CWM NEWSLETTER
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Editorial To The Twelfth Issue

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 12th edition of the International Mathematical Union Committee for Women in Mathematics newsletter. The mathematical community is witnessing significant strides in gender equality and inclusivity, with notable contributions from female mathematicians and new initiatives supporting women in science.

This issue features an interview with Catherine Greenhill, a leading expert in combinatorial mathematics and professor at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), known for her remarkable achievements.

The most important news from CWM is the **CWM Call 2025** which is now open, inviting proposals for initiatives that promote gender equality in mathematics worldwide. A webinar held on November 27, 2024, provided insights into the application process, and interested applicants have until December 13, 2024, to submit their proposals via the IMU Grant Management system.

The Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science has also announced two important projects. The recently published 4th Annual Report highlights the strides made and challenges ahead. Meanwhile, their new initiative, "Women Scientists Around the World: Strategies for Gender Equality," offers an online repository of valuable resources aimed at advancing the cause of equity in science.

Adding to this landscape of progress is a contributed article by Sanoli Gun and Kyewon Koh Park, titled "Inception of Asian-Oceanian Women in Mathematics (AOWM) and Its Progress in Last One and Half Years." This insightful piece will be featured in the Proceedings of the second World Meeting for Women in Mathematics. It captures the essence of a region-specific initiative that, in its nascent stages, is already driving change and creating opportunities for women in mathematics.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Ekin Özman

Interview with Catherine Greenhill

Catherine Greenhill is a professor of mathematics in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of New South Wales(UNSW) and an editor-in-chief of the Electronic Journal of Combinatorics. She earned her Ph.D. in 1996 at the University of Oxford and after having postdoctoral positions at the University of Leeds and the University of Melbourne, Professor Greenhill joined UNSW in 2003 where she was promoted to associate professor in 2014, becoming the first female mathematician to earn such a promotion at UNSW. Greenhill received the Hall Medal from the Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications in 2010. She served as president of the Combinatorial Mathematics Society of Australasia from 2011 to 2013. In 2015, the Australian Academy of Science awarded her the Christopher Heyde Medal for outstanding contributions to mathematical sciences. She was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2022, recognizing her significant achievements and impact in the field.

Q: How did you first become interested in mathematics? What inspired you to pursue it as a career? When did you decide to become a mathematician?

CH: I enjoyed mathematics at school, but I also enjoyed other science subjects. I enrolled in a Bachelor of Science at the University of Queensland, taking maths, physics, chemistry and computer science subjects initially. From my 2nd year on I studied only mathematics and computer science, but with more and more emphasis on mathematics. I remember asking a lecturer whether I should do my final "Honours" year in mathematics combined with computer science, or just in mathematics: what would be better for when I was "out there" in the real world. He told me that I was good enough to say "in here", in academia, and suggested that I do a PhD. I ended up doing a DPhil at the University of Oxford, then after a couple of postdoctoral positions I took up a Lecturership at UNSW Sydney, where I am now a Professor.

That's one way to tell the story. But I also remember as a child, thinking about larger and larger powers of two, or how we would count if we had (for example) 7 fingers ("5, 6, 10, 11..."), for fun. I think that maybe I was always a pure mathematician (maybe even

PhD graduation from Oxford

combinatoralist!) on the inside.

Q: Did you have any role models?

CH: When I studied at the University of Queensland (from 1988), there were lots of women mathematicians in the department. Elizabeth (Liz) Billington and Sheila Williams were wonderful lecturers at UQ, who I knew were also research active. Before going overseas for my PhD, I was lucky enough to do a Masters by Research with Professor Anne Street, who was only the third woman in Australia to become a professor in mathematics (after Hanna Neumann and Cheryl Praeger). These women were all fantastic role models: I never had to wonder whether it was possible to be a woman in mathematics, because I could see the proof in front of me.

Anne Street at the British Combinatorial Conference

Q: Can you share more about your research? What drew you to this field of mathematics, and how would you explain your key research problems to a non-specialist

CH: I like to try to answer questions about sets of combinatorial objects. For example, we can think about the set of all graphs on n vertices, where every vertex has 3 neighbours (3-regular graphs). How many such graphs are there, approximately? What does a random graph from this set look like? How can I actually choose a random element from this set? These are questions from the areas of my research interest: asymptotic enumeration, probabilistic combinatorics and algorithmic combinatorics. These questions can be quite easy to state but are often very difficult to answer. The methods I use are a mixture of combinatorial arguments, some probability theory, some analysis (as we want to understand the limit as the number of vertices, n, tends to infinity) and sometimes a bit of linear algebra.

As well as being fun to answer, these questions are important because graphs, and other similar structures like hypergraphs, are very useful as models of discrete real world systems (transport networks; contact networks for disease spread; computer networks, to name a few examples).

Q: Have you encountered any challenges as a woman in mathematics? If so, did you have any support systems in place to help navigate these challenges?

CH: I took two 12-month periods of maternity leave. Each time, when I came back, I was able to choose to work part-time (initially 3 days a week, then 4 days a week).

When I was ready, I transitioned back to full-time work. I am very grateful that this flexibility was available to me. UNSW also had a modest grant scheme to help people kickstart their research after maternity leave.

Overall it is very important that whenever someone's CV is being evaluated, say for promotion or for a job application, that any career breaks like these are taken into account. If I find myself on a selection or promotion committee, I always look out for these "relative to opportunity" factors and remind the rest of the committee about them if necessary.

Q: Did you anticipate any challenges balancing your career with personal life? How do you manage the balance between work and your responsibilities outside of work?

CH: When I was a Masters student working with Anne Street, I asked her about combining motherhood with an academic career. She replied "It is possible, but it is very hard work!". I think that's been my experience, especially with young children, but it does get easier. Unfortunately, academia is a culture that promotes and rewards overwork, and in hindsight I wonder if I worked harder than I needed to at times. I'm still not sure that I get the balance right, but it's important to protect time for your personal life (and your health!).

Talk at the 25th birthday of the Electronic Journal of Combinatorics, Vancouver 2019

Q: You were the Chair of WIMSIG from February 2021 to January 2023, and the Chair of the WIMSIG Conference 2024. Could you tell us more about your involvement with WIMSIG and some of the initiatives you've led or supported during your time as Chair?

CH: WIMSIG is the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group of the Australian Mathematical Society. I first got involved with WIMSIG when I was invited to join the organising committee for the first WIMSIG Conference in 2017, held at the University of South Australia. I was later invited to nominate for the position of Chair. During this time, we were asked what WIMSIG could do for nonbinary or gender diverse people. We ended up proposing more inclusive wording for the aims of WIMSIG, and WIMSIG members voted to adopt the new wording in December 2021. Now WIMSIG "aims to support women, trans and gender diverse people in the mathematical science in Australia".

During my time as chair, WIMSIG was also asked to contribute to the mid-term review of the Australian Academy of Science's Decadal Plan for Mathematics. We highlighted the importance, not just of recruiting women and other underrepresented groups into mathematics, but of making sure that mathematics is a welcoming and supportive environment where all people can thrive.

As described elsewhere in this newsletter, we have just held the 3rd WIMSIG conference at the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute (SMRI) at the University of Sydney.

Talk at the Australian Academy of Science after winning the Christopher Heyde medal in 2015.
Photo credit: Mark Graham

Q: What advice would you give to young people interested in mathematics? What guidance would you offer to early-career researchers in maths?

CH: I think that people who are interested in mathematics and enjoy mathematics should do more mathematics! We often hear from employers in various sectors that they can teach the specifics of their business to new employees, but they can't teach them how to think logically, how to analyse a problem to identify the most important parts: a great way to improve these skills is to learn more and more mathematics.

For early-career researchers I would say, follow your interests. It's fine to change areas a few times: this will help you learn what kind of mathematics you like best, but will also give you experience of other areas (the areas you didn't like so much!) which might come in handy later. Try not to worry about what other people think of you and your work: if you think what you're doing is good and interesting, that's enough.

You can read the old issues and subscribe the CWM newsletter here.
https://www.mathunion.org/cwm/about/cwm-newsletter

NEWS FROM CWM

CWM Call 2025 is now open!

The CWM invites proposals for funding of up to €3000 for activities or initiatives to support women in mathematics taking place from March 2025 to February 2026. Applications should be submitted by **December 13, 2024 (by 23:59 CET)**, via the homepage of IMU Grants: https://grants.mathunion.org/.

Proposals should aim at one of the following:
1) Establishing or supporting networks for women in mathematics, preferably at the continental or regional level;
2) Organizing research workshops geared towards establishing research networks for women in mathematics;
3) Other ideas for researching and/or addressing issues encountered by women in mathematics.

The application consists of a webform, to be filled in English, where applicants provide specific information about their project, and attach one file with the detailed budget. Except for the budget, there is no option to upload a file with the proposal, and proposals will be evaluated based on the answers in the form only. Applicants will need to register in the IMU Grant Management system before submitting their proposal. Each applicant may submit only one proposal for the call. There will be no other CWM call for applications regarding activities in 2025. Successful applicants will be informed no later than January 31, 2025. Note that funding for individual research projects is not available.

The CWM hosted a webinar on November 27 to provide information on the CWM Call 2025. We are pleased to share the recording of the event and the slides for those who were unable to attend: https://www.mathunion.org/cwm/cwm-call-webinar

For complete information, please read the call here.

Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science 4th Annual Report Published

The Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science(SCGES) is an independent committee formed in 2020 by several international scientific organizations, including the IMU. It is a follow-up to the "Gender Gap in Science Project", ensuring liaison amongst international scientific unions to foster gender equality, and the implementation of the project's recommendations.

From 2017 to 2019, a number of international scientific organizations, including the IMU, took part in the project A Global Approach to the Gender Gap in Mathematical, Computing, and Natural Sciences: How to Measure It, How to Reduce It?, known as the "Gender Gap in Science Project". The main goal of the project was to produce sound data about gender gap in science to support the choices of interventions that scientific unions could feasibly undertake. In 2020, the Gender Gap in Science Book was published, presenting the methodology, results, activities and recommendations of the project. The SCGES was formed as a follow-up to this project, reflecting a shared wish among these organizations to continue to act together to further promote gender equality in science. Its aim is to ensure liaison amongst international scientific unions to foster gender equality and the implementation of recommendations of the "Gender Gap in Science Project".

The SCGES fourth Annual Report has just been published and can be found on the SCGES website.   Compiled by twenty-one of its partners, the report contains information on each union's situation and the actions that they have undertaken regarding gender equality in the scientific discipline they represent.

# Women scientists around the world: strategies for gender equality

The Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SCGES) has launched the new project "Women scientists around the world: strategies for gender equality".

Joint with the International Science Council (ISC), the project consists in a series of articles, based on interviews with women scientists from various disciplines

and geographic regions, several of whom have attained leadership roles in scientific organizations. It explores the drivers and barriers to gender representation in scientific organizations, aiming to document from a qualitative point of view the obstacles to gender equality in science, and the strategies developed to reach it.

Here is the first blog introducing the series by Léa Nacache,: Who shapes the future of science? Examining the stark gender imbalance in scientific leadership.
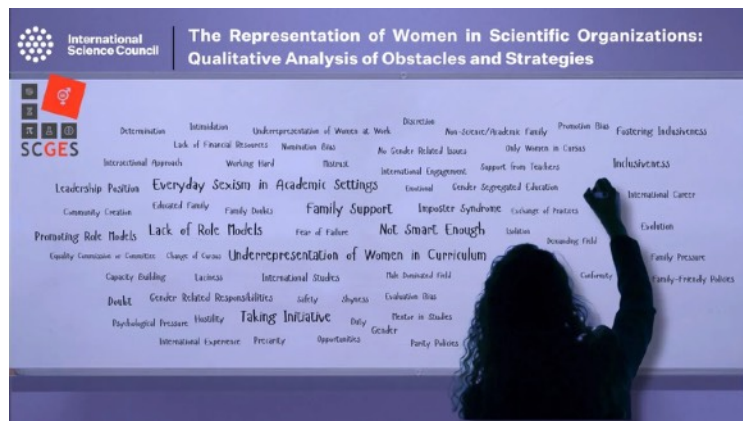
The first article gives voice to Dr. Encieh Erfani, an Iranian physicist specialized in cosmology and ISC Fellow, who resigned from her academic position in Iran in 2022 as a protest in honor of Mahsa Amini, a young woman who died in custody after being detained for allegedly violating Iran's compulsory hijab law: In the face of gender apartheid: Dr. Erfani's path.

The second piece is devoted to former CWM member Marie Françoise Ouedraogo. She was the first woman in Burkina Faso to earn a PhD in mathematics, and founded the Association of Women in Mathematics in Africa (AWMA) in 2013: From pioneer to leader: Paving the way for African women in mathematics.

The third article in the series is based on an interview with Bolivian biologist Mónica Moraes. She was the first woman President of the Bolivian Academy of Sciences, from 2021 to 2024, breaking the culture of silence and redefining institutional practices: Transforming science organizations: The impact of women's leadership on institutional reform.

The fourth piece tells the story and inclusive vision of French historian of science Catherine Jami. She served as Secretary General of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, and was one of the founders of the SCGES: Bringing Change to Science: Catherine Jami on the History of Science and Gender Equality.

NEWS FROM CWM AMBASSADORS

Report on WIMSIG Conference 2024, 1 – 2 October 2024 by Catherine Greenhill

The Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group of the Australian Mathematical Society, or WIMSIG, held its first conference in 2017 at the University of South Australia. The second WIMSIG Conference was held in 2021 in hybrid mode, with some hubs meeting in person and others online. This year we were very happy to hold the 3rd conference in the series, WIMSIG Conference 2024, at the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute (SMRI) of the University of Sydney on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 October.

The aim of the WIMSIG Conference 2024 was to celebrate the achievements of women, trans and gender diverse people in the mathematical sciences in Australia. We had nearly 150 participants, including over 40 students. Our four wonderful plenary speakers, Grace Chung (Director, Google Research Australia), Leah Edelstein-Keshet (University of British Columbia), Antonietta Mira (Università della Svizzera italiana) and Valentina Wheeler (Wollongong) all gave inspiring talks,

Participants of WIMSIG Conference 2024

Plenary speakers from left to right: Valentina Wheeler, Leah Edelstein-Keshet, Antonietta Mira and Grace Chung

highlighting several fascinating applications of mathematics and statistics to problems in areas such as ecology, health, firefighting and the analysis of basketball games!

There were more than 90 talks scheduled in the 12 special sessions and one contributed session, all presented by women, trans and gender diverse researchers. The session topics ranged across applied

mathematics, pure mathematics, statistics and mathematics education. Other features of the program included three parallel discussion/panel sessions, and an LGBTQI+ and Allies lunch on the second day. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we were able to provide travel support to around 30 early career participants, and provide on-site childcare to those who needed it.

The feedback we've received has been very positive, including one participant who told us that "The environment was supportive, accepting, collaborative and, at the exact same time, utterly focussed on the excellence we all bring to mathematics." On behalf of all the organisers, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our conference.

Organisers, from left to right: Rachel Wang, Catherine Penington, Catherine Greenhill, Harini Desiraju, Kate Doyle and Xiaoping Lu

Indian Women and Mathematics (IWM) - CWM supported Conference

The Annual Conference of IWM was held during July 11-13, 2024. This CWM supported conference aims to bring together women students, college and university teachers and researchers working at the frontiers of mathematics to exchange mathematical ideas and share their experiences. A major goal of this event is to enable junior women mathematicians to interact with their senior colleagues, both individually and in small groups.

The activities of IWM are funded by the National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Govt. of India and are supported by the Committee for Women in Mathematics (CWM), International Mathematical Union (IMU).

OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2025 AWM Awards and Prizes at the Joint Prize Session of JMM

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) will present AWM Prizes and Awards during the Joint Prize Session of the JMM, scheduled for January 8 – 11, 2025 in Seattle, WA.

The 2025 Fellows of AWM (FAWM) are Katrina D. Barron (University of Notre Dame), Guozhen Lu (University of Connecticut), Marianne Korten (Kansas State University), Kathryn Leonard, (Occidental College), Fengyan Li, (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Lillian B. Pierce, (Duke University), Magdalena Daniela Toda, (Texas Tech University). The AWM Fellows Program recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to the support and advancement of women in the mathematical sciences, consistent with the AWM mission: "to encourage women and girls to study and to have active careers in the mathematical sciences, and to promote equal opportunity and the equal treatment of women and girls in the mathematical sciences."

The 2025 Joan & Joseph Birman Research Prize in Topology and Geometry will be awarded to Mona Merling, Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania.Established in 2012, the AWM Joan & Joseph Birman Research Prize highlights exceptional research in topology/geometry by a woman early in her career.

The recipient of the inaugural AWM Mary & Alfie Gray Award for Social Justice is Chad M. Topaz, Professor of Complex Systems at Williams College and co-founder of the Institute for the Quantitative Study of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (QSIDE). The Award recognizes Topaz for courageous and innovative research-to-action work that vigorously and imaginatively brings the methods of mathematics and data science to bear on social justice challenges in the legal system, education, arts and media, and other fields, shedding new light on systemic injustice and its consequences.

The 2025 Gweneth Humphreys Award will be awarded to Dewey Taylor, Professor of Mathematics, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The Award recognizes the world-wide reach of Dr. Taylor's mentorship activities.

The 2025 Louise Hay Award for Contributions to Mathematics Education will be presented to Pamela E. Harris, Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is being honored for her dedication to diversity and equity in academia, for her success in fostering others' growth in how they support diversity and equity and for her brilliance, dedication, and passion as an educator who teaches both mathematics and equity.

The 2025 Service Award recipients are: Kuei-Nuan Lin, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Penn State Greater Allegheny, who is being recognized for her

leadership of the AWM Mentor Network program, for her service on the Education and Outreach Portfolio Committee and on the AWM-NSF Travel Grants Selection Committee, and for her work as an Associate Editor for the 2022 AWM Symposium Proceedings volume; and Mei Yin, Professor of Mathematics, University of Denver, who is recognized for founding and leading the AWM Student Chapter at the University of Denver for the past nine years, for supporting the AWM Women in Algebraic Combinatorics (WiAC) Research Network.

The AWM Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Anne Leggett, Professor Emerita, Loyola University Chicago. Anne is being honored in particular for her dedication to the AWM's Newsletter as editor for 46 years and for numerous contributions to AWM's institutional structure and memory.

AWM will award the 35th Annual Alice T. Schafer Prizes for Excellence in Mathematics by an Undergraduate Woman to tahda queer, a mathematics and interdisciplinary studies major at City University of New York, Marie-Hélène Tomé, a mathematics major at Duke University, and Katherine Tung, a mathematics major at Harvard University.
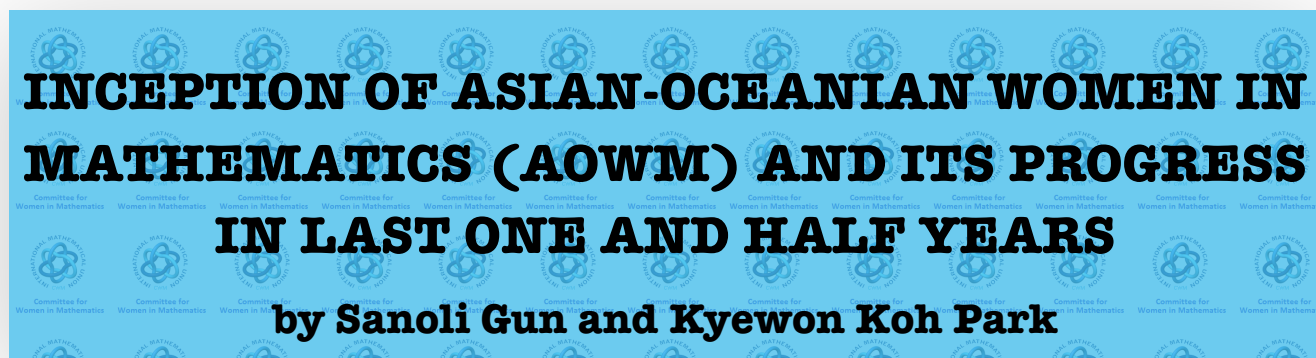

- Isabelle Gallagher becomes president of the Société Mathématique de France

Isabelle Gallagher was elected SMF president on June 15 2024. A specialist of partial differential equations and fluid mechanics, she was an invited speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 2014. She won the CNRS Silver Medal in 2016 and the Prix Sophie Germain in 2018.

You can read the old issues and subscribe the CWM newsletter here.
https://www.mathunion.org/cwm/about/cwm-newsletter

INCEPTION OF ASIAN-OCEANIAN WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS (AOWM) AND ITS PROGRESS IN LAST ONE AND HALF YEARS

by Sanoli Gun and Kyewon Koh Park

We describe the formulation of Asian-Oceanian women in Mathematics (AOWM) and its progress so far[1]. It started when Professor Loon-Yi Kang and Professor Kyewon Koh Park wrote an article[2] about the Korean Women in Mathematical Sciences (KWMS) for the book commemorating the 50-th anniversary of AWM (the Association for Women in Mathematics) with the editing help by Cathy Kessel. At the end of their article to AWM, they wrote:

"Although we are aware that it will not be easy because of disadvantageous attitudes toward women and the diverse languages in Asia, we think that it is now time to make progress..."

After sending the first draft of the article about KWMS to the editor of AWM, Professor Park was soon contacted by Professor Marie-Francoise Roy, then the Chair of the Committee for Women in Mathematics (CWM) of the International Mathematical Union (IMU). Since Professor Roy was writing about the European Women in Mathematics (EWM) for AWM's 50th anniversary book, she came across their article. Professor Roy expressed strong interest in the statement above, pointing out that there were organizations for women mathematicians in every continent — North America, South America, Europe, and Africa — except in Asia. She encouraged Professor Park to create such an organization. Although Professor Park hesitated briefly, she thought that it would be better for them to take the initiative with their experiences from KWMS which was established in 2004, and agreed to try.

To create an organization for women mathematicians, they first needed to establish a Working Group (WG). After many exchanges with Professor Roy, Professor Park received agreement from Professor Motoko Kotani (Japan) and Professor Neela

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[1] Part of the article is based on the report in Newsletter of KMS, vol 204.

[2] S. Y. Kang and K. K. Park, (2022). Korean Women in Mathematical Sciences. In: Beery, J.L., Greenwald, S.J., Kessel, C. (eds) Fifty Years of Women in Mathematics, Association for Women in Mathematics Series, vol 28. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82658-186

Nataraj (India) to join the WG. With the help of our colleagues in each country, Professor Park reached out to Professor Dongmei Xiao (China), Professor Polly Sy (Philippines), and Professor Nahn Le Thanh (Vietnam), who also agreed to participate. The first Zoom meeting took place in the fall of 2020. A few months later, the representative for India was changed from Professor Nataraj to Professor Sanoli Gun, upon the recommendation of the Indian Mathematicians. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings had to be held via Zoom.

The six members of the WG worked diligently and came up with many ideas. We expected that, when the Congress of Southeastern Mathematics Union (SEAMS) was held in Vietnam in the summer of 2021, we would naturally hold the founding meeting of the new organization.

However, the conference in Vietnam was cancelled due to COVID-19 again, and the founding of the Union of Asian Mathematicians (UAM) was postponed. With no opportunity to meet in person or even visit each other, we decided to use the ambassador system that CWM had in place. CWM, as part of the IMU's Executive Committee, has ambassadors in each country (1-4 per country) to promote and disseminate its activities. Meanwhile, CWM had planned

Participating region of the 2nd ambassador meeting, February 25, 2022.

to hold a workshop for ambassadors by continent via Zoom, with the European meeting already scheduled. After several meetings with the WG members, we decided to hold the first Asian and Oceanian Ambassadors Meeting on June 25, 2021. It seemed a good idea to use this meeting to gauge the opinions of different regions and countries.

The June 25 meeting was lively, with enthusiastic discussions about the founding of the organization, signaling that many had been eagerly awaiting such an initiative. During this meeting, the name "Asian and Oceanian Women in Mathematics" (AOWM) was confirmed. "Asia" was chosen based on the IMU's suggestion, and Australia and New Zealand were included as well. Additionally,

Professor Bakhyt Alipova (Kazakhstan) and Professor Catherine Greenhill (Australia) joined the WG, bringing the total number of members to eight. This meeting became a key turning point in advancing the establishment of AOWM through the efforts of each country's ambassadors. Professor Kotani (Tohoku University) was selected as the WG Chair, and she was already representing Asia on CWM. When embarking on new and uncertain initiatives like this, it was essential to have responsible individuals to organize meetings, gather opinions, and make key decisions.

As the WG was still in its early stages and not yet a formal organization, we decided to create "Guidelines" instead of formal statutes. These Guidelines outlined the purpose of AOWM, its necessity, and the activities it would undertake. At the second ambassador meeting on February 25, 2022, the Guidelines were approved, and we agreed to seek nominations for the Executive Committee and Coordinators from the ambassadors. In the final WG meeting on May 16, we finalized the membership application form and set the date for the Foundation Meeting on August 1, 2022.

On August 1, 2022, the founding meeting of AOWM was held via Zoom. Although we wished we could meet in person, the uncertainty of when we would be able to gather from all the regions made it necessary to proceed with the online format. Approximately 130 participants from 18 countries across Asia attended the meeting. Congratulatory messages were sent from women mathematicians' organizations from North America, South America (sent immediately after the meeting), Africa, and Europe. Additionally, 16 mathematical and statistical societies from
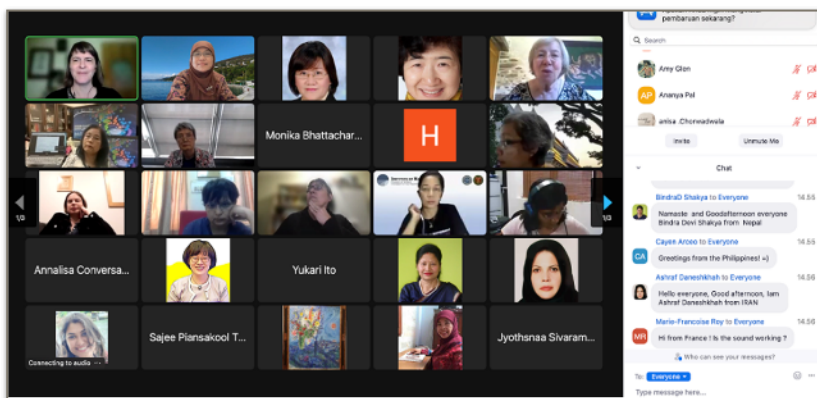
1st page of Foundation Meeting, August 1st, 2022.

various countries in the Asia-Pacific region— Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Vietnam — also sent congratulatory messages, which were shared during the meeting. This was a great opportunity to garner support and collaboration.

During the founding meeting, we elected the following members to the Executive Committee:

- President: Sanoli Gun (India)
- Vice President: Melissa Tacy (New Zealand)
- Vice President: Polly W. Sy (Philippines)
- Secretary: Hyang-Sook Lee (Korea)
- Other EC members:

– Dongmei Xiao (China)

–Budi Nurani Ruchjana (Indonesia) – Zohreh Mostaghim (Iran)

– Yukari Ito (Japan)

– Bakhyt Alipova (Kazakhstan.)

Additionally, AOWM has appointed coordinators in each region. Finally, Professor Nalini Joshi, a member of the IMU Executive Committee, delivered an inspiring lecture titled "Reflection on Gender Diversity in Mathematics," sharing her personal journey as a mathematician. Her words encouraged and comforted all who attended the meeting.

The first offline meeting of AOWM was held in International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), India from 24th to 28th April, 2023 in hybrid mode with the financial support from Committee for Women in Mathematics (CWM) and Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai in addition to the support from ICTS. It gave an opportunity to participants from different countries to finally meet each other. Several invited and contributed talks were organized to give young researchers an opportunity to present their work to a wider audience. The cultural diversity enabled the participants to learn from each other. During this meeting, panel discussions were held to give women a platform to share their concerns and voice the difficulties that either they or their colleagues face and suggestions to resolve them were discussed. The happy faces at the end of the meeting was a testimony of its success.

After the meeting at ICTS, on behalf of Springer, Anna Lombardo and Marc Strauss approached Professor Gun for publishing a volume in La Matematica partly based on the works presented in the inaugural meeting at ICTS. Currently articles for this volume are being invited and reviewed.

A flurry of online and offline AOWM schools and workshops took place in different after its inception. Two important aspects were still missing. One of them was to set up an official website and the other one is to create a logo for AOWM. With the help of financial supports from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (Chennai), AOWM now has an online presence at the following website.
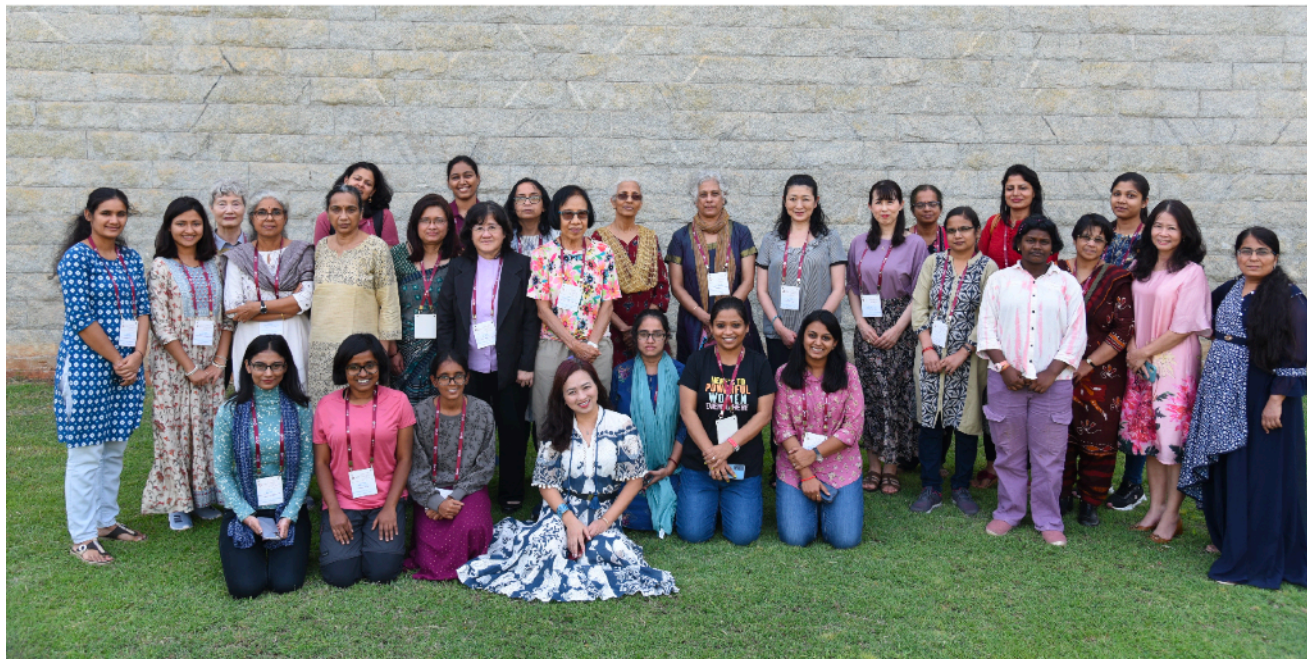
ICTS, April 2023.

A website cannot be maintained without the dedication of some mathematicians. Professor Amber Habib and Dr. Rashi Lunia agreed to manage the website. Earlier a working website was created by Prof Budi Nurani Ruchjana which will now be replaced by the above AOWM official website. The number of participating countries have now grown to 20 from 18. Details of the co-ordinators from these member countries can be found on the webpage. AOWM is now in the process of conducting a logo competition and finalizing a logo for AOWM. Professor Park has announced 200 Korean dollars cash prize to the winner.

The AOWM is organizing a workshop in the University of Auckland from 6th to 9th December, 2024. The next Annual General meeting of AOWM is scheduled to be held during this workshop. During this meeting, the next president and new EC will be elected, which will take charge from August 1, 2025.

Following is a list of various organizations with the help of which women mathematicians will be able to enhance their capabilities, exchange and collaborate not only within Asia and Oceania but also globally.

Organizations for Women Mathematicians:
- Asia: Asian and Oceanian Women in Mathematics (AOWM)
- Africa: African Women in Mathematics Association (AWMA)
- Europe: European Women in Mathematics (EWM)

- International: International Mathematical Union (IMU), Committee for Women in Mathematics (CWM)
- India: Indian Women in Mathematics (IWM)
- Korea: Korean Women in Mathematical Sciences (KWMS)
- North America: Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM)
- South America: CGD, Union of Mathematics of Latin America and the Caribbean (UMALCA).

This will enable them to actively contribute to the growth of the mathematics community and take on diverse roles in various areas of mathematics.

There are still a lot of work and challenges for AOWM. For instance, even though there is a lot of enthusiasm among women mathematicians of these two continents to interact among each other, but due to poor socio-political or financial infrastructure, mobility or online interactions at times becomes rather difficult. However, we have made a firm and decisive start and are confident of making a difference among women Mathematicians in Asia and Oceania. Well begun is half done!

Professor Sanoli Gun is a professor at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc) in India who specializes in number theory. She completed her Ph.D. at the Harish-Chandra Research Institute and held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Toronto and Queen's University.

Professor Kyewon Koh Park is a distinguished mathematician specializing in ergodic theory and dynamical systems. She got her PhD from Stanford University and served as the first president of the Korean Women in Mathematical Sciences (KWMS) and has contributed significantly to initiatives promoting gender equality in mathematics. She is also a former member of the Institute for Advanced Study (1987–1988).