibility and coherency of Government departments, strategic review of noise control policy and regulations, reinforced communication and cooperation with the mainland.]