LMS MEETING AND RECEPTION AT THE ICM 2010

Wednesday 25 August 2010, Hyderabad

MEETING: 17.00–19.00

Mechanisms for strengthening mathematics in developing countries

This discussion meeting will highlight three mechanisms for strengthening mathematics in developing countries: the Mentoring African Research in Mathematics project (MARM), the IMU Volunteer Lecturer Program, and the work of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) Trieste. In the MARM project the mentor, a mathematician from a developed country, works closely with a research group in a mathematics department in Africa, providing detailed support and advice. MARM is four years old and has set up thirteen mentoring partnerships. So far it is only a small-scale project, but the results are encouraging. In the IMU Volunteer Lecturer Program, intensive 3–4 week courses in mathematics at the advanced undergraduate or master's level are offered to universities in developing countries. ICTP has a long tradition of helping mathematics in developing countries using a wide variety of different approaches including visiting positions, support for networks, and the Associateships Scheme.

Questions to be addressed include:
1. What are the best mechanisms?
2. What principles should underlie them?
3. Are there effective ways in which different types of project can cooperate?
4. How can individuals and institutions contribute to these efforts?

About the panellists:
- Chair: Angus Macintyre, President of the LMS
- John Ball: member of the MARM Board
- Frank Neumann: an experienced mentor in the MARM scheme
- Wandera Ogana: Chair of the AMMSI Programme Committee
- Angel Pineda: active in the Volunteer Lecturer Program
- Ramadas Ramakrishnan: Acting Head of Mathematics at ICTP
- Felix Shu: a mathematician at the University of Buea, Cameroon

MARM is run jointly by the International Mathematical Union (IMU), the African Mathematics Millennium Science Initiative (AMMSI), the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences (ICMS) in Edinburgh, and the London Mathematical Society (LMS). The organizer of the meeting is Stephen Huggett, LMS Programme Secretary.

An Ordinary Meeting of the LMS will be held just before the discussion starts, during which LMS members who have not already done so will have the opportunity to sign a page from the Membership Book (which dates back to 1865). Everybody is welcome.

RECEPTION: 19.00–20.00

The meeting will be followed by an LMS reception for its members and guests. Members who wish to attend the reception should apply for their free ticket from Isabelle Robinson (isabelle.robinson@lms.ac.uk) no later than Friday 30 July. The Society hopes to entertain as many as possible of its members who are attending the Congress, but numbers are limited by the capacity of the room.