

**REPORT OF THE 15th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL UNION**

**Santiago de Compostela, Spain
August 19-20, 2006**

Opening

The International Mathematical Union (IMU) President John Ball opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. on August 19, 2006.

Address by the President – John Ball

J. Ball welcomed the delegates, the 20 observers and the 10 other participants and introduced the (IMU) Executive Committee (EC) members. J. Ball particularly welcomed the newest IMU member Pakistan and its delegate Asghar Qadir. He acknowledged the attendance of the IMU affiliate members: John Kingman (EMS), José de la Peña (UMALCA) and the President of ICIAM Ian Sloan. J. Ball acknowledged the attendance of observers from IMU member countries and observers from IMU non-member countries: Marco Calahorrano and Juan Carlos de los Reyes (Ecuador), Abubakir Dzhuraev (Kyrgyzstan), Wandera Ogana (Kenya). J. Ball explained that observers do not have a vote in the General Assembly. J. Ball thanked the Spanish Local Organizing Committee for its gracious hospitality and especially Manuel de León, the head of the committee.

Address by the President of the Spanish Committee for ICSU and Secretary of Science and Technology.

Francisco Marcellán Español addressed the delegates and the EC members, thanking the IMU for choosing Santiago de Compostela as the General Assembly site and wishing the IMU a successful meeting.

GA Agenda

J. Ball told the delegates that the General Assembly (GA) is the supreme body of the IMU, which sets guidelines for the EC for the next four years. He said that this 15th GA would discuss many issues, some complex, and therefore it was important for the meeting to follow the distributed agenda. He also asked each delegation to refer to Bulletin No. 53, prepared in advance of the GA, which contains circulars letters and other documentation relevant to the GA and reports of the IMU activities and financial reports from 2002-2005.

Committees

The first order of business of the GA was the appointment of its committees. J. Ball explained the duties of each committee and then presented the proposed committees that were prepared by the EC. The following committees were approved by the delegates:

Nominations Committee

John Ball, *Chair* (United Kingdom)
Carlos Andradas Heranz (Spain)
Christian Berg (Denmark)
Jennifer Chayes (United States)
Ali Iranmanesh (Iran)

Roberta Markarian Abrahamian (Uruguay)
Gavin Martin (New Zealand)
Inderasan Naidoo (South Africa)
Weislaw Plesniak (Poland)
Günter Ziegler (Germany)
Ludwig Faddeev, *ex officio* (Russia)
Jacob Palis *ex officio* (Brazil)

Credentials Committee

Peter Michor, *Chair* (Austria)
Michael Cowling (Australia)
Betul Tanbay (Turkey)

Finance and Dues Committee

José de la Peña, *Chair* (Mexico)
Albert Fathi (France)
Phillip Griffiths (United States)
Asghar Qadir (Pakistan)
Mina Teicher (Israel)
Lan Wen (China)

Resolutions Committee

Christiane Rousseau, *Chair* (Canada)
S.G. Dani (India)
A. A. Maltsev (Russia)
Carlo Sbordone (Italy)
John Toland (United Kingdom)
Phillipe Tondeur (United States)
Kenji Ueno (Japan)

Tellers Committee

Helge Holden, *Chair* (Norway)
Rafael Labarca (Chile)
David Natroshvili (Georgia)
Peter Yu-Hin Pang (Singapore)
Jean Schmets (Belgium)

Duties of the General Assembly Committees

Nominations Committee

- Receive and review the nominations proposed by the *ad hoc* EC Nominating Committee.
- Receive nominations from the floor.
- Put forth a slate to be voted on by the General Assembly delegation.

Credentials Committee

- Review the list of delegates that have registered at the General Assembly and verify that each delegation is correctly constituted and present the list to the President of IMU.
- Ensure that voting procedures are understood.

Finance and Dues Committee

- Review the proposed 2007-2010 budget.
- Make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning dues unit increase.

- Make recommendation to the General Assembly concerning action to be taken regarding dues in arrears.

Resolutions Committee

- Accept resolutions put forth by delegations prior to the close of the first day's session of the General Assembly (August 19).
- Review and edit resolutions received from the delegations.
- Formulate resolutions.
- Present the resolutions to the General Assembly with recommendations.

Tellers Committee

- Distribute ballots.
- Collect ballots.
- Verify ballots and discard invalid ballots.
- Count the votes.
- Report the outcome to the President of IMU.

Activities of the Union

i. **Commission on Development and Exchanges (CDE) – C. Herbert Clemens**

- The CDE is a nine-member commission which for the period 2002-06 was allocated a modest budget of US \$30,000 per year. It is focused on supporting mathematical activities in the developing world, including many countries that are not members of the IMU. It grants supplementary support to conferences in the developing world and research travel support for mathematicians working in the developing world. In the past a third piece of its work was carried out through the IMU EC in the support of major conferences that take place in the developing world.

The 2002 General Assembly approved the following resolution, “*The General Assembly recommends the guidelines for receiving Colloquia support from IMU be further developed and available on the IMU website. These scarce funds should go primarily to supporting mathematicians from developing countries and high quality international conferences that take place in developing countries.*” A committee was formed that included members of the EC and CDE and other mathematicians from the developing world to evaluate the best means of implementing this resolution and more generally to review IMU’s support for mathematics in developing countries. From this committee came the Developing Countries Strategy Group (DCSG) that worked within the CDE framework with the following mandate: to gain outside funding to expand CDE’s activities, to gather information on existing programs in support of mathematics in the developing world and to serve as a clearing house for these activities, to offer support to existing selected programs and to establish an institutional basis that would provide continuing administrative presence. During the past four years, the DCSG established an office, centered at the ICTP in Trieste, Italy, that is critical in supporting the DCSG’s work and in creating a database of mathematical activities and mathematical programs in the developing world as well as working to gain support from outside organizations. The IMU EC voted to increase the CDE budget by transferring

most of the funds that existed in the IMU conference and symposia budget line to CDE for disbursement. The CDE and DCSG also are grateful for the support that they have received from outside organizations, including major support from the Niels Henrik Abel Memorial Fund and funding from the London Mathematical Society and the American Mathematical Society, and onetime grants from the European Mathematical Society, USNCM and the Spanish Organizing Committee. The following is a partial list of funds granted by CDE: CIMPA Project in Cambodia; AMMSI, ICMI's program of African Mathematics Education, and the Clearinghouse of African Mathematics. The CDE and DCSG websites list all grants received from outside organizations and grants given by CDE in support of developing world mathematics and mathematicians working in the developing world (<http://www.ictp.trieste.it/~cde/>; <http://www.ictp.trieste.it/~dcsdg/>). The DCSG was also instrumental as a bridge between the ICTP Ramanujan Prize and IMU. It had been decided by the IMU EC that a restructuring of CDE and DCSG is needed and the EC has recommended the following model: The CDE and the DCSG would merge, be reconstituted, and be named the Commission for Developing Countries (CDC). The General Assembly authorized the EC to establish the CDC in a suitable interim form, prior to a formal proposal for establishing the new commission being made to the 2010 GA.

The CDC will work under the following guidelines:

- Fundraise, including seeking further funding for the IMU Special Developing Fund.
- Maintain a web based clearing house for mathematics and mathematics education programs and projects in the developing world.
- Partnership with groups working in developing countries or working on mathematics or mathematical education in developing countries.
- Leverage the work of existing projects.
- Facilitate cooperation between groups engaged in these projects, and to generate and publicize opportunities for networking, mentoring and short or longer term teaching in developing countries.
- Advise foundations, government and nongovernmental organizations in mathematics and mathematics education.
- Employ a ½ time administrator.

J. Ball thanked the members of CDE and Sharon Laurenti, administrator for CDE and DCSG, for their work over the past four years, especially in establishing the grant online application process.

- ii. **International Commission on the History of Mathematics (ICHM) – John Ball**
J. Ball thanked Chair Karen Hunger Parshall and Secretary Elena Ausejo for their good work in heading the (Joint) International Commission on the History of Mathematics and referred the delegates to their report found on page 102 of Bulletin No. 53.
- iii. **IMU-Net – Ragni Piene**
R. Piene reported that at its April 2003 meeting, the EC recognized that the IMU needed to improve communication with the international mathematical community and

decided to create the IMU-Net, appointing Mireille Chaleyat-Maurel editor. The bimonthly electronic newsletter was established and its first two issues in 2003 were sent to 2002 and 1998 ICM participants and then subsequent issues were only sent to those who chose to subscribe. Currently IMU-Net has 4346 subscribers and the EC would like to gain further participation. R. Piene encouraged GA participants to visit the IMU booth at the ICM to speak with M. Chaleyat-Maurel regarding ways that IMU can communicate with world mathematicians or to subscribe to IMU-Net. R. Piene thanked M. Chaleyat-Maurel and Wolfgang Dalitz, the IMU Webmaster, for their work on IMU-Net.

iv. **Committee on Electronic Information and Communication (CEIC) – CEIC member Peter Michor and EC representative Martin Grötschel**

The main purpose of CEIC is to keep IMU members and mathematicians informed regarding electronic developments. Thanks to publishers and improvements in technology, huge changes have occurred, allowing electronic access to recent scientific literature. However, the access needs to be extended to include historical literature and more work needs to be done so that the developing world has the same access to mathematical literature as the developed world.

The following are CEIC activities:

- Keeping IMU members informed of electronic developments.
- Electronic World Directory of Mathematicians (EWDM).
- Federated World Directory of Mathematicians (FWDM): basic, standard and advanced search options with an option for mathematicians to add themselves to the directory.
- World Digital Math Library (WDML) (www.wdml.org). The aim of the WDML is to put mathematical literature online, link it to present literature and make it freely available.
- Creating a registry of all projects, updated regularly, currently containing 179 journals from 24 projects that can be downloaded onto one's own machine (This is especially important for mathematicians in developing countries.).

v. **International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) – Hyman Bass**

Established in 1908, ICMI is a parallel organization to IMU that serves the mathematical education community and includes a research component of its own. In 1953, ICMI became a commission of IMU as it is today. ICMI is governed by its own EC, which has met six times during the past four years. Member countries include IMU members and 14 other countries that are not members of IMU. ICMI officers attend parts of meetings of IMU that are pertinent to ICMI, and the ICMI Executive Committee has the IMU president and secretary as ex officio members.

The ICMI core activities are:

- Organization of congresses every 4 years, comparable in size to ICMs.
- Conduct ICMI studies, one per year on themes of current interest in mathematics education.
- Solidarity Program for developing countries including interacting with DCSG.
- Awarding established prizes – the Felix Klein Award (2 awards, 2003 & 2005) and the Hans Freudenthal Award (2 awards, 2003 & 2005).

- UNESCO/ICMI Exhibit *Experiencing Mathematics*, launched at ICME-10 in 2004 in Copenhagen and shown in various countries.
- Pipeline Project – The IMU EC asked ICMI to gather and analyze statistics regarding the study of mathematics throughout the world. It was noted that the AMS, EMS, funding foundations and national societies may be interested in the outcome of this study. It was also noted by the Indian delegate that the statistics should include female participation.
- ICMI studies may be purchased at 60% discount. Springer owns the copyright in English. ICMI has the copyright of other languages and will provide for translation into other languages.
- Bulletins – Bulletins produced at the end of each fiscal year report on the activities of the IMU. A special Bulletin was produced in June 2002, reporting on the activities of IMU since the prior General Assembly in 1998. All colloquia supported financially or by imprimatur can be found in Bulletin No. 53.

Finance and Dues – Phillip Griffiths

i. Financial Reports

P. Griffiths reported that the Activities of the Union for the years 2002 – 2005, as well as the complete audited financial reports, are published in Bulletin No. 53, June 2006, beginning on page 110.

ii. Gifts and Grants

P. Griffiths acknowledged the significant support of the contributors to the Special Development Fund for the years 2003-2006, the funds that allow young mathematicians from Developing Countries to attend the Congress through travel and other grants. Griffiths encouraged all countries to contribute to this fund. He reported that the American Mathematical Society is the largest contributor with other contributions from: Het Wiskundig Genootschap, Netherlands, Unione Matematica Italiana, London Mathematical Society, German Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Society of Japan. A full listing of the grants is on page 185 of Bulletin No. 53.

P. Griffiths pointed out that the IMU receives other grants, especially the important yearly \$55,000 grant from the Niels Henrik Abel Memorial Fund with \$45,000 funds towards developing countries and \$10,000 earmarked for the Ramanujan Prize. A complete listing of all grants is found on page 184 of Bulletin No. 53.

iii. Budget

P. Griffiths presented the proposed Budget for 2007-2010, containing a dues unit increase and an increase of 5% each year for the next four years.

iv. Dues Increase

P. Griffiths stated that the IMU cannot continue to fund the good programs that the EC has put in place, especially those related to developing countries. Griffiths cited the following reasons that the IMU EC is requesting that the delegates approve the budget, including the increases:

- Following the mandate put forth by the 14th General Assembly Resolution 9, the EC has significantly enhanced its commitment to the developing world by expanding the work of its Commission on Development and Exchanges (CDE) through the newly formed

Developing Countries Strategy Group (DCSG). The DCSG now receives a greater number of grant applications from developing countries than it has in the past and distributes more grants.

- The CDE/DCSG has established a centralized office with a half-time employee located at ICTP in Trieste, which has succeeded in leveraging dues support significantly by obtaining outside funding for mathematics in developing countries, especially in Africa. This office has also developed an online application system, which has simplified the process for mathematicians seeking funding to attend the ICM.
- The EC has continued to encourage its Committee on Electronic Information and Communication (CEIC) to develop guidelines regarding electronic communication. In June 2005 *Best Practices for Retrodigitization* was adopted, and the CEIC also has drafted the document *Digital Mathematics Library: A Vision for the Future* (www.ceic.math.ca).
- The IMU has improved its website by expanding the information available and by providing links to other mathematical societies.
- The IMU EC has engaged in further activities including adding an additional prize, the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize for Applications of Mathematics, funded by the surplus from the Berlin ICM, and administered by the IMU.
- It has informally established two Nominating Committees in response to Resolution 8 of the 2002 General Assembly, with corresponding changes to the Procedures for Election that the 2006 General Assembly will be asked to approve.
- To guarantee ICM site selection equity, the EC appointed an ICM Site Advisory Committee that visited the countries that submitted ICM proposals and reported their findings to the EC.
- IMU has also continued to support the work of its International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI).
- The IMU EC has further worked to improve media coverage related to the International Congress of Mathematicians and to the work of IMU.
- So as to improve communication with mathematicians, IMU now sponsors IMU-Net, a monthly electronic update for the mathematical community.

v. Dues in arrears

P. Griffiths reported on the IMU dues and the countries that are in arrears. As the governing body of the IMU, the EC is governed by the Statutes and has worked to inform all of its members whose dues are in arrears of Statute 26 which states: *Any Adhering Organization which is in arrears with its contributions for two years shall be warned and shall be deprived of its voting rights. Any Adhering Organization which is in arrears for four years shall cease to be an adherent of the Union.* P. Griffiths said that Circular Letter #2/2006 informed all Adhering Organizations that the EC was going to recommend the expulsion of four Adhering Organizations and limiting voting rights for two Adhering Organizations. P. Griffiths was happy to report that every Adhering Organization but one paid their dues or a significant amount of their past dues or has indicated that they will pay very soon.

P. Griffiths said that the Finance and Dues Committee would review the dues in arrears and make recommendations to the General Assembly.

Statutes

J. Ball presented the proposed Statute changes, which were discussed and approved as follows:

- i. Effective Date of Changes to the Statutes: Article 35.
 - 35. Changes in the Statutes may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by any of the Adhering Organizations. Notice of changes so proposed shall reach the Secretary of the Union at least four months before the meeting of the General Assembly at which action is to be taken. No change shall be made in the Statutes except at a meeting of the General Assembly and with the approval of the two-thirds majority of the total number of votes assigned to the members. **Statute changes become effective on the day following the close of the General Assembly, unless otherwise stipulated in the proposed Statute change.**

- ii. Unit Contribution: Article 19.

19. Each Adhering Organization of a member of the Union shall pay an annual subscription in accordance with the Group to which it adheres, as follows:

Group	I	II	III	IV	V
Number of Unit Contributions	1	2	4	8	12

Associate Members of the Union pay no dues.

- iii. Associate Membership: Articles 7. – 12.

- 7. To encourage a country to become a Member of IMU, a country may adhere to the Union as an Associate Member through an Adhering Organization as described in article 3.
- 8. The Adhering Organization of an Associate Member shall form a Committee for Mathematics as described in article 5.
- 9. When an application is made for Associate Membership of the Union, the Executive Committee shall examine the application and make a recommendation thereon to the members of the Union by correspondence or at a meeting of the General Assembly. The members shall accept or reject the application in the light of this recommendation and of any other considerations before them either by correspondence or at a meeting of the General Assembly.
- 10. A country that has previously been a member of the Union is not eligible to apply for Associate Membership.
- 11. Associate Membership is for a period of four years from the date of election, renewable for one further period of four years on request to the Secretary of the Union. Associate Members are normally expected to apply for membership of the Union beginning no later than eight years from the date of election.
- 12. Extensions of Associate Membership beyond a period of eight years from the date of election may be granted for further periods of four years at a time. A request for such a four-year extension must be made to the Secretary of the Union. The Executive Committee shall examine the request and make a recommendation thereon to the members of the Union by correspondence or at a meeting of the General Assembly. The members shall accept or reject the application in the light of this recommendation and of any other considerations before them either by correspondence or at a meeting

of the General Assembly.

iv. Number of Members-at-Large: Article 23.

23. The Executive Committee of the Union consists of ten voting members, namely: the four Officers of the Union as designated in article 22, together with **six Members-at-Large**, elected by the General Assembly for terms of four years each, commencing on the first day of the calendar year following the year of their election. In addition, the retiring President shall be an ex-officio member without vote, for a period of four years. In the case of a vacancy among the Members-at-Large, the procedure shall be the same as designated in article 22.

v. Term Limits for Members-at-Large: Article 22.

22. The Officers of the Union are a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary, all elected by the General Assembly by written ballot. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall hold office for a term of four years, shall assume office on the first day of the calendar year following that in which they have been elected and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office. The Secretary shall hold office for a term of four years, shall assume office on the first day of the calendar year following that in which he or she has been elected and shall be available for immediate re-election for one additional term. **Members-at-Large shall hold office for a term of four years and shall assume office on the first day of the calendar year following that in which they been elected. No Members-at-Large can serve three or more consecutive terms.** In the event of death, incapacity or resignation of the President, the Executive Committee shall choose one of the Vice-Presidents to carry on the functions of the President until a new President has been elected by the members of the Union for the unexpired term. In the case of any other office being vacated, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill the vacancy until the members of the Union shall have elected a successor for the unexpired term. These elections may be made at a meeting of the General Assembly or by Postal Ballot.

vi. Statutes Official Text:

This Statute was removed. However, it was noted that unofficial translations of the Statutes into other languages would be welcome, and could be placed on the IMU website.

IMU Nominating Committee – John Ball

At the 2002 GA, Resolution 8 stated “The General Assembly of IMU expects the Executive Committee to develop a proposed mechanism to involve members from the Committees for Mathematics, not on the Executive Committee, to assist in the selection of slates. This proposal should be put forth to the 2006 General Assembly.” In response to this resolution, the IMU EC created two Nominating Committees, the IMU Nominating Committee and the ICMI Nominating Committee with the following structures, which worked as *ad hoc* committees in selecting the 2007-2010 IMU nominees. Ludwig Faddeev chaired the *ad hoc* IMU Nominating Committee and Mogens Niss chaired the *ad hoc* ICMI Nominating Committee. Both L. Faddeev and M. Niss explained that the random selection process worked well and recommended that the GA adopt the Nominating Committee recommendations put forth by the EC. After discussion, the Procedures for Elections were adopted. They can be found on the IMU website:

http://www.mathunion.org/Organization/election_procedures.html

Presentation of Slates

The GA Nominating Committee met in the morning of August 18. It adopted the following slates:

IMU Executive Committee

President: L. Lovász (Hungary)

Secretary: M. Grötschel (Germany)

Vice Presidents: Ma Zhi-Ming (China), C. Procesi (Italy)

Members-at-Large (9 candidates for 5 or 6 posts)

The EC will ask the 15th General Assembly delegates to approve a Statute change increasing the number of Members-at-Large on the EC from five to six.

S. Baouendi (USA)

M. de León (Spain)

K. Fukaya (Japan)

N. Ghoussoub (Canada)

A. Lubotzky (Israel)

R. Piene (Norway)

C. Praeger (Australia)

V. Vassiliev (Russia)

M. Viana (Brazil)

CDE

President: S. Dani (India)

Secretary: G. Gonzalez-Sprinberg (France)

Members-at-Large (8 candidates for 6 posts)

G. Boente (Argentina)

P. Cordaro (Brazil)

J-P. Gossez (Belgium)

L. Lilov (Bulgaria)

M. Teuw Niane (Senegal)

M. Sanz-Sole (Spain)

T. Suzuki (Japan)

J. Zhang (China)

ICHM

(4 candidates for 2 posts)

C. Houzel (France)

Wenlin Li (China)

A. Malet (Spain)

P. Neumann (UK)

ICMI

President: M. Artigue (France)

Secretary: B. Hodgson (Canada)

Vice Presidents: J. Adler (South Africa) B. Barton, (New Zealand)

Members at Large (7 candidates for 5 posts)

M. Bartolini Bussi (Italy)
J. Carvalho e Silva (Portugal)
O. Figueras (Mexico)
C. Hoyles (UK)
S. Kumaresan (India)
F. Leung (Hong Kong)
A. Semenov (Russia)

There were no names nominated from the floor; therefore the above slates were put to a vote.

The 15th GA elected the following IMU officers for 2007-2010.

Executive Committee (EC)

President: L. Lovász (Hungary)
Secretary: M. Grötschel (Germany)
Vice Presidents: Ma Zhi-Ming (China), C. Procesi (Italy)

Members-at-Large

S. Baouendi (USA)
M. de León (Spain)
R. Piene (Norway)
C. Praeger (Australia)
V. Vassiliev (Russia)
M. Viana (Brazil)

Commission on Development Exchanges (CDE)

President: S. Dani (India)
Secretary: G. Gonzalez-Sprinberg (France)

Members-at-Large

G. Boente (Argentina)
P. Cordaro (Brazil)
J-P. Gossez (Belgium)
M. Teuw Niane (Senegal)
M. Sanz-Sole (Spain)
J. Zhang (China)

(Joint) International Commission on the History of Mathematics (ICHM)

C. Houzel (France)
P. Neumann (UK)

International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI)

President: M. Artigue (France)
Secretary: B. Hodgson (Canada)
Vice Presidents: J. Adler (South Africa) B. Barton, (New Zealand)

Members-at-Large

M. Bartolini Bussi (Italy)

J. Carvalho e Silva (Portugal)
C. Hoyles (UK)
S. Kumaresan (India)
A. Semenov (Russia)

Presentation of the Finance and Dues Committee

The Finance and Dues Committee met on the evening of the 19th and drafted the following recommendations that were presented to the GA:

- 5% dues increase per year for the next four years.
- Enforcing Statute 32 in dealing with countries whose dues are in arrears.

Voting

The GA approved the following for fiscal years 2007-2010:

- 5% dues increase per year for the next four years.
- IMU budget that was presented by the EC.
- Recommendations on countries with dues in arrears, i.e., Peru to be deprived of its voting rights if dues from 2000 forward is not paid by December 31, 2006, dues prior to 2000 will be forgiven; Nigeria to be deprived of its voting rights if dues from 2000 forward is not paid by December 31, 2006, dues prior to 2000 will be forgiven; Philippines to be deprived of its voting rights if dues from 2000 forward is not paid by December 31, 2006, dues prior to 2000 will be forgiven; Tunisia to be deprived of its voting rights if dues from 2000 forward is not paid by December 31, 2006, dues prior to 2000 will be forgiven; Cuba cease to be an adherent of the Union if dues is not paid from 2000 forward by December 31, 2006, dues prior to 2000 will be forgiven.

It was noted that there is only a small number of African countries that are members of the IMU and that paying dues may not be the reason. The CDC to be established should be encouraged to work on increasing the number of IMU members from Africa and other underrepresented regions.

ICSU Presentation – Sir Roger Elliott

The Treasurer of ICSU, International Council for Science, Sir Roger Elliott discussed the vision and strategic plan of ICSU. ICSU's total annual budget is 3-4 million Euros, mostly coming from subscriptions, 90% of which are paid by national members. ICSU also receives support from the French government. ICSU supports interdisciplinary projects and is a catalyst for large international programs. Further information is available on the ICSU website at <http://www.icsu.org>.

Guidelines for Future ICMs and Program Committee Guidelines Discussion – Noga Alon, Chair of the 2006 Program Committee

Noga Alon illustrated the work of the Committee since its appointment in April 2003. He presented the following structure of ICM2006:

20 Plenary Lectures; 20 sections with 169 invited section lecturers, with speakers from 24 countries; short communications; poster sessions; presentation of mathematical software and special activities and other activities (e.g., panel discussion, informal seminars.) It was noted that there was one plenary lecturer and 12 invited section lecturers who were women.

N. Alon presented a table of the geographical and gender distribution of plenary and section speakers at the 1998, 2002 and 2006 ICMs.

Future ICMs – Martin Grötschel

The IMU EC gives complete control to each of its Committees; hence there is strong need for guidelines for all its Committees. The IMU EC proposes new Guidelines for the Program Committee (PC) and the Organizing Committee (OC), dated August 18, 2006 describing the responsibilities of the two Committees concerning the scientific program of an ICM. M. Grötschel explained the rationale behind the various aspects of the guidelines. Several suggestions were made from the floor. The EC was asked to consider the proposals and make the guidelines available on the IMU webpage after the modifications have been made. The EC was charged with the task to upgrade the PC/OC Guidelines whenever appropriate.

Presentation of Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee presented resolutions that were discussed and redrafted. The following resolutions were adopted by the 15th General Assembly:

Resolution 1

The General Assembly resolves that the next meeting of the General Assembly be held at a time and place conveniently linked to the International Congress of Mathematicians in Hyderabad, India, in 2010.

Resolution 2

The General Assembly expresses its gratitude to those bodies which contributed to the Special Development Fund in the past four years.

Resolution 3

The General Assembly expresses its deep gratitude to the Organizing Committee of the ICM 2006 chaired by Manuel de León and to the Organizing Committee of the General Assembly chaired by Juan M. Viaño Rey, for a splendid organization and a warm welcome to delegates.

Resolution 4

The General Assembly gives warm thanks to the Executive Committee, to the President John M. Ball and to the Secretary of the IMU Phillip A. Griffiths for their excellent work during the period 2003-2006.

Resolution 5

The General Assembly expresses its gratitude to the country of Spain for supporting a large number of mathematicians from developing countries to come to the International Congress and the General Assembly.

Resolution 6

The General Assembly expresses its gratitude to the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, the ICTP in Trieste and the Konrad-Zuse-Zentrum in Berlin for their generous support to the IMU.

Resolution 7

The General Assembly thanks Mireille Chaleyat-Maurel, Linda Geraci, Sharon Laurenti and Sylwia Markwardt for their many contributions to the IMU.

Resolution 8

The General Assembly of the IMU reaffirms the importance of the issues treated by ICMI. It recognizes the importance of continuing and strengthening the relationship of IMU with ICMI and urges the increased involvement of research mathematicians in mathematical education at all levels.

Resolution 9

With the ultimate goal of creating an enduring network of digital mathematical literature, the General Assembly of the IMU endorses the new version of the “Best practices” document of its Committee on Electronic Information and Communication (CEIC), posted June 2005 at <http://www.ceic.math.ca>, as well as the March 2005 draft of “Digital Mathematical Library: a vision for the Future”.

Resolution 10

The General Assembly of the IMU continues to endorse the principle of universality expressed in the International Council for Science (ICSU) ARTICLE 5 of the STATUTES, as adopted by the 1998 General Assembly, and endorses the additional ICSU Statement on the Universality of Science (2004). Notwithstanding heightened tensions, security concerns, etc., the General Assembly urges free exchange of scientific ideas and free circulation of scientists and mathematicians across international borders. The IMU opposes efforts by governments to restrict contacts, interactions, access and travel in the world mathematical community, particularly when such restrictions penalize individual mathematicians for the actions of governments.

Resolution 11

The General Assembly recommends that the incoming Executive Committee of the IMU studies the establishment of stable administrative structure and funding mechanisms, including possible fund-raising, for the support of the expanding IMU activities, and report to the 2010 General Assembly with concrete proposals.

ICM Executive Committee Site Recommendation for ICM2010 – John Ball

J. Ball announced that the Executive Committee recommended Bangalore, India as the site of ICM 2010. He thanked Canada for its excellent proposal and for graciously accepting the EC’s decision. The EC had appointed a site subcommittee consisting of John Ball, Zhi-Ming Ma and Ragni Piene, which had visited both countries and requested answers to a list of questions, prior to reporting to the EC. J. Ball underlined the importance of continuing in the future to have a professional, open and equitable site selection process. The GA delegates voted to hold the ICM2010 in Hyderabad, India, with the GA to be held in Bangalore, India, prior to the ICM.

Presentation of the ICM2010 Local Organization Committee – John Ball

The Indian Local Organizing Committee presented the structure for ICM2010, with the ICM being held in Hyderabad and the General Assembly being held in Bangalore. The dates are:
August 16-17, 2010, General Assembly, Bangalore;
August 19-27, 2010, International Congress of Mathematicians 2010, Hyderabad.

Member of the IMU

- i. The General Assembly approved the request by the Czech Republic to move from Group II to Group III as of January 1, 2007.

- ii. The General Assembly approved the request by Poland to move from Group III to Group IV as of January 1, 2007.

Close of the 15th General Assembly

J. Ball thanked the IMU EC members whose terms expired: Jacob Palis, Phillip Griffiths, Jean-Michel Bismut; and Masaki Kashiwara, with special thanks to Linda Geraci, IMU Administrator, who carried out her tasks with great talent, dedication and good humour. The President thanked the Assembly for its work and declared the 15th General Assembly closed at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Geraci