

The Closing Ceremony

Welcome Address from ICME-15

Kim Beswick¹

My name is Kim Beswick, and I'm proud to be the convener of ICME-15, to be held in 2024 in Sydney, Australia, and I'm looking forward to welcoming you all to the congress. I want to begin by thanking the organizers of ICME-14 for the opportunity to tell you a little about ICME-15. So, ICME-15 will be just the second ICME congress to be held in the southern hemisphere. And we've been planning for ICME-15 already for number of years, and it's a huge chain method. The congress is supported by eight organizations with an interest in mathematics education. We are planning an innovative congress with a uniquely Australian view of the world. It also builds on well-established Sydney programs and traditions. So, our aspirations for ICME-15 are for a congress that allows delegates to enjoy their time in Sydney, but it also legacies that stand well beyond the congress, and it has impacts on local, regional, and global levels. So, we're planning a congress as accessible as possible for delegates from developing countries. We're working on ways to make the congress as affordable as possible. We also want the congress to support the emergence of the next generation of Australian mathematics educators. ICME-5 was held in Adelaide, Australia in 1994.

Several delegates held the first ICME have gone on to bright things in mathematics education. So, I hope that 40 years on, there will be among the delegates of ICME-15 that the fabulous young people who will lead mathematics into the future. We are also planning a congress that has a central focus on indigenous mathematics and the ways in which that can inform all of our efforts to improve mathematics teaching and learning. The congress will focus on mathematics learning at all ages, including a focus on undergraduates' mathematics and statistics. And my major issue in Australian education is the disparity between China students in metropolitan and rural areas. We know this is also an issue in other parts of the world. So, we are looking forward to being able to share experiences and learn together about the ways to tackle this issue. We're planning a congress that will influence classrooms, so we're going to make sure that there is plenty of value in the congress for teachers of mathematics as well as researchers. ICME-15 will provide an opportunity for teachers and researchers to interact and learn from one another. Of course, every great congress facilitates and

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supports people to make connections with others that can lead to ongoing collaborations in friendships. This will be supported by a scientific program and a wonderful social program. We also want to build into the congress as many options as we can for Australian public to engage with mathematics. So, we're really excited about all the things we can achieve to hold this congress in Australia.

We have, in conjunction with the ICMI executive committee, established the international program committee whose names you can see on the screen. And our local organizing committee is already had done a lot of work. They are a truly wonderful team. The venue of the congress will be the International Convention Centre which is a fabulous building located right on the harbour, a short walk from the centre of Sydney. There are lots of hotels and other accommodation options to suit all budgets. It is situated on the land of Gadigal people of Eora Nation. It's a truly beautiful venue for us to meet in 2024. Australia is really easy to get to from all parts of the world. You might want to fly straight to Sydney, or you want to come in via another city and see more of Australia on the way. You might also want to take in some other conferences that happen around the same time in Sydney. And we anticipate it will be in the region in 2024. For example, the Annual Conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA) and the Annual Conference of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME). Coming to ICMI-15 will be a great opportunity to see more value and uniqueness of the country. And finally, I'd like to thank our congress partners. Our vision for ICME-15 in Sydney is for a vibrant meeting characterized by accessibility and embracing diversity. See you in Sydney.