



enews-letter n. 38 - October 2009

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.

The 47th Congress in Beijing is over



On 20th August, Mr. **Tang Keliang** closed the week-long Congress, releasing the Intersteno Flag to the re-elected President **Gian Paolo Trivulzio**. This flag will travel through the continents to reach Paris where the 48th Congress is expected to take place in July 2011.

Ms. **Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux** and Mr. **Jean Charles Le Masson** will be leading the organization committee for this event.



The 47th Congress will long remain in the memory of those who had the privilege of taking part in it.

Here we will shortly recap what happened, not only for those who were unable to attend but for the benefit of those who, although present in Beijing, were not able to attend due to many concurrent events and the touristic attractions of this wonderful city.

Over 800 persons crowded the large Olympic Stadium Centre for the opening ceremony on August 15th, among whom were many Chinese teachers and students.

Speeches were released by:

- **Mr. Ni Guangnan**, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Director General of Chinese Information Processing Society of China
- **Mr. Gian Paolo Trivulzio**, President of Intersteno
- **Mr. Lian Zhengbao**, Former director of archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China
- **Mr. Li Qiang**, Director of Disabled Persons' Job Hunting Service Centre of China
- **Mr. Tang Keliang**, Chairman of INTERSTENO



To much applause Mr. **Tang Yawei**, the 94-year-old Father of Chinese Shorthand announced the opening of the Congress.

There followed a traditional Chinese show with exciting performances of dancers, kung-fu fighters and dragons and finally a welcome buffet.



At the end of the ceremony, the big hall was magically arranged in a very short time to accommodate over 200 competitors who were eager to follow with their laptops the instruction given on a big screen, and to find and test their seats for the next day's computer competitions.



Competitions



Nearly all Chinese competitors (mostly taking part for the first time in world-wide competitions) entered the text production, text correction and professional word processing competitions using the Yawei Sulu steno machines, thus proving the flexibility of this instrument to cope not only with the capturing of speech but with the various kinds of text production.



The speech capturing competitions took place the following day using traditional shorthand, steno machines, keyboarding and speech recognition technologies. Dictation was given in many languages, including Korean. Many competitors were able to release their transcripts in real-time immediately after dictation without any corrections or to follow dictation in several languages (including Latin) as well as summarizing the contents of a seven-minute long text.

All results of these competitions are available at www.intersteno.org > **Competitions > Classifications** lists. Consistent with the Intersteno approach and experience the classifications lists are split according to participants' age and technologies (when deemed useful for a better evaluation of results).

The total numbers of registered competitors was **326** and they took part in the various competitions as follows:

Text production contest	272
Text correction contest	220
Professional word processing contest	176
Steno speech capturing contest	229
Real-time transcription contest	197
Multilingual shorthand contest	28
Correspondence and minute taking contest	126



Youth day



The young people who participated in this event were happy and satisfied at the end of the day, when they were able to visit interesting moments of the Chinese life under the guidance of their friends.

Taking part in the preparation of traditional Chinese cooking was a very exciting moment for them. No doubt these young people will be ambassadors for the Chinese style of life and will surely return to the wonderful capital of this country.

Visit to the People's palace



On the day devoted to youth all other participants had the opportunity of taking part in a guided tour to the People's Palace which is the heart of the government of this immense country.

The immense rooms and halls of the building are arranged to accommodate the numerous representatives of the people, whose discussions are recorded using the Chinese steno machines. Unfortunately there were no sittings during the day of the visit. We hope that on some favorable occasion during our next meetings we will have a detailed report of the activities of the Chinese parliamentary reporters.



IPRS and International Forum Education Meetings

The parliamentary and education meetings took place on Sunday 16th August, concurrent with the competitions of that day.



The IPRS meeting was chaired by Dott. **Fausto Ramondelli**, due to the absence of Mr. Cees van Beurden for health reasons. Discussions covered several aspects of the methods of preparing reports. Following the speech of Dott. **Fabrizio Verruso** on the use of speech recognition in preparing reports at the Assembly in Palermo, Mr **Kyungsik Lee**, Chief of the Stenographic Department of the Korean Parliament addressed the meeting.

Steno machines were introduced into the Korean Parliament in the last 10 years. A special contribution was given by Mr. **Herbert Houdijk** of the Dutch Parliament, who informed the meeting that software was being specifically designed to achieve speedy production of texts. This was achieved by stationing in the meeting hall someone whose task it was to insert information about relevant events taking place during the meeting, such as the name of the speaker and the topic under discussion as metadata for a digital audio recording. The recording could be listened in real-time by the reporter sitting in his office preparing the transcript.

A report was also submitted from Ms. **Hajdicsné dott Varga Katalin** of Hungary about the *Male and female stenographers in the Hungarian Parliament*.

Partly concurrent with the IPRS meeting our Chinese colleagues organized an **International Forum on Steno education during the whole of the day**.

Many reports were produced covering a number of topics concerning experiences and best practices for teaching steno machine shorthand. Mr **Gregor Keller** (Germany) - **Tsuguo Kaneko** (Japan) and **Gian Paolo Trivulzio** (Italy) also addressed this meeting.

The reports of these events are available at our website, Beijing 2009 > Conferences.

Congress Conferences

Wednesday 19th August was the Conference day, chaired by Mr. **Jean Charles Le Masson** (France). Eleven speakers presented their reports which covered historical information, the state of our arts in different countries as well as a glance at the future. These reports are available from our web site at the Beijing 2009 and Scientific Committee pages.

While it is hard to produce a summary of the contents of the whole day, it can be said that it was agreed that new information technologies make it

necessary to teach keyboarding to children. This was made evident by Ms. **Renate Geyer** (Germany). The speakers from China (**Xiao tang Li, Guan Baochang, Xiong Gahizhi, Shao Jun, Wu Zhonhming, Sun Huimin**) reported on the experiences of teaching steno-machine curriculum and the contribution of Sulu Yawei to the growth of economic and labour opportunities in their country. In USA stenotype is widely used in all domains of reporting, but it is necessary to adopt a new approach to involve young people in the reporting profession as indicated by Ms **Karen Yates** of NCRA. This would include distance learning. The evolution of graphic shorthand in Asia was vividly presented by Mr **Tsuguo Kaneko** (Japan) who showed the many attempts at improving the efficiency of traditional steno, which is also the base for the improvements to the steno machines in use in China and Korea.

A glance into the near future was given by Prof. **Tatsuya Kawahara** of Kyoto University (Japan) who told the meeting about the automatic transcription of speeches for the report of the Japanese Parliament. A report on the same subject covering the Italian experience, where the system is already in use, was made available by Dott. **Gianni Lazzari**, who could not attend but sent a written report. Both softwares are using speaker-independent speech recognition tools.

Mr **Gregor Keller** (Honorary President of Intersteno) pointed out the need for a good advertising and public relations plan for our organizations, taking advantage of the Internet, in order to make evident the contribution of our technologies to social and economic life.

Main decisions taken during the Council meetings and the General Assemblies

Education Committee

Following the proposal of the Chinese delegation, supported by the Board, the Council approved the constitution of an **Education Committee** which is incorporated with the Scientific Committee and will be chaired by Mr. **Tang Keliang**.

Each country must nominate at least 2 persons to be member of this Committee and these persons must be willing to be , cooperative, open-minded, with a basic knowledge of the English language since communications will be in this language, and with a few years' experience in our technologies and ITC.

The goal of this Committee is to collect and share experiences with a view to improving best practices and employing the most advanced technologies such as distance and e-learning methods.

Each country must send in the names of their nominations not later than November 30th to Mr. Tang Keliang (liaoqing41@163.com) and Prof. Dr. Boris Neubauer (Neubauer@fh-aachen.de).

Scientific Committee

The council confirmed Prof. Dr. **Boris Neubauer** as Chairman of the Scientific Committee. The following persons were named members following the proposals of the Chairman and the contacts arranged in Beijing:



Waldir Cury	Brazil
Tsuguo Kaneko	Japan
Prof. Tatsuya Kawahara	Kyoto University Japan
Jean Charles Le Masson	France
Liao Qing	China
Prof. Han-Wook Kim	Hanyang University Korea

Jury members

Georgette Sante was confirmed Jury President and the following persons were elected as Jury coordinators for the following competitions:

Helena Matoušková	Text production
Waltraut Dierks	Text correction
Georgette Sante	Professional word processing
Jari Niittuinperä	Speech capturing
Teri Gaudet	Real time transcription
Linda Drake (taskforce)	
Joke Bakker	Multilingual shorthand
Jan den Holder	Correspondence and minute taking

Board



During the General Assembly, the board was elected as follows:

Gian Paolo Trivulzio (IT)	President
Jaroslav Zaviačič (CZ)	Vice-President
Danny Devriendt (BE)	Secretary-Treasurer
Rian Schwarz-van Poppel (NL)	IPRS coordinator
Mark Golden (USA)	Member

Ms. Schwarz-van Poppel will be assisted by **Fabrizio Verruso** (IT) for the management of the IPRS group on Facebook.

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee and the Jury President are members of the Board elected by the Council.

Modification of the Statute

As proposed by the Board and approved by the Council, the following modifications were unanimously accepted:

- 1 Change the definition 'Individual member' into 'Associated member' for the Intersteno members, be they individual or entities. This is for the avoidance of confusion.
- 2 Setting a quorum for the Council decisions:

Article 13

13.1 A quorum shall consist of one-half of the National groups whose membership fees are current and paid in full at the time of the Council meeting. The Council is normally entitled to take decisions whenever a quorum is present.

13.2 The Council decides with 50 % + 1 of votes. The representatives of the National Groups attending the meeting have one vote each. The Board as a body has also one vote. An equal division of votes means a rejection.

Associated Members

The following new associated members were accepted:

- Mr. Richard Flament (USA)
- Court Reporting Nord (Italy)
- Ms. Judy Henderson (USA)
- Combat Veteran Voicewriters LLC (USA)
- Calibro Reporting Services LLC (USA)
- Ms. Linda Lee Barry (USA)
- Stenomedia (France)
- Merrill Corporation (USA)

Honorary members

On proposal of the Council the following honorary members were elected:

- **Tang Keliang** - Honorary President - for the successful organization of the 47th Intersteno Congress in Beijing
- **Cees van Beurden** - Honorary President - for his long activity in Intersteno which includes being President of the 41st Congress in Amsterdam, Chairman of the Scientific Committee 2003-2005, Coordinator of the Committee for the Statute and Chairman of the IPRS group to which he devoted considerable efforts when organizing a special meeting in The Hague on August 2008.
- **Maria Luisa Corti** - Honorary Member - for her activities in Intersteno as Jury member since 1973 and Coordinator of the real-time competition

Country representatives

The Council was informed about the changes in the names of the country representative of

- Belgium - Thérèse Librecht
- Czech Republic - Dr. Miloš Procházka
- Korea - Lee Kyungsik
- Italy - Dr. Fausto Ramondelli
- Slovakia - due to the resignation of Mr. Ivan Šóš shortly before the Congress, the situation is still pending.
- Switzerland - Ms Jeannette Luck

Internet contest 2010

The Council decided that the VIII Edition of the Internet contest will take place from **15th April to 15th May 2010** (both days included).

Enrolments begins on **March 10th** and will end on **10th April** and must be done on **www.intersteno.org** - Internet contest for schools and associations using Java software, and on **www.zav.cz** for users of Zav software.

many heartfelt thanks

To all members of the Organization Committee and especially to Mr. **Liao Qing** who was the 'bridge' with all Intersteno countries and participants, as well as to his assistant Ms. **Wei Xia**, who was an efficient interpreter and helper for all of us.



Intersteno community answered in a very positive way the invitation of China. Of a total of 566 registered participants 362 came from 25 countries outside China. A further 17 supported the Congress although they were not able to be with us.

	Participant	Not attending
Armenia	1	
Austria	2	
Australia	2	
Belgium	14	
Switzerland	4	2
Cameroon	1	
Czech Republic	77	
Germany	64	3
Spain	2	
Finland	2	
France	7	
Croatia (Hrvatska)	6	
Hungary	26	
Italy	51	9
Japan	13	
Korea	34	
Luxemburg		1
Netherlands, The	10	
Russia	14	
Solomon Islands	1	
Slovakia	3	
Turkmenistan	2	
Turkey	16	
Tanzania	1	
United Kingdom	3	
United States	8	1

Here below you will see some photos of the most relevant groups.



Germany



Hungary



Czech Republic



Italy (partial)



Belgium



Korea



Turkey

General Assembly of Intersteno Deutschland

On 4 October the General Assembly of the German Group took place in the IBIS hotel in Nuremberg.

President **Waltraut Dierks** warmly welcomed everyone, but especially three newcomers who became members of the national group at the Intersteno Congress in Beijing.

The activity report of the Board, the financial report and that of the auditors gave no reason for further explanations and discussions. The President thanked Uwe Brüdigam for organizing the visit to China as well as all assistants who were active in Beijing.

Joseph Stehling, who was for 20 years Secretary General of Intersteno Germany will no longer be a member of the Board. Waltraut Dierks thanked him for the many years of service and the Assembly unanimously

elected Joseph Stehling as a new honorary member. In addition to Joseph Stehling Prof. Dr. Boris Neubauer also resigned from the Board. He will continue to work as Chairman of the Intersteno Scientific Committee and consequently will be a member of the Board of the Federation.

The new Board was therefore elected: President Waltraut Dierks, Vice-President Regina Hofmann, Secretary Christine Kuthe, Treasurer Stephan Kampfer, Members Rita Lehmann and Olaf Rörtgen.

Uwe Brüdigam and Gerd Roelleke were appointed as auditors.

In order to attract young people to become members of the group, it was decided to reduce their fee by 50 %.

Ms. Hansel reported on her work at the Saxon State Library, where she administers the inventory of the collection of about 50 000 stenographic books.

NCRA Convention - Washington - August 2009

The National Court Reporters Association held its 110th annual convention, 6-9 August 2009, at the Gaylord National Conference Centre, just outside Washington, DC. More than 1,100 stenographic reporters were in attendance at the largest meeting of the court reporting profession, and participated in a full week of education, competition, and governance activities.



SueLynn Morgan, RPR, of Lawton, Oklahoma, was sworn in as NCRA President, and during the opening general session spoke of the importance of maintaining a standard of excellence in performing the court reporters' duties as "guardians of the record."¹ This theme continued throughout the programme,

which included more than 50 separate seminars in four general categories of education: Captioning, CART and Real-time; Skills and Business Management; Technology; and General.

In addition to the main conference, separate, day-long training programmes were conducted by the major computerized reporting system vendors. In addition there were separate, specialized courses for managers of reporting services, for educators, and for students.

NCRA members participated in the first testing opportunities in two new technical certificate programs. Thirty-nine candidates earned credentials in Real-time Systems Administration, and thirty-six candidates earned credentials in Trial Presentation Administration.

More than eighty stenographic reporting students attended the convention, including several participants from NCRA's ongoing trial "Total Immersion Programme", an experiment in intensive training to see how quickly verbatim stenographic real-time skills can be taught. NCRA members generously contributed to a student fund for the convention, enabling all of these students to get a refund of nearly 50% on their already heavily discounted convention registration fees. In addition, the National Court

¹ You can listen to the first part of this speech, connecting to Web-TV on www.intersteno.org.

Reporter Foundation awarded student scholarships and grants totaling more than \$11,000 to 11 deserving students to help them continue and complete their education.

In NCRA's annual competitions, Jo Ann Bryce, RMR, CRR of Castro Valley, California won the real-time contest, with an overall score of 98.556%. Mark Todd Kisslingbury, RMR, CRR of Houston, Texas, won the speed contest, with an overall score of 99.354%.



The first person on the left is Mark Golden, CEO of NCRA and Board Member of Intersteno

At the Annual Membership Business Meeting, elections to the NCRA Board of Directors were conducted. The membership voted on a number of issues on the future direction of the organization. In a narrow vote the membership approved the Board continuing its investigation into extending NCRA standards and certification programmes beyond the NCRA membership.

In the technology exhibition, more than 45 companies demonstrated the full range of court reporting technology. Several stenographic system vendors released significant new software and hardware upgrades during the exhibition.

On Friday, 7 August, NCRA's Foundation, in partnership with the United States Library of Congress, conducted a special day of activities as part of the association's ongoing partnership with the Library's Veterans History Project. Court reporters volunteered their time and talent to record and transcribe the personal histories of local veterans who had served in first or second World Wars, the Vietnam, Korean and Gulf Wars. These oral histories will become part of the Library of Congress' American Folk Life Collection.

Lower than normal attendance numbers are to be attributed to the general poor state of the United States economy. NCRA looks forward to increasing numbers for its annual midyear conference (12-14 March 2010 in San Francisco, California) and 111th Annual Convention (5-8 August 2010, Chicago, Illinois).

NVRA Convention - Nashville, Tennessee - USA - August 26-29, 2009.

The Annual Convention of the National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA) was held in Nashville, TN, USA, August 26-29, 2009.

Several speech recognition vendors provided information and demonstrations of real-time innovations for voice writers. Other educational seminars included how to control stress; how to improve memory skills; real-time tips; correct word usage; setup, preparation, and equipment for CART (Communication Access Real-time Translation); leadership skills; issues confronting real-time reporters; an exploration of Dragon Naturally Speaking software; situational ethics; when and how to do court reporting research; law terminology for court reporters; and an overview of contemporary recording hardware, software, and good court reporting practices.

At NVRA's business meeting, new officers were elected for the 2009-2010 term:

President: Michelle Thompson, President-Elect: Janice Grill, Secretary: Jessie Coburn, Treasurer: Mike Ashcraft, as well as four other directors. The immediate Past President is Donald Scott.

It was remembered that **Dave Rogala** died April 10, 2009. Dave was a member of NVRA for many years and a valuable resource for the court reporting profession.

Dave became a court reporter during his U.S. Army service (1983-90) while stationed in Germany. He had been employed since September 2007 with Anita Glover & Associates, a freelance court reporting firm in Fairfax, Virginia, USA. He held the Certified Verbatim Reporter designation from National Verbatim Reporters Association as well as a Certificate of Merit, and was certified by the states of Arkansas, Illinois, and Missouri.

Many of Dave's American and Intersteno colleagues will miss Dave's bright and passionate voice. He was well known for his participation in online forums and his contributions to NVRA's various publications and was a tireless advocate for the court reporting profession and voice writing.

Dave's mother and sisters were present for NVRA's Convention Banquet and were each presented a commemorative "Fast As Hell Club" coin which was designed by Dave in honor of Horace Webb.

As always, NVRA's Convention provided technology, networking, entertainment, and fellowship for court reporters and other professionals.

In 2010 the NVRA Convention will be held in Charleston, South Carolina on July 28-31.

WHAT'S NEW?

The info herewith is based upon reliable information gathered from various sources, but it is not intended as an advertisement of products, services or producers.

Microsoft will introduce a free version of Office from next year

Microsoft is to include a free, stripped-down version of Office on new PCs from next year, abandoning Microsoft Works.

This stripped version is called Office Starter 2010 and will include Word 2010 and Excel 2010, dropping PowerPoint 2010 and OneNote 2010 - the other applications that will be bundled with the lowest-priced package, Home & Student - as well as Outlook 2010, which is part of the next-level-up Home & Business edition.

Office Starter 2010 will not be a trial edition that times out in the sense that there is no expiration. It can continue to be used until the user's needs exceed what Starter offers.

At that point Microsoft hopes that users will pay for a more substantial version: users who want to upgrade to the Home & Student, Home & Business or Professional editions from Starter will be able to do so within Microsoft's software by purchasing a product activation key online or on a card that will be available at major electronics retailers.

All the bits for those three editions will be installed on new PCs that offer Office Starter; a purchased key will simply "unlock" the appropriate version, so that there is no need to download additional software.

Real-time Voice Writing with EclipseVox[™] & NaturallySpeaking[®] - Simplified by Bettye Keyes

Figuring it all out on your own - from scratch - isn't necessary when the work has already been done for you.

This manual (by the well known author **Bettye Keyes** who offered speeches during the Intersteno Congress in Prague) offers a fundamental approach to learning how to provide accurate real-time translation services with EclipseVox and Dragon NaturallySpeaking v.10 (Professional and Preferred editions).

Accompanying this manual is a setup files CD that provides files for NaturallySpeaking and EclipseVox so you can instantly benefit from previously-done voice+CAT setup work instead of having to do all that work yourself from scratch.

Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of these texts

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THE ADDRESS NEWSINTERSTENO@INTERSTENO.ORG as your message will be lost. Please use news@intersteno.org for any additional comments as well as names of persons and entities interested in receiving this message. If you do not want to receive this letter, please send an email stating only UNSUBSCRIBE in the object of the message.

www.intersteno.org

INTERSTENO

International Federation for Information Processing
Internationale Föderation für Informationsverarbeitung
Fédération internationale pour le traitement de l'information

