

Section News

Acoustics and perception in the Netherlands



Ben Kok discussing the acoustics of small rooms.

The acoustic perception of the environment is mostly subjective. We try to translate this subjective experience to physical processes and technical design rules. This often results in single-number specifications that do not sufficiently cover the issue. In his presentation on **January 14**, Ben Kok treated a number of qualitative aspects of subjective acoustic perception and how this can be influenced by specific materials or measures. Ben took the attendees on a journey through the acoustics landscape of small venues—like studio rooms, the living room, the car, and others. **He developed an**

overview of how the sound field develops in such venues and the limitations, especially for low frequencies.

In turn, Ben discussed issues such as the difference between absorption and reflection and the characteristics we want from reflection, like early or late reflections, diffuse or not, etc. Absorption was further treated in terms of material selected, size/thickness of the constructions, related to the absorption goal. Diffusion was extensively discussed in terms of solutions based on commercial products as well as natural use of available objects like book cases. Where useful, graphs and pictures with practical examples were shown from the many worldwide projects realized by Kok.

Finally, aspects of loudspeaker placement in such small venues and the large variations within the sound field were discussed.

This was another very enlightening evening where many different aspects of sound reproduction in small venues were placed in “holistic” perspective, leading to increased understanding. The discussions went on well past the formal closure time; a clear indication that once again this presentation filled a need. With many thanks to Ben Kok for his efforts and time.

Johannes Didden

Japan holds seminar on acoustics



Tutorial Seminar on Psychoacoustics by Akira Nishimura of Tokyo Univ. of Info. Sciences

The Japan Section's fourth annual Tutorial Seminar on Acoustics was held at the Senju Campus of Tokyo University of the Arts, on **August 22 and 23** of last year.

By adding a digital signal processing class, the seminar was completed as a summer school semester that covered most of the areas on acoustics and audio technologies. The seminar consisted of 12 classes in which professionals gave lectures that are usually taught in universities as specialty areas of expertise. Speakers included Yoshitaka Tamura (Studio Equipment Corp.), Bike H. Suzuki (SONA Corp./Elcommunications), Masataka Nakahara (SONA Corp./ONFUTURE), Kazuma Hoshi (Nihon University), Akira Nishimura (Tokyo University of Information Sciences), and Atsushi Marui (Tokyo University of the Arts).

Some of the lectures were: “Electroacoustics” (Yoshitaka Tamura); “Technical Writing in English” (Bike H. Suzuki); “Basic Properties of Sound” (Kazuma Hoshi); “History and Future of Technology for Loudspeakers, Room Acoustics, Microphones and Recording” (Shinji Koyano, Toshiko Fukuchi, Masataka Nakahara, Kazuho Ono and Toru Kamekawa).

A total of 58 people attended the seminar and 16 people joined AES this time.

Masataka Nakahara

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