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# For Your Information

## Ekeland Appointed Director of PIMS

Ivar Ekeland has been appointed to a five-year term as director of the Pacific Institute of Mathematical Sciences (PIMS), starting September 1, 2003. As director of PIMS, Ekeland will also chair the executive committee of the Banff International Research Station (BIRS). Prior to becoming PIMS director, Ekeland held a Canada Research Chair in Mathematical Economics at the University of British Columbia and was president of the Université de Paris-Dauphine.

Ekeland is an outstanding mathematical scientist, an internationally renowned mathematical economist, a dedicated educator, a prolific writer and disseminator of science, and a first-class administrator. He has received prizes from the French Academy of Sciences, the French Mathematical Society, and the Belgian Academy of Sciences. He has supervised over thirty-five doctoral dissertations; has organized numerous symposia; and has written several monographs on convex analysis, control theory, game theory, catastrophe theory, and Hamiltonian mechanics. He is the founding editor of the *Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré-Analyse nonlinéaire*, and he sits on the editorial board of many other publications.

Ekeland has also written several books that are reflections on, or popularization of, mathematics. All of them have been translated into many languages. For these contributions he was awarded the Prix Jean Rostand by the Association des Ecrivains Scientifiques de France and the Prix d'Alembert by the Société Mathématique de France. Ekeland is also a regular contributor to the journal *Nature* and the magazine *Pour la Science*.

—From a PIMS announcement

## New Institute Established in Africa

The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) is a new educational center now being established in Cape Town, South Africa. The goals of AIMS are to promote mathematics and science in Africa; to recruit and train talented students and teachers; and to build capacity for African initiatives in education, research, and technology. AIMS is a collaborative project of the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch, and the Western Cape in South Africa; the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford in the United Kingdom; and the Université de Paris-Sud in France.

The institute will initially focus on offering a one-year postgraduate course of study covering various branches of the mathematical sciences and their uses in other areas of science and technology. The lectures will be conducted by outstanding African and international researchers. The course will aim to develop strong mathematical and computing problem-solving skills and will lead to a postgraduate diploma in the mathematical sciences, formally accredited by the three partner South African universities and endorsed by the faculty of mathematics of the University of Cambridge.

Fellowship support is available for students wishing to follow the AIMS course as well as for advanced doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers wishing to teach and do research at AIMS.

AIMS is overseen by an international board of directors, chaired by Neil Turok of the University of Cambridge. An executive team, headed by the AIMS director, Fritz Hahne of the University of Stellenbosch, oversees detailed management and day-to-day running of the institute.

For further information visit the AIMS website at <http://www.aimsforafrica.org>.

—Allyn Jackson