

International Mathematical Union



December 20, 2017
IMU AO Circular Letter 17/2017

To: The Adhering Organizations of the International Mathematical Union (IMU)

From: Helge Holden, IMU Secretary

Country Representatives of ICMI

Dear colleagues,

As you know, The International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) is a Commission of the IMU, and it currently has 93 member countries, 83 of which are also members or associate members of the IMU. Thus, ten ICMI member countries are not IMU members. Each member country of ICMI is asked to appoint an official Country Representative to ICMI, who acts as a liaison between ICMI and the mathematics education community in the country.

The appointment of the ICMI Country Representatives is submitted to ICMI by the IMU Adhering Organizations consensually with the major mathematics education organizations of the country. You can find the current list of Country Representatives on the webpage <https://www.mathunion.org/icmi/organisation/our-members/icmi-representatives>.

If your organization has recently appointed a new Country Representative, please send the name, position, affiliation, address, and email address to the ICMI Secretary General Prof. Abraham Arcavi <abraham.arcavi@weizmann.ac.il>. If the representative was appointed in the past, please confirm the appointment date. A Country Representative cannot serve for more than two consecutive four-year terms. Also, please kindly call the attention of the Country Representative to the description of his/her expected role and activities (see below).

Your collaboration will greatly help ICMI to smoothly run the organization. On behalf of IMU and ICMI I would like to thank you for the role your Adhering Organization in this process and for your responsiveness to ICMI regarding these matters.

Helge Holden

Secretary of the International Mathematical Union

On the role and activities of ICMI Country Representatives

The International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) has recently revised the role and tasks of ICMI Country Representatives and a new document was developed describing their roles. The role of the Country Representative is “bi-directional”, namely, to act as the liaison person between the mathematics education community of her/his country and the global community of mathematics educators organized in the ICMI.

The current list of ICMI Country Representatives can be found at:

<https://www.mathunion.org/icmi/organisation/our-members/icmi-representatives>

In order to find a reasonable balance between continuity and renewal, ICMI has decided that Country Representatives cannot serve for more than two consecutive four-year terms. We ask that your country abides by this regulation.

The role of the Country Representative consists of several functions and regular activities, including:

- To work to bring together all the parties involved in mathematics education in the country (teachers, teacher educators, curriculum developers, mathematicians, researchers in mathematics education and policy makers), and become a nexus between them. This implies promoting several kinds of joint activities in order to consolidate a community in which communication and collaborations are frequent and productive.
- To disseminate and promote the international and regional activities of ICMI and to encourage professionals to take part in them.
- To serve as an active channel of communication with ICMI, requesting support for activities, travel funds for selected members of the community to professional events, suggesting national or regional activities (conferences, workshops, seminars).
- To inform ICMI of relevant activities and developments in their country, e.g., with texts/event information for ICMI news, the ICMI website, or the ICMI Facebook page.
- To be alert to the work of the International Program Committee for the International Congress of Mathematical Education (ICME), so as to communicate effectively and responsively to requests for information on participants in the Congress program.
- To propose, in consultation with all relevant constituencies of the national community of mathematics education, nominations for members of the ICMI Executive Committee (EC) and nominations for ICMI awards.
- To actively participate in the quadrennial ICMI General Assembly meeting, which takes place one day before the beginning of an ICME conference. In the General Assembly, the country representatives are the only people with the right to elect the EC members from a slate presented by an ad-hoc nomination committee. During the General Assembly, the country representatives meet, discuss ICMI activities and make proposals to the EC.

ICMI Country Representatives are appointed by the country’s IMU Adhering Organization. Given the responsibilities of the Country Representatives, it is advisable that the Adhering

Organizations consult with prominent members of the local mathematics education communities. A Country Representative cannot serve for more than two consecutive four-year terms. Country Representatives for countries with no IMU Adhering Organizations are appointed by the mathematics education community of the country.

ICMI Officers and the community at large are looking forward to fruitful collaborations with the Country Representatives, and invite them to contact us for any initiatives or queries.

For more details please see Item 5 in the March 2017 issue of the ICMI News, see http://www.mathunion.org/fileadmin/ICMI/files/News/ICMI_Newsletter_March_2017.pdf.