

**Q: Why do you think that organizing an International Congress in Paris in 2022 is important?**

A: It seems to me that the International Congress of Paris in 1900 had a particular historical value, for instance because Hilbert's problems are associated with it, but also because of the special round number and the fact that it marked the beginning of a time when Mathematics had a fabulous rise. The "birthday" link is maybe a little loose, but meeting again in Paris after more than a century would draw people's attention to the fact that Mathematics works on this long time scale.

**Q: What could be the fall-out on French mathematics, but also on mathematics in general and on mathematical communities that are strongly connected with the French one?**

A: It could be stimulating to have an event on a really large scale that is truly international. In Paris we have a lot of mathematical activities such as seminars or specialized meetings, but even if they are interesting, they do not have much visibility except for the community directly concerned by them, and tend to be a little too French-French. Fortunately the CIRM and the IHP resist to this phenomenon. Therefore it would not be bad to have a major international event in

Paris.

**Q: Mathematics will play an increasingly important role in the scientific and technological advancement of our societies. Would the organization of an international Congress in Paris seem important to you in order to strengthen the presence of Mathematics in the society and also to attract young people to mathematics and science in general?**

A: I have some doubts about the impact of ICM on the real course of science. However, if we went to great lengths in order to disseminate information towards young people, and create a great visibility around and outside the congress itself, this could bring Mathematics out of its ivory tower and have good consequences for the future among the young people.

**Q: The French application proposes to organize, before the congress, a significant number of schools for mathematicians from developing countries in general and, more specifically, for Africa. Obviously these activities are not part of the congress itself, but they could complement it in a very useful way. What do you think ?**

A: I have a hard time seeing how things could work out. I believe that the only way to involve African mathematicians is to organize (or

participate in) events on the spot or to give courses in Africa or to invite African mathematicians or train PhDs.

**Q: Do you think that countries that are very advanced in mathematics should organize ICMs, or should they be reserved, if possible, for emerging countries/continents in mathematics?**

A: This is an interesting point. Personally, I am very much in favor of ICM being geographically as mobile as possible. I think the India, Korea, Brazil series was very well chosen. We must also pay attention to the geographical isolation of certain countries like Australia. However, we can not organize a congress of this magnitude without a minimum of comfort and health security, or even safety at all.

**Q: What recommendations / advice would you give to the organizers of an ICM?**

A: Everything should be done to prevent it from being like a marathon. I think that if we could articulate the congress around some sort of state of the art sessions and a little reflection concerning the role and place of Mathematics instead of everyone caring only about his/her own presentation, it would be much better. Perhaps also that using original initiatives and a kind of associative network of Mathematics would help getting out from a big indigestible event and

give rise to interesting things.

**Q: Do you have suggestions for new actions that would be interesting to undertake around the ICM?**

A: See above.