

The Korean Society of Noise and Vibration Engineering

Hee Joon Eun(殷熙俊), A former president of KSNVE

1. An Overview

A Korean old saying advises a man not to boast of his wife or children to others. Only a fool would do so. But it is generally excused, or even encouraged, to boast of his friends or organization where he belongs to. So I feel no shame, especially to my foreign colleagues, in addressing about the Korean Society of Noise and Vibration Engineering (KSNVE) with a bit of sense of pride. As the name indicates, the KSNVE is an academic institution exclusively devoted to the cause of reducing noise and vibration problems in all aspect of our social and industrial activities. Before the creation of the KSNVE, the Acoustical Society of Korea(ASK) carried out a similar function. But as time passed, it became evident that a more specialized institution was necessary to meet the rapidly growing industrial demand for noise and vibration problems. The Korean industry centers heavily on heavy industries and electronics, much like the Japanese industry. These are exactly the kind of industries where the demand for technologies related with noise and vibration is especially high. Also, the rapid urbanization of Korean society during the 1970s and '80s brought about the need to focus more on various environmental problems including noise. All these constituted the logical background to creating a new institution specializing in noise and vibration problems. Thus the KSNVE was born in July of 1990 in a meeting attended by a number of experts representing various sectors including the industry, and was legally registered with the government in December of that year.

The growth of the KSNVE during the past 14 years has been remarkable by any standard. Today, it boasts of memberships of more than 2000, one of the largest institution in the world in these academic fields. Each of the twice-a-year meetings attracts more than 200 papers in various fields of noise and vibration control engineering, and usually attended by more than 500 members and students. Many of the papers are up to the international level, and the session rooms are heated with vigorous discussions. The activities are not just limited to holding such meetings and managing members though. The Constitution stipulates that the KSNVE should contribute to the development and dissemination of technologies related with noise and vibration control by assuming a number of functions, including various publications, public educations and consultations among others. The goal is clearly meant to maximize the social benefits which can be expected through a proper management of noise and vibration problems in Korea. This goal can be realized more effectively when proper channels for information exchanges and contacts among the relevant experts are established and maintained. The KSNVE provides just these channels in Korea. Now, the KSNVE is increasingly focusing its effort on international activities as a way of extending these channels more broadly. The Inter-noise 2003 held in Jeju was just one manifestation of such effort. The trend will certainly become more obvious in coming years as the Korean scientists and technicians become ever more confident, and the world becomes ever smaller.

2. Status of Membership

After the birth of the KSNVE in 1990, the size of membership increased steadily throughout the 1990s. But turning the century, there has been an apparent sign of saturation of membership, and now it totals just over 2000. Table 1 shows the distribution of members according to their affiliations, and Table 2 shows the distribution according to their academic degrees.

Table 1. Distribution with affiliations

| affiliations | percentage(%) |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| universities or colleges | 43.1 |
| research institutes | 16.5 |
| industries | 34.2 |
| government agencies | 1.9 |
| other | 4.3 |

Table 2. Distribution with degrees

| degrees | percentage(%) |
|-----------|---------------|
| Ph.Ds | 32.6 |
| masters | 32.1 |
| bachelors | 33.3 |
| others | 2.0 |

One interesting, yet important, aspect of KSNVE's membership shown in Table 1 is that members from the industry account for one third of the total. This is a good example of how deeply the KSNVE is committed for the advancement of Korean industry. This also shows that the KSNVE is in an ideal position in bringing the academic world to the industry more closely. The KSNVE takes this reality seriously and takes special considerations for the industry whenever it undertakes academic events. Table 2 shows the overall qualifications of KSNVE members, which is similar to any other academic institution in Korea.

Apart from the individual memberships shown above, there is another category of membership called "special membership". Special membership, currently 42, consists of mainly industry sponsors which donate cash contributions regularly. The amount of cash depends on the company size and the potential benefit the company may expect. Usually, the automobile- and the electronics-related industries contribute the most. These donations are essential in operating the KSNVE, and we deeply appreciate those sponsors. The last category of membership is the "group membership". This membership consists of mainly various libraries throughout Korea and public institutions, currently numbering 62. Though not as big as the industry sponsors, these members also contribute steady and sizable cash in exchange for receiving Journals and other publications.

Overall, the KSNVE enjoys a sizable, yet well balanced, membership structure. The annual fees from the members constitute the major portion of the income, and help keep the healthy financial balances. An efficient management system of members using internet is in working now, and we expect that the members would receive more benefit as a result.

3. Major Activities

The KSNVE's activities are always centering around its stated goal of developing and disseminating the technologies related with noise and vibration problems. The major activities may be categorized as follows.

- annual meetings, covering all related R&D areas
- technical meetings, covering specified areas
- tutorial(or training) courses for the public
- consultations(including contract R&D)
- international relations

Each of these activities will be briefly described in the following. The numerical data cited in the descriptions are typically the rough averages over the past three or four years.

1) Annual meetings

The KSNVE holds regular meetings twice a year, one each in spring and autumn. The meetings are always accompanied by exhibitions by domestic and foreign agencies(or companies) for related products or technologies. The number of papers presented in the meetings fluctuates between 200 and 250, and the number of attendees are more than 500. Each meeting is prepared and executed by an Organizing Committee formed for that meeting and headed by one of the Vice Presidents of the KSNVE. These meetings, with a reasonable registration fees, are open primarily to the members, but non-members can also attend by paying more.

The atmosphere is clearly festive. Recently, family programs are being created as a way of enhancing such a festive mood, as well as to increase members' interest for the meetings and the KSNVE in general. The tactic appears to be working well, because some members claim that "their status in home has been upgraded" after their families attended the meetings. Really? It is up to you to believe it or not. Anyway, the meetings always provide good opportunities where the participants can easily mingle together for the exchange of information and get the experience for the most recent technology on site. It also provides an comfortable and relaxing environment where the participants can get acquainted each other easily and enhance their personal relations.

2) Technical meetings(TC meetings)

There are four Technical Committees(TC) at the moment. They are Committees for the Environment, Construction, General Machinery and Transport Machinery. Each TC usually holds one meeting for a year. However, these meetings are not for the general presentation of papers by the ordinary members. Each of the TC meetings carry its own subject, and the papers for this subject are presented by authors designated by the Committee. Thus, these meetings are intended to provide more in-depth discussions for specified subjects, which may not easily dealt with in the general Annual Meetings. Some popular subjects attract nearly 200 participants. But the attendees for the TC meetings usually number between 50 and 100.

3) Tutorial(or Training) courses

As a way of enhancing the technical competence of the general personnel involved in noise and vibration problems in Korea, the KSNVE provides special training courses for selected topics. It is given irregular basis whenever a need arises, and open to the general public. This program has become popular recently, and attracts around 100

attendees usually.

4) Consultations(including contract R&D)

The KSNVE conducts occasional consultations for the industry and public agencies for their effort to solve their noise or vibration problems. Upon receiving the request, the KNVE, through the Technical Committees, organizes a group of experts in the relevant technical field, and commissions them to carry out the duty. It often takes a few weeks, including the site visits, until the final report is ready. When the problem is deemed to require a rather extensive study, this leads to the contract R&D. The process for the contract R&D is similar to that for the simple consultations except for the extended period of activities.

5) International activities

Although the KSNVE intensified its international activities only recently, it has a long history of involvement in international activities despite its relatively late birth. The KSNVE became a member of the I-INCE in 1994, and has since been a faithful member of it. It also joined the IIAV(International Institute of Acoustics and Vibration) in 1997. In 1994, the KSNVE co-sponsored the fifth WESTPRAC together with ASK. Also in 1997, it co-sponsored the Asia-Pacific Vibration Conference '97 together with the Korea Society of Mechanical Engineering. The biggest success story, however, must be its successful undertaking of the Inter-noise 2003 in Jeju. The KSNVE commissioned many of its members for preparing and executing this event with a bit of financial help, and the result was praised by many in the world as one of the most successful Inter-noise. The KSNVE is strongly committed to further its role in bringing world's experts ever closer and promoting their cooperations.

4. Concluding Remarks

I want to take this occasion to personally congratulate Prof. Tachibana for being elected the President of the I-INCE. His successful career as an acoustics expert must have been the decisive factor behind this achievement. However, it may not be denied that his strong supporting background played a role as well. In this regard, the INCE/JAPAN deserves much credit for his achievement too.

Now, the new President faces a tough job to promote the cause of the I-INCE further. He needs faithful supporters and close collaborators to accomplish this job. He does not need to search for these from too far away. He can find ideal partners near him, the KSNVE and ASK. Especially, the KSNVE is ideally poised to collaborate with him. Such collaboration is also the very spirit of the KSNVE in promoting its role in international affairs. With the technical expertise and experience accumulated during many years, and with a solid background supported by many faithful members, the KSNVE is looking for an even bigger future, and this future includes a world where the KSNVE plays an ever bigger role.