

Short Report on ICM2014

Michel Waldschmidt (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France) on behalf of the Committee for Developing Countries of the EMS

The ICM 2014 in Seoul has put a strong emphasis on the need to improve the geographical distribution of mathematical research. Under the NANUM programme, 1000 mathematicians from developing countries were supported and could participate in the conference. Three NANUM Regional Networking sessions were organised on the first three evenings of the conference, one for Latin America, one for Africa and Eastern Europe and one for Asia, where the participants from these regions who were supported by the NANUM programme could meet.

ICM 2014 started on 13 August. The day before, on 12 August, a symposium “Mathematics in Emerging Nations: Achievements and Opportunities” (MENAO) was organised by the International Mathematical Union.

The Committee for Developing Countries participated in these meetings. In particular, the Committee for Developing Countries had a booth during the MENAO event, where a poster and a leaflet as well as a beamer presentation were displayed.

During international conferences, many publishers have a booth where they advertise and sell their recent books. ICM2014 was no exception. Among the exhibitors were many academic and publishing houses. At the end of the conference, most of them donated some of their remaining unsold books to our committee. Some representatives from African institutes packed these 164

books (with a total weight of 126 kg) and shipped them to their countries.

ICM2014 gave the opportunity for the Committee for Developing Countries and the Committee for European Solidarity to hold a joint meeting.

The website of our committee provides more information on our activities; in particular the homepage

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

displays the latest news from the EMS-CDC.



Michel Waldschmidt, emeritus professor at the University Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris 6) where he has been teaching for 40 years, is an expert in the theory of transcendental numbers and diophantine approximations. From 2001 to 2004 he was President of the Mathematical Society of France. He actively promotes the idea that developing countries also need to have good mathematicians at all levels, including at a research level. From 2005 to 2009, he was Vice-president of CIMPA (Centre International de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées). He is Chair of the Committee for Developing Countries of the European Mathematical Society. Being retired has given him more time for his hobbies: ultra marathons and trekking.

Update on Recent Global Digital Mathematics Library (GDML) Developments

Thierry Bouche (Université Joseph Fourier – Grenoble I, Saint-Martin d'Hères, France)

Since the start of the millennium, the mathematical community has been considering building a Worldwide Digital Mathematics Library, where all written mathematics would be stored and made accessible. This objective has been pursued in isolation by many people around the world but it seems that the global goal has regained momentum this year: the EuDML initiative has been formed under the auspices of the EMS, an IMU-sponsored study has been published by the US National Research Council (see this newsletter's September 2014 editorial) and a number of activities have taken place in association with the ICM.

1. A meeting to discuss the next steps towards realising the GDML was held on 17 August at ICM2014 in Seoul and attended by 14 participants in person and eight remote participants. Following a wide-ranging afternoon discussion, an eight-person working group (WG) was created, under the sponsorship of the IMU: Patrick Ion (Chair), Thierry Bouche, Bruno Buchberger, Michael Kohlhase, Jim Pitman, Olaf Teschke, Stephen Watt and Eric Weisstein.

The group began meeting immediately after the main session. It has been charged with designing a roadmap before the end of the year covering the practical next