

April 2012

**ANNUAL MEETING, 2 APRIL 2011**

in MADRID, beginning at 10:00

Members, associates and guests present at the meeting:

Lars Døvling Andersen (LDA)  
Antonio Campillo (AC)  
Claude Cibils (CC)  
Andreas Griewank (AG)  
Michel Jambu (MJ)  
Mireille Martin-Deschamps (MMD)  
Mercedes Siles Molina (MSM)  
Giulia Di Nunno (GDN)  
Mikael Passare (MP)  
Jose Antonio De la Peña (JADP)  
Marta Sanz-Solé (MSS)  
Joana Teles (JT)  
Michel Thera (MT)  
Ramadas Ramakrishnan Trivandrum (RRT)  
Tsou Sheung Tsun (TST)  
Paul Vaderlind (PV)  
Begoña Vitoriano Villanueva (BVV)  
Michel Waldschmidt (MW)  
Anders Wändahl (AW)

Excuses from Leif Abrahamsson, Georg Bock, Anna Fino

## AGENDA

- (1) Welcome
  - Introductions
  - Guests: Antonio Campillo, Jose Antonio de la Peña, (Marta Sanz-Solé,) Mercedes Siles Molina
  - Thanks to BVV
- (2) Minutes of the last meeting
- (3) Address from the EMS President
- (4) Summary report of activities in the past year (TST)
  - Report 11.10
  - Report 03.11
  - (comments if any MMD)
- (5) Financial report (MP)
  - IMU grant (TST)
- (6) CDC webpage (MW)
- (7) Individual activities: all members and all associates  
(including reports from absent members), with at least
  - (a) E-access workshops (AW+MW)
  - (b) EMS-ERCE (MW+MJ+MT)
  - (c) ISP (MP+PV)
- (8) Short presentation of IMU-CDC (JADP)
- (9) Collaborations: everybody, including
  - UMALCA (MSS)
  - CIMPA (CC+AC)
  - IMU (TST+AW)
  - ICTP (RRT)
  - AIMS (TST)
  - Angola (JT)
- (10) Schedule for reduced EMS membership fees for developing countries  
(MW+RRT+MP)
- (11) Requests for funding from
  - (a) Kiril Tintarev for a conference in India (comments from MP+PV requested)
  - (b) via Leif Abrahamsson, to build up a library for the Master program in Nouakchott, Mauritania (ditto)
- (12) AOB

## MINUTES :

### (1) Welcome

Introductions

Guests: Antonio Campillo, Jose Antonio de la Peña, (Marta Sanz-Solé,  
Mercedes Siles Molina

Thanks to BVV

TST welcomed everyone, and there was a mutual introduction.

### (2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved.

MW had some questions of a follow-up character. The point about Pakistani financing was discussed, and the h-index defined. It was stressed once again that it is a good idea to bring laptops to Africa as gifts.

### (3) Address from EMS President

MSS thanked the committee and said that the committees are the true pillars of the society. She also stressed that it is important for various organisations with the same goals not to duplicate the work, but to cooperate.

### (4) Summary report of activities in the past year (TST)

Two reports by TST had been circulated before the meeting (report1110 and report0311). It was noted that emerging regional centers of excellence had been approved by the EC ; their logo was discussed, as the EC had some points about it that should be addressed. The first one has started in Lahore, and a piece about ERCs is on its way out with the Newsletter.

AW's workshops have been a great success. A student of AG who went to Malawi asked for electronic access to Zentralblatt, and it was arranged and implemented within a few days.

We no longer ship physical journals, but still books (except for one journal load). RRT : an example from Kampala – books are more important. MSS : Zentralblatt is also with free access in Pakistan. AW : Could we select books according to specific needs, such as general books for students versus research books ? MW informed about some mix-up in previous book-shipments. We discussed how to handle book lists in connection with donors versus receivers – and customs authorities. RRT : CUP has some books especially for the Indian market priced around 10 Euro. AW : What about EMS Publishing House ? MSS : it will be discussed. EMS has ownership of some journals but is only a publisher of other journals. RRT suggested buying several copies of the same book to get good prices.

The summary report was accepted.

#### (5) Financial report (MP)

The main figures in the financial report from MP were :

The current balance is 29,740 EUR.

Deposits since last year's meeting:

265 EUR (Springer Verlag)  
1559 EUR (IMU/DCSG)  
500 EUR (Marja-Liisa Clausen-Karma)  
70 EUR (interest)  
360 EUR (Swiss Mathsociety)

In total 2,754 EUR

Withdrawals since last year's meeting:

584 EUR (EMS)  
4730 EUR (CIMPA)  
1414 EUR (Anders Wändahl)  
2168 EUR (Anders Wändahl)

In total 8,896 EUR

So the amount in the account is going down, as we agreed last year. MSS has a meeting for presidents in May – will ask for donations for CDC, like the Swiss do.

TST : The IMU grant for Anders is given for the second time. These get very positive feedback. MW : In France Cimpa contributions are tax-deductible with 66% or 40%. But this would depend on the different national tax systems. PV : Let us try a place like Google. Everybody : YES. MMD : Maybe EMS should apply, to put more body and power behind the request. AG : We should probably have a specific project to apply for – such as electronic access. MW : Or the training of young female mathematicians at different places – maybe in association with L'Oreal (TST : Maybe they are more interested in science).

The financial report was accepted.

#### (6) CDC webpage (MW)

Please see the report by MW below.

#### (7) Individual activities: all members and all associates (including reports from absent members)

What follows are the reports from the members and associates, mixed with discussion.

Anders Wändahl:

Since the last meeting I have performed two workshops on the subject "Finding Online Information in Mathematics". The first workshop was held at the mathematics department of Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, October 19-21 and the second at the CIMPA school held in Bamako, Mali, November 20-21. Both workshops were funded by the EMS-CDC and the IMU Developing Countries Strategy Group in collaboration.

All materials and hand-outs for the EMS-CDC workshops are available at a dedicated webpage <http://workshop.ems-cdc.org/> where it can be freely downloaded and used.

A full report is available at [http://workshop.ems-cdc.org/lib/exe/fetch.php/ems-cdc\\_imu\\_workshops\\_2010.pdf](http://workshop.ems-cdc.org/lib/exe/fetch.php/ems-cdc_imu_workshops_2010.pdf)

MW will repeat such workshops. Please pass on ideas for places – Cambodia?

Report of activities in 2010-2011 by Michel Waldschmidt:

Between the meeting in Budapest in April 2010 and the meeting in Madrid in April 2011, my main activities related with EMS-CDC have been the following ones.

First of all, I have renovated and maintained the web site of the European Mathematical Society - Committee for the Developing Countries

<http://ems-cdc.org>

There is a subsection on the page

<http://www.math.jussieu.fr/~miw/EMS-CDC/reports.html>

to individual reports, which have a dedicated folder

<http://www.math.jussieu.fr/~miw/EMS-CDC/IndividualReports/>

So far, there is only one item, where this report is available. I invite all members of this committee to send me material for this website. Please, send me your own report, if possible in .html format, and I will include it.

Next, I had a number of visits in developing countries, some of them gave rise to reports which are posted on my web site

Coopération                      Internationale                      -                      International                      Cooperation  
<http://www.math.jussieu.fr/~miw/cooperations.html>

A number of my visits abroad were done under the auspices of CIMPA, of which I am Regional Scientific Officer - see the rubric dedicated to the Indian and Western Asia activities

<http://www.cimpa-icpam.org/spip.php?rubrique49>

In July 2010, I participated to a CIMPA Research school on number theory in cryptography and its applications in Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, Népal.

In August 2010, I participated to the International Congress of Mathematicians ICM 2010, Hyderabad, India. On August 25 I participated to a meeting: Mechanisms for strengthening mathematics in developing countries where I gave a presentation of the CIMPA (Centre International de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées) and of the Committee for the Developing Countries (CDC) of the European Mathematical Society (EMS)

In September 2010 I participated to a CIMPA Research School on Commutative Algebra and Applications to Combinatorics and Algebraic Geometry in Istanbul, Turkey.

In September-October 2010, I visited Vietnam for a few days and I gave a 4 weeks course in the Royal University of Phnom Penh (URPP - Université Royale de Phnom Penh), Cambodia.

In November 2010 I participated to the CIMPA Research School : Théorie des Nombres et Algorithmique in Bamako, Mali.

In December 2010 I participated to the International Conference on Revitalizing Research in Kurdistan in Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq.

Among my projects for next year, I wish to mention the following items.

In July 2011, participation to a CIMPA Research School Systèmes Dynamiques dans des Variétés et Applications in Kinshasa, République Démocratique du Congo (RDC)

In September 2011: course on Number Theory in Central Department of Mathematics, Tribhuvan University TU, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal.

In October 2011: course on finite fields in the Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences (ASSMS), Lahore, Pakistan and workshop on Number Theory and Allied Areas in Mathematics in Skardu (Pakistan), organized by ASSMS. The Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences is the first selected Emerging Regional Centres of Excellence (ERCE) of EMS.

Further information is available on my web site

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

and

<http://www.math.jussieu.fr/~miw/index2.html>

Some discussion :

MT : There is office space for short stays with housing, internet, within the university of Hanoi. PV : How many foreign students go there ? An ERCE should be part of the regional development. Same could be said about Pakistan. CC : I just met Cambodian students. Language is a problem there – and we say that ERCEs should be in a major European language. MT : Maybe Indonesia. RRT : Not response from everyone in India, but one enthusiastic one. TST : We should go slowly and make sure that the criteria are satisfied. We also want enthusiastic places!

JADP : What do the ERCEs get from EMS and IMU, and how does it compare to ICTP centers of excellence ? RRT : The few ICTP centers are supposed to carry out things that are similar to ICTP's activities, so there is a direct link. EMS more gives out a stamp of approval. MW : And are places to send students for continued education. RRT : This is an important thing – great if we could find money to move students like that (between DCs). We could apply to the EC for that. AG : The most important thing about the stamp is to qualify the place in negotiations with their universities or governments.

TST : Let's open up the regions pretty soon. PV : PAMC planned in Dar es Salaam could be a possibility (in cooperation with Stockholm University) ; starts probably 2012. Begins with 40 students per year. GDN : Dar Es Salaam ok, but strange to hook up on Swedish partner. MP : Later on, local degrees. This discussion will be continued next year. AIMS have plans but not leading to a full master, and they have physics – otherwise a good candidate. MSM : Does EMS work with AIMS – MSS : No. Possibility about AIMS Senegal, that will be announced in Paris next week. CC : Cimpa finds this development interesting, but the program should be developed more, and the maths contents should be clearer. AG : Senegal AIMS will 90% be like in Cape Town, but how will the language situation work out ? Further candidates for ERCEs were discussed. GDN : There is a Norwegian program NUMA

supporting students from other DCs going to Dar es Salaam, which also involves many self-financed students. Language is an important factor.

TST : We will think about candidates from Latin America. JADP : Here it should be noted that there are very different countries in the region. BVV : This also means that there should be bridging semesters for students travelling from one university to another.

TST mentioned the Bock meeting in Hanoi next year.

TST : We tried to help in Nepal. What happened. ? MW : There was a Cimpa school. Two students from Bhutan joined with Cimpa support. MW will go to teach a course in September. There are students from Bhutan in Vienna.

Individual activities, Mikael Passare :

(a) The creation of PACM (Pan-African Center for Mathematics) is moving ahead. A board consisting of three representatives each from Stockholm University and the University of Dar-es-Salaam, and with Mohamed El Tom from Khartoum as chairman, has already had two meetings via video link. The center should begin operation in the fall of 2012, and it will welcome excellent students from all over Africa for MSc (and later also PhD) programs with degrees awarded from Stockholm University, but with all activities taking place in Tanzania. Two main issues remain to be solved: The long term financing and the recruitment of a director. For the moment the financing comes from ISP and Stockholm University, and Leif Abrahamsson from Uppsala University is working as acting director. Paul Vaderlind (SU) and Egbert Mujuni (UDSM) are serving as the coordinators of PACM during the build-up phase. I myself is one of the Stockholm representatives on the board of PACM.

(b) Stockholm University is continuing an EDULINK project with the two Congos. It consists in funding for a five year graduate school aiming at producing 60 MSc degrees in Kinshasa and Brazzaville.

(c) I am the mentor for a cooperation with Université de Cocody in Ivory Coast. This is part of the program MARM (Mentoring African Research in Mathematics) funded by The Nuffield Foundation and Leverhulme Trust, and managed by LMS.

(d) In the absence of Leif Abrahamsson, MP also presented the work of ISP. The money comes from the Swedish SIDA. A hand-out was distributed at the meeting. Members of the committee are invited to the 50th anniversary of ISP in Uppsala in September.

Andreas Griewank in year preceding April 2011 :

- Gave short course at Al Farabi university in Almaty Kazakhstan and started cooperation on optimization of uranium mining.

- Visited Moscow and Ulan Bator for conferences and cooperation, will return to both places this year.

- Visited Havana, but prospect of planned EDULink project looks currently rather slim.

- Took part in AIMS Senegal academic council meeting in Mbour near Dakar. Committed to teaching two courses this fall. Continue to coordinate collaboration between German institutions and AIMS Senegal.

- Participated in OR conference at Buenos Aires and met with Chilean cooperation partners on mining optimization.

- Participated in Potsdam workshop on trilateral cooperation between France Germany and Africa. Initiated application for an exploration project aiming at foundation of a joint research center on value chain optimization and analysis at university of Thies in Senegal.

- Took part in meeting of ICIAM executive board at Delhi as special representative for developing countries.

- Partook in CIMPA general assembly as representative of ICIAM. Convinced the German Mathematical Society to join CIMPA and to write a letter suggesting that Germany join CIMPA as a state member to the minister of education and research. Result not yet clear despite supporting letter of French minister Precresse to German counterpart Schavan.

- Graduated one doctoral student each from Malawi, India and Spain.

P.S. Still managed to get downgraded from silver to ivory frequent flyer status by KLM/Air France....

More discussion :

MW : Bordeaux is involved in an Erasmus Mundus program, where the teaching is doubled in English and French. MT : In Cambodia there is a program where the university and the french embassy arrange sessions to upgrade the level of teachers. There is a big need for help in Cambodia, also in physics.

MSS : EMS is in process of making a cooperation with Mathematical Physics.

PV : Nothing is happening in the Edulink project with the two Congos. MW : It's not that easy ; SMF and Cimpa has a list of international cooperation with DCs, and this was rather difficult. TST : Hook up with the LMS LIST. AG does not believe in supervision of a student you never see. GDN agrees, has tried it. A discussion about a list of this kind of supervision followed.

PV : In Mongolia, there is a grant to send students to South Korea. TST : We previously supported a conference in Mongolia.

TST : Subcommittees : New chair for twinning. GDN : EC funding impossible here – let us abandon that subcommittee. MSS : I am exploring this quite deeply. It is a jungle but I will try to find the right persons to involve. Maybe better to use (targeted) foundations than the EU.

## (8) IMU-CDC (JADP)

The committee was founded in 1973. For organising conferences, supporting participation and so on. This still goes on. In 2002, a DC strategy group was formed to work in parallel to the committee. Several programs were set up : mentoring program supported by LMS, NUFU program supported by Norway. In 2010 it was decided to have one umbrella committee for everything. JADP was chairman, Herb Clemence secretary. First meeting was in January in Berlin. Apart from selecting for ICM, there were 3 topics :

1. What to do about deciding what to support. Maybe more like Cimpa meetings, sending people to one same place. Get clearer information about the needs at various places. To get



a bigger impact the electronic communication should be strengthened ; the network LUCINDA in Africa should be enhanced. So one should negotiate lower prices for DCs for electronic journals. JADP has a list of reliable contacts in Latin and central America ; in these areas there will be meetings about electronic education of teachers.

2. Call for a sponsor meeting in 2014. Scepticism in Berlin. Nothing was decided, so JADP thinks that the idea will not materialise.

3 Present sponsors. Norway has a company, Petroleum Geo Services, that will give IMU 1.5 million dollars to something in Africa. Centers of excellence have been suggested.

#### (9) Collaborations

UMALCA : MSS : EMS does not normally have international societies as collaboration partners. Now an agreement with UMALCA has been signed, containing cooperation about international events, joint collaboration with industry, joint exploitation of ERCOM. We can try to get more associates in line with the agreement.

GDN : More societies ? MW : Yes. AG : But if all continental societies should have bilateral agreements, there will be many !

CIMPA : AC :Spain joined, which is a win-win situation. Spain will now try to participate in more schools. CC : Yes, good situation. Switzerland will become a state member, maybe also Norway. Others are welcome to follow ! There is no fixed fee.

ICTP : RRT : Please ask good persons to write to be associates, and write a letter of recommendation. Pilot project in Morocco for young women. If the reel project comes to work, there will be need for advice and money. Would like career awards to be able to reduce or eliminate teaching loads for young people. TST : Also in Brazil – real case ? RRT : No, not Brazil, they have their own possibility of reacting. GDN : Maybe this idea could be coupled with voluntary teachers from Europe. MT : We could, in Europe, use our visiting positions for inviting people from DCs ; the money earned in eg. one month will go a long way in the home country – on top of the other benefits.

#### (10) Schedule for reduced membership fees for developing countries

The fee covers just about the production and mailing of the Newsletter, so a reduced fee would probably only qualify to get the Newsletter on-line. MSS asked for a complete proposal from the CDC to be discussed in the EC.

JADP suggested that the publishing houses might be approached with a suggestion that a country pays a little bit more to open the signal to DC-neighbours.

#### (11) Requests for funding from

(a) Kiril Tintarev for a conference in India

(b) via Leif Abrahamsson, to build up a library for the master program in Nouakchott, Mauritania

- (a) Agreed – support for a European speaker to go to India or one participant from a DC.  
MW : There is something on the website.  
(b) Wish list for new books. PV : Ask the publishers

(12) AOB

Membership and chair should be planned ahead. When AG leaves there will no more German members, TST no more brits

Date and place of next meeting : Oxford is suggested – beginning of April 14 and April 21.

A Burkina Faso mathematician asks for 500 Euros for living expenses in Barcelona ; we give 300 Euros.

Meeting finished 19.20

Ref. LDA