

## **A Personal History of Noise/News International and International INCE**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Below is a brief history of the International Institute of Noise Control Engineering (International INCE or I-INCE) and the magazine *Noise/News International* based on the author's memory of events—some of which took place more than 30 years ago. It is not intended to be a definitive history of the organization or the magazine, but is a narrative of some of the important milestones that made the organization and its magazine what they are today.

### **NOISE/NEWS AND THE BEGINNINGS OF INTER-NOISE**

In 1971, the Institute of Noise Control Engineering (INCE/USA) was incorporated after many meetings and discussions of the need for a professional organization devoted to noise control engineering. In January of 1971 a group of American professionals met at Arden House in Harriman, New York, USA to discuss the formation of a new professional organization. It was voted to proceed with the founding of what was to become INCE/USA. The incorporation took place in June, and the first meeting of an interim Board of Directors was held in October. The organization needed some sort of a publication, and I volunteered to produce a newsletter, which I named *Noise/News*. The newsletter was to be published bimonthly, and the first issue was dated January-February, 1972. *Noise/News* was distributed at a January, 1972 organizational meeting of INCE/USA at Arden House, and we offered annual subscriptions. I remember returning from Arden House with nine subscribers! As will be seen, *Noise/News* was the one of the predecessors of *Noise/News International*.

At the October meeting mentioned above, it was agreed that an international conference should be held in 12 months, and, at the suggestion of my long-time colleague, Dr. William (Bill) Lang, it was called INTER-NOISE. The first meeting in Washington, DC, USA was organized with Professor Malcom Crocker as General Chair, and was quite successful.

Through Bill Lang's friendship with the late Professor Fritz Ingerslev, the second INTER-NOISE was arranged and held at the Technical University of Denmark in Lyngby, Denmark the following summer. Professor Ingerslev was the General Chair, and the host was the Danish Acoustical Society. The plan was to have INTER-NOISE in the USA in even-numbered years, and in other countries in odd-numbered years.

### **THE FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL INCE**

The founders of INCE/USA had a vision of an international organization that would consist of acoustical societies and institutes of noise control engineering. It was, in my view, the recognition that a new international organization should determine the location of the INTER-NOISE conferences when held outside the USA which led to the formation of International INCE.

Professor Ingerslev announced the formation of International INCE at the end of the opening plenary session of INTER-NOISE 74 in Washington, D.C., USA on September 30, 1974. He said that "The discussion held between the general chairmen and other organizers of the previous INTER-NOISE conferences has proved that the time is right for the formation of the International Institute of Noise Control Engineering...The purposes of the Institute comprise:

- The organization of international conferences,

- the informational exchange of information and news items,
- the promotion of international cooperation in research on noise control,
- the application of techniques for the control of noise, and
- the development of interdisciplinary contacts between noise control engineering and other fields of work"

He concluded the announcement by "...asking all of you to assist International INCE. Your support is very important if International INCE is to serve for the benefit of mankind."

The organization was established on the basis of Swiss civil law with October 1, 1974 as the date of establishment.

International INCE then became the sponsor of the INTER-NOISE series and determined its location each year. It was through the efforts of Fritz Ingerslev, Bill Lang, Dr. Eric Rathé, and others that International INCE was founded in 1974. Professor Ingerslev was elected president, and Dr. Rathé became the secretary general. INTER-NOISE 74 was a success, and plans were made to hold INTER-NOISE 75 in Sendai, Japan—the second INTER-NOISE held outside the USA and the first in the Asia-Pacific Region. That meeting was also successful—mainly through the efforts of the late Professor Tadamoto Nimura who was the general chair and Ken'iti Kido who arranged the technical program. The meeting was attended by 600 persons from Japan and other countries. Forty four invited papers and 99 contributed papers were presented, and a 741-page book of proceedings was published. All of the papers were presented in English, and simultaneous translation into Japanese was provided in all technical sessions.

The INTER-NOISE conferences (now called congresses) have been held each year; the leaders and the sponsoring organizations are shown in Table 1.

### **INTERNATIONAL INCE COMMUNICATIONS**

Shortly after the founding of I-INCE, it was recognized that the organization also needed a means to communicate, and Eric Rathé volunteered to be the editor of the *International INCE Newsletter*. I worked with him and supplied information of international interest from the INCE/USA publication, *Noise/News*. Eric also volunteered to assist with the organization of the third INTER-NOISE held outside the USA, and it was held in Zürich, Switzerland in 1977 with Dr. Ernst Rothauser as General Chair. Eric served as Chair of the technical program.

### **THE MEMBER SOCIETIES OF I-INCE**

It was mainly through the efforts of Professor Ingerslev that the number of Member Societies of International INCE grew through the 1970s and well into the 1980s. His connections with leaders of acoustical societies throughout the world and his outstanding efforts over the years in convincing these leaders to have their societies join the organization was vital to its success. He opened every INTER-NOISE congress from 1973 through 1987, and at the time he retired as president, on December 31, 1987, the organization had 29 Member Societies.

### **THE LAUNCH OF *NNI***

In 1992, Bill Lang and I attended INTER-NOISE 92, which was held in Toronto, Canada. The technical publication of INCE/USA, *Noise Control Engineering Journal (NCEJ)*, edited by Professor Crocker was, thanks to his dedicated efforts for almost 20 years, a very successful technical publication, but was having difficulty attracting advertisers. This problem was recognized by the INCE/USA Board of Directors, but no action was agreed upon. After the meeting, Bill Lang and I discussed the situation, and

we concluded that it would be of benefit to both International INCE and INCE/USA to combine *Noise/News* and the *International INCE Newsletter*, and to launch a new publication. Copies of the International INCE newsletter had been distributed to the Member Societies of International INCE for many years as a benefit of membership, so it was clear that the new publication would immediately have a large circulation. It was hoped that the new publication would produce advertising income—necessary to cover the costs of what was proposed to be a significant improvement in both news coverage and appearance. We selected the name *Noise/News International (NNI)*, and, since INCE/USA would have primary financial responsibility, proposed a quarterly magazine to the INCE/USA Board at its meeting in the fall of 1992. We had discussed composition, layout, advertising, and printing with a publications group in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and the manager, Patricia Walker agreed to help us with the project if approved.

There was a long discussion in the INCE/USA Board, especially because the approval would mean dropping advertising in *NCEJ*. Eventually, a vote was taken and the same number of directors voted *for* as voted *against*. Under American procedures, the president makes the decision in the event of a tie, and John Van Houten, 1992 INCE/USA president said "OK, go ahead." That decision was soon approved by I-INCE, and the launch of *NNI* was set for the March 1993 issue. There have been few changes in editorial style over the past 12 years, but a major change in graphics design took place beginning in 2003 with the move of composition and layout services from the IEEE to the INCE/USA Business Office at Iowa State University.

## **THE EVOLUTION OF I-INCE**

Bill Lang was the second president of I-INCE, and served from 1988 through 1999. It was under his leadership that several innovations took place:

- The I-INCE General Assembly was formed. The effect of this new organization has been to give the member societies much more of a voice in the activities of the organization.
- Technical Study Groups were formed to study and report on topics of international interest. Three very important studies have been published to date,<sup>1,2,3</sup> and it is expected that several more reports will be ready for approval by the General Assembly in the next few years.
- The number of directors of I-INCE was increased, and several new vice presidents were appointed.
- A Congress Selection Committee was established.
- A web site on the Internet was established.

The organization was very effectively led by Professor Tor Kihlman in the years 2000-2003. The Congress Selection Committee rules and procedures were implemented, members were appointed, and decisions were made. Another new and important innovation was the establishment of Technical Sections. Establishment of these Sections will further broaden the participation of many individuals in the activities of I-INCE—especially in the planning of future INTER-NOISE Congresses and the identification of new and developing technologies in noise control engineering. Thanks to the efforts of the present Secretary General, Robert Bernhard, a much improved web site on the Internet was established under Tor's guidance.

At the end of Professor Kihlman's term, I-INCE had 48 Member Societies. This includes societies in 38 countries and Member Societies covering both Europe and several countries in South America. A complete listing may be found on the I-INCE site on the Internet, [www.i-ince.org](http://www.i-ince.org).

In 2004, Professor Hideki Tachibana, became president—the first president from Japan. The Board of Directors and the Member Societies of International INCE can look forward to his outstanding leadership in the years to come.

## **REFERENCES**

1. **I-INCE PUBLICATION 01-1. FINAL REPORT – NOISE EMISSIONS OF ROAD VEHICLES – EFFECT OF REGULATIONS.** Draft report published for comments in *Noise/News International*, **3**, 82-113, 1995. The final report was distributed at INTER-NOISE 2001 and published in the 2001 September issue of *Noise/News International*.
2. **I-INCE PUBLICATION 99-1. FINAL REPORT – TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NOISE WALLS.** Approved by the General Assembly of I-INCE on 1998.11.15 and the final report was published in *Noise/News International*, **7**, 137-161, 1999.
3. **I-INCE PUBLICATION 97-1. FINAL REPORT – TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF UPPER LIMITS ON NOISE IN THE WORKPLACE.** Approved by the Board of Directors of I-INCE on 1997.08.23 and the final report was published in *Noise/News International*, **5**, 203-216, 1997.

**Table 1. INTER-NOISE Congresses held since 1972.**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>City, Country</b>	<b>Congress President</b>	<b>Host Society</b>
1	1972	Washington, USA	M.J. Crocker	INCE/USA
2	1973	Copenhagen, Denmark	F. Ingerslev	DAS
3	1974	Washington, USA	J.C. Johnson	INCE/USA
4	1975	Sendai, Japan	T. Nimura	ASJ
5	1976	Washington, US	P.K. Baade	INCE/USA
6	1977	Zurich, Switzerland	E.H. Rothauser	I-INCE
7	1978	San Francisco, USA	W.W. Lang	INCE/USA
8	1979	Warsaw, Poland	S. Czarnecki	PAN
9	1980	Miami, USA	G.C. Maling	INCE/USA
10	1981	Amsterdam, Netherlands	V.M.A. Peutz	NAG
11	1982	San Francisco, USA	J.G. Seebold	INCE/USA
12	1983	Edinburgh, UK	E.J. Richards	IoA
13	1984	Honolulu, USA	W.W. Lang	INCE/USA
14	1985	Munich, Germany	E. Zwicker	VDI
15	1986	Cambridge, USA	R.H. Lyon	INCE/USA
16	1987	Beijing, China	D.Y. Maa	AS
17	1988	Avignon, France	J. Mattei	SFA
18	1989	Newport Beach, USA	G.C. Maling	INCE/USA
19	1990	Gothenburg, Sweden	T. Kihlman	SAS
20	1991	Sydney, Australia	A. Lawrence	AAS
21	1992	Toronto, Canada	T.F.W. Embleton	CAA
22	1993	Leuven, Belgium	A. Cops	ABAV
23	1994	Yokohama, Japan	M. Koyasu	INCE/J & ASJ
24	1995	Newport Beach, USA	A.H. Marsh	INCE/USA
25	1996	Liverpool, UK	B. Berry	IoA
26	1997	Budapest, Hungary	A. Illenyi	OPAKFI
27	1998	Christchurch, New Zealand	H. Marshall	NZAS
28	1999	Fort Lauderdale, USA	D. Yeager, J. Cuschieri	INCE/USA
29	2000	Nice, France	M. Vallet, C. Legros	SFA
30	2001	The Hague, The Netherlands	T. ten Wolde	NAG
31	2002	Dearborn, USA	R. Singh	INCE/USA
32	2003	Seogwipo, Korea	H. J. Eun	KSNVE, ASK
33	2004	Prague, Czech Republic	J. Novák	CAS

**Future Congresses**

INTER-NOISE 05, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2005 August 6-10

INTER-NOISE 06, Honolulu, USA 2006 December 3-6