

**Minutes of the ICMI General Assembly**  
**Seoul, South Korea**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**

The 2012 General Assembly (GA) of ICMI was held at the COEX Conference Centre in Seoul, South Korea, on Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, on the day prior to the opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Mathematical Education. The Assembly had 65 participants, namely 11 members of the ICMI Executive Committee and three IMU representatives, (the IMU President, IMU Secretary and one further member of the International Mathematical Union Executive), 34 representatives of the ICMI member countries (or their substitutes, in 7 cases), as well as 17 observers (including representatives of ICMI Affiliated Organisations and Study Groups). The ICMI member countries present at the General Assembly were Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China (CMS), China (Mathematical Society located in Taipei, China), Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Indonesia, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Nepal, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, and USA.

**1. Opening and Agenda**

Bill Barton (ICMI President) opened the GA by welcoming delegates, members of affiliated organisations, members of IMU Executive, and observers. He highlighted some aspects of ICMI Activities over the last four years.

The Minutes of the last GA were accepted. No notices of motion were received.

A call for topics for discussion later in the Agenda was made.

**2. Election of the 2013-16 ICMI Executive Committee—Stage 1**

Bernard Hodgson (Chair of the Nominating Committee) launched the process of the election of the 2013-16 ICMI EC. He introduced the slate and some features of the procedure, and reported that no advance notice of nominations from the floor had been received. The GA was asked to approve voting on a single form, and not on a separate form for each category, as suggested in the procedure for election. Adopted unanimously.

**3. Report of the Secretary General**

Jaime Carvalho e Silva presented a summary of the Quadrennial Report which was available to all delegates.

He also presented the Financial Report, and noted the involvement of the Permanent Office in both the preparation of the reports and in terms of its contribution to the administration of ICMI finances. He noted the impact of the Capacity and Network Project on finances into the future.

**4. Discussion: What Can ICMI Do for Us.**

Four speakers were invited to initiate discussion on this topic by presenting their views.

Blanca Souto Rubio (Spain) represented new, young researchers, and turned the question around by talking about what she and similar colleagues can offer ICMI, as well as asking how young researchers can participate in the Digital Library, ICMI Studies, and CANP. She also asked whether ICMI could host a job-searching website.

Manuel de Leon (Spain) spoke as both a mathematician and as an IMU representative, stressing the importance of the educational perspective for mathematicians and noting the mutual value of collaborations such as the Klein Project and Pipeline Project.

Madan Shrestha, the newest ICMI representative from Nepal, put out a challenge to the GA to consider how the community can support, and make mathematics education research more accessible to those in nations where such research is a new activity.

Ali Rejali from Iran commented on the need to better support regional activity; the imperative to better involve teachers; and the problem of getting good mathematicians to become teachers.

Further discussion raised the importance of facing antagonisms within our community, with some models of good practice mentioned. The trend of teachers who do post-graduate work leaving the teaching force was noted, and a plea for early-childhood mathematics education getting attention was made.

*The GA broke for lunch from 12:30 to 14:00.*

## **5. Election of the 2013-16 ICMI Executive Committee—Stage 2**

Jaime Carvalho e Silva explained the details of the voting procedure and the counting of the votes. The Electoral Officers consisted of the Chair of the Nominating Committee (Bernard Hodgson) as Chair, and two members of the electorate were selected at random, being Mariolina Bartolini Bussi (Italy) and Toshiakira Fujii (Japan).

Ballot papers were distributed. Voting took place and the Electoral Officers withdrew for the counting of the votes.

## **6. Reports of ICMI Affiliated Study Groups & Regional Organisations**

Reports were presented on behalf of the seven ICMI Affiliated Study Groups and Affiliated Regional organisations.

Linda Sheffield (USA) reported on the The International Group for Mathematical Creativity and Giftedness (MCG).

Gloria Stillman (Australia) reported on the International Study Group for Mathematical Modelling and Applications (ICTMA).

First Maurice O'Reilly (Ireland), and later Evelyne Barbin (France), reported on the The International Study Group on the Relations between History and Pedagogy of Mathematics (HPM).

Merrilyn Goos (Australia) reported on the Mathematics Education Research Group Australasia (MERGA).

João Filipe Matos (Portugal) reported on the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME).

Ferdinando Arzarello (Italy) reported on the European Society for Research in Mathematics Education (ERME).

The report for Commission Internationale pour l'Étude et l'Amélioration de l'Enseignement des Mathématiques / International Commission for the Study and Improvement of Mathematics Teaching (CIEAEM) was received.

Angel Ruiz (Costa Rica) reported on the Inter-American Committee on Mathematics Education (CIAEM/IACME).

María Falk de Losada (Colombia) reported on the World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions (WFNMC).

Tamsin Meaney (Sweden) reported on International Organisation of Women and Mathematics Education (IOWME).

Information about ICMI-affiliated conferences was given by Renuka Vithal (South Africa) on AFRICME, Maitree Imprisatha (Thailand) on EARCOME, and Michèle Artigue (France) on EMF. Finally Gabriele Kaiser (Germany) gave the General Assembly information about ICME-13 in Hamburg.

José Francisco Rodrigues (Portugal) reported on the MPE-Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013 initiative and informed of the launching of the Open Source MPE virtual Exhibition at the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris on March 5th, 2013.

## **7. Issues for Discussion**

Two issues were raised for discussion: How to get teachers more involved in ICMI/ICME; and How to better support regional initiatives.

Regarding teachers, the following points were noted.

- If a teacher is supported by ICMI then they can use this status to get more support from their government or teacher organisation.
- It may be easier to recognise teacher professional associations than individuals.
- France (and some other countries) use ICMI Sub-Commission structure to link with other associations, and/or to get money from governments or teacher unions.
- It was noted that this structure can also bring together mathematicians, mathematics educators and teachers.
- Webinars for teachers were suggested rather than coming to an expensive conference.
- We must strengthen communication with teachers if we want their involvement.
- Some countries involve teachers in research and publications.
- Resources for teachers are on our website—please contribute
- A suggestion of supporting one teacher per country to ICMEs was made, but it was noted that this would be mostly symbolic, and it may be better to think of bulk participation in regional conferences, creating special projects to get teachers there.

Regarding regional groupings, the following points were noted.

- In the 1970s, Ed Jacobsen supported and got regional funds from UNESCO, which has continued in a small way. Can we use other funding bodies in a similar way using ICMI support?
- Chan Roth (Cambodia) spoke of the inverse problem, that is, to get international educators to Cambodia, and how he worked for that over five years with increasing impact.

## **8. Announcement of Results of 2013-16 Executive Election**

The results of the election were announced by Bernard Hodgson. They were:

PRESIDENT:	Ferdinando Arzarello (Italy)
SECRETARY-GENERAL:	Abraham Arcavi (Israel)
VICE-PRESIDENTS:	Angel Ruiz (Costa Rica) Cheryl Praeger (Australia)
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:	Yuriko Yamamoto Baldin (Brazil) Jean-Luc Dorier (Switzerland) Zhara Gooya (Iran) Roger Howe (USA) Catherine Vistro-Yu (Philippines)

**9. Closing**

Bill thanked the participants and wished everyone a good conference.

Bill Barton  
President of ICMI  
20th July, 2012

Jaime Carvalho e Silva  
Secretary-General of ICMI