

The International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education

IGPME Activity Report to ICMI -- 2016

Since our last report in 2012, PME has held three conferences, and a fourth will be held in August 2016, as follows:

2013 – Kiel, Germany

2014 – Vancouver, Canada

2015 – Hobart, Australia

2016 – Szeged, Hungary

At each of these conferences we have a regular pattern of events and we hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Fundamentally, PME is about *research* in mathematics education: thus our conference events provide opportunities for members to present reports of their research and to discuss research focuses and issues. These events include Research Reports, Oral Communications, Research Forums, Working Sessions, Discussion Groups and Colloquia. At each conference we invite 4 or 5 plenary speakers, people whose research is of special interest to PME members, and often who are eminent in the field. We also invite a plenary panel on some ‘hot topic’ related to the theme of the conference. This year, since we shall be in Hungary, the theme of the conference is “How to Solve It”, celebrating the work of famous Hungarian mathematician George Polya.

At our AGM, we elect new members to our International Committee (IC) for a term of 4 years. The IC has 16 members and 4 retire each year. Thus we seek to elect 4 new members each year. The PME President is elected for 3 years. However, we are bringing in a motion to elect the President one year earlier as President-Elect. He or she will then shadow the current President for one year, learning the systems and processes of the complex organisation which PME has become. This motion will be voted in 2016 and if successful will take effect in 2018. Members of the IC, together with the President, lead the society and manage its organisation. They are responsible for initiating new activities and supporting the development of existing ones. They seek research groups around the world to host the annual conference, maintain an up to date set of guidelines for the conference and liaise with the conference organisers each year. They also look after the finances of PME. At the moment these finances are strong and so we are taking advantage of this to initiate some new events, on which we will report at the next ICME.

PME maintains a fund known as the *Skemp Fund* whose purpose is to support researchers from countries which do not have many PME members, or from countries who are less able to provide financial support for their citizens to attend the PME conference. Eligible researchers can apply to PME for financial support to attend the conference. Details can be found on the PME website <http://igpme.org>.

At each conference, PME publishes a Proceedings which contains copies of plenary presentations and all Research Reports to be given at the conference, plus abstracts or compilations from other events. PME members can access these publications through the PME Website at <http://igpme.org>.

For a third year in 2016, the PME conference will be preceded by a day conference for Early Career Researchers in PME in which events are specially designed to be of interest to, and to support new researchers. In this way we encourage new researchers in Mathematics Education to become part of the PME Community, to participate fully in its activities, and to be the leaders in M. E. research for the future.

This year, 2016, is very significant for PME – it is our 40th year. To celebrate this, we have prepared a new Handbook of chapters reporting on research in PME over the last decade (2006-2016) – *The Second Handbook of Research on the Psychology of Mathematics Education : The Journey Continues*. The Editors are Angel Gutierrez, Gilah Leder and Paolo Boero. It is published by Sense Publishers.

Another event will be held at ICME 13 in Hamburg: to celebrate 40 years of PME, we have been asked to give an Invited Lecture. This will be given by Former President Rina Hershkowitz and former Vice President Stefan Ufer on the topic *PME and The International Mathematics Education Community*.

PME publishes a Newsletter 3 times a year to inform members and others about the ongoing events of PME. It is available in pdf format from the PME website: <http://igpme.org/index.php/communication/pme-newsletter/past-newsletters> .

In addition, it is available to be viewed on tablet or smartphone via the online reader ISSUU: http://issuu.com/pmeadministrativemanager/docs/16_05_pme_newsletter .

PME is an open and welcoming society. We encourage all researchers with an interest in mathematics education to join us at our annual conference and to share research interests. The PME Website can be found at <http://igpme.org>

Barbara Jaworski, President

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