

CIMPA

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Centre International de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées (CIMPA) is an international organisation working for the development of mathematics research in developing countries. Founded in France in 1978, CIMPA is based in Nice and is a UNESCO category 2 centre.

Its role is to promote research and higher education in pure or applied mathematics and interactions between the two as well as related disciplines.

CIMPA has a strategic role in promoting research and is part of the Laboratoire d'Excellence Centres d'Accueil et de Rencontres Mathématiques Internationales (CARMIN) with the Institut Henri Poincaré (IHP), l'Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques (IHES) and the Centre International de Rencontres Mathématiques (CIRM).

The main sources of funding are the Ministries from France, Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

CIMPA is a non-profit organisation, and depends on many mathematicians and institutional members all over the world.

CIMPA's main task is the organisation of research schools. This is the bulk of its activities and is focussed on areas where there is a real drive to shine a spotlight on, or develop, mathematics or where there is scope for a research project.

Every year a call for proposals is launched to organise around twenty research schools lasting two weeks each in developing countries across all continents. The main purpose of these schools is to contribute to training by identifying new generations of mathematicians.

Each research school has an average of 40 participants. Proposals are submitted to CIMPA then assessed by the Scientific Council around two years in advance; the Steering Council then selects successful proposals. CIMPA has become renowned worldwide for its research schools and their outcomes.

CIMPA strives to maintain a balance in three key areas which it sees as a priority: geographical balance, theme balance and gender balance. Moreover it acts as a catalyst for initiatives and supports them without replacing mathematicians on the ground. CIMPA cannot and does

not want to do everything or fund everything. Indeed the impact of such an approach would be contrary to its objectives. Thus the CIMPA research schools work with the mathematicians in the countries where the research schools are to be held, and the organisers are expected to find partial funding which is then supplemented by CIMPA.

Other actions include support for activities in partnership with other bodies with similar objectives such as the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), and with mathematical associations like the South-East Asia Mathematical Society (SEAMS), the African Mathematical Union (AMU) and the Unión Matemática de América Latina y el Caribe (UMALCA).

In close cooperation with these last three continental mathematical unions, CIMPA is developing ambitious work to support advanced mathematics schools for development. They are Masters level schools and tend to consolidate training in new and emerging areas in mathematics.

At the last Council of SEAMS, it was decided that SEAMS would partner with CIMPA to realise an open call for SEAMS schools in 2014 as well as for future years. Such efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean have proved highly successful, and we look forward to working with SEAMS to develop and replicate this model in Southeast Asia as well. We would like to encourage fruitful projects in this direction.

December 2013

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