

NIM Centres

Network of International Mathematics Centres

It is now generally recognized that the emerging economies are going to play a very important role in the world stage. In fact, in addition to the so-called BRICS group, we see emerging economies developing from day to day. As it is in world situation, so it is in mathematics. It is therefore a revolutionary step that our colleagues in these areas have taken to form a network of centres for the benefit of all mathematics and mathematicians.

On 1 June 2013 at a meeting in Paris, the above network was formed. The founding members are: the Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences (ASSM) in Lahore (Pakistan), the Centro de Investigacion en Matematicas (CIMAT) in Guanajuato (Mexico) and the Vietnam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics (VIASM) in Hanoi (Vietnam). An agreement was drafted, and it was agreed that ASSMS shall be the secretariat centre for the first two years. It is hoped that this agreement will be signed during the ICM in Seoul in August, in the presence of representatives of various international organizations and invited guests.

The plan is to have more centres join this network. Initial contacts with IMPA (Brazil) are indeed encouraging.

The main points of the agreement are:

- A programme of NIM Fellowship: each NIM Centre shall host annually one post-doctoral fellow and one PhD student from among the other NIM Centres for a period of one year. For the PhD student the host centre shall provide an official document with grades and course credits for the use of the home centre.
- Each NIM Centre shall organize a CIMPA School within the next four years. Students and faculty from the other centres may benefit from an extended stay beyond the duration of the School.
- An exchange programme for faculty and staff members shall be set up to explore possibilities of research collaboration and thus to mutually strengthen each centre academically.

For the immediate future, NIM Centres will be able to finance such activities themselves, but it is hoped that as the scheme matures and more funds are needed, external sources of support will be available, and in fact are being actively sought.



ASSMS

The Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Science was established in 2003 by the Punjab Provincial Government to serve as a centre of excellence for advanced studies and research in mathematics. It is named after the Nobel laureate Abdus Salam. Its Director General A.D. Raza Choudary was called home from the USA by the board of governors to lead this centre. The centre aims to be recognized regionally, nationally and internationally as a distinctive provider of high quality teaching, learning and research.

The centre offers a full-time Mphil/PhD programme, and regularly organizes international conferences on the theme “21st Century Mathematics”.

The ASSMS was given the first EMS-ERCE (EMS Emerging regional centre of excellence) label in 2011. In 2013, just a decade after its inception, the ASSMS celebrated the graduation of its 100th PhD student.

CIEMAT

The Centro de Investigacion en Matematicas was founded in the early 1980's. It is a public national research centre, part of the CONACyT (Mexican national research council) system of 26 research centres, and it is the only one in mathematics. In the words of its Director Jose Antonio de la Pena, the main objectives are:

- to generate scientific knowledge through research in its areas of expertise
- to provide undergraduate and graduate programmes in the speciality areas of the Centre
- to strengthen its relationship with the public, private and social sectors through applied research projects.

The Centre hosted the first Mathematical Congress of the Americas in August 2013.

The Centre was given the EMS-ERCE label in 2013.

VIASM

The Vietnam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics began operating in the second half of 2011, with an international inauguration on 17 January 2012. Its Scientific Director is Ngo Bao Chau (Fields Medal 2010), and its Managing Director is Nguyen Huu Du.

The vision of VIASM is to become an excellent research centre in mathematics, with good working environment same as in some developed countries. This is a place for academic exchanges to build the scientific capacity of researchers and teachers of pure and applied mathematics in Vietnam. In its organization it follows the model of IAS (Princeton) with certain modifications to reflect the specific situation of Vietnam.

The Centre was given EMS-ERCE label in 2013.