

This newsletter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information Processing - Intersteno - and sent to all e-mail addresses of persons participating in the work of the members of Intersteno known to the Board. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent using the form on the web site www.intersteno.org. Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board.

北京 Beijing 2009 – The Organisation Committee is working well. 北京

According to a rough estimate over 700 participants are expected to attend the 47th Intersteno Congress in Beijing from 15th to 20th August 2009. This event, after this year's Olympic games, is the most important international meeting in China's capital city. .

The Organising Committee, under the direction of Mr. Tang Keliang, is making every effort to attract participants from all over the world and to offer interesting attractions.



Meeting in China with a few members of the Organising Committee



A wonderful meeting with Prof. Tang Yawei, 93 years old.

The Congress and competition fees will be the same as those proposed for the Congress in Prague, that is about 170 euros for the basic Congress fee and 30 euros for competition fees. Final figures will be in RMB (reminbi). The exchange rate suggests that 1 euro is about 10,8 reminbi while 1 dollar is equivalent to 6.83 reminbi.

The Congress and accommodation venues will be chosen from among the best available, and room rates are expected to range from 35 (***) up to 90 euros (****) per day per person.

In order to secure a relaxing stay in this capital city, the Organising Committee will suggest the best accommodation possible in relation to the congress venue so that traffic and language problems will be avoided and visitors will be able fully to enjoy the special flavour of this ancient and modern city.

The final programme of this event will be soon released on www.intersteno.org, with all relevant information.

A plan of the conferences will also be available.

The Scientific Committee is engaged in defining the guidelines for the speeches and the related

deadlines for submitting proposals. The deadline for paper will also be released in the coming months.

In order to give speakers enough time for a good presentation of their speeches, and allow sufficient time for questions, the Board has strongly recommended that no more than eight speeches should be integrated into the Congress programme.

The proposals (including an abstract of max.300 words in English) should be forwarded to the Scientific Committee by your national group or any other member of Intersteno.

Those papers that cannot be included in the daily reports of the conference can be published on our web site.

Professional reporters will have the opportunity to exchange views during the IPRS meeting which will take place on Sunday 15th and will be followed by a get-together lunch.

Registration for the Congress events will be possible from October 2008 on www.intersteno.org. Early registration is highly recommended.

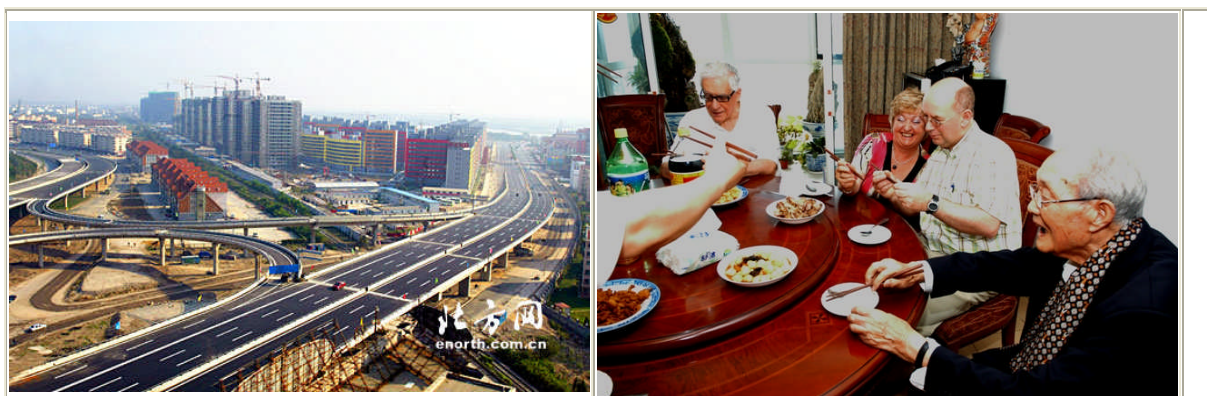
Additional information will be released also with special issues of our newsletter.

❖ impressions of Beijing during the meeting in June 2008 - ❖

As announced in the previous number of this e-newsletter, Georgette Sante, Danny Devriendt and Gian Paolo Trivulzio met our Chinese friends

From our arrival until the moment we left we were impressed by the attractive metropolis that is Beijing and especially by the kind hospitality of our Chinese friends at every moment, including a family lunch at the home of the Tang Yawei family (see photo above) and during a visit to the Beijing Shorthand Association headquarters in the financial center of Beijing.

We had the opportunity to taste a great variety of Chinese local food, which was very delicious and we feel sure will satisfy all tastes in August 2009.



During the forthcoming congress we will be able to profit from the huge update of the transport facilities which are related to this year's Olympic Games. By using the subway you can easily reach the centre of the old town and many other famous places. Many signs are also given in the English language. Even if the majority of the Beijing citizens do not speak English well, they are ready to help you.

During our stay we had good weather, neither too hot nor too humid. Conditions in August will be comparable with the warm weather during our last congress in Europe. Most hotels are air-

conditioned and equipped with high-speed internet connections.

In our few free moments we learned that daily living in Beijing is rather cheap in comparison with other big cities. Food and transport are very cheap indeed

Many Chinese are training to take part in the different competitions that will be held. This will not only enlarge the total number of participants in the coming congress in Beijing but in future congresses. A total of 700 participants is forecasted.

In the coming months the Organising Committee and INTERSTENO will work on attractive packages for different budgets. Hotels will be selected in the neighbourhood of the congress venue and in locations that are easy to reach with public transport.

During our stay in China, we were honorary guests at the opening of the **International Shorthand Talent Development Summit Forum in Tianjin**. This important event showed us a professional congress organization in an attractive Chinese style.





"One world one dream". The Olympic motto could and should be the spirit of our coming INTERSTENO congress. Take the unique opportunity to come to Beijing!

Danny Devriendt

◆ **INTERNET CONTEST 2008 - 1249 competitors + 25,91 % over the previous year** ◆



The VIIth edition of this contest was again a big success, not only because of the increased quantity of participants but also in the light of the main goal of this Intersteno project which is indicated at the point 1 of the rules: *"To foster rational use of keyboarding, motivating young people to loyally compete with colleagues all over the world. Consequently Intersteno has made available training exercises (free of charge) in a lot of languages."*

Our other goal, which is unique, is to improve writing abilities in many different languages. In this we were completely successful since **254** competitors wrote in up to **16 different languages** an increase of **35,8 %** over the previous years.

Among the nations which showed a big presence we have to mention **Hungary, with 87 participants**. In 2007 only four competitors were Hungarian. On this occasion of the 87 Hungarian competitors **43** wrote in many languages.

This project is the result of huge efforts made by teachers, national representative and others who were able to motivate their students. Intersteno is not awarding prizes, apart from a diploma and medals for the best first three in each of the five age categories. While the results show very high speed and standards of accuracy were achieved, we must be proud of the results of the majority who loyally take part in this event and are able to reach the minimum speed of

200 characters per minute. This is already a professional result, taking into account the strong opposition that many 'low minded' persons and authorities are showing against rational keyboarding and which are hindering and demotivating many teachers and young people.

Intersteno owes many thanks to all supporters of this event, to those who constantly spread information at national level, help competitors during the competitions and improve the software for the various languages. A special thank to Helena Matouskova for her accurate and professional activity.

I hope that many of you will share the opinion that, apart from the important results mentioned here above, Intersteno has, for more than 5000 people, become a reality and a reference point in their lives.

Gian Paolo Trivulzio

♦ **DANIEL CHEN - the very first and excellent competitor from USA!** ♦

Daniel Chen did not know anything about Intersteno, but was regularly taking part, with excellent results, in competitions on the web site of the French group Dactylo-Zone.

So this year he took part in the Internet contest for the first time and was successful in 15 languages. You can see his results at www.intersteno.org - Internet contest - Classifications lists in the age category 17-20.

Here is his curriculum: we hope to welcome him in future contests and at the World Championship in Beijing.

"Next year, in the 2008-2009 school year, I will be a senior at Harvard College and will graduate in June 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and a Master of Arts degree in Statistics. To fulfil the requirements for the degree I have taken a wide range of courses relevant to my major, from international monetary and trade policy to stochastic processes, as well as a variety of general education courses in the liberal arts. I hope to travel to Europe in the summer of my graduation and subsequently work for a couple of years as a sales and trading professional in finance. I hope eventually to enter law school after developing a few years of work experience.



As for keyboarding, I knew how to touchtype at a very young age by practising the traditional 8/9-finger style for QWERTY on my old Apple IIc computer back in 1994. I could type English at 300 cpm when I was only six years old, and I started to play the piano when I was seven. This, of course, helped with my keyboarding as well. I more or less achieved the speed that I am at now when I was in middle school, in grade 7 (year 2000). For keyboarding, developing strong and independent fingers is especially important, particularly in the left hand, which is the weaker hand for most people. This weakness, often most pronounced in the 4th and 5th fingers, can be improved by practising Hanon piano exercises with regularity."

Daniel Chen

❖ NEWS FROM NATIONAL GROUPS OF INTERSTENO ❖

Germany



On 5th April the **Deutscher Stenografenbund** celebrated its 140 anniversary. A big and elegant meeting took place at the Hofbräuhaus in Munich.

The Bavarian Minister President, **Günther Beckstein** delivered a speech on this occasion. In the next issue of our e-news areport by Gregor Keller on this speech and event will appear.

Turkey

Two events were organised by the Turkish Group of Intersteno in order to spread information and motivate people to attend the next Congress and to deliver diplomas to the successful competitors in the Internet competition (national and international). This year the Turkish national competition was conducted with a multi-language formula using the same criteria as those of Intersteno.

The first of these events was a boat cruise on 25th May.

Additional info and photos can be seen at www.interstenoturk.com



Germany



About 30 members participated in the Assembly of the Intersteno group of Germany, which took place in Aachen on 15th June.

The meeting was attended also by Danny Devriendt, who reported on the trip to China. Discussions took place about participation in the Congress in Beijing, which about 40 people from Germany are expected to attend.

Decisions were taken about some items of agenda concerning improvement in Intersteno competitions and related proposals

Switzerland

Representatives of the three national associations forming Interinfo Suisse (ISSD - Veloscrittura - SSV) met in Sementina, near Bellinzona on 28th June. Discussions led to the formulation of the opinion of the Swiss group of Intersteno about proposals for competitions and related matters. At the next Council meeting in Tychy, Switzerland will be represented by Mauro Panzera.

Gian Paolo Trivulzio took part in the Swiss meeting t. He reported on

	the contacts for the organisation of the Congress in China, and gave his impressions of the recent visit to this country.
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◆ In Memoriam Horst Fish (Germany). ◆

On 5th May 2008 our dear friend and colleague Mr. Horst Fisch from Germany passed away after a long period of illness. For many years and at many congresses Horst Fisch worked as a very competent member of the keyboarding jury. He often participated as an expert at our Intersteno Central Committee meetings..

Horst Fisch was author of several books. He worked for the German Shorthand Association and was President of the renamed Akademie für Kurzschrift, Maschinenschreiben und Bürowirtschaft in Kiel.

Besides his professionalism we will remember especially the moments after a day of hard work with a good glass of wine.

Danny Devriendt

◆ Correspondence and minute-taking competition at the German Championships 2008. ◆

For the first time the correspondence and minute-taking competition (C & M) formed part of this year's German national championships in shorthand and word processing (Deutsche Meisterschaften, 30 April - 3 May 2008). The C & M competition was officially labelled as a try-out competition, but this was mainly due to organisational reasons, as this competition has already proven itself at the Intersteno level.



There were 25 participants in the German C & M competition. Fourteen of them were registered as users of technical means for taking down the dictation and/or afterwards transcribing it; 11 participants made use only of their pens in fulfilling these tasks. The theme of the dictation was the popular German sport of "wandern", the leisurely roaming through woods and fields.

The C & M competition requires first taking down a three-minute dictation of a letter and then a seven-minute dictation of a text that has to be summarised. The letter, which has to be transcribed literally, introduces the theme of the text to be summarised. This latter is a structured text, in which several aspects of the chosen theme are treated. It has a heading, indicating the main theme, and consists of several paragraphs each with its own heading, in which the selected sub-themes are expounded. All these headings, by the way, have to be transcribed verbatim; they are a guideline for the participants in distinguishing between matters of major and of minor importance while summarising.

The summary, together with all the headings, we call the minutes (summary report). The summary is written in a participant's own words and must contain the important aspects as mentioned in the paradigm (the model minutes), used for the correction. The more such important aspects a summary contains, the more credit points a participant collects. The number of words in each summarised paragraph may not be more than half the number of the words

dictated. When there are more words in a summary, the participant gets penalty points.

A trend we also see at the Intersteno level is that the C & M competition is not a competition for pupils, as making a summary report (taking the minutes) is an activity that requires some educational and practical background. It is, however, an activity that is very useful in working life, at all managerial levels. The C & M competition is an attractive competition for those who are being trained as secretaries or are already working in that capacity.

In this German C & M competition 22 participants (of whom two were juniors) met the minimum requirements and were registered as successful. The first reactions of participants and officials were predominantly positive. We hope that this competition will become a regular part of the "Deutsche Meisterschaften"!

Jan den Holder

♦ WHAT'S NEW ♦

The information given here is based upon reliable information gathered from various sources, but it is not intended to be advertising of products, services or producers.

CUNY Captioning Initiative

The City University of New York (CUNY) Captioning Initiative (CCI) brings together students, staff, research and new technologies to provide effective real-time CART services.

The initiative's framework is designed to create a college environment where all students who are deaf or hard of hearing and for whom CART services are the best and most appropriate accommodation, will have the tools and assistance they need to succeed.



CUNY's CCI will meet this goal by training prospective CART providers to provide total access and full integration.

The initiative brings together students, staff, research, and new technologies to provide effective real-time CART services through a holistic training environment, and is modelled after Interpreter Ethics.

Training consists of traditional whole group learning, on-line meetings, and required ongoing training throughout the first semester of CART provision. Prospective CART providers meet as a group in a classroom setting with co-facilitators Maryellen Smolka and Nicole Dory.

Prospective CART providers will be further required to engage in distance learning activities

through remote access software from home.

The distance learning component will extend beyond the scheduled class meeting dates through the first semester, when captionists provide captioning services for students.

Prospective CART providers must have access to a laptop, voice-to-text software, auxiliary technology and the Internet. Facilitators will implement a deliberately constructed collection of teaching strategies using textbooks, supplemental readings, classroom discussion, media, demonstrations, case studies, and role-play.

Dave Rogala

◆ **Université of Avignon (France) - Conférences sur le Traitement Automatique des Langues Naturelles.** ◆



Through the courtesy of **Mr. Terry Spriet**, who was the speaker for Intersteno at Langtech2008 in Rome, we became acquainted about this event held in Avignon from 9th to 13th June last.

It was the most important event in the field of language and writing processing for French languages and it brought together a scientific community focusing on an interdisciplinary approach to the science of language and its descriptions, both formal and computational aspects.

This event was held under the auspices of the 27th conferences of **JEP** ("*Journées d'Etudes sur la Parole*" = Word Study Days), the 15th conference of **TALN** ("*Traitement Automatique des Langues Naturelles*" = Automatic processing of natural languages) and the 10th **RECITAL** meeting of students and researcher of automatic language processing.

The reports cover a wide range of interesting topics, many of which are of interest to all persons involved in communication processing especially members of Intersteno.

You can see the list of these many reports at <http://www.lia.univ-avignon.fr/index.php?id=601>.

The texts of the reports will be made available within a short time

Microsoft Study Says Repetitive Strain Injury Costs \$600 Million



In a poll of more than 1,000 office workers, HR managers and office managers, new Microsoft research reveals that work-related repetitive strain injury (RSI) cases are at an all-time high.

RSI cases have increased by more than 30 percent in the last year, costing businesses over \$600 million in lost working hours and causing pain and debilitating discomfort to staff.

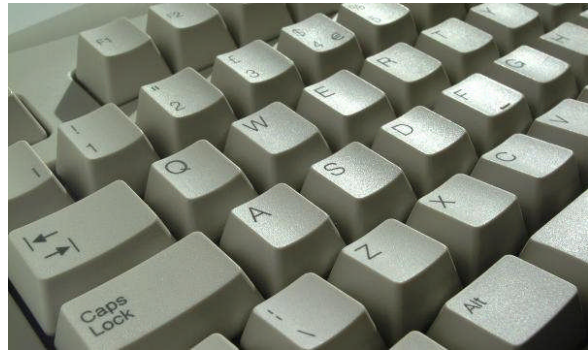
Microsoft blames the increasing trend of "mobile working." Mobile workers are defined as office-

based employees who used laptops and mobile devices on the road for an average of an hour more per day than they did over the last two years.

Microsoft found that 68 percent of office workers suffered from aches and pains, with the most common symptoms including back ache, shoulder pain and wrist/hand pain.

The humble keyboard is facing competition from touch and voice-recognition technology.

Dave Rogala informs us about an interesting article by Fran Molloy, published in the Australian newspaper **THE AGE**.



You can read the whole article, copying the following link in your web browser:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/articles/keys-to-change/2008/06/03/1212258832297.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap2>

Here is a summary of its content.

It was 1968 when Stanley Kubrick's film 2001: A Space Odyssey introduced HAL 9000 - the computer that "never made an error". It also didn't need a keyboard, interacting instead with humans through voice and video.

Keyboards, already in wide use then, have become ubiquitous in the internet age. And with Internet World Stats estimating that 1.35 billion humans are online (and about 3.3 billion have access to a mobile phone), it seems that in the digital age humans have replaced hunting and gathering with tapping and pecking.

Although there are many ways to enter data into a PC, the keyboard is still the one most widely used. But contenders such as touch, speech and handwriting recognition are closing the gap.

Although the rationale behind the qwerty keyboard has long been irrelevant, this traditional keyboard has survived the massive changes that have occurred in technology over the past century and now overwhelmingly dominates the computer world, with only a fraction of other alternatives in use.

David Spencer heads up Wacom in Australia. The company has grown over 25 years to become the world's biggest graphics tablet maker. But Mr Spencer freely admits they are not going to put keyboards out of business anytime soon. "If you're just putting words into a computer, it's fairly hard to beat a typewriter for accuracy, unlike things that are a little flakier such as handwriting and speech recognition," he says.

"If we're simply using our computer to reach a (web browser) or to do simple tasks - manipulating images where we don't need to write a lot, updating a document - you don't really need a keyboard," he says.

Certainly, touch-screen and handwriting technology is set to become more common. "Touching is the new seeing," Lev Grossman wrote in Time magazine last year. "It's part of a new way of relating to computers." He cited Nintendo's revolutionary Wii game console and Apple's iPod

touch and the touch-screen iPhone as key indicators.

Roope Raisamo, an expert in human-computer interaction at Finland's University of Tampere, says there are millions of users of palm organisers and smart mobile phones who prefer handwriting recognition.

With most of the world dependent on it, one might imagine that efficient use of the keyboard should be a universal skill but, strangely, it isn't.

Only a fraction of today's keyboard users can touch type. Even though 10-finger techniques were first promoted as far back as the 1880s, the reality is that most people, including office workers whose work involves typing, do so with just two fingers.

If qwerty is here to stay, shouldn't we be teaching touch-typing in primary schools?

Sue Bennett, a senior lecturer specialising in technology in education at the University of Wollongong, says most schools don't teach keyboard skills.

Most children learn to type through "discovery", she says. "They just work it out as they go along and some kids discover a more efficient way than others."

Despite the importance of handwriting, many people struggle with the tools of literacy, particularly those with physical disabilities. While many disabled people have embraced the keyboard as a replacement for handwriting, for others even the keyboard is inaccessible.

Rhodri Buttrick is a 17-year-old British student who is dyslexic and dyspraxic. Despite that, he is studying A-level English, history and philosophy. And he has built a website and internet radio station.

Reading and writing were always going to be difficult but his tech-savvy parents investigated alternatives and introduced Rhodri **to a PC and keyboard and then to voice-recognition software.**

"I spent a very long time learning to touch type," he says. "Typing is fine now for short paragraphs and notes only. For anything longer, I use speech recognition."

English teacher Margaret Neilsen has used speech-recognition software with learning-disabled children for years at a small, independent school in Tasmania. Ms Neilsen says when keyboards were first introduced in the classroom she was amazed to discover they did not transform her students' writing.

Ms Neilsen says voice-recognition software allows her disabled students to write their thoughts and then edit them into a structure - something that has revolutionised learning for many of them.

Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of these texts.

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