



Ferrara, 1<sup>th</sup> September, 2004

## **The Acoustical Society of Italy (AIA) *Prepared for INCE Japan – September 2004***

The Acoustical Society of Italy (A.I.A.) was formed in 1972 as a no-profit association with the goal of promoting and spreading research, applications and education on all the aspects of acoustics, as well as the dissemination and exchange of information among its members.

The chief seat of the Association is located in Rome at the Institute of Acoustics "O.M. Corbino" of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) and another CNR Institute (IMAMOTER Institute), in Ferrara, provides the Secretariat of the Association.

The number of AIA members has grown from the 16 founders in 1972 to about 400 in 2004. There are six distinct grades of membership: Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Individual Members, Collective Members (Institution, Companies, etc.), Student Members and Sustaining Members. All memberships entitle a member to receive the publications of the Association and to attend its meetings at reduced fees, while only Honorary Fellows and Fellows are eligible to hold office. All the people having interest in acoustics can become Individual Member, while the state of Fellow membership is restricted to those members who have been Individual members of the Association for more than three years and demonstrated technical or professional qualifications in acoustics approved by the Board of the Association. Honorary Fellow membership is conferred upon individuals of distinction while the Student membership is open to any student, younger than 30 year old, whose state is certified by University.

Two specialist groups are organized within AIA, covering the fields of Environmental Acoustics and Musical Acoustics. The activities of each group are undertaken by a Coordinator and a Technical Committee elected by all the Fellows and Members of the group. The Environmental Acoustics Group was formed in 1988 followed by the Musical Acoustics Group in 1992. A third group on Room and Building Acoustics is currently in progress to be established.

The activities of the Association are planned by a Board made up of the President, the past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and 7 Fellows. The Board serves a four year term with the main task to implement actions for promoting the activities in all the branches of acoustics, to facilitate the exchanges among its members and to establish international links with foreign acoustical associations.

Each year, the Association holds its three-day annual meeting covering all the aspects of acoustics. In the last three years, this event has attracted large audiences (more than 200 participants, on average). The papers presented at the annual meeting (110 on average) are regularly published in the Congress Proceedings, a book of about 600 pages. In addition, each specialist group organizes

seminars and workshops on topical subjects during the year. Proceedings of these events are also published by AIA.

Every year AIA awards the best degree thesis and PHD work on acoustics. In addition, other grants are available to young scientists and students for the attendance at National and International Events on Acoustics.

In 1977, AIA began the publication of a quarterly journal, “Rivista Italiana di Acustica”, which is the official magazine of the Association. Each issue contains research papers, technical notes, news from AIA and from the specialist groups, calendar of events, etc. Papers are usually in Italian with a summary in English, but also foreign languages (i.e. English and French) have been used by distinguished authors. Each issue is about 50 pages in length, and 900 copies are distributed to society members and other people in Italy and abroad. The Association retains close ties with the Italian Audiology Society and other national associations related to acoustics. In achieving statutory objectives, AIA is active in establishing international links with foreign associations. In 1972, the Association was one of the founder Societies of the Federation of Acoustical Societies of Europe (FASE) and was among the founders of the European Acoustics Association (EAA) in 1992. AIA is full member of the Board of ICA (International Committee on Acoustics) and joined I-INCE in 1983.

The Association hosted international conferences, including the 4th FASE Symposium on Acoustics and Speech in Venice (1981), the Conference on Acoustics and Recovery of Spaces for Music in Ferrara (1993), the 18th AICB (Association Against Noise) Congress in Bologna (1995), the 17th International Congress on Acoustics (ICA) in Rome (2001) and, in 2003, the 5th EuroNoise Conference in Naples.

Information on all aspects and activities of the Association can be found on the webpage <http://www.idac.rm.cnr.it/aia>.