

University of Strasbourg  
Alain Beretz  
President

Mr. Shigefumi Mori  
President of the Executive  
Committee  
International Mathematical  
Union

Strasbourg, 23 October 2015

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing in relation to France's and Paris' bid to organize the International Congress of Mathematicians, a respected and renowned highlight in international mathematical research, in 2022. On behalf of the University of Strasbourg, I would like to tell you that we are very keen on hosting the International Mathematical Union's General Assembly preceding it, and committed to providing the best conditions for your meeting.

The University of Strasbourg can look back on a legacy spanning almost five centuries and on numerous eminent scholars who have put it in the prominent position it enjoys today. This university willingly embraces its European and international vision. It caters to more than 46,000 students each year, and 20% of them are from outside France. It has 2,500 doctoral students and 4,600 teaching researchers and other staff, in its 37 academic and research units and 73 research units. This multidisciplinary university conducts world-class research and is in 83<sup>rd</sup> position on the Shanghai Ranking. Three working Nobel Prize winners – Jean-Marie Lehn (Chemistry, 1987), Jules Hoffmann (Physiology or Medicine, 2011) and Martin Karplus (Chemistry, 2013) – work side by side with many European Research Council (ERC) grant-holders and researchers commended by the Institut Universitaire de France (IUF), striving for excellence together. The University of Strasbourg has furthermore earned Initiative d'Excellence status on France's forward-looking investment program, and is home to 11 laboratories of excellence (LABEXes) including IRMIA, the Institut de Recherche en Mathématiques, Interactions et Applications.

This University's strategic vision is aimed at stepping "Beyond Frontiers". This means frontiers between disciplines, frontiers between research and training, frontiers that tend to separate the scientific world from the economic, professional and cultural worlds, and geographic frontiers, whichever they may be. This collective challenge is one that our entire community is rising to together.

The University's future is being shaped by its unique position in the Upper Rhine region. From a geographic perspective, this region is at the frontier between France, Germany and Switzerland. This region is in a strategic position at the center of Europe, and has achieved outstanding levels of performance in the fields of

innovation, education and research on international scenes. Strasbourg is also home to leading French, European and international institutions, and a European cross-border campus, encompassing 5 universities, 160,000 students and 20,000 researchers and teaching researchers, is currently being created.

The University of Strasbourg is a member of the League of European Research Universities, which I have been honored to chair since 2013.

It is for all these reasons that the University of Strasbourg would be delighted and honored to host the International Mathematical Union's General Assembly in 2022, prior to the International Congress of Mathematics.

Your contact at the University of Strasbourg will be Professor Yann Bugeaud, the Director of the Institut de Recherche Mathématique Avancée (IRMA). He and the Vice-President for Research will provide you with all the information and anything else you need to prepare this event and to ensure it unfurls flawlessly.

I hope that you choose to discuss our bid in more detail and look forward to hearing about your decision.

Yours sincerely,

Alain Beretz