

**Meeting of the Committee for Developing Countries
of European Mathematical Society
in ICTP, 12/04/2008 afternoon**

Leif Abrahamsson (LA), leifab@math.uu.se,
Lars D. Andersen (LDA), anders@golonka.se,
Hans Georg Bock (HGB), Bock@iwr.uni-heidelberg.de,
Herbert Fleischner (HF), fleisch@dbai.tuwien.ac.at,
Andreas Griewank (AG), griewank@mathematik.hu-berlin.de,
Gyula Katona (GK), ohkatona@renyi.hu,
Le Dung Trang (DTL), math@ictp.it,
Mikael Passare (MP), passare@math.su.se,
Claudio Procesi (CP), procesi@mat.uniroma1.it,
Tsou Sheung Tsun (TST), tsou@maths.ox.ac.uk
Paul Vaderlind (PV), paul@math.su.se,
Michel Waldschmidt (MW), miw@math.jussieu.fr,
Anders Wandhal (AW), anders@golonka.se

14:00: opening - welcome by DTL

Story of ICTP: Abdu Salam.

Support: schools, post-docs, associateship: normal, regular, senior -
see website <<http://www.ictp.trieste.it/>>

400 to 500 visitors every year.

Office of external affairs. Budget depend of Italian government - was

recently cut down.

ICTP teaches also how to do basic technical things. For instance how to build a wi-fi connexion.

Total budget of ICTP: 20 Million Euros a Year. (18+ last year).

Activities of the section used to receive 450 000 Euros per year for mathematics, drastically reduced now.

Discussion on UNESCO support. Possibility (for CIMPA also) to request specific support from countries who donate money to UNESCO for scientific purposes.

Welcome by TST, new members

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting.

2. Summary report of activities in past year by TST.

AG organized the round table for DC in ICIAM Zürich, will do it again for EMS congress in Amsterdam in July. Letter published in EMS Newsletter *December 2007* to presidents of mathematical societies - no reply yet.

3000 Euros for a student from Cambodia - Michel Jambu said he will go to France

Web site is completed;

Meeting in Oslo last month in higher education and research in developing countries.

Supported a mathematician from Cambodia who wrote a report. Will support another student to attend a conference.

New donation from the friends of Arthur Besse.

TST will attend the council meeting in Utrecht in July before Amsterdam meeting.

DTL key pb: no obvious way to get a scholarship in Europa. No clear way anymore (used to be easy in France). Many who get a scholarship to go in US stay there. ICTP help to build the scientific capacity of the country. 95% go to US. Those who go to Italy or Germany usually come back.

3. Financial report (LDA).

Support for a Romanian student and to a Cambodian student, funds from Springer Verlag Zentralblatt.

TST : should not be too formal.

DTL: better if anyone has the opportunity to say yes or no - deadline of one week say.

Bulk of money from authors of the book on mathematical physics: specifically for Cambodian student and sending books, help people from developing countries, not to support mathematicians from developed countries willing to give courses in developing countries.

Round table: should be covered by organizers.

GK: next time we should identify the right persons to support for the European Congress.

TST: maybe not yet too late for Amsterdam. Stay there is very expensive - one could consider to support only travel expenses and negotiate a reduced registration fee.

Société des Amis d'Arthur Besse: could provide 9 000 Euros.

4. Individual activities.

DTL: school in Uzbekistan (Samarkand) in 2009 with CIMPA, three other schools: knots, p-adic analysis, practical linear algebra like Google. One school on Integrable systems hosted in Trieste. Financial support only for participants from DC.

GK: contact middle Asia (former Soviet Union) - no good reply. DTL: there are very decent mathematicians from central Asia (in Uzbekistan a professor earns 50 US\$ a month). GK: one difficulty is language. But mainly they are not so communicative. INTAS program

is over. There are good mathematicians, they are isolated. TST: try to investigate help we could provide with documentation.

TST: question about access to MathSciNet. AW: program twinning program. Most African countries can access MathSciNet. TST: and Zbl? AW: MathSciNet was cheaper by a coefficient 3 for the least DC. One should consider negotiating again with Zbl and Bernd Wegner.

LA: Financial situation for ISP: wait decision for application for support.

25 PhD Students in mathematics. Starting collaboration with CIMPA for Cambodia.

Discussion with Sarek: to get more involved in collaborative programs.

Further collaborations

PV: participated to a Kampala workshop. Progress with East Africa. Master programs. Ruanda is accepted as a East Africa country.

MP with AW: congress in Kinshasa; number of competent senior staff there. Brazzaville: bad shape. Angola: not yet suitable for collaboration.

Collaboration with Ivory Coast and Ruanda: got a grant from London Math Society project.

We could propose names for invited speakers for the next ICM in Hyderabad to Hendrik Lenstra.

AW: access to the literature for DC: JStor, Open access,... In december workshop in Dar el Salam funded by ISP 25 people from 6 different countries. New little about information access. How to continue? AIMS: great impact in Africa. Joint proposal to AIMS, Aminet (15 regional centers in Africa), INASP, Oxford and ISP: start with AMInet site. Application going to be sent.

LA: lecture notes from MIT: open courses. In many places they have access to a huge quantity of information and they do not know it.

AW: account to EGDS e-mail delivery service of scientific papers. Can order papers.

MW: Bordeauxtheque is similar.

TST: asks AM to write some report.

AW: has a comprehensive guide. Link: ...

DTL: big effort for few people who need it and do not know it exists. AIMS : idea of training is quite good. need knowledge and capacity to find the knowledge. Colleagues in DC not knowing what is available and not using it. We give it too early before they have a sufficiently good level.

MW: access to electronic publication on a global scheme

LA: MIT database - undergraduate courses.

MW: CEMAT, Sarima

HF: took books from Heidelberg + a research student

AG: Activities with Cuba, Caribbean countries. Nobody allowed to leave the country for more than 6 months: they need support for local activities. Plan another master program funded by DAAD.

HGB: Excellence initiative. Scientific computing; funding from DAAD partnership program. South East Asia: two in Vietnam: institute of Mathematics in Hanoi, Technology University in Saigon, Vientiane in Laos, a University in Myanmar, two universities in Cambodia: Royal

University in Phnom Penh and Royal Universities of Fine Art in Cambodia, Chulalongkorn University. funding from Daimler Benz Fondation, UNESCO, ICTP for students from DC to participate to conferences. Money for conferences and summer schools. Exchange of people: 30 visits in both directions, South East Asia to Heidelberg. Possible to support visits to other parts from Europa. Investment for scholarships: one Cambodian, one Vietnamese. Interaction with other schools and research places in the world. Main type of activities is organizing workshops. Two events in Vietnam, next March conference in Hanoi. Most activities are interdisciplinary. Myanmar: a very successful took place, with many foreigners. Second workshop in Myanmar in December 1-5, 2008. January 2008 in Siem Reap. Usefulness of mathematics in real life. Mathematics and preservation of cultural heritage. Research activities: pb is not only access to information, should consider how people in DC could be helped to be active in research. How to support research activities? Doctoral students from South East Asia : mathematics oriented towards applications. Stipends for research projects - supervised by colleagues in the countries; 25% overheads for faculty members. Meeting organized by Chan Roath in january: thee Ministry of research in Cambodia gives 100 000 US\$ for research grants.

TST: e-m messages from

Mireille Martin Deschamps: minutes of the june 2007 meeting; report on our committee.

Michel Thera: activity on the web site

Michel Jambu.

CP: meeting in october in Maputo, delegation from IMU

plan to organize a summer school in Africa?

In Cairo at the end of august: PACOM Pan African Congress of Mathematics.

5. Membership

Extending the committee

Two suggestions from Michel Jambu : two portuguese colleagues.
Michel Thera supports one of them. HFB supports also.

Suggestion from Michel Thera: a mathematician from Alicante :
Marco Lopez - has contacts with Argentina.

Manuel de Leon, Aroca (Valladolid)

Poland: suggestions from HGB and PV

Switzerland

Irish government (suggestion by LA)

Cyprus (suggestion of CP)

Associate members: Claude Cibils

6. Twinning project

Twining or Adoption scheme.

AW: the project started with questions of acces to data base
MathSciNet.

List of 13 universities in DC supported (10 by Swedish Universities, 2
USA, 1 UK).

LA: there is a twining scheme at the undergraduate level.

MW: SMF project for developing countries - the idea is that the
libraries will be able to pursue the subscription after a few years.

TST: letter to John Ball, IMU

AG, CP, TST, DTL: discussion about Templeton foundation support.

TST: letter from Herb Clemens - consider cooperation with South
East Asia Math. Soc., there are good departments who could train
students from DC.

One could consider to get newly retired people involved.

CP: not difficult to train more students in our departments. Should get local sponsors, feasible. Much harder: to support joint research. More efficient to have specific agreements between individuals or small groups.

AW: think big: mathematics departments need recognition and need to belong to an international community. Someone to rely on.

MP: twinning should be flexible and informal; no evaluation panel, creating ideas to connect.

LA: get PhD students, if they go back to their countries there become isolated. They need contacts. Universities get supports, but not for mathematics.

AG: my University will not accept to give such a support for a twinning programme. Better to nominate one representative from each math department, should reply to e-mail, provide minimal information.

DTL: the whole problem is not uniform. No general solution. In some countries the level could be very bad. Everyone who get a good connection should be helped, grant or some kind of support.

TST: letter from London Math Soc: contacts from Africa should apply LMS.

LA: the process will take a very long time.

7. Book donation programme

Collection of some 400 books collected by HF in Linz, some 200 kg of books in Paris by MW.

TST: Herb Clemens

LA: one could ask MIT to provide CD's or DVD's with Lecture Notes.

AW: off line system on local server with open course - do not use internet connection

HF: people in DC do not know what is available. One should explain them how to proceed.

MW: pb with books sent which disappear

TST: access to electronic journals.

AW: apart from some editors situation in Mathematics is not so bad.
EMS publishing house: one should get free access for DC like AMS.

TST: John Ewing in AMS is willing to help with access for DC.

CP: proxy connexion is a big step.

LDT: how to become an associate. At least one publication in three last years, a letter of recommendation. Can come 3 times in 6 years + internet access via proxy server. Around 160 applications for 20 names to be nominated and 6 or 7 selected. In maths about 50 or 60 associate. Sida Sarek gives possibility of only 6 or 7 each year.

AW: electronic journal delivery service <http://ejds.org/>

8. Roundtable at 5ECM

Report what happened in the last round table and the project for ECM. Program will be restricted to Africa. 7 people will speak.

9. Other future projects

TST : Stepping stones - more developed countries to help

China: discussion with Ma, Academia Sinica - pb with language

Message from SEAMS

CP: India

LDT: Vietnam

Emirates? PV will provide information on contacts to CP and TST

LA: Use Thailand (Bangkok: Chulalongkorn) as stepping stone for Laos.

HF: MSc programs - most were applications oriented. Zimbabwe,

Tanzania. Mathematical modelling. Need for a proof oriented MSc program. In South Africa, after BSc honor degree (4 years program), only 1 year for MSc: half a year for studies, half a year for thesis. Too difficult for the students.

Conclusion: wait and see

TST: in Oxford they record video of graduate lectures - to be kept in mind. PV and LDA: other similar programs exist. May be useful for DC.

10. Website

Comments are welcome, also photos. Tell TST if you agree that your personal web site is quoted.

11. Collaborations, eg CIMPA-EMSCDC-ICTP

See this morning

12. AOB

Next meeting: MP has contacts in Brussels. 1st choice April 18, 2009; 2nd choice: April 4.

End of meeting at 19:40.

Version 1, 12/04/2008, 19:40 Notes by Michel Waldschmidt.

Michel Waldschmidt Vice Président du CIMPA

Université Paris 06 - UMR 7586

Institut de Mathématiques de Jussieu

175 rue du Chevaleret 75013 PARIS

Tél.: + 33 (0)1 44 27 53 36 Fax: +33 (0)1 44 27 63 25

<<http://www.institut.math.jussieu.fr/~miw>>

<michel.waldschmidt@upmc.fr>
