

## **CANP Costa Rica 2012: a great success.**

### **The *Mathematics Education Network of Central America and the Caribbean* has been created.**

Between 6 and 17 August 2012 in San Jose, Costa Rica, was carried out with great success the *Escuela seminario internacional Construcción de Capacidades en Matemáticas y Educación Matemática*: CANP Costa Rica 2012.

The International Commission on Mathematical Instruction ICMI organized this event. It is the second experience of the *Capacity and Networking Project*, whose first edition was in Mali (Africa) in 2011, and the third will be held in Cambodia (Asia) in 2013. It's one of the main projects of ICMI. The event had the sponsorship of the International Mathematical Union IMU, the International Council for Science ICSU, and the Inter-American Committee on Mathematics Education CIAEM, UNESCO, MEXICO's Mathematics Research Center CIMAT, the Ministry of Public Education of Costa Rica and the University of Costa Rica.

The event brought together 67 researchers and educators of Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Spain, Mexico, Cuba, Costa Rica, who developed 23 different activities (conferences, courses, forums, symposia) on important themes of Mathematics and Mathematics Education: Fundamental Mathematics in Primary and Secondary School, Contemporary Mathematics, Technologies, Competencies, Research, Pre-service and in-service Teacher Preparation, Use of History of Mathematics, Epistemology of Mathematics. Under this international framework a public symposium was held: the *Costa Rican 25th Symposium on Math, Science and Society*, joined by 200 participants.

The inaugural ceremony included the participation of the Costa Rican Minister of Public Education, Leonardo Garnier. The media coverage was impressive: main TV channels, newspapers and radio stations.

A highlight of CANP 2012 was the presentation and discussion of 5 national reports on the situation on Math Education preparation in this region.

A first video on CANP 2012 can be seen in <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfMnODbNVpw&feature=youtu.be>.

The most important result of CANP Costa Rica 2012 was the founding of the *Mathematics Education Network of Central America and the Caribbean*, which seeks to enhance capacities in Mathematics and Mathematics Education in the region. The website is: <http://redumatematicacyc.net>

The network began its work with the support of several international organizations: ICMI, IMU, ICSU and the CIAEM, and already has the support of several societies of Mathematics educators in the region.

This network it is dynamically organized by a self-governing way through seven areas and nine working groups, whose aims are cited:

## 1. Teacher training in Mathematics Education

- To contribute to the pre-service and in-service teacher preparation in Mathematics Education in the region.

## 2. Relationships between mathematicians and math educators. Bringing together mathematicians and math educators.

- To achieve the creation of an inclusive community committed to the teaching and learning of Mathematics in all educational levels, in the medium and long term.
- To build links between researchers in Mathematics, Mathematics Education, and teachers (primary and secondary teachers).

## 3. Technologies and Mathematics Education.

- To create mechanisms and collaborative actions in the field of Technology and Mathematics Education in the region, to encourage building capacity in Mathematics and Mathematics Education.

## 4. Research and graduate studies in Mathematics Education

- To establish mechanisms and actions of cooperation both at the international and national levels allowing greater sustained and permanent research and programs for graduate studies in Mathematics Education in the Central American and the Caribbean region.

## 5. Comparative Mathematics Education.

- To perform comparative studies in Mathematics Education among the various countries of the region to propose alternatives for improvement of the quality of education.

## 6. History of Mathematics – Mathematics Education

- To develop and to exchange experiences that promote the incorporation of the History of Mathematics in Mathematics Education in at least three areas: research, teacher training, the teaching of Mathematics.

## 7. Mathematics Curriculum in school preparation

- To promote spaces for discussion and awareness of Mathematics in Primary and Secondary education curricula and the preparation of mathematically competent people in Central America and the Caribbean.

- To participate in the planning and development of educational policies in the Mathematics curricula of Primary and Secondary education in Central America and the Caribbean.

8. Elaboration of national reports in Central America and the Caribbean on pre-service and in-service teacher preparation in Mathematics Education

9. Design, construction and maintenance of a virtual community of support to the network.

Each working group decides freely its activities plan and their coordinators. All the detailed plans can be seen in the network web site.

New areas or groups may be set up according to the interests of the network. And those groups who complete their activities will cease to exist.

The network seeks to convene other associations, institutions and individuals to support this regional network in pursuit of the progress of these disciplines essential to the social and cultural development of the countries of the region.

New individuals who wish to join the network must do so in one of the existing groups.

Academic Societies and national or international institutions wishing to join and support the network, only need to declare this willingness in a written form.

The contact and personal reference of this network is Angel Ruiz (Costa Rica), Vice President of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction and President of the Inter-American Committee of Mathematics Education.

The realization of CANP 2012 and the creation of this network (based in Costa Rica) have given an important international support to the progress of a reform of Mathematics Education in Costa Rica, that started with the adoption in May of 2012 of a new Math Curriculum for all pre-university education in that country.