

***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](http://www.intersteno.org).***

***Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board***

◆ **Congress in Prague.** ◆

Participants coming from 30 countries will attend this big event. Visit [www.intersteno.cz](http://www.intersteno.cz) for latest news.

◆ **Conferences in Prague.** ◆

All conferences will take place on **Thursday 23rd July starting at 8:30.**

Simultaneous translation service from and to Czech - German and English will be on duty. Internet Wi-fi connection is available in the Conference Room as well as in other part of the University buildings (not in the competition halls).

<b>Liao Qing</b>	Beijing Stenography Association - China	<i>Evolution of machine stenography in China and its education system</i>
<b>Dr. Klaus Ramming</b>	Germany	<i>Typewriting learning in primary school, as a strategic tool for education</i>
<b>Fabrizio Verruso</b>	Sicilian Parliament - Italy	<i>Development of the reporting profession in Sicily, financed by contributions of the European Social Fund, directed to training the unemployed</i>
<b>Hajdicsné Dr. Varga Katalin</b>	University of Kaposvár - Hungaria	<i>Bologna-process for integrating administrative skills training into other curricula.</i>
<b>Hofrätin Mag. Hermine Javurek</b>	Ministry of Instruction, Commercial Students - Austria	<i>New school system approach, entitled "Entrepreneurship."</i>
<b>Mrs. Michaela Sojdrova</b>	Vicechairwoman of the Committee for science, learning, culture, youth and physical training - Czech Republic	<i>Information processing and its influence in Czech education system</i>
<b>Chad Theriot &amp; Jennifer Smith</b>	AudioScribe - USA	<i>Demonstration (using voice recognition) of streaming text, synchronized with audio and video to create media content via webcasts and podcasts in realtime.</i>
<b>John Wenclawski</b>	Stenograph Corporation - USA	<i>Stenograph will relate its experiences responding to requests from around the world for demonstrations, training and installation of its machine shorthand and voice recognition products. Focus on the unique and creative ways the technology, combined with the skilled reporter, is being deployed in different countries and environments.</i>
<b>Bob Bakva</b>	ProCAT - USA	<i>Application of voice recognition in courts, media and other environments.</i>
<b>suggested by Jaroslav Polacek</b>	Newton - Czech Republic	<i>Court reporting firm providing full texts of all information</i>

<b>Jennifer Smith &amp; Jo Elizabeth Wheat</b>	NVRA - USA	<i>How Speech Recognition has revolutionized a profession.</i>
<b>David Rogala &amp; Bettye Keyes</b>	NVRA - USA	<i>Personal Linguistic Programming: Cognitive Load Theory and Information Processing Theory in Voice Writing.</i>
<b>Karen Yates</b>	NCRA - USA	<i>Applications of realtime reporting, both in judicial and non-judicial settings (for example, evidence presentation and litigation support, interpretive services, etc.)</i>
<b>Gregor Keller</b>	Germany	<i>Security within the Internet</i>
<b>Hidekazu Tzujiai</b>	Toyoma University - Japan	<i>Studies into reading Japanese steno signs using Java</i>
<b>Dr. Carlo Aliprandi, Prof. Paolo Mancarella, Dr. Nicola Carmignani &amp; Dr. Michele Rubino</b>	SyNTHEMA/University of Pisa - Italy	<i>Advances in human language technologies applied to text entry and fast writing. (SyNTHEMA, in cooperation with the University of Pisa, has developed a software approach, originally designed for persons with motor disabilities, to speed text entry)</i>

◆ **992 competitors keyboarded via Internet.** ◆



A growing success, **+ 12 %** over last year.

Multilanguage formula was greatly appreciated by **161** competitors, many of whom had used the keyboard in up to **15** languages.

Very young people, up to 13 years of age, are now listed in separate classifications list which also shows their excellent results in many foreign languages.

Here on the left is the youngest Turkish girl **Ezgi Aktürk** of SAMPIYON KURSLARI school.

Warmest congratulations to all participants and many thanks to teachers and national representatives who motivated them to take part in this exciting event.

The association of Intersteno experiences and improvements in the software, have made this **competition unrivalled.**

◆ **Founding of Interinfo Slovakia.** ◆



On 20th April 2007 **the foundation** ceremony of the **General assembly of the civil association of INTERINFO SR** was held at the United secondary school in Zvolen . INTERINFO SR will bring together secondary schools, institutions and physical persons dealing with education, schooling and practical preparation of youth.

The association is being established in order to make the Slovak school system more effective in the area of computer text processing. Activities will include organising competitions in computer text processing at regional and national levels in cooperation with the organs of the territorial administration, Ministry of Education SR and ŠIOV in Bratislava.

The representatives of 12 schools took part in the foundation GA. They were: BA Námestovo, BA Prievidza,

BA Levice, BA Topolcany, BA Trenčín, BA Dolný Kubín, BA Rožnava, BA Stará Lubovna, BA Banská Bystrica, USS Zvolen, HA Brezno, BA Hlohovec- BA – Business Academy, HA – Hotel Academy .In addition, there were present the representatives of the Economy University in Bratislava- **Ing . Šóš and Ing.Sehalová, who is also the representative of Slovakia in the international organisation INTERSTENO.** In the negotiations there also participated the representatives of ŠIOV in Bratislava **Ing. Anton Doktorov**, the chief executive of IT section and research. Invitations were also accepted by the representatives of the education section and human resources in the Administration Office in Banska Bystrica region, **Paedr. Zuzana Gajdošová and Mgr. Janka Slacková.** Mrs Helena Lišková and Bc. Veronika Gyalogová – the Slovak representative in computer text processing- were also present.

The establishment of the civil association was supported by guests from the Czech republic, **Mr Jaroslav Zaviacic**, the chairman of **Interinfo CR** and the current president of INTERSTENO Mrs **Ing Helena Matoušková**, a ninefold World champion in computer text processing. They passed on to us their experiences concerning the activities of INTERINFO CR.

The assembly approved the articles of the civil association INTERINFO SR, the organs of the association - The Executive Council and the Supervisory Council.

**The following members of the Executive Council were elected :**

Ing. Janka Borgulová, SSŠ Zvolen, Central Slovakia

Ing. Daniela Hícová, the economist of CA, SSŠ Zvolen

Mgr. Emília Gajdošová, BA Rožnava, Eastern Slovakia

Mgr. Iveta Moravcová, BA Hlohovec , Western Slovakia

Ing. Vlasta Púchovská, the representative of ŠIOV, the head of the section – creativity of youth

Bc. Veronika Gyalogová, the Slovak representative of computer text processing

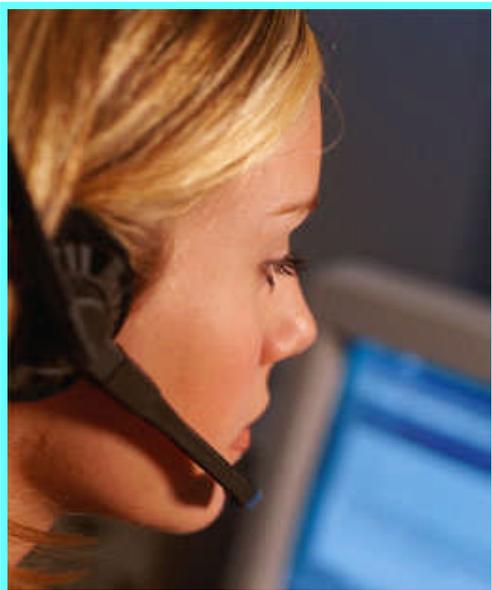
Ing. Janka Borgulová from the United Secondary School in Zvolen was elected as chairman of the association.

The schools welcomed activities leading to a renewal of the competitions in Slovakia and they supported the establishment of the civil association INTERINFO SR.

***(Ing. Janka Borgulová )***

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## ◆ Big opportunity for Intersteno: Julius speech recognition. ◆



Speech recognition is yet not available for all languages since the investments needed to produce and maintain software for each of them is very expensive.

Mr **Tsuguo Kaneko of Japan** now has produced some very interesting news.

He is cooperating with with Prof. Tatsuya Kawahara, of Kyoto University in developing a dictation system with speech recognition software, based on **Julius Open Source Software**, already improved and tested for the Japanese language. This development will be focused in two fields. One is as a small support tool for freelance stenographers and the other is for a communication aid system for the hearing-impaired, operated by volunteer groups.

The project is developed by a consortium which now includes 70 members from industry and universities. This consortium maintains the software as a research platform, expands its coverage into real-world environments and facilitates its portability to various applications.

*Mr Kaneko writes: "Prof. Kawahara has agreed to cooperate in applying JULIUS to other languages. The problem is to develop each acoustic model and language model, and if **members of an Intersteno group** decide to apply JULIUS for each language, we can establish a standard recognition engine and system for real time speech recognition in the world. In the future we have the possibility of developing speech recognition and translation systems on the Intersteno domain. "*

Mr Tsuguo Kaneko is a very competent person who has written many books on shorthand and its history, providing information about systems all over the world. He cooperated in studying and developing a shorthand machine for Japanese and Twainese and is very well acquainted with all kind of reporting.

About this Japanese project, **Mr. Dave Rogala who is a leader in speech recognition in the USA**, made some additional technical remarks and we are glad to release them:

*"The Julius open source software engine has recently been ported to Microsoft Windows in compliance with Microsoft's speech application programming interface, SAPI. Julius also works with SALT, the XML-based framework for porting speech recognition to all kinds of application, including Web-connected interfaces. The Julius engine is the core of a free, sharable platform that can be used as a baseline and reference, due to its standardized interface and construction of a plug-and-play open-source software development framework which provides massive research and development efficiencies.*

*Julius' most prominent feature is its ability to combine the decoder with a variety of acoustic and language models, including the ARPA format generated by the Carnegie Mellon University Cambridge SLM toolkit. Julius is now used for several languages.*

*These language-independent features make Julius a very welcome -- and very watchable -- newcomer on the world stage of speech recognition."*

The new Scientific Committee, which will be elected in Prague, will surely take steps for entering in this very interesting project.

**Gian Paolo Trivulzio - Dave Rogala**

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## ◆ Using New Technology to Enhance Interaction in Distance Learning. ◆

Interaction is important to effective learning. **DyKnow** is educational software designed to engage students in learning in a pen-enabled environment. Standing for **dynamic knowledge transfer**, DyKnow originated from an idea of **David Berque**, a professor of computer science at **DePauw University (USA)**. Its intent is to switch students' focus from copying notes in the classroom to understanding the learning content and to

increase collaboration with the instructors and other students in a pen-enabled environment. It can be also used on a laptop or desktop with limited functionalities.

DyKnow software includes two parts: *DyKnow Vision* and *DyKnow Monitor*. *Vision* is a teaching and learning tool while *Monitor* is a classroom management tool used to control and reduce electronic distraction in the mobile learning environment. To implement this software, an institution needs to buy the server licence, which enables the live synchronous sessions and access to the notebooks on the server.

DyKnow can do many things to enhance teaching and learning. For example, an instructor can transmit learning content to student computers for annotation, which can thus save note-taking time and allow students to focus on understanding the learning content. Moreover, **an instructor can ask students to collaborate on a shared whiteboard and give shared whiteboard control to one or more students.** As the student presents, the teacher and other students can see the presented content on their individual computers. Additionally, DyKnow has some other features such as polling and chat which enhance online communication.

This is an abstract of an article in the March issue of International Journal of instructional Technology and distance learn. You can read the whole article and see the results of a survey [by clicking here.](#)

You can also [listen Prof. David Berque](#) talking about the invention of this tool.

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### ◆ Marriage between pen-computing and keyboard. ◆



A growing number of vendors are offering ultra-personal tablet PCs in which you can write your documents and notes using traditional handwriting. Windows Vista makes it easier to use this technique.

A Taiwanese manufacturer has produced this handsome product incorporating a sliding keyboard which can alternatively be used for handwriting recognition purposes.

As you can see from the picture, the keyboard is split into two parts. This feature could mean that users of conventional keyboards will need time to get acquainted with it.

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*Many thanks to Peter Walker for revising these texts*

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