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**A short report on
the MENAO Symposium
and
ICM 2014**

On Tuesday, August 12, 2014, in Seoul, a symposium MENAO *Mathematics in Emerging Nations: Achievements and Opportunities*

<http://www.mathunion.org/cdc/menao/>

was organized by the *International Mathematical Union IMU*, just before the *International Congress of Mathematicians ICM 2014*, (August 13 – 21, 2014)

<http://www.icm2014.org/>

According to the website

<http://euro-math-soc.eu/EMS-CDC/>

of the Committee for Developing Countries of the European Mathematical Society:

EMS-CDC at ICM2014 August 2014

*Members of the EMS Committee for Developing Countries have been participating at the recent ICM2014 in Seoul, South Korea. Our focus was raising awareness in the mathematical community about the needs of mathematicians in developing countries. Michel Waldschmidt gave a **presentation** on the work of the EMS-CDC; while a **poster** and **leaflet** were created describing the work of the committee.*

*A **joint meeting** was also held with members of EMS-CDC and the EMS Committee for European Solidarity.*

A few days before the end of the congress, I reproduced an initiative by Tsou Sheung Tsun and Andreas during the last European Mathematical Congress, where they approached the publishers who had a booth in the exhibition room, and asked

them whether they would be willing to donate some of their remaining books to our committee for libraries in developing countries. Joël Tossa, the director of the Institute of Mathematics and Physical Sciences (IMSP), Dangbo (Bénin), was attending the ICM. Last July he hosted a CIMPA Research School

http://www.imspace.org/CIMPA_research_school/

The main organiser of the school, Alain Togbe, from Benin, had written last year to the speakers of the school:

I would like to use the opportunity of the school to do a kind of humanitarianism: donate to L'Institut de Mathématiques et de Sciences Physiques (IMSP) useful books of Mathematics and Physics. If you can, you will bring them with you to the school in July 2014

Joël Tossa had told me in July that his institute would be able to support the cost of shipping expenses for books which would be donated to the library. So with him we visited the booths of the publishing houses; several publishers agreed to give some of the remaining books. Some of the editors have been very generous: we received for free 164 books, including 67 from Elsevier (thanks to Laura Schmidt), 40 from Springer and 17 from Birkhäuser (thanks to Wakey Lau), 41 from EMS (thanks to Thomas Hinderman), 5 from CRC Press (thanks to Howard Kim) and 3 from Oxford University Press (thanks to Keith Mansfield). The total weight is 126 kg, in 7 boxes of less than 20 kg each. It would have been too expensive to ship these books to Benin directly, it was much cheaper to ship them to France, and from there I will ship them to Africa. Among the books from Elsevier, 31 are duplicates; they will be sent to Abdoul Salam Diallo, from the University of Alioume Diop of Bambey, who will distribute them to institutes in Senegal. So the library of IMSP will receive 133 books. I wish to thank the generous donators, and also Dohan Kim, whom I know since he invited me to KIAS just 10 years ago: he requested two volunteers of ICM 2014 to help Abdoul Salam Diallo and myself to write the list of books, put them in boxes and mail them.

This report can be downloaded at URL

<http://www.imj-prg.fr/~michel.waldschmidt/EMS-CDC/ReportICM2014.pdf>

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