

THE CONFERENCE NOISE CONTROL 98

The 11-th International Conference on Protection Against Noise named Noise Control 98 was held in Krynica on June 2–4, 1998. The conference was arranged by the Acoustic Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Polish Acoustic Society, the Department of Mechanics and Vibroacoustics of the University of Mining and Metallurgy, the Central Institute for Labour Protection and the Building Research Institute.

The Conference was patronized by:

- the Rektor of the University of Mining and Metallurgy,
- the Minister of National Education,
- the Environment Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry,
- the Minister for Labour and Social Policy.

178 participants from Poland and 13 other countries took part in the conference. The following plenary lectures were given:

1. Z. ENGEL, *Noise Control in Poland in the last half-century.*
2. I. MALECKI, *Scientific problems of Polish acoustics fifty years ago.*
3. A. ILLENYI, *Polish and Hungarian cooperation in acoustics in the last forty years.*
4. H. TACHIBANA, *Current situation and future topics of road traffic noise problem in Japan.*
5. S. MARCUS, *The role of damping in noise and vibration control technology.*
6. J. SADOWSKI, *Acoustical plans as an instrument by means of town-planning and traffic organization solution.*
7. Y. GABILLET, J. ROLAND, *Traffic noise prediction model for built-up or open area.*
8. J. BLAUERT, *Fundamental of binaural technology for noise assessment.*
9. G. MAKAREWICZ, W. ZAWIESKA, *Computer system for hazards registration and risk assessment.*

Beside the plenary session, 10 other sessions took place in that 62 papers were presented. Poster sessions (17 papers) are a tradition of the Polish conferences on protection against noise. In the plenary session, a few minutes were given to each author of a poster for the introduction in the problem of his paper.

The large interest in the poster session as well as the long discussions in front of the posters evidence the need of those session.

The topics of the sessions were divided into 10 groups:

1. Fundamental and general problems

2. Noise at work
3. Environmental noise
4. Transportation noise
5. Tire/road noise
6. Protection against noise
7. Active methods
8. Vibration
9. Measurement and analysis
10. Economic problems

“50 years of Noise Control in Poland” indicate the long period of scientific activity and was the motto of the Eleventh International Conference on Noise Control 98.

The year 1948 is considered to be beginning of different kinds of activities aiming at the protection of the work environment and the people's dwellings against noise. The works of Prof. I. MALECKI, especially his book *Building acoustics* edited in 1948, initiated 50 years of scientific and technological studies as well as legislative efforts connected with noise and vibration control.

Admittedly, the first measurements of municipal noise were performed already 65 years ago in Warszawa, Kraków and Vilnius. Some limited measures of diminishing noise were undertaken during the 2-nd World War but only on a very small scale.

In 1948, the education of students in electroacoustics was established (Prof. Z. ŻYSZKOWSKI). Several chairs and departments have been organized, among others: the Laboratory of Electroacoustics at the Technical University in Wrocław (Prof. Z. ŻYSZKOWSKI), the Chair of Electroacoustics at the Technical University in Warszawa (Prof. I. MALECKI) and the Laboratory of Acoustics developed later into the Department of Acoustics and Vibration Theory at the A. Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Professors: M. KWIEK, E. KARAŚKIEWICZ, H. RYFFERT).

The Department of Vibration Research organized in the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research (I. MALECKI, S. ZIEMBA, S. CZARNECKI, J. RANACHOWSKI), the Central Institute for Labour Protection (C. PUZYNA) and the Institute of Building Technology (J. SADOWSKI) have also investigated the problems of diminishing noise and vibration.

Several other institutes and chairs have contributed to the curtail of noise and vibration hazards: the Chair of Mechanical Technology at the University of Mining and Metallurgy (Professors: S. ZIEMBA, W. BOGUSZ, Z. ENGEL), the Main Mining Institute (Dr. MALINOWSKI, Prof. A. LIPOWCZAN).

The Polish Acoustic Association and the Committee of Acoustics of the Polish Academy of Sciences were established in the years 1963 and 1964, respectively.

Conferences on Noise and Vibration Control have been organized since 1964, at first on the national level and later on (since 1976) as international NOISE CONTROL conferences.

The first programs of noise control (the Government Resolution No 169, 1971) as well as first legal acts dealing with that problem were formulated. In 1987, the first reports concerning the noise hazard in Poland were prepared.

Modern and well equipped acoustic laboratories were organized gradually in many scientific institutions and national research programs enabled several basic and applied investigations concerning the lowering of the noise level in Poland.

In my lecture, I am presenting institutions dealing with noise and vibrations: universities, trade institutes, associations and organizations. I am discussing scientific and technological research and achievements, educational programs and publications together with organizational and legal acts necessary for an effective policy of noise and vibration control.

On the basis of several available reports, I have tried to characterize the up to date situation regarding the noise and vibration hazard in Poland.

The main sources of noise pollution are: road traffic, air services and industry. It has been estimated that a substantial part of the country (approx. 21%) is polluted by traffic noise and 33% of the total population is subjected to an equivalent noise level (i.e. to a level higher than 60 dB). Approx. 330 000 industry workers are endangered by excessive noise doses.

The direction and the spectrum of activities which should be undertaken in the environment protection against noise in order to improve the situation have been shown.

By the year 2000, most of the reasons of the environment deterioration should be cleared away and by the year 2010, an improvement in the acoustic climate is expected.

Several monographs and a large number of scientific papers on that subject have been published in Poland.

In this issue of the Archives of Acoustics, there are published a few papers presented at the conference NOISE CONTROL 98.

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