

Preface

Noise in the working and living environment

Noise is one of the most common physical risks in the workplace. Long-term exposure to its high levels can pose a significant threat to workers' health, including hearing loss. According to the report State of the Environment in Poland 2011. Signals, trends in environmental noise indicate an increased risk of traffic noise as well as reduced growth or downwards trends in industrial noise. Noise seems to be the environmental factor that is the greatest nuisance. This issue of Archives of Acoustics is dedicated to the problems of noise; it brings full texts of selected papers presented at the XVI International Conference Noise Control 2013.

Noise Control is the most important international acoustics conference organized on a regular basis in Poland. The XVI International Conference Noise Control 2013 is taking place in Ryn, June 26–29, 2013. It is organized by the Central Institute for Labour Protection – National Research Institute (CIOP-PIB), the Committee on Acoustics of the Polish Academy of Sciences with the cooperation of the Department of Mechanics and Vibroacoustics of the AGH University of Science and Technology.

Patrons of the Conference:

- Minister of Labour and Social Policy,
- Chief Labour Inspector,

- Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection,
- President of the City of Olsztyn.

Plenary and special interest sessions focus on the results of activities in fundamental sciences, education, occupational safety and health management, and specific technical solutions involved in noise control. Outstanding foreign and Polish researchers are presenting their papers. Their abstracts can be found in this issue of the Archives of Acoustics, which all participants of the Conference have received.

I hope that readers will find these materials interesting, and that the problems of noise control will thus become more accessible.

An exhibition is taking place at the same time as the Conference; companies have an opportunity to present their latest achievements in measurement equipment and technical solutions for noise control.

The Organization Committee expresses its heartfelt thanks to members of the Scientific Committee of the Conference and referees for their effort and great involvement. Sincere thanks also go to Conference participants for accepting our invitation.

Wiktor M. Zawieska