

Dear Colleagues.

The Committee for the Developing Countries (CDC) is one of eleven Committees of the European Mathematical Society.

In the course of our work in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America we have come across a number of talented and promising young mathematicians. Partly under supervision of our programs they have successfully completed their Master of Science degrees and should now proceed to doctoral studies. Through CDC they are now looking for host institutions willing to enroll them in their Ph.D. programs, and possibly help them to find at least partial financing.

At the same time there are some talented young students who have been able to complete Ph.D. degrees at their home universities. In our experience those students, in spite of their ambitions and enthusiasm, are not yet ready to be thesis advisors for younger colleagues. They need to complete their initiation to research, to mature as mathematicians and also to have a chance to broaden their vision of mathematics in general. This brings us to our second appeal to the mathematical community: creating possibilities of postdoc positions for young researchers from developing countries.

If your department would be interested in assisting at least one of these young mathematicians from developing countries, please contact Tsou Sheung Tsun (University of Oxford) [tsou@maths.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tsou@maths.ox.ac.uk), Michel Waldschmidt (Université Paris VI) [miw@math.jussieu.fr](mailto:miw@math.jussieu.fr), Paul Vaderlind (Stockholm university) [paul@math.su.se](mailto:paul@math.su.se) or any other CDC member.

We take here the opportunity to give a short presentation of CDC. More information can be found on <http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/comm-develop.html>

The committee consists of about ten members, most of whom are engaged in development work in their capacity as heads of various such projects, e.g. CIMPA (France), ISP (Sweden), IWR (Germany), and are also active in other committees for developing countries around the world, notably within IMU, ICIAM, ICTP, LMS and a number of national mathematical Societies and Academies.

The main objective of CDC is to assist developing countries at the following levels:

- o Mathematics curriculum development for schools and for universities.
- o Cooperation with local staff in conducting M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs; holding special courses in various areas of mathematics in which there is no local expertise.
- o Helping to build up libraries through donations from colleagues in developed countries; supply mathematical literature upon request by institutions and/or individual researchers in developing countries; negotiate with publishers on special book rates for developing countries.
- o Helping to build up regional centres and networks of excellence: these are centres directly attached or connected in part to universities, and which provide expertise in areas and on levels in which regional universities are in need.
- o Provide information about where students from developing countries (who already have an M.Sc.) can do their Ph.D., and what possibilities for Ph.D. grants exist. At the

same time, in order to avoid a brain drain, as much as possible, CDC will support efforts to build up Ph.D. programmes in developing countries according to international standards (regional centres of excellence could serve this purpose).

- o Provide information on postdoc positions for young researchers from developing countries and promote the creation of such positions.

- o Mobilise funds for junior and senior researchers to attend conferences in developing countries, and also help (both on an academic and financial level) organising conferences in developing countries.

On behalf of the EMS-CDC,  
Tsou Sheung Tsun  
Michel Waldschmidt  
Paul Vaderlind