

Invitation

The 11th International Congress on Noise as a Public Health Problem (ICBEN 2014) will be held in Nara, Japan from June 1st to June 5th, 2014 under the auspices of the International Commission on Biological Effects of Noise with co-organization of the Institute of Noise Control Engineering of Japan and the Acoustical Society of Japan. This will be the first ICBEN Congress in Asia. The Congress venue will be Nara Prefectural New Public Hall located in the center of Nara Park surrounded by temples and shrines designated as the world cultural heritage sites.

NARA, an ancient capital of Japan The small city of Nara (population 350,000) is the capital of Nara Prefecture and about one hour away from Osaka and Kyoto by train. In the 8th century it was Japan's capital and as such has many temples and shrines that have been designated as world cultural heritage sites. The congress venue is located in one of Nara's world heritage sites. Nara is regarded as the easternmost terminal on the Silk Road, which conveyed various Western and Eastern cultures to Japan. The many statues and world heritage sites demonstrate the influence of these distant cultures: Todaiji Temple (the largest wooden building in the world), Kofukuji Temple, Toshodaiji Temple, Yakushiji Temple and Horyuji Temple (the oldest surviving wooden structure in the world and the first world heritage site in Japan). In addition to these world heritage sites, there are attractive spots and traditional townscapes near the venue such as Kasuga Taisha Shrine and Nara Machi (the historic section of Nara City).

Technical Program International Commission on Biological Effects of Noise (ICBEN) consists of nine International Noise Teams under the executive committee:

Team 1 (Noise-induced hearing loss)

Team 2 (Noise and communication)

Team 3 (Non-auditory effects of noise)

Team 4 (Influence of noise on performance and behavior)

Team 5 (Effects of noise on sleep)

Team 6 (Community response to noise)

Team 7 (Noise and animals)

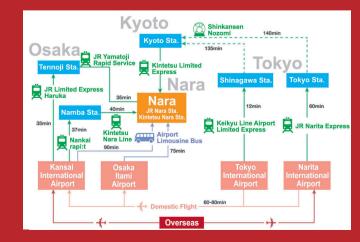
Team 8 (Interactions with other agents and contextual factors)

Team 9 (Policy and economics)

The present ICBEN officers and the team chairs will establish the program.

## Congress Venue Nara Prefectural

New Public Hall will be the congress venue. The opening/closing ceremonies and plenary sessions will use "Noh (Japanese classical drama)" Theater in the venue. The parallel and poster sessions will be held in the Noh Theater and Meeting Rooms.



**Key dates** Important dates are tentatively set as:

Deadline for abstract submission: December 15, 2013
Notification of acceptance: February 1, 2014
Deadline for full paper submission: April 1, 2014
Deadline for early registration: April 15, 2014

**Registration** The registration fee will cover welcome and farewell parties, attending the opening, closing ceremonies and all sessions, coffee breaks and lunch as well as a CD-ROM of the full papers. The registration fees have been set as:

Early Late and on-site

Delegate 60,000 JPY 70,000 JPY

Student 30,000 JPY 35,000 JPY

Accompanying person 10,000 JPY

Congress chair: Prof. Takashi Yano, Proceeding editor: Dr. Shigenori Yokoshima, Publicity chair: Dr. Makoto Morinaga, Sponsorship manager: Dr. Yasunao Matsumoto, Exhibition manager: Dr. Takeshi Akita, Subsidy manager: Prof. Tetsumi Sato, Congress treasurer: Dr. Masaaki Hiroe, International manager: Dr. Lawrence S. Finegold, Environmental management representative: Dr. Takashi Morihara, Advisor: Dr. Ichiro Yamada, Secretary General: Dr. Keiji Kawai Website: www.icben2014.com E-mail: secretariat@icben2014.com