

International Mathematical Union



April 16, 2013

IMU AO Circular Letter 1/2013

To: IMU Adhering Organizations

From: Martin Grötschel, IMU Secretary

Announcement of the MENAO event

Dear colleagues,

This message is to announce the “MENAO event” and to ask for the support of the IMU Adhering Organizations to identify suitable participants in this event. Please give attention and thought to what is outlined below.

In compliance with Resolution 6 passed by the 16th General Assembly of IMU, Bangalore, India, in 2010, the International Mathematical Union announces the one day event:

MENAO

**Mathematics in Emerging Nations:
Achievements and Opportunities**

**COEX Convention & Exhibition Center, Seoul, Korea
Tuesday, August 12, 2014**

The MENAO event, which features about 100 participants/discussants and is open to an additional 350 observers, will take place on the day immediately preceding the opening of the 2014 International Congress of Mathematicians.

The Republic of Korea (South Korea), the host country for ICM 2014, has experienced a remarkable mathematical development over the last 50 years, one that proceeded hand-in-hand with its economic and educational development. As an act of solidarity with their colleagues in emerging nations, the Korean ICM hosts are currently inviting 1,000 mathematicians and advanced mathematics graduate students from the developing world to attend ICM 2014 (“NANUM 2014” invitation program). The participation of these invitees in the Congress will be fully paid for by Korean corporate and other donors. For further information see:

http://www.icm2014.org/contents.asp?cate_m=20101202_7&cate_s=20101206095752088.

We are all aware of the fact that the presence of mathematical talent and interest in the mathematical sciences is still largely unattended to in many places in the world. The NANUM 2014 invitees in Seoul for the Congress will give the world's mathematics community, as well as governmental and nongovernmental parties supporting mathematical development, an unprecedented opportunity to learn what has been, what can be, and what still needs to be accomplished to bring mathematical opportunity within the reach of young talent in many developing countries. As well as being a potentially vast resource for development in their own nations, these aspiring young people also represent a potentially vast resource for the mathematics profession worldwide.

The goal of the MENAO event is

- to listen to the voices of mathematicians and aspiring advanced students of mathematics from the developing world,
- to share success stories of development via partnerships between the local mathematical communities, their governments, and international agencies and foundations, and
- to review the current status of those efforts and future needs.

The latter topic will be consolidated in a series of recently written “regional reports” that IMU will make available at the MENAO event.

Moreover it is IMU's hope that the MENAO event will be the beginning of new success stories!

Bringing together, in an environment like this, those who are in need with those who are willing to support may create a stimulus for partnerships that will benefit the developing world and mathematics in general.

The MENAO event will feature personal stories of mathematicians, country-specific development stories, both from the perspective of mathematicians in those countries and from the perspective of their international partners, as well as an in-depth look at the Korean story as narrated by key figures in the various stages of its mathematical development. Finally, relationships between mathematical development and economic development elsewhere in the world will be explored.

MENAO participants/discussants will take part by invitation, observers will be admitted via registration on a first-come first-served basis. The registration process will be explained in a future announcement.

The leadership of the International Mathematical Union wishes to make MENAO a premier event, of compelling interest to all organizations, governmental agencies, and individuals that have contributed to international mathematical development or are potentially interested in doing so.

In order to help us assemble the final list of participant/discussant invitees, we request IMU Adhering Organizations to identify and recommend to the IMU a small, select list of such agencies, organizations, and individuals.

We would appreciate receiving this information before **September 1, 2013**.

For further information, contact by e-mail:

Herbert Clemens
Secretary for Policy, Commission for Developing Countries
International Mathematical Union
clemens.43@osu.edu
icmi.cdc.administrator@mathunion.org.

Sincerely

Martin Grötschel
IMU Secretary