

# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOUND

2020



## Importance of Sound for Society and the World

Outcome of UNESCO resolution 39C/59

*The importance of sound in today's world:*

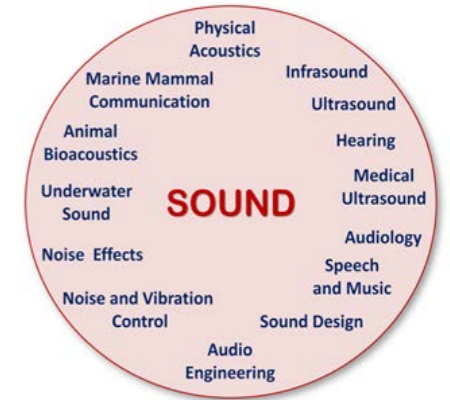
*Promoting best practices*

[www.sound2020.org](http://www.sound2020.org)



**MISSION** The International Year of Sound 2020 (IYS 2020) follows as an important contribution to the UNESCO Charter of Sound and resolution 39C/59 on the importance of sound in today's world - promoting best practices. The Year is an initiative of the International Commission for Acoustics (ICA) and the Week of Sound (La Semaine du Son – LSdS), to highlight the importance of sound in all aspects of life on earth. The activities during the year will aim to raise an understanding of sound-related issues at the international, national and local levels.

The sound environment is so important that it shapes our personal and collective behaviour. Sound is an integral part of culture and society from the basic requirements for communication, awareness of our environment, and expression of our culture through to sophisticated scientific and technological instruments. While some sound is beneficial, human beings and other living organisms are both dependent on, and agents of, an environment that makes increasing use of sound and at increasingly high and continuous harmful noise levels. In addition, the intensification of urbanization, as well as the increasing traffic in our oceans and our sky can make the soundscape a matter of concern for professionals and citizens,



The IYS 2020 consists of coordinated activities on regional, national and international levels. These activities aim to stimulate the understanding and awareness throughout the world of the important role that sound and hearing plays in all aspects of our society. The IYS 2020 provides a focus that will encourage transfer of knowledge on creating, controlling, hearing and using sound in nature, in the built environment and in all aspects of our life.

**MOTIVATION** Sound plays an important role in all human activities and applications of acoustics are found in almost all aspects of modern society. Sound is an essential part of communication between humans and culture - in the form of speech, in music and creative sounds. It also plays an important part in safety when sound provides the warnings of danger.

References to sound can be found throughout history. Before 6000 B.C., water wave designs had already appeared on potteries of the Yangshao culture. Throughout the centuries, the creative and cultural aspects of sound have been integral to society. The traditions and laws have been passed through generations via stories music and dance. Even today oral histories play an important part in modern societies.

The technological developments in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries allowed for the collection of sound by microphones in the air and hydrophones under water. This opened opportunities for the analysis of sound and the development of passive and active noise production and control techniques. Into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, exciting new areas for the application of studies of sound include High Intensity Focussed Ultrasound (HIFU) for medical applications and low frequency sound detected from space which can identify earthquakes.

Sound will continue to be an essential part of society. The motivation for the application for the International Year of Sound is to create a worldwide awareness of the role of sound and vibration in all aspects of our life and in nature.

**Founding sponsors**



**Supporting Organizations**



**ICA** is affiliated with the International Science Council (ISC) the International Unions of Pure and Applied Physics and of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUPAP and IUTAM) and is the primary organisation for the national and affiliated organisations that focus on the varied aspects of acoustics, i.e., all aspects of sound and vibration. The ICA promotes international development and collaboration in all fields of acoustics including research, development, education, and standardization. The ICA comprises 52 national organisations. The individual national society memberships range from hundreds to ten thousand. As well, the ICA also represents 8 international affiliated organizations. [www.icacommission.org](http://www.icacommission.org)



**La Semaine du Son** (LSdS) was founded in 1998 and chaired by Christian Hugonnet. Since 2004, the association organizes one week of events to introduce the public a better knowledge of five elements of sound: the sound environment; sound and health; sound recording, reproduction and conservation technology; image and sound; musical and sound expression. La Semaine du Son is either present or has been present in the following countries: Argentina, Armenia, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay, and Venezuela. [www.lasemaineduson.org](http://www.lasemaineduson.org)



**Organisation** The ICA is organising central events such as the opening in Paris in January 2020, an international competition for school children and a film highlighting the importance of sound to our life. National and international societies and organisations are hosting local and regional events focussed on increasing the awareness of the importance of sound in today's world. All these events are listed in the website of the IYS 2020: [www.sound2020.org](http://www.sound2020.org)