

International Mathematical Union



April 7, 2017

IMU AO Circular Letter 5/2017

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

From: Helge Holden, IMU Secretary

An International Day of Mathematics

Dear colleagues,

At this year's annual meeting the Executive Committee of IMU decided to investigate the feasibility of having UNESCO declare an International Day of Mathematics (IDM).

We first want to consult with our members on the matter, both regarding exploring the advantages of celebrating an IDM and choosing an appropriate date.

An International Day of Mathematics, devoted to a specific theme each year, might be an opportunity for all mathematical communities around the world to join forces in reaching out to schools and the public. Clearly the success of an IDM will depend on the activities organized locally.

To find out whether and how the EC should prepare an inquiry to UNESCO, you are asked to answer the following questions:

1. Do you support the idea of having UNESCO declare an International Day of Mathematics?
2. If you answered yes to the first question, do you have a date to propose that
 - is not already an international day,
see: <http://en.unesco.org/celebrations/international-days>
 - is a suitable date for organizing outreach activities for schools and the public, both in your country and elsewhere in the world, including the other hemisphere.

A short rationale for the choice would be much appreciated (one page maximum).

3. Are there periods of the year that are unsuitable in your country for organizing activities related to an International Day of Mathematics?

Please send me your answers by May 15, 2017.

Thank you.

Regards

Helge Holden
Secretary of the International Mathematical Union