

Report on ICIAM board meeting Oslo, 21 May 2009

Neville de Mestre*

I travelled to Oslo in the week 17–23 May to attend the ICIAM board meeting on Thursday 21 May as well as the Abel and Ramanujan prize ceremonies on 19 and 20 May.

The Abel prize was awarded to Mikhail Gromov, a Russian who has lived in France for many years and made great contributions to modern global Riemannian geometry. The prize was awarded by King Harald of Norway.

The Ramanujan prize for the best young researcher from a developing country was awarded to Enrique Pujal from Brazil.

The ICIAM board meeting went from 9.00am to 6.10 pm with a short break for lunch. It was held at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

Many matters were raised during the day and those of interest to Australia and New Zealand are listed below.

- (1) The possible venues for ICM2014 are Brazil, Canada or South Korea. One of the candidates tried to solicit ICIAM's support for its bid, but it was decided not to show any preference.
- (2) The current financial situation is that ICIAM has approximately US\$85 000 in its bank account.
- (3) Barbara Keyfitz from Ohio state was elected unopposed as President-Elect to assume the role in October 2009. She will become President in 2011. Ian Sloan will cease being Past-President in October, but has indicated that he is prepared to stand for ANZIAM rep in 2010. I will stand down at the AGM in February so that Ian and others can contest an election.
- (4) Arvind Gupta, the Director of ICIAM 2011 in Vancouver, gave an update on progress. They are expecting between 2500 and 3500 delegates. The board agreed to set aside \$17 000 for the Congress organisers to use exclusively for delegates from developing countries to attend. Although Australia and New Zealand are not developing countries, ANZIAM members are encouraged to nominate mathematicians whom they know from New Guinea, Indonesia or the Pacific Islands to apply to the Congress Director for a grant.
- (5) The 27 mathematicians nominated by the Scientific Program Committee for the 2011 Congress were approved by the board.
- (6) The venue for the 2015 congress will be Beijing. The Chinese application defeated the Japanese application by 13 votes to 10.

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- (7) Because Barbara Keyfitz is the current Treasurer of ICIAM, there will be a need to find a temporary treasurer at the next board meeting in 2010. Barbara will act in this position until a new treasurer is found. The position can be handled mainly by email, with the accounts being channelled through the SIAM administration in Philadelphia. The board meets once each year, when the Treasurer would be expected to attend, with the Treasurer's travel and accommodation met by ICIAM. If any member of ANZIAM is interested in becoming the temporary treasurer from October 2010 until September 2011, they should contact me for information on how to apply.
- (8) The IMU representative attended the meeting as an observer. He announced a new mathematics prize, the Chern Prize, worth US\$500 000 in any area of mathematics. Check the IMU website shortly for more information.
- (9) It was decided that the five winners of 2011 ICIAM prizes would be invited to give a 30-minute talk on their research at an appropriate time slot in the Vancouver program. Nominations for these ICIAM prizes close on 21 September 2009.
- (10) There was much discussion about the rules for conflict of interest when a member of the judging panel for a prize has performed joint work or is closely associated with a candidate.
- (11) The board approved \$3500 each to be given to conference organisers from both Brazil and Colombia to help researchers from developing countries attend the conferences in 2010 in these countries.
- (12) The next board meeting is in Delhi, India, in August 2010.



Neville de Mestre retired from Bond University in 2004 as Emeritus Professor of Mathematics. Neville lectured at RMC Duntroon and ADFA from 1962 to 1989. He moved to Bond University as soon as it opened in 1989. In 1992 he inaugurated the Biennial Australasian Mathematics and Computers in Sport conferences, which eventually became the Mathsport Special Interest Group of ANZIAM. Neville has directed or co-directed seven of the first nine conferences. Neville has also been Chair of ANZIAM (during ICIAM 2003 in Sydney) and Deputy Chair on a number of occasions. He was director of ANZIAM conferences at Smiggin Holes (1971), Merimbula (1984) and Coolangatta (1998). His research interests include fluid mechanics, bushfires, sport and mathematical education at all levels. He founded the ACT Mathematics Centre which now travels Australia through Qwestacon. He gave the tenth G.S. Watson Memorial Lecture at La Trobe University (Bendigo) in 2008.