

Editorial

In the past few months, several big meetings were held in Asia. In June, the 2nd Pacific Rim International Mathematical Association Congress (2nd PRIMA Congress) was held in Shanghai Jiaotong University in China. About 1000 participants attended this meeting, including two Fields medalists Vaughan Jones and Cédric Villani (see page 41 for more details).

The second major event was the 6th International Congress of Chinese Mathematicians (ICCM), which took place in July in Taipei, Taiwan. This triennial event attracted nearly 1000 participants. The highlight of the opening ceremony of this meeting was the presentation of the Morningside Medals of Mathematics, one of the most prestigious awards for Chinese mathematicians. Zhang Yitang was bestowed the Morningside Mathematics Excellence Award for his proof that there are infinitely many pairs of consecutive primes with a gap not exceeding 70 million. Zhang's result has taken us a huge step forward in understanding one of mathematics' oldest problems, the twin primes conjecture. A summary of an interview with Zhang is given in page 44.

The Asian Mathematical Conference 2013, hosted by the Korean Mathematical Society and the Southeast Asian Mathematical Society, held in Busan, South Korea from June 30 to July 4 was the third big event. More than 850 mathematicians from 28 countries attended the meeting. During the conference, the forum on "Organising the Mathematical Union of Asia: Why and How?" was held. At the end of the meeting, the "Busan Resolution" was adopted for the inception of the Mathematical Union of Asia (MUA), which will serve the advancement of mathematics in Asia (see page 47 for details). It is gratifying to know that mathematicians in the region have finally decided to get organised for the betterment of the community. In view of the fact that two Asian countries, namely India and Korea were chosen to host the 2010 and the 2014 International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM), it is indeed timely to have Asian mathematicians work more closely under the umbrella of the proposed MUA. By comparison, Asian chemists and physicists are far ahead, with the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS) set up in 1979, and the Association of Asia Pacific Physical Societies (AAPPS) formed in 1990.

This issue features four articles and two interviews. "Topological Fixed Point Theory" by Jong Bum Lee, and

"Non-Commutative L^p -Spaces and Analysis on Quantum Space" by Hun Hee Lee, are translated from the Korean originals published in the Newsletter of the Korean Mathematical Society. Ian Sloan's article on "Approximating Integrals in High Dimensions — An Informal Report" is a good supplement to the interview by Peter Hall. A glimpse into the school level mathematics education in Taiwan is provided by Audrey Wang's article "Competent but Anxious". Another interview piece is "Two Evenings with B H Gross" by Vijay Patankar and Sneha Patankar.

I hope readers will enjoy reading this issue of APMN, and I appreciate your feedback (in the form of comments, suggestions, contributions, etc.) to spur us on.

Swee Cheng Lim
Editor

Asia Pacific Mathematics Newsletter welcomes contributions on the following items:

- Expository articles on mathematical topics of general interest
- Articles on mathematics education
- Introducing centres of excellence in mathematical sciences
- News of mathematical societies in the Asia Pacific region
- Introducing well-known mathematicians from the Asia Pacific region
- Book reviews
- Conference reports and announcements held in Asia Pacific countries
- Letters from readers on relevant topics and issues
- Other items of interest to the mathematical community