# A Message from the Congress Chair

── I am confident that the ICME-14 will be held as scheduled

ICME-14 participants

Dear colleagues and friends,

You might have learned from various media that there has been an outbreak of pneumonia caused by the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection in China since January 2020. Some prospective participants sent emails to the Local Organizing Committee, asking about this situation and the possibility of holding the ICME-14 as scheduled in July. I would like to express my sincere thanks for your attention. In response to your concerns and questions, I wish to make the following public comments.

In spite of the outbreak in recent days and the situation of prevention and control, I am confident that ICME-14 will be held as scheduled in July this year. My confidence comes from:

1. Chinese scientific researchers have laid a good scientific foundation for the prevention and control of the epidemic, they
   ➢ had identified and isolated the virus, decoded and published the virus's genetic sequence at the early stage of the infection;
   ➢ provided hospitals with the effective diagnosis equipment and reagents soon after the outbreak, and recently more new products (including reagent test kits and sequencing system of the virus) come into being, which are expected to further speed up the diagnosis process;
   ➢ established epidemiological models to provide the basis for forecasting the trend;
   ➢ developing vaccines and more effective drugs.

2. Medical forces throughout China have implemented general mobilization. In addition to doing a good job in local prevention, control and treatment, they have also provided assistance to Wuhan City, Hubei Province (at present, there are more than 6,000 experienced doctors and nurses from all over the country gather together in Wuhan City, the heart of this outbreak).

3. All sectors of society have attached great importance and support to this situation, and the whole nation has been greatly united.

4. Chinese governments at all levels bear the greatest responsibility for the prevention and control of the epidemic, including the national mobilization,

information collection and release, the input of national treasury and local financial funds, the formulation and implementation of policies, the mobilization and allocation of medical forces, and the procurement and transportation of materials. In particular, the following measurements taken by the Chinese governments should be mentioned:

➢ Investing tens of billions of emergency funds;
➢ Organizing the production and procurement of drugs, reagents and equipment;
➢ Forming a national committee of experts to gather the wisdom of the medical community so as to release and improve the treatment guides for hospitals and public guides for people living in various environments;
➢ Besides the reorganization of existing hospitals to up-grade their capacity to accept infected patients, building two new infectious disease hospitals with more than two thousand beds in total within 10 days in Wuhan City, Hubei Province.
➢ Properly controlling the flow of people and the gathering of people to prevent the spread of the virus.

Medical experts estimated that the outbreak will peak in the next week or 10 days; About two weeks after the peak, the outbreak will gradually abate. Therefore, it is estimated that China will return to normal after March 2020. By then China will be a safe country again and Shanghai will be a safe city again, and the 2019-nCoV will not create any obstacles to the ICME-14 in July 2020.

The above information is for colleagues to share. My colleagues at the LOC and I are working as usual on preparations to ensure a successful International Congress on Mathematical Education for the world in July 2020.

We will release further updates before the end of March 2020. If the unexpected situation would remain until that time, we will discuss with ICMI-EC to find an alternative arrangement and solutions to all possible questions.

With all the best,
Chair of ICME-14

Jianpan Wang
January 31，2020