Facilities of ICME-12

Plenary Lecture – Math education in East Asia (Korea-China-Japan)

Plenary lectures have been held every day throughout the entire week; yesterday’s was the panel discussion on Math education in East Asia (Korea-China-Japan). The panelists included Frederick Leung of Hong Kong, Binyan Xu of China, Krisnong Park of Korea, and Yoshinori Shimizu of Japan. They began by showing statistics of mathematical achievement around the world, implying that students in such countries as China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan, have been “performing well in international studies of mathematics achievements such as TIMSS and PISA.” Students in East Asian countries seem to have a better and quicker understanding in the classroom, as TIMSS and PISA.” Students in East Asian countries seem to have a better and quicker understanding in the classroom, as TIMSS and PISA.”

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The panelists concluded with a look into different classroom teaching methods in East Asian countries; literally a look into the classroom, through video recordings of what typical classrooms in Japan, Korea, and China, are like. The most interesting was of Korea’s “teacher-centered traditional teaching” method, in which the teacher would not allow her elementary students to leave class until they memorized the entire multiplication table. Panelists joked along with each other, in that their cultures are in fact quite similar to one another in the classroom paradigm. It was thusly so, as they concluded the lecture with the fact that China, Korea, and Japan share a common culture: Confucian Heritage Culture (CHC). In this state, the social orientation of its people is stressed, over the individual orientation found in western societies. Not only the shared Eastern culture, but views and attitudes toward education—significance of education portrayed by the community, characteristics of the Chinese language, etc.—were discussed. They included that “if culture does impact upon education practices and student achievement, a cultural explanation also means that [a] simple transplant of educational policies and practices from one culture to another won’t work.” Yes, it is crucial to be aware of cultural differences, to learn and know others and of oneself. Frederick Leung of Hong Kong wrapped up the lecture with a Chinese proverb, “know yourself and know others, then you will win every battle.”

KOREA in 1 word?

“Interesting”
This is my first time abroad, so everything seems so new to me; especially meeting people from different cultural backgrounds.
- Margaret Iding, Michigan State University, U.S.

“Walking”
Everyone here walks so much, from subway stations to buildings, etc. That must be why the people are all thin here.
- Geetha Velmurugan, Ambedkar University, India

“Hot”
The weather is a bit hotter than in Japan, but I also means to say that the Korean people are passionate!
- Konsude Koizumi, Yokohama National University, Japan

“Bhal-d, Bhal-d”
Literal translation “quickly, quickly!” Everything is so fast and everyone seems to be in a rush to do things here!
- Lena Koch, IMU Secretariat, Germany

“Cultural”
The Korean traditional buildings just seem very cultured and antique; it’s very different from Australia.
- Janine McIntosh, Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, Australia

“Friendly”
Korean people are very kind. A girl at my hotel tried to help me in every way possible although she had to resort to body language to communicate!
- Lalina Coulange, University of Bordeaux, France

Announcements

- Survey Team 1 (15:00-16:30, Room 401): ICME-12 – Panel on Textbooks, Curriculum, Technology, Students Placement, Support for Teachers and the Role of Research. See Corrections paper
- Plenary Lecture VII (Jo Boaler) is now changed to Regular Lecture sessions (13:30-14:30, Room 327C). Dr. Jo Boaler will be absent due to health problems. Sarah Selling, one of her students, will be replacing her.
- Survey Team 2 will cover for PL VII (9:00-10:00) and will continue their own presentation afterwards (15:00-16:30, Room 402).
Upcoming Events: Affiliated Study Groups

The 7th MCG International Conference
July 15-18, 2012/ Korea Science Academy of KAIST

The International Group for Mathematical Creativity and Giftedness (MCG) is a professional society designed to support and promote mathematical creativity and giftedness in students of all ages and of various backgrounds.

The group has started in 1999 when Hartwig Meissner organized an International Conference on Creativity and Mathematics Education in Muensit, Germany. About 80 participants from more than 20 countries participated. In 2002 Agnies Andzans organized the second Conference on Creativity in Mathematics Education and the Education of Gifted Students in Riga, Latvia. At this meeting 40 experts from 15 countries discussed the role of creativity and the role of competitions for future developments in mathematics education. In August 2003, the Third International Conference on Creativity in Mathematics Education and the Education of Gifted Students was held with great success by Emilia Velikova and her staff at the University of Rousse, Republic of Bulgaria. In July 2006, Alena Hospesova and her team organized the Fourth International Conference on Creativity in Mathematics Education and the Education of Gifted Students in a very attractive old city Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic. There were approximately 40 participants from 22 countries who presented a broad range of interesting lectures and workshops. In February 2008, Izsa Lekin and her team organized the Fifth International Conference on Creativity in Mathematics Education and the Education of Gifted Students in Helsinki, Finland.

The aim of the Group is to:
- Encourage research concerning the discovery, nurture and support of mathematical creativity, giftedness, talent and promise for all students;
- Support investigation and dissemination of information on the role of teacher knowledge and educational systems, and cultural aspects related to the development of mathematical creativity and promise;
- Stimulate regional and international activities to promote the aims of the Group;
- Cooperate with regional and international associations with similar aims;
- Organize international conferences and stimulate discussion between mathematicians, psychologists, educators, researchers, curricular designers and sociologists;
- Stimulate and support members of the Group to participate actively in conferences or projects, or other activities that enhance the aims of the Group;
- Further scientific publications and encourage the development of websites for effective communications;
- Assist educators and inform policy-makers.

Interested individuals from around the globe are invited to join us!

Website for MCG - http://www.mcg7.org

Mathematics Education (TAME). Our effort will direct our annual meeting in 2012 to a social and scientific success. "Opportunities to Learn in Mathematics Education" is chosen as the theme of PME36 to meet the prospect that education should be developed and promoted in more diversified dimension.

Tainan is also known, especially in the past, as Formosa. Taiwan is an island of East Asia in the western Pacific Ocean and located in the southeastern coast of mainland China. Separated from the Asian continent by the 160 km wide Taiwan Strait, the main island of the group is 394 km long and 144 km wide. The shape of the main island of Taiwan is similar to a sweet potato seen in a south-to-north direction, and therefore, Tainan, especially in the point of view of Min-nan division, often call themselves"Children of the Sweet Potato.” Taiwan’s rapid economic growth in the decades after World War II has transformed it into an industrialized developed country and one of the Four Asian Tigers. This economic rise is known as the Taiwan Miracle. It is categorized as an advanced economy by the IMF and as a high-income economy by the World Bank. Its advanced technology industry plays a key role in the global economy.

We really hope you will have a wonderful time during your stay in Taiwan and look forward to seeing you in Taipei, in July 2012!

Website for PME36- http://www.tame.tw/pme36/

ICME-12 These quadrennial meetings are a major activity of HPM, to bring those together who are interested in the relation between the history of mathematics and mathematics education such as:
- Researchers in mathematics education and its relation to the history of mathematics;
- Mathematicians teachers at all levels who are eager to get insights on how the history of mathematics may be integrated into teaching and help students to learn mathematics;
- Historians of mathematics, who wish to talk about their research;
- Mathematicians, who want to learn about new possibilities to teach their discipline;
- All those with an interest in the history of mathematics and pedagogy.

For more information, please visit our website for HPM2012 - http://hpm2012.org/

HPM2012 is welcoming everyone who is interested in the history of mathematics and mathematics education! To board the bus from COEX to Toyoko Inn (Deajeon), please check the following information.

Remember July 15,2-40 PM Poster Session Place!!
1. New Meeting Point: Information Desk in the foyer of Grand Ballroom on the first floor near North Gate of COEX. This is the place where the poster session of ICME-12 is held. After the Happy Hour, take the elevator down to the first floor. Then you will arrive at the Meeting Point.
2. The bus fare is $10 (10 Euros, 1,000 Yens or 10,000 Wons) per each person.
3. Professor Sung Sook Kim (a member of LOC of both ICME-12 and HPM2012) will be waiting for you at the New Meeting Point and guide you to board on the bus.