

**REPORT of the Interamerican Committee on Math Education (IACME)  
to the International Commission on Math Instruction (ICMI)**

**JULY 2012**

**By Angel Ruiz  
President  
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On behalf of the Executive Committee of IACME (Comité Interamericano de Educación Matemática CIAEM), we want to thank ICMI for the opportunity to present this report.

From its foundation in 1961, in Bogota, Colombia, IACME has been closely associated with ICMI. Marshall Stone, founding president of IACME, was also President of ICMI at that time. One of the aims of IACME has been always to provide in the American continent bridges between the North and the South. At this moment in history, we think that today bridges must be built on American soil not only on this continent but to the world. We are very pleased that IACME in 2009 was officially designated as the first multi-national Mathematics Education Society affiliated to ICMI.

IACME assumes its task in this new scenario in the search of close ties with the international Math Education community and, in particular, in research and to the building of our relatively new scientific and professional discipline; with special interest, we want to promote the most effective educational practices, an important foundation for the construction of progressive and egalitarian societies.

IACME constitutes a network across all the Americas, with national representatives in almost all the countries of this region. In July 2011, we organized our conference number 13, in the city of Recife, Brazil, with the participation of more than 1800 educators, specialists and administrators related to the Math Education. More than 30 countries were represented in an event characterized by seminal and high quality lectures and presentations, including 50 invited renowned international speakers. The XIIIth IACME had special relevance for at least four reasons:

1. It was a celebration of our 50th anniversary.
2. All proposals were submitted and reviewed online, and those that were accepted were published online at [www.cimm.ucr.ac.cr/ocs/index.php/xiii\\_ciaem/xiii\\_ciaem/schedConf/presentations](http://www.cimm.ucr.ac.cr/ocs/index.php/xiii_ciaem/xiii_ciaem/schedConf/presentations) and [www.gente.eti.br/lematec/CDS/XIIICIAEM/?info\\_type=home&lang\\_user=br](http://www.gente.eti.br/lematec/CDS/XIIICIAEM/?info_type=home&lang_user=br).
3. Edward Jacobsen, who while at UNESCO had been a close friend and supporter of IACME, was presented the first Luis Santaló Medal.
4. There were 30 parallel lectures, 6 parallel panels, almost 90 workshops, over 700 short communications, and 80 posters.

In that conference a new Executive Committee was elected for the period 2011-2015. Angel Ruiz of Costa Rica was reconfirmed as President. In the vice-presidencies are Eduardo Mancera of Mexico and Patrick (Rick) Scott of the USA, and as secretary Claudia Groenwald of Brazil. A decision was reached to set up a system of six Regional Members-at-Large: North America, Eduardo Basurto – Mexico; Central America, Hugo Barrantes - Costa Rica the Caribbean, Sarah González –Dominican Republic; Luso-American region, Tania Campos, - Brazil; Andean Region, Jhony Villa – Colombia; and Southern Cone, Gustavo Bermúdez - Uruguay. We are committed to continue the work of the distinguished academicians who have led IACME in the past: Marshall Stone, Howard Fehr, Luis Santaló, Ubiratan

D'Ambrosio, Fidel Oteiza, Eduardo Luna, Carlos Vasco, Ed Jacobsen, Claude Gaulin, Salett Biembengut and many others.

In Recife new By-Laws were approved for IACME that brings us up to date and directs into the future. An article with more details on the XIIIth IACME has been published in Vol. 13, No. 1 of the *Journal of Science Education*, [www.accefyn.org.co/rec](http://www.accefyn.org.co/rec).

In this period, IACME has decided to continue to underline in its actions two topics: Teacher Preparation, and Problem Solving and Modeling as educational strategies. We believe that both are central to the actions in our region. In this direction we are promoting publications, multiplying our web site and our contacts, and extending our relations with the organizations of the region and with those of international nature that converge on our aims. The Executive Committee meets during the annual meetings of the Asociación Nacional de Profesores de Matemáticas (ANPM) en Mexico and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) in the United States. Representatives of IACME have also participated in the tribute to Michèle Artigue in Paris and the annual meeting of Virtual Educa in Panama.

The XIVth IACME conference, to be held one year before the next ICME, is going to be in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico, in May of 2015.

Also to commemorate its 50th Anniversary in 2011, IACME published three *Cuadernos de Investigación y Formación en Educación Matemática* (Working Papers on Research and Preparation in Math Education) in Costa Rica. Each volume has works that have been presented at past IACME conferences as well as other relevant works:

- No. 7 *Historia y Perspectiva. Ubiratan D'Ambrosio: Primeros Escritos* (History and Perspective, and The Early Writings of Ubiratan D'Ambrosio)
- No. 8 *Medios e Hipermedios* (Media and Hypermedia)
- No. 9 *Currículo, Evaluación, Formación Docente, Competencias* (Curriculum, Evaluation, Teacher Preparation and Competencies)

They are available in pdf format at [www.cimm.ucr.ac.cr/ojs/index.php/CIFEM](http://www.cimm.ucr.ac.cr/ojs/index.php/CIFEM).

In Mexico a compilation of selected articles from the XIIth IACME in Queretaro Mexico in 2007 was published.

In August of 2012 the International Seminar on Building Capacity in Math and Math Education (CANP 2012) will be held in Costa Rica. It is organized by ICMI and sponsored by IMU, ICSU, UNESCO, CIMPA, the University of Costa Rica and the Costa Rican Ministry of Education. It is the second such event organized by ICMI ([www.mathunion.org/icmi/other-activities/outreach-to-developing-countries/canp-project/?no\\_cache=1&sword\\_list%5B%5D=canp](http://www.mathunion.org/icmi/other-activities/outreach-to-developing-countries/canp-project/?no_cache=1&sword_list%5B%5D=canp)). The first was held in Mali in 2011. CANP 2012 will bring together 40 math educators, professional mathematicians, and Ministry of Education officials from Panama, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Venezuela and Costa Rica. The IACME regional network has been used to support this important event.

For more information on the Interamerican Math Education Committee (IACME) please visit [www.ciaem-iacme.org](http://www.ciaem-iacme.org).

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