



Successful 1st Congress on Mathematics Education for Central America and the Caribbean (I CEMACYC) and the General Assembly of the Mathematics Education Network for Central America and the Caribbean (REDUMATE)

The first Congress on Mathematics Education for Central America and the Caribbean was successfully held in the Dominican Republic on November 6–8, 2013. Over 600 attendees—with 150 papers or posters from 230 speakers hailing from 19 countries (Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain, United States, and Venezuela) graced the meeting hall. The academic venue was the Pontificia Universidad Madre y Maestra, and the activities were held at that institution and at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The plenary speakers were Ubiratàn D’Ambrosio (Brazil), Michèle Artigue (France), Luis Radford (Guatemala–Canada), Salvador Llinares (Spain), Patrick Scott (USA), and Eduardo Mancera (Mexico).

Fourteen additional invited speakers from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, the United States, and Venezuela made significant contributions to the scientific program. The Proceedings can be downloaded at <http://i.cemacyc.org>.

This event was the main result of the Mathematics Education Network for Central America and the Caribbean (<http://www.redumate.org>), created on August of 2012 in Costa Rica during the international school-seminary *Building Competencies in Mathematics and Mathematics Education*. That initiative was part of the *Capacity and Networking Project* sponsored by the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (a commission of the International Mathemat-



Tribute to Dr. Eduardo Luna in opening ceremony of the First Congress on Mathematics Education for Central America and the Caribbean

ical Union), the main project for developing countries pioneered by this organization (<http://www.mathunion.org/icmi/other-activities/outreach-to-developing-countries/canp-project>).

The congress also had the support of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction, the Inter American Committee of Mathematics Education, and the University of Costa Rica. The sponsors in the Dominican Republic were the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, Ministerio de Educación, Ministerio de Educación Superior, and Instituto Nacional de Formación y Capacitación de Maestros.

The congress was organized by the International Scientific Committee, based in Costa Rica, and the local Organizing Committee made up of scholars from several institutions in the Dominican Republic. This was a truly international activity.

The event had a powerful impact in the Dominican math education community, evidenced by the hundreds of participating educators from every level, researchers, school principals, regional and national consultants, as well as ample press coverage. The chancellors of the host institutions also participated, as well as high officials from the Ministry of Education.

On November 5, 2013, the Network held its General Assembly with 28 participants from inside and outside of the region. This important assembly recognized the great work carried out in less than 14 months: dissemination and projection in several countries, development of working groups, creation and publication of national reports, building a virtual community, and organizing the congress. Furthermore, the Assembly made the following decisions for its future activities:



Participants in the General Assembly of the *Mathematics Education Network for Central America and the Caribbean*

1. Broaden the Network by attracting new members from more countries in the region.
2. Promote an active and inclusive participation in the Network's virtual community by favoring better incorporation, fostering the discussion of national reports, creating newsletters showing the work of the Network's members, and by posting downloadable documents and courses for the public.
3. Celebrate the second Mathematics Education Congress for Central America and the Caribbean in Cali, Colombia in 2017.
4. Accept the invitation of the Inter American Committee of Mathematics Education's Executive Committee to participate as a special guest in the scientific program of the XIV Inter American Conference on Mathematics Education to be held in Chiapas, Mexico on May 3-7, 2015 (<http://xiv.ciaem-iacme.org>).
5. Write executive summaries of the national reports about the training of math teachers in Venezuela, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica that were published in November in the Costa Rican journal *Cuadernos de Investigación y Formación en Educación Matemática* (<http://revistas.ucr.ac.cr/index.php/cifem>).

To guide its activities, the Network created two international bodies:

International Advisory Council:

- Carlos Sánchez (Cuba)
- Claudia Lisete Groenwald (Brazil)
- Eduardo Mancera (Mexico)
- José Chamoso (Spain)

- Luis Carlos Arboleda (Colombia)
- Manuel de León (Spain)
- Patrick Scott (United States)
- Salvador Llinares (Spain)

International Board of Directors:

- Venezuela Coordinator: Nelly León
- Colombia Coordinator: Edgar Guacaneme
- Dominican Republic Coordinator: Sarah González
- Costa Rica Coordinator: Yuri Morales
- Puerto Rico Coordinator: Héctor Rosario
- Cuba Coordinator: Rita Roldán
- Virtual Community Administrators: Ivanovvna Cruz (Dominican Republic) and Alexa Ramírez (Costa Rica)
- President of the Local Organizing Committee for II CEMACYC: Evelio Bedoya (Colombia)
- Director-general: Angel Ruiz (Costa Rica)

Contact

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