

International Mathematical Union



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To: IMU Adhering Organizations
From: László Lovász, IMU President
Martin Grötschel, IMU Secretary

Bids for ICM 2014

This letter is about the International Congress of Mathematicians in the year 2014 (ICM 2014). The IMU Guidelines for the Program Committee (PC) and the Organizing Committee (OC) of an ICM begin with:

“International Congresses of Mathematicians are the most important IMU activity and need correspondingly careful preparation. Every ICM should reflect the current activity of mathematics in the world, present the best work being carried out in all mathematical subfields and different regions of the world, and thus, point to the future of mathematics.”

The Executive Committee (EC) of the International Mathematical Union invites the Adhering Organizations (and the mathematical societies in IMU member countries) to place bids for hosting the International Congress of Mathematicians in the year 2014 and the IMU General Assembly prior to this Congress.

To be considered by the Site Committee, these bids must be received by the IMU Secretary

by November 30, 2008.

The Site Committee, which is composed of EC members, will review all bids and visit the top candidate sites. After receiving advice from the Site Committee the EC will make its recommendation by May 31, 2009 to be communicated to all Adhering Organizations. The final decision will be taken by the General Assembly to be held August 16-17, 2010 in Bangalore, just prior to ICM 2010 in Hyderabad, India. The General Assembly is free to consider bids placed after November 30, 2008, but the IMU EC considers most advisable that the Adhering Organizations comply with the above procedure.

While it is impossible to spell out precisely all factors that will influence the final recommendation of the EC, it will take into account the mathematical ambience, the infrastructure and the economic conditions offered by each bidder, as well as the accessibility of the proposed site and the geographical distribution of places where ICMs took place in the past. All countries interested in making a bid are strongly encouraged to do so.

In the Appendix below, please find information about items that need to be considered for a bid. A few figures showing the scheduled size and finance of ICM 2014 are:

ICM 2014:

Expected participants:	3,000 - 4,000 persons
Plenary speakers:	~ 20 persons
Invited speakers:	~ 160 persons
Budget:	~ 2,000,000 US dollars
Subvention from IMU:	~ 90,000 US dollars

General Assembly 2014:

Expected participants:	200 persons
Budget:	~ 180,000 US dollars
Subvention from IMU:	~ 18,000 US dollars

Best regards

László Lovász
Martin Grötschel

APPENDIX

Among other relevant information that each potential host country may want to supply, the Site Committee wishes to know about the following items:

I. Finances

Clearly, costs may vary considerably from country to country. According to the reports of recent ICMs, a potential host country may consider a budget of at least 2 million US dollars, of which about 0.5 to 0.9 million US dollars might be raised through registration fees (such fees should be at most about 300 US dollars). Again, these numbers vary subject to local costs and facilities. According to the reports of the organizers of the last ICMs, soliciting support from public authorities was the most important factor for financing the Congress.

In considering the ICM 2014 budget, production costs of the Proceedings and other material (posters, announcements, summary of invited lectures, ...) as well as mailing, deserve special attention. The host country should be prepared to cover the local costs of about 120 young research mathematicians from developing countries, selected by IMU; they get their trips paid by IMU through its Special Development Fund and possibly other sources. Also, in special cases, invited speakers are expected to receive some financial support for attending the meeting when other funds to cover their expenses are not available. Registration fees are waived for invited speakers and the above young research mathematicians from developing countries. On the other hand, it is to be noted that there is an IMU subvention to ICM 2014 as well as some provision in its budget to defray costs of the General Assembly meeting that takes place just before the Congress; These sums amount to 100,000 Swiss Francs and 20,000 Swiss Francs, respectively. (Currently 1 Swiss Franc is equivalent to 0.91 US dollar.)

II. Infrastructure

It is important that good facilities to hold the Congress are available. All lectures should take place in sizable, well equipped, pleasant and audible rooms. Special attention should be paid to the plenary talks. There will be about 20 plenary lectures (with no other parallel activities) and about 160 invited lectures with 6-8 sessions in parallel. It should be feasible to commute between lecture halls during short breaks.

III. Accessibility

The city and site of the Congress should be easily accessible. That is, flight connections from all over the world should be easily available, as well as transportation to the site of the Congress. Lodging facilities constitute an important item.

IV. Participation (Principle of Universality)

IMU subscribes to the Principle of the Universality of Science as defined in ICSU's statute 5. In accordance with this principle, all scientists should have the possibility to participate, without discrimination and on an equitable basis, in IMU's activities. This implies, in particular, that the host country should guarantee that all mathematicians intending to participate in ICM 2014 should be able to receive a visa.

V. Engagement of the Local Mathematical Community

Finally, it is expected that the local mathematical community gets involved in the preparations of the Congress, so as to create a nice ambiance during the meeting. Moreover, as the previous Congresses have shown, in order to stay within the budget (which is relatively modest for a Congress of this size) it is necessary that the local mathematical community contributes a good deal of voluntary work.

It has become a custom in the recent years that each bidder prepares a bid booklet that provides the details of the bid in comprehensive form. Touristic information about the host city and country may be included.

All countries wishing to make a bid for ICM 2014 are recommended to contact the IMU Secretary prior to making the bid in order to discuss the formalities of the application procedure and to obtain some hints about how to apply appropriately.