

## Message from the Chairman



Dr CM MAK

Welcome again to our "Sounding Board (SB)". With the effort and the commitment of the executive committee members and the active participation of our members, HKIOA has organized various activities in the past few months. I am sure that you should have participated in some of these. Let me refresh your mind what activities we have organized or co-organized with other institutions or societies in these few months:

On 15 June, we had our first of a series of seminars on Railway Noise Control Series. The title of the seminar is "Vibration from Railway Track – Can it be predicted and controlled?" It was jointly organized by HKIOA and Department of Building Services Engineering and Department of Mechanical Engineering of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

On 24 June, there was a technical visit to Tai Ho Road Project which was awarded the Hearing Conservation Best Practices Award Scheme 2006.

On 20-22 July, HKIOA organized a delegation visit to Shanghai. About 8-9 participants joint the delegation team. We visited the acoustic research (e.g. acoustical testing laboratory of Acoustics Research Centre in Tongji University) and the Shanghai Institute of Acoustics. We also exchanged views and shared experience with the Shanghai counterparts on various acoustic and environmental noise issues. You can find the more details in a separate report in SB.

On 18 August, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Social Evening was held at Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. There were about 30-40 participants including members and their spouses and friends.

We will keep you informed of other activities and we look forward to having your continuous support.

## Report: 13rd AGM of HKIOA



NC CHEUNG

The thirteenth Annual General Meeting was held on 15th March 2006 at the Mariners' Club in Tsim Sha Tsui, started with a cocktail reception enabling fruitful interaction among members. About 60 participants including members and guests attended the meeting.

The Chairman, N C Cheung declared opening of AGM and the proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> AGM was confirmed. The reports by the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer were presented and accepted. The meeting also endorsed the election of new Executive



Committee Members including CL Wong, Randolf Leung, Ben Ho and Wilson Ho, while Martin Chan, KM Li and Henry Wong retired upon the completion of their terms of service. Dr CM Mak was elected as the new Chairman.



That evening, we had Richard Kwan as our honorable speaker to make a presentation on "The Lok Ma Chau Spur Line - an acoustician's look at other environmental



issues". Richard was indeed the Chairman of the HKIOA from 2000 to 2002. He is now serving as an Environmental Manager in the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation, and has witnessed the completion of many railway projects. In his speech, he not only shared with us his experience in environmental management, but also enlightened us with a broader perspective associated with mega projects.

Towards the end of the meeting, certificates were presented to graduates of the Professional Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control. The professional diploma course is jointly organised by IVE (Chai Wan) and HKIOA.



The chairman concluded the AGM and thanked all members for their participation. A spring dinner in the bar restaurant followed after the meeting.

## Seminar: Vibration from Rail Track - Can it be Predicted and Controlled?

Wilson HO

On 15 June 2006 evening, Mr. Steve Barlow of Pandrol Asia presented a very interesting seminar "Vibration from Rail Track – Can it Be Predicted and Controlled?" The seminar was jointly organized by HKIOA, ME and BSE Department of Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Around 50 participants attended the seminar. Based on the in-house vibration measurement data, Mr Steve has established a simple model to describe the relation between vibration transmission and trackform stiffness:



about 15dB insertion loss change per tenfold static stiffness change. The model predictions are mostly in line with Pandrol measurement data conducted in different countries, including Victoria Line (underground) in London, Madrid Metro in Spain, Guangzhou Metro in China, Perth Metro in Australia, and Sui Ho Wan Depot and Airport Express Link in Hong Kong.

During the question and answer section, many experienced acousticians shared their views on potential vibration impacts on railway tracks and trackform vibration insulation.

# Technical Visit: Tai Ho Road Project

YN AU YEUNG/Dr Ben HO

Around 10 members joined the technical visit to the Tai Ho Road Project on 17 June 2006. The visit was organized with the support of China State Construction Engineering (HK) Ltd. and China Overseas Building Construction Ltd.



Project management of the two companies aimed to establish and implement innovative measures to reduce occupational noise exposure to construction workers as well as nuisance to the public. The Tai Ho Road Project won the Excellence Award in the Hearing Conservation Best Practices Award Scheme 2006 jointly organized by the Occupational Safety and Health Council, the Labour Department and the Occupational Deafness Compensation



Board and the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board.

The visit included slide presentation and site walk conducted by Mr. SHEA Wai Lam, Senior Safety Officer of China Overseas and Dr. Ben HO of China State. Administrative occupational noise control measures, details of a movable and modular noise barrier constructed on water filled road barriers together with other interesting site arrangements were introduced to members.



Members were impressed by the innovative measures developed and implemented.

# The 9th Western Pacific Acoustics Conference

Maurice YEUNG

The 9th Western Pacific Acoustics Conference was held on 25 to 28 June 2006 in Seoul, Korea. Being a member of WESPAC, members of the HKIOA rendered supports to the WESPAC IX

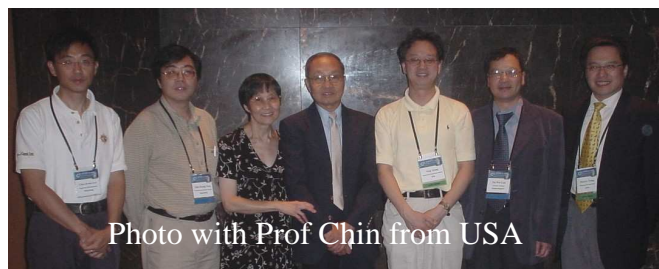


Photo with Prof Chin from USA



Photo with Prof Lai of Taiwan

including NC CHEUNG (our Immediate Past Chairman), Randolph LEUNG (our Committee member), Prof SK TANG and Dr CF NG and

their students (from HK PolyU), CK LEE (from EPD) and myself. Also, NC represented the HKIOA in the International Advisory Committee.

The WESPAC IX was one of the most successful events. According to the organizing committee, there were over 500 delegates from 38 countries, 64 parallel technical sessions each lasting for 2 hours, 3 plenary lectures and 9 keynote speeches. The WESPAC IX covered wide range of topics in acoustics, just to name a few: Hearing aids, language model, application of GIS to manage and control noise,



Photo with Prof WANG from Maryland China

building acoustics, 3D virtual auditory display, underwater acoustics, environmental noise and regulations.

The WESPAC provides a good opportunity for acousticians and noise professionals, particularly those from Western Pacific and Asian regions to gather and share. If you want to attend, please watch out for news from WESPAC X which would be held in Beijing in September 2009.



Photo with Prof ZHANG and Prof TIAN of Academia Sinica

# Seminar: Road Traffic Noise Problem in HK

Dr CM MAK

On 8 May 2006, PolyU-BSE, PolyU-ME, HKIOA, HKIE-MMNC, HKIE-Env and HKIEIA jointly organized the half-day seminar on road traffic noise problem in Hong Kong at Chiang Chen Studio theatre of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Over 100 participants from consulting companies, contracting companies, universities and government attended the seminar. We were honoured to have invited Prof JM Ko, Vice President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to give the opening speech. After Dr CM MAK, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, had given the welcoming speech, four distinguished speakers shared their views on the issue of environmental noise including: Mr Elvis Au, Assistant Director of Environmental Protection Department; Dr Alex CHAN, Past President of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers; Dr HF CHAN, Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics; and Prof KC LAM, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Environment. In this seminar, government officials were invited to deliberate their approaches in tackling the problem and their action plans. Legislator, environmentalists and professionals of different disciplines were invited to express their views and ideas on noise reduction. At the end of the seminar, there was an open forum allowing open discussion



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and exchange of views on road traffic noise issues. We were also honoured to have Ms SY CHOY, JP, Chairman of the Environmental Affairs Panel of the Legislative Council to give the closing speech. Souvenirs were presented by Dr CM MAK to all speakers to show the appreciation.

## Report: Annual Meeting and 19th Symposium of Acoustical Society of Taiwan

Dr CM MAK

As a representative of HKIOA, Dr CM Mak attended the annual meeting and 19<sup>th</sup> Symposium of Acoustical Society of Taiwan in Tainan on 24 November 2006 and gave a keynote speech on "Prediction methods for flow-generated noise in ventilation system". A visit was also made to the Architecture and Building Research Institute of the Interior Ministry of ROC. It was a successful event that speakers from various scopes of acoustics presented their papers. Besides, it was a good opportunity for people from the acoustics industry or academic institutes in Taiwan to meet and to foster the relationship between HKIOA and the counterpart in Taiwan.



## Announcement

CL WONG

From time to time we receive enquiries from different sectors of our society for information on acousticians or noise consultants who can provide professional services such as noise testing or assessment. The Executive Committee of HKIOA has recently decided to maintain a list of Members who are interested to offer such services to the public. This list will be posted on the Institute's webpage and we shall refer to that list when handling future similar enquiries. We believe this is not only a means to meet the demand of our community, but also an opportunity for us to promote the integrity and professional interest of our members.

In general, the list of acoustical professionals will be classified into two categories:

- members who can provide general acoustical services such as noise assessment, noise measurement, monitoring, etc; and
- members who can provide product noise testing services, in particular for the purpose of certifying noise testing reports in respect of applications under the current Noise Control (Hand Held Percussive Breakers) Regulations or Noise Control (Air Compressors) Regulations. (For this class of services, you need to be a Corporate Member of the Institute of Acoustics of the United Kingdom as required under the above regulations.)

If you are a Corporate Member of the HKIOA and wish to be included in the list, so as to serve the community either in your individual capacity or through your affiliation, please send an e-mail to [admin@hkioa.org](mailto:admin@hkioa.org) indicating your interest.

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