

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

A: France, and Paris in particular, has one of the strongest mathematical communities in the world, e.g. documented by a large number of fields medalists and a perfect infrastructure for the meeting.

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? Would it help to strengthen the relation of Mathematics and mathematicians with the industry and the economy?

A: The importance of mathematics in scientific, technological and societal development is growing very fast. The efforts in this direction have been particularly strong in France through the Laboratoire d'Excellence AMIES and other initiatives. The french report on the contribution of mathematics to society clearly demonstrates this and an ICM meeting in Paris could be the driving factor to push this development within Europe and the world further and to increase the public awareness drastically.

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: The African continent is one of the least strong developed in mathematics and a lot of efforts should be made to change this. Having satellites in Africa would certainly boost the development and also create hopefully the necessary momentum for decreasing the distance to other parts of the world.

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: I personally think that the congress should be moving in all parts of the world, but it should also be giving the development of the field a boost in all areas of the world. So it should not only be organized in emerging countries but move between established and emerging countries.

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

A: Cover the whole spectrum of mathematical fields and topics in a maximal way, demonstrate the vibrant math ecosystem, give impulses to increase the visibility of mathematics in society and emphasize its strengths and weakness as a transversal field for intra- and interdisciplinary cooperation.

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

A: no.