

Minutes of CDC Meeting of EMS at Linköping, April 19/20, 2013

Andreas Griewank

July 21, 2013

1 Roundtable on Friday, April 19

Round table, 19 April, 13:30

Participants:

- Michel Waldschmidt (MW)
- Leif Abrahamsson (LA)
- Paul Vaderlind (PV)
- Marie-Francoise Roy-Coste (MFR)
- Bengt-Ove Turesson (BT)
- Joana Teles (JT)

Notes by Joana Teles

- Based on a recent French newspaper news presented by (MW), discussion on student fees for foreign students, scholarships, cost of higher education:

Les universités s'interrogent sur le coût de la scolarité des
étudiants étrangers

Le Monde 16:04:2013 par Isabelle Rey Lefebvre

- Report by Giulia di Nunno, Norwegian involvement in developing countries for what concerns mathematics

- Idea of making a similar report from Sweden, at least a meeting between people that is active.
- It will be useful to have similar reports from other countries (Sweden, Portugal,)
- Programme SIAM 2014 (France/Thailand)
<http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/siam>
- Meeting at Thailand Research Fund office, 4 April 2013 (Sweden/Thailand)
- Proposal done by Andreas Griewank for next year meeting 26 April, 2014, meeting in Berlin with a round table on the topic Ethics; need to explain to students what is the meaning of write a paper and a thesis (copy/paste from internet)

2 Annual meeting on Saturday, April 20

There were no changes to the agenda.

2.1 Welcome

The meeting begins at 9.am in the Hotel Scandic Linköping City . The Chairman Michel Waldschmidt greets the participants

- Leif Abrahamsson (Uppsala)
- Claude Cibils (CIMPA, Nice)
- Herbert Fleischner (Vienna)
- Andreas Griewank (Berlin)
- Ramadas Ramakrishnan Trivandrum (ICTP, Trieste)
- Marie-Francoise Roy (Rennes)
- Joana Teles (Lisbon)
- Tsou Sheung Tsun (Oxford)
- Bengt-Ove Turesson (Linköping)

- Paul Vaderlind (Stockholm)
- Begona Vittoriano (Madrid)
- Michel Waldschmidt (Paris)
- Anders Wandahl (Stockholm)

Excused were Lars Andersen, Anna Fino, Guilia de Nunno, Alice Filowski, Nick Gill, Gert-Martin Greuel, Michel Jambu, Fabrizio Luccio, Michel Théra, Bernd Wegner. No responses were received from the associate members Georg Bock, G. O. H. Katona, Bernt Öksendal, and Gert Sabidussi.

Michel Waldschmidt reads out the following message from Marta Sanz-Solé, the president of the EMS.

I wish you a successful meeting. Please give my greetings to all participants.

Afterward, the local host Bengt-Ove Turesson welcomes the guest and gives a detailed report on the extensive activities of Linköping university in Ruanda. His slides can be found at

http://www.mai.liu.se/~betur/13/EMS-CDC_20_April_2013.pdf

He stresses the multitude of subjects and institutions involved, including Northamerican and Korean. There was some discussion of whether supporting the tuition fees of students at their home university was a good direction to go. Generally, it is seen as desirable that the local partner institutions make a significant contribution, at least in kind. Only in this way long term sustainability can be achieved. As another critical issue was seen the co-supervision of Masters by PhD students.

2.2 Minutes from 14.2.2012

at Limoges were unanimously accepted without changes.

2.3 Activities in 2012, General Issues

Michel Waldschmidt reports on the general activities during the last year, especially his representation EMS several events and organizations. The key information he has posted on the CDC web site.

He addressed the size of the committee and the role of the associated members. It was generally agreed that there should not be too many, and

that those that had repeatedly not responded should be removed from the list. Since previous warnings to that effect had been ignored the chairman was authorized to remove them unless they made a strong case for staying on after all. The question whether the committee proper should be extended is to be discussed by e-mail. Andreas Griewank withdrew his proposals S. Sager (Germany) and N.Keijic (Serbia).

The book program is in full swing and should be continued. Andreas Griewank has agreed to be responsible of that and collaborate with Nick Gill on the website for that. The strategy of asking the foreign embassies to transport the books themselves worked for Cuba, Mali, Cambodia, Senegal, and Burkina Faso. To Vietnam, Kenya, Daressalam, and Ruanda the books were hand delivered by trustworthy travelers. Over all the program is to be continued, despite doubts about the eventual whereabouts of the individual books.

In contrast it was found that the twinning scheme had no additional participants and on the suggestion of Anders Wandahl, who had proposed it originally it was decided to not promote it any further.

It was noted that there were a lot of parallel activities without sufficient mutual information. The idea of a data base on mathematics in developing countries and especially in Africa had been vented in the Developing Countries Strategy Group several years ago and there was a plan to instal a data base at ICTP. For lack of personal continuity it was not implemented. This time it was decided to encourage people to provide information on their activities on the CDC website.

2.4 Financial report

Due to the contributions from Zentralblatt the committees finances are satisfactory, although the balance at the end of the year is a little less than last time. There is agreement that it would be useless to keep too much money in the account. Paul Vaderlind resumed his duties as a treasurer some times before the meeting. The budget for the last year was accepted without any modifications.

The balance after the last meeting: 27 350.69 Euros

Deposits since last year meeting 341.88 Euros Springer Verlag (19.04.2012)

51.57 Euros Nordea Bank (05.12.2012)

400.00 Euros Schweiz Math. Gesell. (07.12.2012)

352.92 Euros Springer Verlag (17.04.2013)

Total deposits: 1 146,37 Euros

Withdrawals since last meeting

2.20 Euros Bank Expenses (05.12.2011)

1 079.38 Euros Anders Wändahl (workshop) (05.04.2012)

2 617.16 Euros Michel Waldschmidt (25.04.2012)

for Herolistra Baskoroputro in ASSMS via CIMPA

8.40 Euros Bank Expenses (04.05.2012)

3.00 Euros Bank Expenses (04.01.2013)

3.00 Euros Bank Expenses (06.05.2013)

Total Withdrawals 3 710,94 Euros

Balance: 27 350,69 +1 146,37- 3 710,94= 24 786,12 Euros

CDC account: 25459,75 EUR

Springer (I): 590,89 EUR [IV.EMS CDC FR.08.04.13 FIZ / DONATION MORDESON]

Springer (II): 1632,00 EUR [IV.EMS-CDC FR.16.02.13 FIZ]

Springer (III): 535,13 EUR [IV.EMS-CDC FR.04.01.13 FIZ]

Donations: 135,00 EUR

TOTAL 28352,77 EUR (July 13, 2013)

TOTAL on CDC account: 25 459,75 + 2 893,02 = 28 352,77 EUR

2.5 Personal reports

The members of the committee related their various activities, most of which are available on the CDC website. After the report of Marie Françoise Roy there were some discussions of the end results of the Simons Foundation selection process and the reasons for the reduction in the number of supported centers to four. There was also some discussion on the new Humboldt chair at AIMS Senegal. Herbert Fleischer's report on the state of mathematics in Zimbabwe stirred up once more a discussion on pure and applied aspects of mathematics in Africa. Some felt that Pure maths needed to be strengthened at least in the medium run, others thought that applied themes were naturally of more importance and everybody agreed that mathematics should be viewed as a united subject. Begona Vittoriano and Joana Teles reported that Spanish and Portuguese funding for international science collaboration had need severely curtailed, while Ramadas Trivandrum noted with some relief that the Italian governments financial support for ICTP Trieste had not been severely effected by the current financial problems. Anders Wandahl attended the meeting "The Future World Heritage Digital Mathematics Library: Plans and Prospects" in Washington but the only workshop he had planned in Africa had to be canceled.

2.6 ERCE proposals

There were three written proposals and one declaration of interest by the University of Mascara, Algeria, which was however not followed up by a formal proposal. The three proposals from

- CIMAT: Centro de Investigacin en Matemticas, Guanajuato (Mexico); Director: Jose Antonio de la Pena

<http://www.cimat.mx/>

- VIASM: Vietnam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics, Hanoi (Vietnam); Director: Le Tuan Hoa

<http://viasm.edu.vn/>

- IASBS: Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences, Zanzan, (Iran); Director: Rashid Zaare Nahandi

<http://iasbs.ac.ir/>

elicited a rather lively debate. It touched on the desirable aspects of the ERCE profile and how much had been achieved at the so far only center in Lahore. As generally critical was seen the outreach to and welcoming students from neighboring countries. That requires stable economic and political conditions and the instruction in an internationally understood language. It was pretty clear that both CIMAT and VASM had the potential for realizing all stated aims of the ERCE program so that the committee will recommend to the EMS board their official recognition. In both cases there is a good track record and considerable local support. Still the moral support by EMS was apparently viewed as boost for regional respectability and international visibility. The case of ASBS Zanzan the prospects were viewed as not yet fully convincing. Michel Waldschmidt stressed that in his experience the mathematics education in Iran had a high level and rather better than in many other developing countries. On the other hand it was noted that in the application the willingness to welcome staff and students from neighboring countries had not been explicitly expressed, and that the social and economical conditions were quite difficult. There was some discussion regarding the attraction of such a center to students from countries like Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Jordania. Nevertheless, we would certainly wish to support the Iranian colleagues on the ground and an ERCE in the middle eastern region is as yet lacking. It was decided that Michel Waldschmidt will contact the leadership of ASBS and ascertain whether they can and will subscribe to the essential ERCE tenets.

2.7 Requests for Funding

Prior to the meetings there had been the following requests for funding

1. 5100 Euros for the studies of a student from Indonesia (Herolistra Baskoroputro) in ASSMS 2013-2014
2. 900 Euros for the participation of a Cambodian student (Dy Chan Eng) to SPIM in HRI June 2013
3. 2700 Euros for the participation of 3 students from Cambodia to SPIM 2014 in HRI
4. 6 600 Euros for the studies of Dy Chan Eng (RUPP) in CMI (Chennai Mathematical Institute) 2013-2014
5. 500 Euros for shipping books to the Royal University of Phnom Penh.
6. 2000 Euros for a workshop of AMUCWMA (African Mathematical Union - Commission on Women in Mathematics in Africa) and CIMPA at AIMS Muizenburg (South Africa) July 17 to 19, 2013 before a CIMPA summer school there. .

Since the total amount requested amounted to a little more than half the current account there was a rather intense debate on the individual requests.

1. There was a clear majority to support the women in mathematics workshop. The participation of the Cambodian student Dy Chang Eng at SPIM 2013 will be supported with 900 Euros.
2. The three Master students from RUPP cannot be supported for SPIM 2014.
3. Only if ISP cannot find alternative funds the studies of Dy Chang Eng at CMI will be supported by 3000 Euro starting August 2013.
4. ISP will try to have the shipping costs for books to RUPP fully covered.
5. 5100 Euros for the studies of Herolistra Baskoroputro, ASSMS

2.8 Next meeting

Will take place in Berlin April 25-27, 2014.