

# AMS Participation in World Mathematical Year 2000



It warrants a celebration: The International Mathematical Union (IMU) has declared the coming year “World Mathematical Year 2000”. Organizations all over the world have planned a variety of special events to celebrate WMY 2000, as it is called, and the AMS is no exception.

In 1992 the IMU passed its official resolution declaring 2000 as the World Mathematical Year. The purposes of WMY 2000, as stated by the IMU, are: “the determination of great mathematical challenges of the 21st century; the promulgation of mathematics, both pure and applied, as one of the main keys for development; and the recognition of the systematic presence of mathematics in the information society (the image of mathematics).”

The idea of WMY 2000 harks back to the legendary lecture given by David Hilbert in 1900 at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Paris. In that lecture Hilbert set forth his famed list of twenty-three problems, which he believed to be the most important in mathematics. Some of those problems have had a deep influence on the field.

The AMS events for WMY 2000 kick off with the Annual Meeting, to be held January 19–22, 2000, in the nation’s capital, Washington, DC. The meeting will begin with a special WMY 2000 banquet featuring a special champagne toast. The master of ceremonies for the banquet will be David P. Roselle, president of the University of Delaware. Plans also call for a speech by Rita Colwell, director of the National Science Foundation. Joining in the festivities will be representatives from about twenty-five mathematics-related organizations. During the meeting there will be a full program of invited addresses, special sessions, and other activities.

The main AMS event for WMY 2000 is a special summer meeting entitled “Mathematical Challenges of the 21st Century”, to be held on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles, August 7–12, 2000. This meeting has a larger and more ambitious purpose than other AMS meetings, for it seeks to focus attention on the impact of mathematics across the broad landscape of human en-

deavor. The stellar array of about thirty speakers representing all major areas of the field will together provide a panorama of today’s research in the mathematical sciences, as well as glimpses of the most important future challenges. The meeting will also feature several social and cultural events and will end with a celebratory banquet.

Another way in which the AMS is participating in WMY 2000 is through its support of the mathematical activities at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, called “Science in an Uncertain Millennium” and scheduled for February 17–22, 2000, in Washington, DC. A two-part symposium entitled “The Reasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics: Mathematics in Hollywood, Industry, and Daily Life” will feature ten speakers addressing a range of topics, from computer animation to quantum computing.

One of the key themes of WMY 2000 is the international character of mathematics. It is therefore fitting that in 2000 the AMS will hold two international meetings. The first AMS-Scandinavian International Mathematics Meeting will be held June 13–16, 2000, at Odense University in Denmark. It is jointly sponsored by the AMS and the mathematical societies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The other meeting is the First International Meeting of the AMS and the Hong Kong Mathematical Society and will be held December 13–17, 2000, in Hong Kong.

For further information on the AMS meetings during WMY 2000, visit the AMS Meetings Web site, <http://www.ams.org/meetings/>. Information on the AAAS meeting and symposia may be found at <http://www.aaas.org/meetings/2000/index.htm>. The central WMY 2000 Web server may be found at <http://wmy2000.math.jussieu.fr/>.

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