

**To: CDC 2019-2022
IMU/ CDC 2015-2018 Circular 3, October 25, 2020**

Dear colleagues,

You will find below the decisions (by e-mail) and updates of the programs since January 1, 2020. There are also 5 ACTION ITEMS (3 to be voted on, and 2 for discussion).

Please let us know your comments and decisions by November 22, 2020.

Please use the template attached (Excel-file) for decisions and the mailing list for your comments.

Thank you very much!

Dipendra Prasad

Olga Gil Medrano

Lena Koch

1. Decisions from January 1,2020

a) Dates and site for the 2021 CDC-Meeting.

In January, CDC received from Claudio Arezzo –Head of the Mathematics Department of ICTP– a kind invitation to host our 2021 Meeting and to add a joint meeting with ICTP colleagues to CDC usual agenda. After consultation with CDC by e-mail, we accepted the invitation and decided the meeting to we held in the period [February 24, March 7] with preference for the dates February 27 (Saturday) and February 28 (Sunday).

b) ICM2022 Chebyshev Grants regional distribution of the funds and Selection Panels.

On March 2020 Andrei Okounkov on behalf of Saint Petersburg ICM2022 LOC has requested CDC help about the fairest distribution of the funds between different parts of the globe and possible members of the selection panels. CDC has been working by e-mail on these two issues from March 3 till June 11, 2020. The decisions can be found in Annexes I and II.

2. Follow-up of decisions

a) Dates and site for the 2021 CDC-Meeting (update)

In view of the evolution of the Covid19 pandemic the CDC Meeting in February/March 2021 will be on line and the possibility of an in person meeting during the year will be consulted with CDC and ICTP if circumstances permit.

As for the planed joint meeting with ICTP colleagues during our 2021 Meeting, we suggest to invite them for a one-hour joint session during our online meeting.

ACTION ITEM 1(DECISION)

- 1) I agree to include in the Agenda of the 2021 online CDC-Meeting a joint session with ICTP
- 2) I disagree
- 3) I abstain

Please use the excel file to cast your vote.

b) Chebyshev Grants Selection Panels (update) and Grant Process.

Olga has communicated to ICM2022 LOC the proposal for a division in six regions and some recommendations that CDC members have proposed to avoid logistic problems detected in previous ICM's. She has also contacted all the proposed members of the panels to check their willingness to serve.

All the members proposed by CDC have accepted with the exception of Angel Pineda, proposed as Chair of the Latin America Panel. Then Diego Moreira has been included in the Panel and the Chair is going to be Bernardo Uribe; the decision was taken by Andrea, Dipendra and Olga that were delegated by CDC to deal with this adjustments.

In the folder "Chebyshev Grants" in the CDC-internal you can find Annexes I and II mentioned above, the recommendations document and the template of the invitation letters. The long list of all the mathematicians that CDC has considered in the process of appointing the selection panels is also uploaded separately, as it can serve to CDC for other purposes.

Saint Petersburg LOC has warmly acknowledged CDC collaboration and informed that the registration on the ICM website is scheduled to open around December 1, 2020.

The application process for Chebyshev grants will consist on registering on the main ICM site and submitting the supplementary materials on a separate website accessible to the members of the selection panels.

3. Updates about the CDC Programs

a) Conferences Approved in 2020

- January 2020: 17 (19 but 2 were cancelled)
- April 2020: 3
- July 2020: decisions not finalized yet

How many conferences have been postponed?: all

b) Simons Africa Approved in 2020

- January 2020: 0 (1 was approved but cancelled afterwards)
- April 2020: 2
- July 2020: decisions not finalized yet

How many have been postponed?: all

c) Individual Travel Grants 2020

- January 2020: 0

- April 2020: 2
 - July 2020 Individual Travel: decisions not finalized yet
- How many have been postponed?: all

d) Abel Visiting Scholar Program

The selection committee has evaluated three calls (December 2019, April and August 2020), has received 10 applications and awarded 3 scholarships:

Nguyen Thac Dung (b. 1980) is Associate Professor at Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam National University. He will be hosted by Professor Guofang Wei of the Department of Mathematics, University of California at Santa Barbara, USA.

Khadijeh Nedaiasl (b.1985) is Assistant Professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences at Zanjan, Iran. She will be hosted by Professor Martin Costabel of IRMAR, Institut Mathématique Université de Rennes 1, France

Muhammad Nazam (b. 1982) is a Lecturer at Allama Iqbal Open University at Islamabad, Pakistan. He will be hosted by Professor Özlem Acar of the Department of Mathematics, Selçuk University, Turkey.

The three visits have been postponed.

e) Volunteer Lecturer Program

The 4 applications received for the September 2019 call were awarded and the lectures completed by the end of February 2020:

Year	Volunteer	University Visited
2020	Georg Bader (USA)	AIMS (Cameroon)
2020	Diletta Martinelli (The Netherlands)	AIMS (Cameroon)
2020	Christopher Thron (USA)	Alzaiem Alazhari University (Sudan)
2020	Olabole Bamigbola (Nigeria)	Kampala International University (Uganda)

The VLP Program received seven applications for the March 2020 deadline, but due to Covid-19 pandemic the requests were postponed.

f) Breakout Graduate Fellowship Program

•2020 Call

The nomination process opened on February 1, 2020. Due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic the deadline has been extend to July 3, 2020. A total of 18 applications have been received. The 3 awardees are:

Christelle Judith Agonkoui is a Beninese PhD student at the Institute of Mathematics and Physics (IMSP) of the University Abomey-Calavi in Benin nominated by her advisor Professor Sophie Dabo from University of Lille, France. She plans to work on *Bio-Statistical Modeling and Applications to Oncology*.

Annisa Nur Falah is an Indonesian PhD student at Padjadjaran University in Indonesia nominated by her advisor Professor Budi Nurani Ruchjana, from the same institution. She is working on *Clustering Spatial Autoregressive Exogenous Kriging (SAR-X Kriging) Model Development and its Application in Social Media Data*.

Caroline Namanya is an Ugandan PhD student at Makerere University in Uganda nominated by one of her advisors Professor Michael Wemyss University from Glasgow, UK. The subject of the research project, co-supervised by Professor David Ssevviiri from Makerere University, is *Chamber Structures of 3-Fold Flops*.

·Previous Calls

Students Do (2016 call) and Taiwo (2019 call) have provided satisfactory reports in April and July, respectively, and their fellowship has been renewed.

·Outsourcing

IMU signed a Memorandum with the London Mathematical Society for the administration of the program for the five years period: January 2020, December 2024.

·Donation

Martin Hairer, the 2020 Breakthrough Prize recipient has donated USD 100.000 to the program.

·2021 Call

In FIMU's Board Meeting held on October 10, 2020 it has been accepted Olga's proposal of increasing the 2021 Budget of the Program in order to offer up to 4 grants in the 2021 Call.

·BGF Selection Committee

The current composition is: The Secretary for Policy (Chair), the 3 CDC members that are regional representatives and 1 member proposed by TWAS, due to the outsourcing Memorandum for Understanding.

The MoU expires in 2020 and is not going to be renovated since now the program is outsourced to the London Mathematical Society. On the other hand, TWAS has delegated the appointment of its representative to the Mathematics Section of ICTP.

During the two last calls (2019 and 2020) Emanuel Carneiro (IMPA/ICTP), appointed by Claudio Arezzo, has been working very well as a member of the committee. We would like to propose that he continues his membership till the end of the CDC current term: December 2022.

ACTION ITEM 2 (DECISION)

- 1) I agree that Emanuel Carneiro continues to be part of the BGF Selection Committee till December 31, 2022.
- 2) I disagree
- 3) I abstain

Please use the excel file to cast your vote.

g) Graduate Research Assistantships in Developing Countries (GRAID)

·2020 Call

The GRAID Committee has evaluated Round 4 of GRAID with deadline March 31, 2020 and selected four projects for funding

Group from Benin with PI Romain Glèlè Kakaï and IP Calistus Ngonghala (USA) supporting the PhD student Beaugard Taboe

Group from Nepal with PI Kedar Uprety and IP Naveen Vaidya (USA) supporting one PhD Student, Anjana Pokharel

Group from the Ivory Coast with PI Modeste Nzi and IP Etienne Pardoux (France) supporting one PhD Student, Fulbert Vonopou

Group from Cameroon with PI Gideon Ngwa and IP Miranda Teboh-Ewungkem (USA) supporting three students (Markdonal Ghakanyuy Bime (PhD), Eric Jumbam Wirnkar (MS) and Girma Mesfin Selleke (MS))

The Committee has also considered the renewal of grants awarded in previous calls. The complete reports received from Angel Pineda (Secretary of the GRAID Committee) are included as Annex III and IV

4. Effects of the Covid19 crisis from March to September

- a) On April 29, 2020 Alf, Imren, Lena and Olga held a zoom Meeting to deal with administration issues due to cancellations and postponements of visits and events. As a general policy we decided that:
- Notification Letters will be sent out regularly after decisions of circulars arrive, even if travel and conferences have been postponed.
 - IMU granted funds will be secured for the future, up to autumn 2021 seems reasonable at this point in time*.
 - For travel grants, even though airline tickets may get a bit more expensive, it is good to wait a bit and buy these on short term. We should be ready to assume the budget of travel being higher than before due also to the prices of health insurances, lodging, etc.
 - If visits or conferences are planned before March 2021, we will ask for confirmation letters from the head of department confirming the dates and we will also check if there are any travel warnings for specific countries.

*In October, we have revised the date and extended to June 2022.

b) GSC issues throughout the pandemic from Alf

When the closures because of the pandemic began to be the norm, GSC had just approved a call and had to make quick decisions. All of the committee was inclined to allow people to postpone for a year, and the only obstacle we could think of was for tax and accounting problems in Berlin.

GSC consulted with the treasurer and secretary just to make sure (GSC had to tell the organizers soon since they were canceling events that were going to happen within months) and GSC was allowed to proceed that way. So all of the approved events were allowed to be postponed until 2021 without changing to conditions.

GSC has of course seen a decrease in grant applications in the last two calls. GSC thought this could happen and GSC had an unusually high number of very good applications in the last call (in March). So again GSC talked about awarding an unusually high number of grants (they were particularly good) expecting what would happen in the next calls.

So at least in the Conference Calls (which is the main item -both budget and number wise- the GSC handles) I believe this year we will have allocated slightly under our usual average and hopefully most conferences will be able to happen (and use their money) in 2021.

Another issue that came up to the committee was that one of the workshops which GSC had approved (in Cuba) asked for the money to be used to increase the internet capabilities in the host institution, with the idea of having an online conference instead. GSC has very precise standards of how we use the money, and the idea that GSC money could be used for infrastructure seemed like something we needed to discuss at length and at different levels (not only GSC but CDC for sure, and maybe even at the EC level). So GSC did not allow it (they ended up postponing instead). But it may very well be that the nature of workshops changes after this pandemic, and that new ideas about new ways GSC allows the program funds to be used should be discussed at following CDC meetings.

ACTION ITEM 3 (DISCUSSION)

Please share your opinion about this subject using the CDC mail-list.

The precise numbers can be found below.

GSC Applications January – October 2019 vs. January – October 2020

Conferences 2019		Conferences 2020	
2019 January Deadline	8	2020 January Deadline	26
2019 April Deadline	8	2020 April Deadline	4
2019 July Deadline	12	2020 July Deadline	2
2019 October Deadline	7	2019 October Deadline	5
Total January – October 2019	35	Total January – October 2020	37
Simons Africa 2019		Simons Africa 2020	
2019 January Deadline	3	2020 January Deadline	2
2019 April Deadline	6	2020 April Deadline	3
2019 July Deadline	2	2020 July Deadline	4
2019 October Deadline	2	2020 October Deadline	2
Total January-October 2019	14	Total January - July	11
Individual Travel Fellowship 2019		Individual Travel Fellowship 2020	
2019 January Deadline	3	2020 January Deadline	2
2019 April Deadline	2	2020 April Deadline	2
2019 July Deadline	1	2020 July Deadline	3
2019 October Deadline	1	2020 October Deadline	1
Total January-October 2019	7	Total January- October 2020	8

5. NEW BUSINESS and ISSUES

a) Changes in IMU Secretariat

The IMU Secretariat has several new staff members. In February 2020 Scott Jung started as new IMU Secretariat Manager, replacing Sylwia who retired. In February 2020 Lena returned from Parental Leave and Ramona who had replaced Lena during her leave left the IMU Secretariat. In July 2020 Prof. Dietmar Hömberg started as new IMU Secretariat Head and IMU Treasurer, replacing Alex who retired from those positions. In June 2020 Mariusz Szmerlo started as IMU Accountant, replacing Nicole who had already left in December 2019. Everyone can be reached under the function email address which can be found here: <https://www.mathunion.org/organization/imu-secretariat>

b) Donation from the Unione Matematica Italiana

IMU-CDC received in July 2020 a generous donation of (5.612 €). This amount is unrestricted.

c) CDC Special Activity during the ICM22

Olga would like to coordinate the CDC Special Activity during the ICM2022 on the subject "International Cooperation without mobility: Challenges and Opportunities". She has some ideas (a hybrid event in person and on line, involving all the CDC members, a minimum expenditure, inviting organizations as CIMPA, ICTP, Simons Foundation, etc. and Mathematical Institutes/Departments in developing and developed countries, with outstanding online seminars, MOOC's and international students following the courses on line). If CDC supports this proposal, then a discussion will be open by e-mail to write a more formal project to be approved in 2021 CDC Meeting.

ACTION ITEM 4 (DECISION)

Do you support the proposal sketched above?

- 1) Yes, I support it
- 2) No, I don't support it
- 3) I abstain

Please use the excel file to cast your vote.

d) How to use the CDC savings of the CDC term 2015-2018

The amount is between 96.500 Euro and 99.000 € depending on the amount invoiced by Nairobi Univ. for ADMP report. Since, on the other hand, we have saved 14.000 € because of the generous support of IMU Secretariat/WIAS for 2019 CDC Meeting, we can think about 110.000 -115.000 € to be distributed. We want to open a discussion by e-mail; the decision in principle will be taken during the 2021 online meeting. To initiate this discussion there are some items where we can use the funds:

- To open a new call for projects with at least 50.000€ (the last one was in 2018)
- To increase the amount allocated to Conference Support Program for 2021 and 2022

- To increase the amount allocated to Individual Travel Fellowships so that the grant can cover the full expenses.
- To increase the amount allocated to Volunteer Lecturers Program by 5.000 € each year 2021 and 2022 with the aim of rising from 200€ to 1.000€ the limit of the expenses that now reads: "Preparation of course material (printing, photocopying, books etc.) up to 200 EUR"
- Any proposal you can make*

* Lena's comment on this item: Please take into consideration, that we should not create more administrative work for the IMU Secretariat. If a completely new program would be established, the new sub-committee would need to take responsibility of a substantial part of the administration.

[ACTION ITEM 5 \(DISCUSSION\)](#)

[Please use the CDC mail-list for comments and suggestions on the better way to use the savings.](#)

List of Annexes

Attached

- Decisions Sheet

Uploaded to CDC internal

- Folder ICM2022:
 - Annex I- Division in geographical regions
 - Recommendations
 - Annex II- Panels
 - Invitation Letter
- List of members proposed for panels
- Annex III and IV- 2020 GRAID Reports