

## **Report on Underwater Acoustics Technical Committee Meeting**

162<sup>nd</sup> Acoustical Society of America Meeting, October 31 – November 4, 2011, San Diego

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The meeting was called to order Thursday, November 3 at 7:30 pm. After briefly reviewing activities from Seattle and San Diego, the meeting proceeded to the evening's three main topics: the Hong Kong meeting, preparations for the Kansas City and Montreal meetings, and new business.

### **Hong Kong**

Material from the Call for Abstracts was highlighted. The requirement for preregistration when submitting an abstract was stressed, as was the newly reduced rate (\$200) for the submission of a second abstract. It seemed generally accepted that preregistration for an international meeting is reasonable because it would discourage people who had no intention to attend from submitting abstracts. Not surprisingly, the supplement for submitting a second abstract was not popular. Discounts for students and recent graduates were detailed.

The issue of Keynote Speakers was discussed. The committee felt it was highly unlikely that a Keynote Speaker would be selected from UW. If UW was selected, then a capable speaker could be produced.

The TPOM rep for Hong Kong (D. Rouseff) was identified. Session organizers were encouraged to contact the TPOM rep with requests. The status for each of the seven planned Hong Kong Special Sessions was then discussed:

- **Advances in Underwater Acoustic Communication and Networking:** The session has approximately 8 Invited Speakers from North America, 6 from China, and one each from Singapore and Japan.
- **Rough Interface Scattering from Ocean Boundaries:** The Session Organizer said there had been a disappointing lack of input from her Chinese counterpart. The only Invited Speakers are from North America.
- **Sediment Acoustics on Continental Shelves:** No comments.
- **Session in Honor of Barry Uscinski:** Session Organizers reported that the European Conference on Underwater Acoustics (ECUA) will have a special session honoring Dr. Uscinski at their meeting in July in Edinburgh. They felt that the ECUA was a better venue for honoring Dr. Uscinski who was based in Cambridge, particularly since they were having a hard time getting invited speakers to commit to Hong Kong. Session withdrawn in deference to the ECUA.
- **Time Series Analysis and Data Processing:** Two invited speakers from Asia, several from North America.
- **Underwater Acoustics in Marginal Seas:** Difficulty getting North American invited speakers to commit to Hong Kong. No invited speakers from Asia.
- **Waveguide Invariance:** Five invited speakers, two of whom have agreed to submit. Email sent to Chinese co-organizer with no response.

*Comment:* In general, there is a lack of coordination between Session Organizers from the ASA and their Chinese counterparts. It seems like many of these sessions were proposed without first identifying a specific Chinese co-chair and then developing a joint plan for the session. Offline, the fear was expressed that this would be like any other ASA meeting with the same speakers speaking to the same audience except that everyone will have gone half way around the world to do it.

### **Kansas City and Montreal**

It was noted that no book of Abstracts would be mailed before the Kansas City meeting. The TPOM Rep for Kansas City was identified as David Dowling, Univ. of Michigan.

No Special Sessions for either meeting had been proposed previously, so this topic took up most of the discussion.

From the Signal Processing (SP) TC Meeting, the suggestion was made that UW take the lead on a session in Kansas City with tentative title “Random Matrix Theory.” Jim Preisig and John Buck would be the organizers. Drs. Preisig and Buck have been contacted to suggest a better title and a descriptive sentence. SP would take the lead on the session “Cognitive approaches to wave propagation” with UW as co-sponsor.

For Montreal, two sessions were proposed with UW as the lead: “Acoustic Channel Modeling for Underwater Communications” (Mike Porter and Jim Preisig, organizers) and “Acoustic tracking using compressive sensing” (Geoff Edelmann). Prospective sessions with SP as lead: “Sparse techniques for acoustic signal processing” (may be some overlap with Edelmann’s proposed session), “Time frequency signal processing,” “Nearfield holography,” and “Methods for localization and tracking in low SNR situations.” Prospective sessions with AO as lead: “Polar acoustics” (John Colosi as placeholder for Peter Worchester, and Juan Arevelo) and “Memorial Session for Bob Chapman” (Ross Chapman).

### **New Business**

Susan Blaeser, Standards Manager, gave a presentation on “Scope of ISO/TC 43/SC 3.” Ms. Blaeser announced UW member George Frisk as proposed chair of the new committee. The TC seemed highly engaged with the topic and there was a nice discussion.

Alex Sell reported from the Student Committee.

Four upcoming international meetings were announced. Representatives for the “3<sup>rd</sup> Int. Conference on Ocean Acoustics” (Beijing, 21-25 May 2012) and the “Pacific Rim Underwater Acoustics Conference” (Hangzhou, October 2013) made brief comments.

Highlights of the Editor-in-Chief’s report were reviewed.

The proposal for the then-called “Summer School” was discussed. Questions were raised about the cost and the frequency of such schools. Several people, including the Student Committee rep, felt the money might be better spent providing travel support to students. A comment in favor of the proposal came from someone who had attended the Physical Acoustics summer

school as a student and felt that it was a formative event in his career. A majority of the committee either opposed the idea or felt that they needed more information.

Arthur Popper's proposal for developing a web site ([www.aquaticnoise.org](http://www.aquaticnoise.org)) was discussed. The site would "bring together the complete literature (peer-reviewed, gray, reports, etc.) on effects of noise on aquatic life and related topics on one searchable site." Dr. Popper requests that the ASA contribute \$10,000 per year for three years in support of the site. The unanimous opinion of the TC was that this is a bad idea and would set a bad precedent.

Eligible Associate Members of the ASA were encouraged to convert to full membership.

The subject of "refreshments" at future ASA meetings was discussed. The TC was made aware that the current system, with TC Chair providing the refreshments and then being reimbursed by the ASA, is no longer tenable. It was felt that the TC could show more discretion by procuring refreshments more discreetly, paying for its own refreshments voluntarily, and then cleaning up the room after the meeting.

The end of Lisa Zurk's term as UW Chair with the Hong Kong meeting was announced. TC members were encouraged to email Dr. Zurk with suggestions for the next chair as well as recommending new committee members.

The meeting ended shortly after 9:00 pm.