

Dr. Jorge Santibañez Romellón, representante de la Secretaría de Educación Pública, Dr. Jaime Parada Ávila, representante del Gobernador del Estado de Nuevo León, Ing. José Antonio González Treviño, Rector de la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Bernard Hodgson, Secretario General de la Comisión Internacional en Instrucción Matemática, Mtra. Marcela Santillán Nieto, Presidenta del Comité Internacional del Programa del Onceavo Congreso Internacional de Educación Matemática, Ing. Ricardo Oziel Flores Salinas, Representante del Secretario de Educación del Estado de Nuevo León, Dr. Fernando Brambila Paz, Presidente de la Sociedad Matemática Mexicana, Dr. Carlos Signoret Poillon, Presidente del Comité Organizador Local del Programa. Estimados colegas y amigos. Dear colleagues and friends, Estimados colegas y amigos,

Es con gran emoción que tomo la palabra en esta ceremonia de apertura del Undécimo Congreso Internacional de Educación Matemática.

As was recalled at the International Conference organized last March in Rome for celebrating the centennial of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction, at that time la Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique or IMUK, for the most part of its existence, ICMI has been an international organization where European countries and North America had a predominant voice. The ICME congresses themselves, created under the Presidency of Hans Freudenthal, well reflect this situation. The first one was held in Lyon in 1969, the two followings in Exeter, UK and in Kalsruhe, Germany. And among the ten first ICMEs, six have taken place in Europe, two in North America, one in Australia, and one in Japan.

A page of ICMI history is turned today. For the first time, an ICME takes place in a Latin-American country: Mexico; for the first time too, an ICME takes place in a country from the periphery. This has a high symbolic value for all of us. This choice is fully coherent with ICMI ambition of extending its outreach beyond its traditional audience, of listening to the diversity of the voices existing in mathematics education all around the world, of taking advantage of the diversity of contexts and cultures, considering this diversity not as an obstacle but as an opportunity.

There is no doubt that, in the last decade, the number of conferences in mathematics education has exploded, leading to question what is the role, the specificity of a congress such as ICME. As are the International Congresses of Mathematicians for mathematics, ICMEs are unique events for mathematics education. Why? This is not only due to their size, to the international representation they gather, but also because reflecting ICMI values, they address to all those involved in mathematics education all around the world: educational researchers, teachers of mathematics and teacher educators, mathematicians, curriculum designers, educational policy makers and administrators.

ICMI ambition is to provide them all with a unique forum for exchanging, discussing, disseminating ideas and realizations, a unique opportunity for accessing information about the most recent advances in the field of mathematics education, an information covering the multiplicity of its dimensions, and sensitive to the diversity of the voices that exist in it. This explains the diversity of proposed activities: plenary and regular lectures, reports from survey teams, topic study groups and discussion groups, national presentations and regional forum, shared experience groups and workshops, not to mention the systematic reports on the different activities of ICMI and of its five Affiliated Study Groups. This makes each ICME a very complex structure, and a congress whose organization is especially demanding.

On behalf of ICMI, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our Mexican colleagues who have accepted this huge responsibility and worked so hard for the preparation of this congress. Beyond them, I would like to express my gratitude to all those, in this university, in the country, in the region, all over the world, who have contributed in the last four years - or will contribute in the next days - to make this ICME-11 an exceptional event.

I wish you all a stimulating and fascinating congress, in the creative and cheerful Latin-American atmosphere that we already experienced last night at Parque de los Fundidores, despite the rain sent by the god Tlaloc. I hope that this congress will have a strong impact on Mexico and on the region, as past ICME congresses have had. I am honoured to have the representative of the Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon join me now to declare the eleventh International Congress in Mathematics Education open.