

March 2011

**ANNUAL MEETING, 10 APRIL 2010**  
in BUDAPEST beginning at 10:00

*Members, associates and guests present at the meeting:*

Nutefe Kwami Agbeko (NKA)  
Lars Døvling Andersen (LDA)  
Georg Bock (GB) (from 14.30)  
Mireille Martin-Deschamps (MMD)  
Anna Fino (AF)  
Herbert Fleischner (HF)  
Andreas Griewank (AG) (from 14.30)  
Gyula Katona (GK)  
Mikael Passare (MP)  
Joana Teles (JT)  
Ramadas Ramakrishnan Trivandrum (RRT)  
Tsou Sheung Tsun (TST)  
Paul Vaderlind (PV)  
Begoña Vitoriano Villanueva (BVV)  
Michel Waldschmidt (MW)  
Anders Wandahl (AW)

Excuses from Michel Thera, Michel Jambu, Leif Abrahamsson

## *AGENDA:*

### (1) Welcome

Introductions

Guests: Joana Teles, Ramadas Ramakrishnan Trivandrum,  
Nutefe Kwami Agbeko

### (2) Minutes of the last meeting

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

Report 10.09

Report 03.10

### (4) Financial report (MP)

IMU grant

### (5) Individual activities: all members and all associates

(including reports from absent members)

### (6) Activities of subcommittees

Twinning (MMD and UNESCO, BV with Central America)

Electronic literature (grant from IMU to AW, planned workshops)

ERCE (MP: possibilities in India, collaboration with AMI-net?)

EC Funding (MMD with message from LL)

### (7) ICM in Hyderabad

Publicity material for a booth on development

### (8) Funding requests

Request for funding pre-master course in Dar es Salam (HF)

Request from Michel Jambu to support students from Cambodia who wish  
to pursue their studies in other countries

Request from Michel Waldschmidt to support students from Lahore  
(Pakistan) who wish to have postdoc positions abroad

### (9) Membership

New members: suggestions

Term of office of chair

### (10) Collaborations (TST, MW, MP, PV, and everybody)

### (11) AOB

## *MINUTES :*

### (1) Welcome

Introductions

Guests: Joana Teles, Ramadas Ramakrishnan Trivandrum,  
Nutefe Kwami Agbeko

TST welcomed everyone, and there was a mutual introduction.

TST suggested that each subcommittee meet immediately after lunch.

### (2) Minutes of the last meeting

MW remarked that the figure mentioned under time 11.00 should be 3.2 million Euros. He also suggested that the individual reports on activities of members for today's meeting should be prepared by the members and sent to LDA.

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

Report 10.09

Report 03.10

The reports for the EMS were sent out to committee members in advance of the meeting. TST communicated that the committee (still) receives positive feedback from the EMS. MMD confirmed this.

The EMS has approved of MW as vice chair and PV as a member of the committee.

TST and (RRT) made mutual arrangements about support for the project of a Tibetan student involving shipment of books. AW and RRT noted that donations from ICTP require that the books be generally available at the target.

### (4) Financial report (MP)

IMU grant

MP reported that the past year's expenses (5200 Euros) more or less equalled the income, so that the sum available is approximately the same as last year.

We received money from Zentralblatt ; one of the donations is registered as coming from Springer-Verlag, another as coming from ZBL.

We received 2000\$ from the IMU for workshops in developing countries.

MW asked about possible money from Friends of Arthur Besse. TST answered that no such money has been received. [Note added after meeting: MMD enquired after the meeting, and it turned out that a sum of USD 675.89 + EUR 544.60 was deposited in 2008, and USD 96.28 + EUR 192.74 in 2009. The confusion arose possibly because the deposits were marked under Zentralblatt.]

MMD mentioned that the executive committee of the EMS occasionally supports specific projects of its committees. She also suggested that we formulate some kind of vision for projects that require further funding.

The financial report was accepted.

- (5) Individual activities: all members and all associates  
(including reports from absent members)

What follows are the reports from the members and associates.

*Michel Waldschmidt :*

MW gave a report of his activities in different countries: Irak (Kurdistan), Iran, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, India. Since he is Regional Scientific Responsible (RSR) of CIMPA for these countries, more information is available on the web site

[<http://www.cimpa-icpam.org/spip.php?article272>](http://www.cimpa-icpam.org/spip.php?article272).

There are further reports on his web page

[<http://www.math.jussieu.fr/~miw/cooperations.html>](http://www.math.jussieu.fr/~miw/cooperations.html).

He also gave some information on cooperation with Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam - the RSR of CIMPA for South East Asia is Michel Jambu

[<http://www.cimpa-icpam.org/spip.php?article273>](http://www.cimpa-icpam.org/spip.php?article273)

who could not attend the meeting.

(COMMENTS: RRT : Put pressure on new Pakistani government because of reduced funding and special circumstances. MW : Apply for scholarships AW : Hopeless funding schemes, depending on h-index at mother universities.)

*Paul Vaderlind :*

Activities in developing countries, April 2009-April 2010 :

1. April 2009: A course in Logic and Set theory in Nairobi for the East African Network. (ISP project). Some 35 students from 7 countries.
2. June 2009 : A visit to Kinshasa and Brazzaville. Initiating an EDU-LINK project (EU founding) for creating a common MSci program in Mathematical Sciences between University of Kinshasa and Brazzaville.
3. September 2009: A SIDA-founded conference in Addis Ababa on Regional and Interregional Cooperation to Strengthen Basic Sciences in Developing Countries. Some 100 participants from almost all countries with SID-sponsored projects.
4. November 2009: A visit to University of Khartoum, Sudan. One week workshop on mathematical competitions and developing of mathematical education on secondary school level. This visit was on the invitation of the department of Mathematics, University of Karthoum.
5. December 2009: A visit to Brazzaville for the EDU-LINK project.

(COMMENTS: MP : What about Cambodia and Vietnam ? PV : Political climate works against it ; maybe Laos should be involved. TST : Why more women students in Sudan ? AW : Missing libraries should be countered by open courseware).

***Begoña Vitoriano Villanueva:***

- A master in Statistics in El Salvador is organised by BVV with other Spanish teachers (this is a collaboration that began in 1994). Currently, supported by the Spanish Agency for Cooperation and Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

- A postgraduate course in Statistics in Mozambique is organised by BVV with other Spanish teachers. The Universidade Pedagógica of Mozambique asked for this cooperation because of the language (Spanish is easier than English for the teachers, and Mozambique is a little bit isolated in Portuguese language around). 2010 was the first year, and it was supported by Spanish Agency for Cooperation. It is a test to know if it is possible evolution to become a master.

- A master in Statistics in Paraguay is organised by the CDC of CE-MAT (María Luisa Fernández). It was finished in 2010 not really very successfully. In 2007 and 2008 a Master in Mathematics was developed successfully in Paraguay, so they are going to support a new course in this area.

(COMMENTS : PV : Work with ISP in Mozambique. HF: Is anybody doing anything in Angola? RRT : In Cuba ? – AG does and knows more (AG had not yet arrived). TST : Suggests twinning.)

***Joana Teles :***

I am working in a project of a Mathematical Olympiad for Portuguese Speaking countries. The first edition of this Olympiad will be held in Portugal in July 2011. This project (supported by Portuguese Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education) aims to support and encourage problem solving in portuguese speaking countries. With an annual basis, it is intended that this competition is also an opportunity for exchange and sharing of national experiences in promoting education of Mathematics in Portuguese. Jointly held an Mathematics Olympic Week will enable all young participants to learn more and improve their performance in future competitions. The invited countries are (in total 8): Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and East-Timor.

(COMMENTS : PV: Cap Verde ? RRT: Think of ICTP)

***Mikael Passare :***

(a) I continue to serve as a board member for ISP (International Science Program). We focus mainly on sandwich PhD programs, regional networks, sending lecturers for intense courses and supporting workshops in developing countries.

(b) Stockholm University, where I am the department chair, 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 as part of the program MARM (Mentoring African Research in Mathematics) funded by The Nuffield Foundation and Leverhulme Trust, and managed by LMS.

(d) Stockholm University has decided to establish a Pan-African Center for Mathematics to be hosted by the University of Dar-es-Salaam. The idea comes from Prof. Mohamed El Tom from Khartoum and it consists in having a "prestigious Western university", in this case Stockholm University, award academic degrees in Africa. To begin with the Center will focus on producing MSc degrees, but later also PhD degrees. A memorandum of understanding has been written and should shortly be signed by the vice-chancellors of the two universities. Funding for the Center will be externally applied for from a number of agencies and organizations. When the Center is established and internationally recognized, the goal is to attract endowment to make it financially independent. An important task will be to identify a director for the Center. It should be a highly recognized mathematician, meeting the requirements as full Professor both at SU and UDSM. The Center shall strive to achieve regional and international recognition by insisting on recruiting dedicated and first-rate academics who are committed to its mission, by carefully designed programs of study, by adopting a rigorous selection procedure of students from all over the continent, and by undertaking research, networking individuals and institutions in Africa engaged in research in mathematics, and by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences between researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

At this point (1300 hours) the meeting was adjourned for (lunch and) subcommittee meetings. Resumed at 1430 hours.

*Mireille Martin-Deschamps :*

MMD gave news from the executive committee of the EMS, and a discussion on the EU-application and its (not so positive) evaluation followed.

(COMMENTS: TST suggested that RRT stays a member of the committee ; RRT responded that he is only acting head of the ICTP, so it is too early to accept such an offer.)

*Nutefe Kwami Agbeko :*

NKA gave a more detailed presentation of himself. He was born in Togo and will take contact with Togo (and other countries).

*Anders Wandahl :*

I have done this since the last meeting:

Presentation at the First Buea International Conference of the Mathematical Sciences, Cameroon, May 2009: "Not served on a silver platter! Access to online mathematics information in Africa"

Poster at the conference on Regional and Interregional Cooperation to Strengthen Basic Sciences, Addis Abeba, September 2009.

Presentation at the conference Scientific Information in the Digital Age: Access and Dissemination at the ICTP, September 2009: "e-Math and e-Physics for Africa"

(COMMENTS: IMU grant – where should the second workshop be ? It is a good idea to bring (used) laptops to Africa as gifts.)

## REPORT ON CIMPA BY CLAUDE CIBILS APRIL 2010

CIMPA signed an agreement with the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN) at the beginning of March this year. This is the result of lengthy work which promises an opening up of CIMPA towards the rest of Europe. The French Ministry wrote a letter of support to CIMPA for this significant process. The agreement was signed by the President of CIMPA Tsou Sheung Tsun. Afterwards, a meeting of the Spanish and French learned societies took place in Madrid. At the beginning of June the statutes of CIMPA will be changed to allow Spain and any other European countries to have a representative in the Administrative Council of CIMPA. CIMPA will then be able to organize more research schools and to fund them better.

Indeed a call for projects for research schools in 2012 has just been widely advertised. The deadline for sending in a pre-project is June 15th. Please do encourage good projects in developing countries answering a local need which would help to structure their research.

In 2010 several schools are planned. Following negotiations with ICTP almost all of them will receive significant funding from ICTP. In 2011 we shall probably organize research schools in collaboration. This year we organize 2 schools in Subsaharian Africa 1 in Lebanon, 3 in Southeast Asia, 1 in Nepal, and 5 in Latin America. The balance between pure and applied mathematics is good. The programme for 2011 is already established. I invite you to consult the document "CIMPA by examples". and the newsletters, all available on the CIMPA website:  
<http://www.cimpa-icpam.org/>

### (6) Activities of subcommittees

Twinning (MMD and UNESCO, BV with Central America) : Things do not work the way we would have wished. There were just 9 twinning projects throughout 2008 and 2009, and only 3 in 2010 (after Zentralblatt became free, so there was no

need to pay for MathSciNet in a twinning project). Only one of the previous projects has used seed money from the committee, but in that case this money was very useful. MMD has sent a letter to UNESCO BRESCE asking for support and mentioning the twinning project (the letter is previously distributed to the committee). Maybe BV will initiate a project with a department in El Salvador. AG asked about the European Science Foundation ; GB will have an opportunity to get information, and GB will also attend a meeting «Forward Look» on the situation of mathematics in European programs later in April.

Electronic literature (grant from IMU to AW, planned workshops) : Almost all journals are available through the Bordeauthèque programs, or through the ICTP. One of the exceptions is the Journal of the EMS. It was agreed to ask the EMS to make the EMS journal available ; MMD takes action. Marie-Francoise Roy should be contacted because she once indicated that she would like to teach how to write CVs and good applications.

ERCE : MP told about a possible center in Dar Es Salaam. MW explained difficulties in finding a location for a center covering India. A center in Pakistan is a good idea, but for political reasons it would not be able to serve India. Allahabad is a possibility for India and could also attract people from neighbouring countries and for example show mathematicians from Bangla Desh that there is a life outside of the fixed point theorem. A center in Vietnam could attract master students from Cambodia as well. The total list : Lahore, Allahabad, Hanoi. RRT mentioned Morocco, Tunesia and Algeria. ASG suggested Caracas and will go on with it.

EC Funding (MMD with message from LL) ( ?)

MW asked people to submit material for a revision of the home page. It was agreed to buy a new domain name for this page.

#### (7) ICM in Hyderabad

Publicity material for a booth on development

TST explained about plans for a booth with a video or similar, maybe manned during lunch breaks and so on. To make a film no longer seems feasible, so a slide show will replace it. There will be some people from the committee at the meeting, so it should be possible to staff the booth. MW asks for printed material to be available ; TST will update the poster on her web page and make hard copies of it. RRT said that this could become expensive, so maybe it is better to print in India.

#### (8) Funding requests

Request for funding pre-master course in Dar es Salam (HF)

The idea is to bring students from bachelor level to entry level of a master's program. It was decided to wait for the fate of the proposed center of excellence.

At this point the meeting was interrupted, because a Skype connection to Leif Abrahamsson in Uppsala was established. His report (not received yet):



LA : Zambia, Mozambique, Uganda

Request from Michel Jambu to support students from Cambodia who wish to pursue their studies in other countries.

MJ wishes support for two students from Cambodia and two from Laos, and he asks for the CDC to support two of these. The cost of one 9 months grant is 3000\$. It was decided to support one student from Laos to go to Phnom Penh, and encourage the executive committee to further support one student from Cambodia to go to Hanoi.

Request from Michel Waldschmidt to support students from Lahore (Pakistan) who wish to have postdoc positions abroad.

MW wants scientific support for this idea, in the sense of writing to the Pakistani authorities for financial support. The CDC could endorse a letter from the ICTP, or from UNESCO. This step obtained the full support from the committee.

AW suggested to offer money to help local cooperation, in particular in Mozambique where two universities do not work together as much as they should. BVV and AW will discuss this further.

#### (9) Membership

New members: suggestions : Giulia di Nunno (Oslo), a member from ICTP – and RRT will be at least an associate member.

The CDC recommends that AW is becoming a member for another period.

Term of office of chair : To everyone's delight, TST will be chair for another two years ; this is already cleared with the EC.

#### (10) Collaborations (TST, MW, MP, PV, and everybody)

TST explained that she is now involved in many things : the IMU, CIMPA, AIMS. She wants to facilitate collaboration across the different associations. The committee found this very commendable. RRT remarked that CIMPA and the ICTP is working continually closer together.

#### (11) AOB

HF asked about the lecture notes that were distributed on CDroms through ICTP. RRT will investigate, but remarks that it is difficult to get feedback on the use of such things. HF has new lecture notes ready.

The next meeting will be 2 April 2010 in Madrid.

The meeting finished at 18.50.