

# INTERSTENO Newsletter 53



## Contents

From the President's desk .....	2
Jury and Council decisions on competitions 2013 .....	5
Keyboarding competition via internet.....	5
Prize-giving ceremony.....	5
Real-time competition .....	6
Correspondence and summary reporting .....	6
Combined list .....	6
Audio transcription competition .....	6
IPRS Meetings in Prague 29-30 September 2012.....	6
Surfing the information tsunami - Call for papers for the conferences at the Congress in Ghent 2013. ....	8
Are current communication platforms sufficient to ride the wave? .....	8
Mauro Panzera is 80 years young.....	8
Updated version of Intersteno leaflet .....	10
Scriba eBook Maker developed by the Italian Senate for easing production and distribution of e-documents. ....	10
Events.....	11
NCRA Convention - Philadelphia - August 9-12, 2012.....	11
20 August and 14 September 2012 - Veyboard Workshop in The Hague (NL).....	11
Typewriting contests organized by Interinfo (The Netherlands) at ECOS 2012 .....	14
World e-Parliament Conference - Rome 13-15 September 2012.....	15
2nd "Ya Wei Cup" in Shenyang - October 14.....	16
What's New .....	16
Intersteno.org in the clouds.....	16
700 trillion bytes of data stored in one gramme of DNA .....	17
USA National SMS championship .....	17
Speech recognition and the iPad .....	18

## From the President's desk

Dear Friends,

Once again Prague has been the background for a successful meeting of the Intersteno Council, thanks to the large amount of participants (62 from 15 countries) and to the warm and productive environment provided by Helena and Jaroslav Zaviačič.

Many relevant decisions were agreed upon and Intersteno Members shared several ideas. Let me mention a few.

- Call for projects: the idea of financing local projects which meet the interests of Intersteno will be pursued; Members are called to put forward their projects.
- Call for papers: Congress conferences at the Ghent Congress will be focused on relevant themes in order to attract the interest of a larger audience. "How to surf the information Tsunami" is the Conference title.
- Marketing and secretarial plan: Lida Horlings (from Nederland) will help the Board to improve the values of Intersteno (logo and activities); a staff person will help the Board activities.
- Certification programme: standard requirements for the reporting profession (in its various profiles) will be set on the basis of the experiences of Members.
- Trial Audio Transcription Competition: competitors will transcribe from an audio file, rather than copying (writing?). The Jury will test the rules.

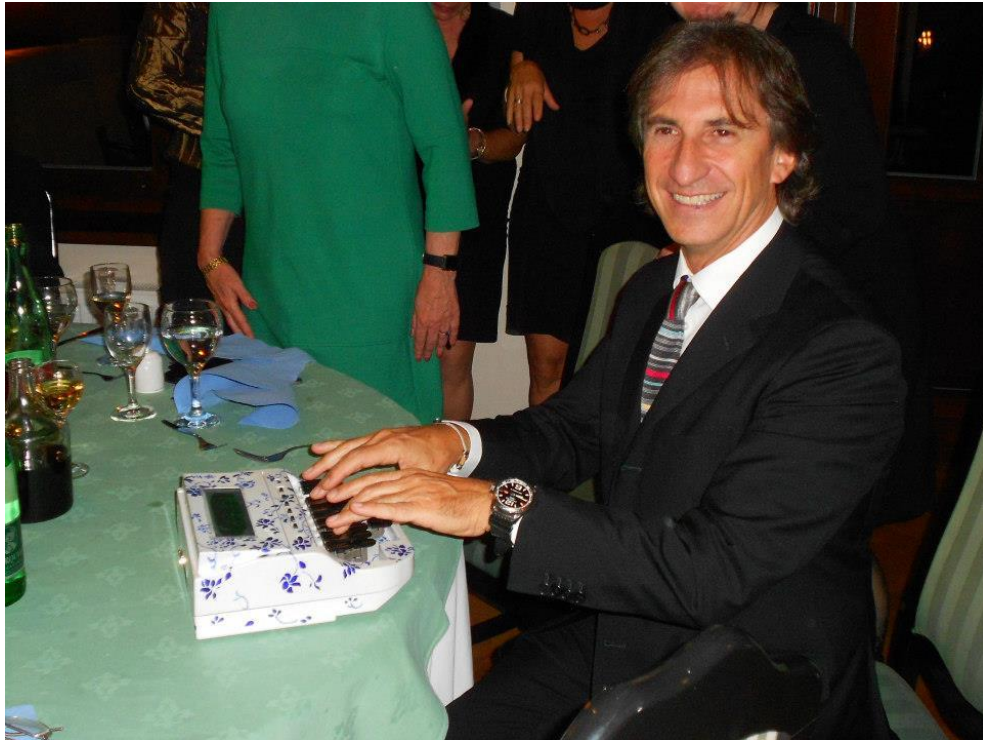
The special guest, Jim Cudahy, CEO of the National Court Reporters Association, sampled the cosy atmosphere of the Intersteno "family" (as my friend Ihsan Yener uses to name our community) and together with other NCRA and NVRA fellows confirmed the support of United States. If you want to know how this lucky relationship will develop stay tuned on our websites and Facebook pages.



By the way: Intersteno members sang "Happy Birthday" and cut the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake in the beautiful Castle Mělník. The same good wishes go to readers of this E-news: you may be proud of being part of an old, though evergreen Association, noted especially for its contribution to the education,



labour and technical enhancement of its members and for its pursuit of global friendship.



Pictured here is a wonderful steno machine given by the Chinese National Group to the Intersteno Federation. Attendees could press the keys and for a while pretend to be able to manage the techniques and language of our Chinese friends.

A crowded IPRS meeting was also held at the same venue. Sustained by the energies of its steering committee **IPRS** has worked hard and attracted many more professionals. Among these I like to recall the Speech-to-Text Reporters (many of them were in Prague): a new branch of knowledge and experience which further enriches Intersteno.

The meeting included working groups (interesting idea!) and videoconferences with colleagues on the other side of the world.

**Final day at the Czech Senate!**





It seemed weird to learn that the first Intersteno meeting took place in London in September 1887 at a time when no email or typewriting machines were available. The meeting, following a proposal of Dr John Websty-Gibson, took several years to be organised. Gian Paolo Trivulzio took us on a short journey through the life of Intersteno, mentioning highlights of a long and involved history which he is working on, to be published in the following months. You will find many surprises and interesting facts and gain a better idea of the wealth of that history, whose significance we sometime we do not appreciate. More than a century of history is encompassed taking us through wars and other struggles, through techniques and professions born and passed away leaving the path to others, through visions and projects, achieved or not, through the beautiful minds of our members.



Intersteno will be called upon to answer strategic questions in the years to come. Techniques and professions are rapidly changing. The life and the success of our Federation is conditioned by our ability to keep pace with such progress. We must refuse short cuts: our fate is not saving the past but meeting the future! That's why Intersteno needs a new generation of friends, younger minds and energies for younger projects.

Happy reading,

Fausto Ramondelli

## Jury and Council decisions on competitions 2013



### Keyboarding competition via internet

During the meeting in Prague the Jury and Council decided that this contest will take place from April 8th to May 7th 2013. Enrolment will be from March 11th to April 5th. No changes in the age categories and minimum speed are needed. Only one classifications list, per age category, will be released irrespective of the technology used, which will in any case be indicated in the list: i.e. KB for computer keyboarding, SM for accord-keyboarding (stenomachines, stenotype).

Our President has set as a goal the doubling of the number of participants in 2013. This can be reached if we start telling everybody about this event, which can also be fostered by additional messages on Facebook pages - something which has been used by several nations in the past year.

### Prize-giving ceremony

In the light of the efforts made by competitors in taking part in the world championships, we have decided to make presentations of medals, on the stage, to the three best competitors in each contest in each age group, even if the results do not reach the minimum requirement needed to be world champion. Thus, being on the stage and receiving a medal no longer means that the competitor is a world champion. If a person really is a world champion it will be clearly stated during the prize-giving ceremony and duly written on the certificate.

## Real-time competition

In the real-time contest, in order to motivate young people, they will be considered as world champions if they are able to transcribe a minimum of four minutes (pupils) or six minutes (juniors). For seniors, the minimum remains eight minutes.

## Correspondence and summary reporting

For the "correspondence and summary reporting" contest the minimum points needed to be champion has also been lowered for the pupils (230 instead of 250) but is a little bit higher for the seniors (280 instead of 270).

## Combined list

Finally, we will also recognise competitors taking part in the maximum number of contests by printing certificates for the combined list and giving medals to the three competitors with the highest marks.

## Audio transcription competition

The development of digital audio recording together with the possibility of file transfer over the Internet has considerably influenced the process of text production (reports) through their transcription, which forms the greater part of activities in the professional reporting field.

This transcription can be done with the keyboard, stenotype or speech recognition.

We should therefore, keep up with technological changes and take possession of this idea before other interest do so .Intersteno is assessing the possibility of an experimental audio-transcription competition in 2013 according to the criteria consolidated in the rules that can be seen on our website.

There will be no champion and no official results; however a classification list will be integrated as a "report" in the official classification list in order to be used as feedback for rules adjustment.

Georgette Sante

## IPRS Meetings in Prague 29-30 September 2012

The IPRS Steering Committee had agreed that something needed to change in the set-up of IPRS meetings. At previous IPRS meetings everybody just sat down and listened. Sometimes there would be a little discussion. But during the IPRS meetings in Prague participants had to work! Everybody was expected to discuss some topics in workshops. And it worked! All 39 participants, from all over the world, enthusiastically took part in four workshops on topics that reporters deal with every day. This sometimes led to heated discussions.

The Steering Committee is pleased that the new concept turned out to be so successful and it will definitely organize more workshops for the IPRS meetings in Ghent. What was also new - and what will also be continued - was that CE credit points could be earned for participating in the workshops.



The following workshops were held during the IPRS meetings in Prague:

IPRS Meeting 1, September 29th 2012

**Workshop: “To what extent does synchronizing a transcript with audio/video affect the editing of verbatim transcripts by reporters?” by Ms Marlene Rijkse**

**Workshop: “Is it a reporter’s job to prevent a speaker from looking ridiculous?” by D’Arcy McPherson**



IPRS Meeting 2, September 30th 2012

**Workshop: “In what way can the hiring of external freelance reporting agencies/freelance reporters be a solution enabling parliamentary reporting offices better to cope with work peaks?” by Fabrizio Verruso/Patti Calabro**

**Workshop: “Can Virtual Reporting” be a solution to enable freelance (court)reporters to get more jobs covered?” by Patti Calabro**

**[\*Virtual Reporting: access to a meeting, trial, arbitration, deposition, by seeing and hearing all participants via Skype or similar software, using an Apple iPad/an iPhone or a PC with a webcam.]**

After the workshops IPRS coordinator Ms Rian Schwarz discussed the report of the IPRS meeting Paris 2011 and the IPRS activities from July 2011 up to October 2012.

The day ended with a lively plenary discussion about the “**Further development of IPRS**”, by Ms Lida Horlings.

The report of the first IPRS Meeting (September 29<sup>th</sup>) is already available on the IPRS Facebook page. The report of the second IPRS Meeting (September 30<sup>th</sup>) will soon be posted. When they are complete, both reports will also be published on [www.iprs-info.org](http://www.iprs-info.org).

## Surfing the information tsunami - Call for papers for the conferences at the Congress in Ghent 2013.

### Are current communication platforms sufficient to ride the wave?

In the past, information could only be accessed manually and through archives. It could take weeks before being able to retrieve a document but communication was guaranteed. Today, the Internet, various Intranets, social media and all IT networks flood us with massive abnormal waves of information. Accessing them is extremely easy. At times we have, however, the feeling that our privacy is at stake and that we receive unwanted information. We wonder what we can do with that amount of data. Can we live happier lives or experience fewer problems? Can we become wiser? Given the risk of drowning, we need to surf the various information-breaking waves in order to ensure accurate communication, which is not always as immediate as in the past. Moreover, globalization increases the need for fast and effective communication, thus increasing the risk for the surfer to be overcome.

A catastrophe-management solution may come from today's digital speedwriting methods, such as Stenotype, stenography, speech recognition and keyboarding. Speedwriting methods play an important role in supporting ICT technology to produce fast and accurate texts. In addition, many hurdles still need to be overcome in order easily to contribute to eliminating the communication barriers many people face on a daily basis, including face-to-face multilingual conversations, telephone calls with deaf or hard-of-hearing people, videoconferences, or foreign live broadcasts. To attempt to resolve these and many other challenges, high-quality texts (be they oral, written or signed), are requested. To achieve this many high-quality professionals - possibly having successfully completed intensive training - are needed, so as to offer the consumer a high-quality product at a reasonable fee.

The programme of the Conference as well as the form for submitting proposals in line with the general goal, are available at [www.intersteno2013.org](http://www.intersteno2013.org) and [www.intersteno.org](http://www.intersteno.org).

For any additional information please contact Dr Carlo Eugeni at [conferences@intersteno.org](mailto:conferences@intersteno.org).

## Mauro Panzera is 80 years young

At the Assembly of the Association 'Veloscrittura' held in September in a typical restaurant of Bedano (in the Italian Swiss Cantone Ticino) the 80th anniversary of Mauro Panzera was celebrated.

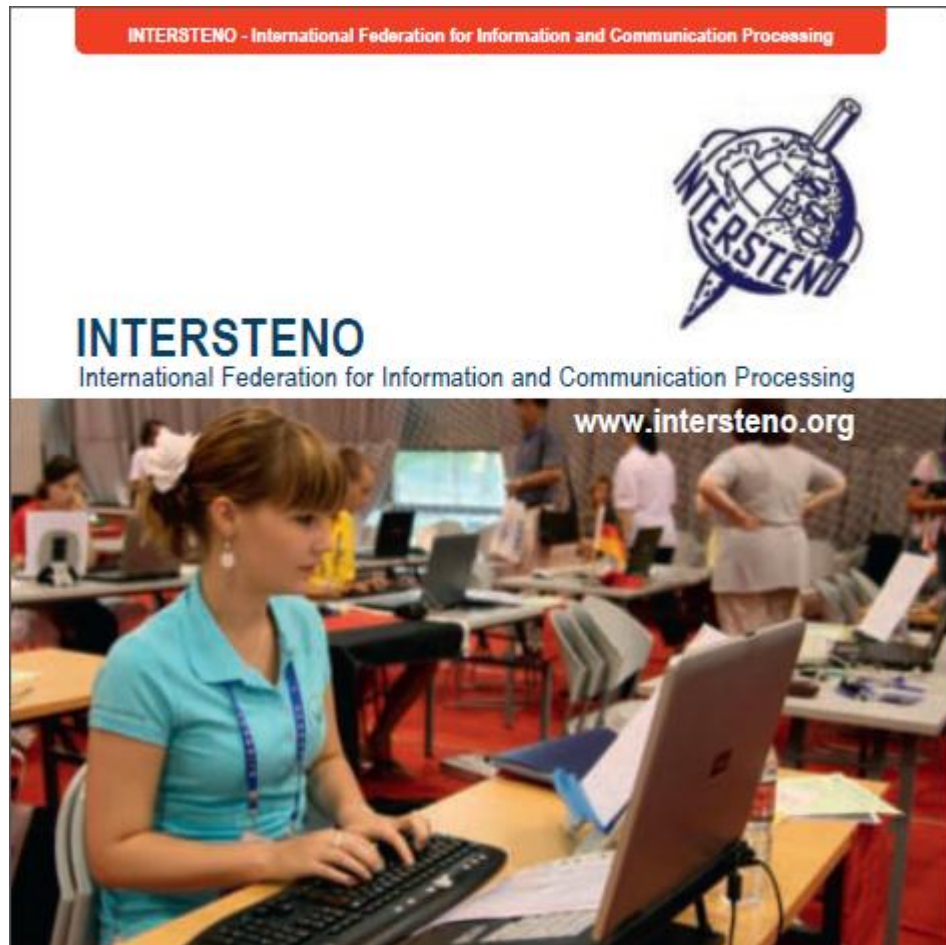




Mauro Panzera has led a very varied life. Apart from the most important areas of his life such as the family and his professional activity as a tax adviser, his 'steno' life has occupied a large part of his time. He learned shorthand when he was a boy, following the advice of his father and took part in several competitions, not only in his native Italian language, but in German and French. He took the diploma of steno teacher and for over 60 years has been a member of the SSV - the Swiss association for shorthand - in which he was active for many years as vice-president, as well as being responsible for the competition jury. In this association he also introduced a competition in typewriting, which graduated from being an on-site event to the internet competition which is now fully managed by him as President of Veloscritture.

Mauro began participating in Intersteno at the Budapest Congress in 1975 and was present up to Wien 2005. Unfortunately he could not attend the following ones due to health reasons. He was for several years the Swiss representative on the Council and from the Florence Congress of 1987 he took charge of the typewriting competitions, being named President of the Jury from 1991. He was nominated Honorary Member at the Beijing Congress 2009.

To mark the occasion of Mauro's birthday Rudolf Bernhard, President of the Swiss SSV, released a message on [www.steno.ch](http://www.steno.ch), which includes the following *'Mit seinem grossen Engagement bei Veloscritture TI/LO (Ticino/Lombardia) und den Internet-Wettbewerben in Echtzeit gelingt es Mauro nach wie vor, junge Leute für die schnelle Textverarbeitung zu gewinnen. Notabene unter Einsatz modernster Technologie, von der mancher 80-jährige keine Ahnung hat, um was es sich da überhaupt handelt.'* i.e. "With his huge dedication to Veloscritture TI/ LO (Ticino/Lombardia) and the Internet in real-time competitions, Mauro has achieved success in attracting young people to fast text processing. Nota bene: he has done this using the most modern technology, about which many 80-year-old people have no idea at all."



A new release of the Intersteno leaflet was prepared and distributed at the NCRA Convention in Philadelphia. Copies have been delivered to all National Representatives attending the meeting in Prague.

The leaflet is available on our website and can be downloaded in high quality pdf format for local printing. It's an important marketing tool to be used to spread a better knowledge of what our Federation is and what it does.

### **Scriba eBook Maker developed by the Italian Senate for easing production and distribution of e-documents.**

"Scriba eBook Maker" is a project for building ebooks (in epub and zip formats) using contents already available in other formats (e.g., HTML, PDF, XML, etc.) both on the Web and on file systems. Scriba is a utility written in Java6 and has a command line interface. It can also be deployed as an enterprise service. Scriba also supports plug-ins, that can be used to pre-process contents before they are inserted into the ebook. Basically, in order to use Scriba, a user just needs to draw up a descriptor XML file containing pointers (URLs) to the contents of the ebook under construction.

Scriba has been entirely developed by the ICT Department of the Italian Senate and is released under the GPL3 open source licence. Therefore it is freely usable, modifiable, embeddable and distributable as long as the Italian Senate is mentioned as author.

Full information/demo/download at <http://scribaebookmake.sourceforge.net>.

### NCRA Convention - Philadelphia - August 9-12, 2012



The National Court reporters Association (NCRA), which boasts over 23.000 members, held its annual convention.

Ms Rian Schwarz (member of the Intersteno Board for IPRS) and Ms Lida Horlings (chair IPRS Steering Committee) represented Intersteno and IPRS (Intersteno Parliamentary and other Professional Reporters' Section) at the NCRA (National Court Reporters Association) Convention in Philadelphia from August 9-12, 2012. NCRA focuses on US official reporters and court reporters using a steno machine and acts as the US national group of Intersteno. Ms Virgene Biggers represents NCRA in the Intersteno Council.

At the convention in Philadelphia an early breakfast meeting (7.15 a.m.!) was held with Mr Jim Cudahy, recently appointed new CEO of NCRA, and Ms Karen Yates. Several topics were discussed regarding what NCRA and Intersteno/IPRS can mean for each other.

Ms Schwarz and Ms Horlings also delivered a presentation on Intersteno/IPRS at the session dedicated to Intersteno. At this session Ms Karen Yates, Ms Teri Gaudet, Ms Virgene Biggers and Ms Dee Boenau, who have attended many Intersteno congresses and have taken part in Intersteno competitions, gave an insider's view.

During the few days of their stay in Philadelphia, Ms Schwarz and Ms Horlings have done their utmost to enlarge NCRA's knowledge of Intersteno/IPRS. They sincerely thank Mr Cudahy, the NCRA Board of Directors and NCRA members for the very warm welcome given to them and the opportunity to reconnect with IPRS friends and to meet many new ones.

They are very much looking forward to meeting many more of them at the 49<sup>th</sup> Intersteno Congress in Ghent (Belgium) in July 2013!

### 20 August and 14 September 2012 - Veyboard Workshop in The Hague - The Netherlands

by Geert Bonte

On August 20th 2012 the Dutch Interinfo Group and the Parliamentary Reporting Office of the States General of The Netherlands together organized a Veyboard workshop in The Hague. A second workshop was held on September 14th.

Ms. Marianne van Gool gave both workshops. After an introduction the participants (including people from The Netherlands and from Belgium) received a first lesson after which they could try out the Veyboard for themselves. They quickly discovered this was not an easy task.



Veyboard is an orthographic syllabic chord keyboard. This means you type syllables, not characters, by pressing multiple keys simultaneously. An orthographic chord keyboard is very different from a phonetic chord keyboard such as a steno machine, which produces an intermediate shorthand format. In contrast, the Veyboard can directly produce correctly spelled readable text (provided its operator does not type any mistakes, of course).

The keys are arranged in a butterfly-like pattern. On the left side of the keyboard (the left wing of the butterfly), there are keys for typing the consonants at the beginning of a syllable. The right side is roughly a mirror of the left side: here you will find the same consonant keys, but mirrored. They are used for typing the consonants at the end of a syllable. The vowels are located in the middle of the keyboard.



For example, when typing the word *soft*, you type four keys simultaneously: the *s* on the left side of the keyboard, the *o* in the middle, and the *f* and *t* on the right side of the keyboard. When the keys are released, the Veyboard produces the one syllable word *soft*, including a final space. If you want to make longer words (like *software*), you can prevent the addition of a space by simultaneously pressing the big “no space” key with the palm of your right hand. If you want the first letter capitalized, you also press the “capital” key with your left hand. The Veyboard software is smart enough, however, to capitalize automatically the first word of a new sentence (after a period, question mark or exclamation mark).

If you inspect the keyboard closely, you’ll notice that not all consonants have their own key. Some of them are produced by typing a combination of keys, e.g. pressing the J and T keys simultaneously produces a D. J plus C equals G. This reduces the number of keys on the keyboard, but it also increases the number of key combinations you have to learn and remember.

Learning to type on a Veyboard is far from easy. Even if you’re an experienced QWERTY typist, you’ll have to start from scratch. According to Ms. Van Gool, if you’re serious about learning to master the craft, you must practise for two hours every day during the 6-month course. But with hard work comes great reward. Someone who learns to type on a Veyboard can easily double his or her typing speed compared to the same person using a regular QWERTY keyboard. Some experienced Veyboard typists can produce 800 or even 1,000 characters per minute, which is more than fast enough to keep up with speakers at conferences, workshops or in parliaments.

The Veyboard, a Dutch invention, has a long history which goes back to the invention of the Tachotype by stenographer Marius den Outer in 1933. The mechanical Tachotype was further developed with the help of Nico Berkelmans, a Dutch linguist. In 1982 an electronic version was introduced under the name Velotype. In 2001, the stand-alone Velotype text processor was renamed again as Veyboard, and it can now be used as an alternate keyboard for PCs. In 2010, the University of Applied Sciences in Utrecht officially adopted the teaching method *Getting started with Veyboard* for its courses in interpretation for the deaf.



Marianne van Gool is herself an interpreter for the deaf. Using her Veyboard she can provide an instant translation of the spoken word into written text on a computer screen in front of the deaf person, for example during a visit to the doctor or the courtroom. This provides a good alternative to the use of sign language. Millions of people worldwide suffer from some form of hearing impairment, and many of them don't know sign language. For these people, Veyboard technology offers an effective and efficient instrument to enable them to fully participate in society.

Apart from higher typing speeds, the Veyboard has some more advantages over a regular QWERTY keyboard. The Veyboard has an ergonomic design and layout, resulting in a balanced movement of arms, wrists and fingers, with minimal stress on muscles, tendons and joints. RSI (repetitive strain injury) occurrence, not uncommon among QWERTY typists, is very rare among Veyboard users. In contrast to the QWERTY system, Veyboard ensures an equal energy distribution between left and right hands, and assigns the hardest tasks to the strongest fingers. The keyboard can also easily be placed on the lap.

During the workshop, participants used the *VeyboardTrainer*, a computer program written by Van Gool's husband. The software is an integral part of the *Getting started with Veyboard* method and provides the necessary practice needed to learn to master the Veyboard, offering a wide range of exercises and resulting in a well-balanced and efficient program.

At the end of the workshop, all participants were very enthusiastic about this powerful keyboard and some of them are seriously considering learning the skill, despite the great effort needed. The Parliamentary Reporting Office of the

States General at The Hague has started a pilot project to introduce the Veyboard for its reporting activities.

Perhaps we'll see an increased number of Veyboard users at future Intersteno text production contests?

For more information about Veyboard [www.veyboard.nl/en\\_main.html](http://www.veyboard.nl/en_main.html)

More pictures at <http://picasaweb.google.com/gebotopia/WorkshopVeyboard> and <http://youtu.be/gswlMYraQKQ>.

## Typewriting contests organized by Interinfo (The Netherlands) at ECOS 2012



On Saturday 25 August, Interinfo Netherlands organised typewriting speed contests in three languages at the European Congress of speech-to-text-reporters in Ermelo, the Netherlands. This was the first time such a conference had been held. Speech-to-text-reporters are regularly deployed to enable communication between the hearing-impaired and other people, for instance when they attend a meeting, see a doctor or undertake a course. The speech-to-text-reporter converts spoken language into written text, so that the deaf or the hearing-impaired can understand what is being said.

The competition could only be organized because of the commitment and dedication of members of the board of Interinfo as well as Mr Daniël Tuijnman and Mr Wouter Zwijnenburg. Moreover, the work of Interinfo and Intersteno/IPRS was brought to the attention of the participants. This was done by showing video clips of Intersteno congresses in Beijing and Paris and a PowerPoint presentation on the activities of IPRS. The help of ZAV Internetschule in Prague, Ms Helena Zaviačičová and Mr Jaroslav Zaviačič, was indispensable for the organisation of the contests. As with the competitions organised by Interinfo in April 2012, they managed to assess the participants' work very quickly so that the results could be presented almost immediately after the contest.

The participants made use of a qwerty key board, a steno machine, a Veyboard or a Velotype-pro keyboard. One of the participants made use of voice recognition. Mr Wim Gerbecks won the contest in Dutch, with 700 net characters per minute. Ms Jean Gough won the contest in English. Her speed was 886 characters per minute, whereas Mr Peter Abel won the contest in German, with 556 characters per minute.

For the competition results please visit [www.interinfo.nl](http://www.interinfo.nl) > wedstrijd.

**Marlene Rijkse**  
President Interinfo Netherlands





The World e-Parliament Conference 2012 was attended by 90 delegations of Parliaments coming from all continents and hosted by the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

The whole event, which was structured around plenary sessions and sessions of a more technical nature, was entirely streamed in real-time over the Internet. In addition, all videos and presentations were made immediately available on a web page of the Global Center for ICT in Parliament. Follow this link <http://www.ictparliament.org/node/5015>.

One of the sessions was devoted to "Technology options for recording and reporting parliamentary proceedings". This parallel session was recorded and a video is available at the aforementioned link.

The topics of this session, chaired by Damir Davidovic, Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro were covered by:

- Saseeta Ramsahye-Rakha, Ag. Parliamentary ICT Manager, National Assembly of Mauritius
- Andreas Sidler, Chief Information Officer, Federal Parliament of Switzerland
- Miano Mjoka, Software Developer Officer, Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

It is to be recalled that Intersteno had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Andreas Sidler at the Congress in Rome 2003, when he made a presentation of the Swiss software for reporting the parliamentary debates and producing the final printed reports.



Many aspects of parliamentary activity which are impacted by technology were covered during the Conference, at the end of which the World e-parliament

report 2012 (amounting to 289 pages) was released. It can be downloaded at the relevant webpage of the Global Centre as well as at the IPRS page of our website.

## 2nd "Ya Wei Cup" in Shenyang - October 14

The second edition of this competition, which will be held in the beautiful, historical and famous cultural city of Shenyang, is defined as the "Pathway to Ghent" since it will be the Chinese selection contest for the 49th Congress in Ghent.



It will deal with many information processing competitions and our President, Dott. Fausto Ramondelli, sent a message of good wishes. We are sure that the Chinese delegation will once again be an important part of our next event.

A full report of this event will be released in the next issue of our e-news.

## What's New

### Intersteno.org in the clouds

On 28th September Marco Olivo, who takes care of the technical working of **intersteno.org** and relevant software, activated the procedure for transferring our website on to the cloud net of our provider. Everything was carefully checked and no problem arose.



So Intersteno.org is now in the clouds.

We shall see the effects of this in time to come but we are prepared to meet any challenges

## 700 trillion bytes of data stored in one gramme of DNA



A video about this astonishing news was released in our news page of August 2012 with prof. George Church explaining how this can happen. (see [www.intersteno.org](http://www.intersteno.org)).

Researchers of the Harvard Institute in USA have been able to use sequencing technology to store 70 billion copies of an as yet unpublished book in DNA binary code. For this successful experiment they used an HTML version of the book.

The researchers used binary code to preserve the text, images and formatting of the book. While the scale is roughly what a 5 ¼-inch floppy disk once held, the density of the bits is 1 million gigabits per cubic millimeter.

DNA is stable at room temperature. “You can drop it wherever you want, in the desert or your backyard, and it will be there 400,000 years later,” Prof. Church said. Church, a professor of genetics at the Harvard Medical School, helped develop the first direct genomic sequencing method in 1984. He was also a member of the team that initiated the Human Genome Project that year as a scientist working at Biogen Inc.

Because of the slow process for setting down the data the researchers consider the DNA storage medium currently suitable only for data archive purposes.

Unlike earlier researchers, Church said his team was able to use commercial DNA microchips to create stand-alone DNA.

### USA National SMS championship

A 17-year-old boy from Wisconsin won an annual national texting competition for the second time on August 8th. He won by texting a 149-character message with capitalization, punctuation and various symbols, in 39 seconds.

The contest took place in New York's Times Square, and \$50.000 was assigned to him. The electronics firm LG Mobile sponsored the contest.



It is interesting to read what LG's Director of Trade and Experiential Marketing, Carl Brown, told ABC News. "***We built our brand on those QWERTY keyboard devices.***"

Since 2007, though, that category of messaging phones has been replaced for the most part with touch screen smart phones, including Apple's iPhone and various Android handsets. Fewer and fewer smart phones these days are being made with physical keyboards.

Take Verizon as an example. The carrier has close to 50 touch screen smart phones. It has only six phones with physical QWERTY keyboards. Even RIM has said that its next phone, based on its new BlackBerry 10 operating system, will not have a hardware keyboard, a staple of many examples of the BlackBerry brand.

LG added a touch screen round to last year's competition but pulled it this year. "During last year's competition, we integrated a touch screen challenge on the understanding many are in use today," Brown said. "However, we found that contestants had trouble completing the phrases accurately during that round. This year, for consistency and accuracy purposes, we decided to keep with physical QWERTY keyboards."



### Speech recognition and the iPad



One of the most useful features in the third generation iPad is the availability of integrated speech recognition. Unlike the speech recognition available in the

iPad 1 and iPad 2, which required use of a separate speech recognition program and the need to copy and paste text to other applications, the speech recognition in the third generation iPad is fully integrated and available virtually anywhere the keyboard shows up. Initiated by clicking on the small microphone icon on the virtual keyboard, it involves cloud-based speech recognition, which works by compressing your speech, sending it over the Internet to a central processing facility where it is converted to text and sent back to you where it is inserted automatically in your document. Incredibly, this entire process takes just a few seconds and happens with a surprising accuracy.

## Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of this text

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