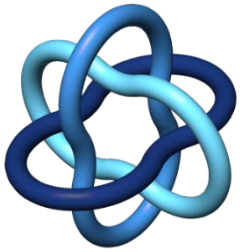
INAUGURATION

OF THE
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL UNION



February 1, 2011, Berlin, Germany

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:

Professor Dr. Martin Grötschel, Dr. Georg Schütte, Professor Dr. Ingrid Daubechies, Dr. Knut Nevermann, Professor Dr. Jürgen Sprekels (from left to right), and Gauss on the wall.

Contents

The IMU and Berlin 3

Where to find the IMU Secretariat 4

Adresses delivered at the Opening Ceremony 5

Dr. Georg Schütte,
State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research 5

Professor Dr. Jürgen Zöllner, Senator for Education, Science and Research of the State of Berlin, speech read by Dr. Knut Nevermann,
State Secretary for Science and Research at the Berlin Senate 8

Professor Dr. Ingrid Daubechies, President of the International Mathematical Union 10

Professor Dr. Christian Bär, President of the German Mathematical Society (DMV) 12

Professor Dr. Jürgen Sprekels, Director of the Weierstrass Institute, Berlin 13

The Team of the Permanent Secretariat 16

Impressions from the Opening Ceremony 18

About the IMU 19

Impressum 20

The IMU and Berlin

On January 1, 2011, the International Mathematical Union (IMU) opened its permanent secretariat in Berlin. It is located at Markgrafenstr. 32, 10117 Berlin, Germany and is hosted by the Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics (WIAS), an institute of the Leibniz Association, with about 120 scientists engaging in mathematical research applied to complex problems in industry and commerce. The formal opening ceremony was held on February 1, 2011. IMU President Professor Ingrid Daubechies of Duke University (USA) together with Dr. Georg Schütte, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), and Dr. Knut Nevermann, State Secretary, Berlin Senate for Education, Science and Research jointly cut a blue ribbon and inaugurated the IMU office.

It is for the first time in its almost 100 years history that IMU has set up a permanent secretariat. The decision to install a permanent office was made at the 16th meeting of the IMU General Assembly in August 2010 in Bangalore, India. The GA delegates also voted to locate the permanent secretariat in Berlin, thus ending a competitive multi-stage selection procedure.

The BMBF and the Berlin Senate support the secretariat with about half a million euros per year. The staff of the secretariat is composed of five persons, headed by Professor Alexander Mielke, deputy director of WIAS.

Under the supervision of the IMU Executive Committee, the secretariat runs IMU's daily business, such as finances and membership handling, and provides support for many IMU operations, including administrative assistance for the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) and the Commission for Developing Countries (CDC). The new secretariat also hosts the IMU archive.

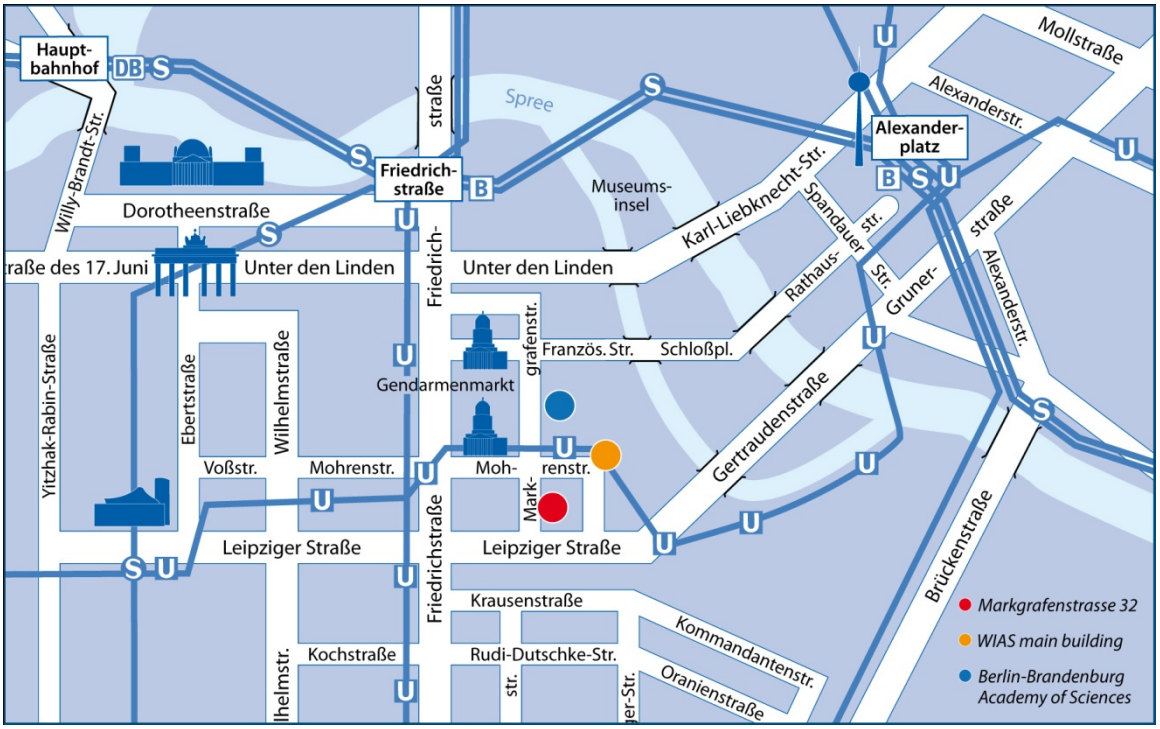
Berlin has been a center of mathematical studies for centuries. Giants of our field such as Euler and Weierstrass who have spent the major part of their active research life in Berlin have established a tradition of mathematical excellence. Today, Berlin has three large universities (FU, HU, TU) with very active mathematical faculties as well as renowned research institutes such as the WIAS and the ZIB (Zuse Institute Berlin). These five institutions jointly run two internationally visible centers of excellence of the German Research Foundation (DFG): MATHEON (the DFG Research Center Mathematics for key technologies) and the Berlin Mathematical School (BMS). The city is home to more than 3,000 students of mathematics and around 80 professors of mathematics.

Where to find the IMU Secretariat

In Central Europe

In the heart of the German capital

In the vicinity of governmental buildings, scientific organizations, funding agencies, etc.



IMU Secretariat, Markgrafenstr. 32, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Adresses delivered at the Opening Ceremony

Dr. Georg Schütte,
State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Thank you very much, Professor Grötschel!
Senator Zöllner,
Professor Daubechies,
Professor Bär,
Professor Sprekels,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In his book “Darf ich Zahlen? Geschichten aus der Mathematik” (München, Zürich: Piper Verlag, 2010) Professor Günter M. Ziegler, the Past-President of the Association of German Mathematicians tells the story of the Hungarian mathematician Paul Erdös. Erdös was born in Hungary in 1913. At the age of 21, he left his home country for the United States in 1934. He continued his mathematical training on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, became a well-known researcher, but finally left Princeton in disgrace and started to travel the world. Ziegler writes: “His belongings fit in one suitcase. Erdös travelled only with light luggage. Despite being omnipresent all over the world, he published more than 1,500 articles with more than 500 co-authors.” (Ziegler, 2010, p. 218; translation by the author.)

Reading this story about a world-travelling mathematician, my question is: Why are we here at all? Do we have anything to celebrate? Mathematicians, as we just learned, neither need a home nor an office!

In 1904, for the first time the International Congress of Mathematicians took place in Germany (in Heidelberg, to be precise), Kaiser Wilhelm II and the Grand Duke of Baden provided financial support. Since then, the Congress has only been held in Germany once again – in Berlin in 1998. This time, the main sponsors were not the Kaiser and the Grand Duke, but the Federal Republic of Germany and the state of Berlin.

Between these two events, you find the dark side of the 20th Century during which Berlin was the historical focal point several times: In this city you can find landmarks of the horrors of two World Wars for which Germany was responsible. But you can also find inscriptions of the joy of German unification which marked the end of the Cold War here

in this city. It is a history that brought about the complicated paths of life as we can detect them in Paul Erdös's life.

Germany is now applying to host the 13th International Congress on Mathematical Education – ICME 2016. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research explicitly supports this application of the University of Hamburg. After all, a modern mathematical education is an important prerequisite for well-qualified young people around the world.

One central goal of mathematics teaching is to show young people how fascinating and useful mathematics can be. This was also the reason why the German Federal Government declared 2008 the "Year of Mathematics". During the Year of Mathematics, more than 700 regional and cross-regional events, exhibitions, competitions and science festivals were organized across Germany in cooperation with numerous organizations – particularly the German Mathematical Society and its president at the time, Professor Ziegler. The effects are still noticeable today. The standing of mathematics has improved significantly as a result. However, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research also wants to support the discipline itself and enhance its benefits for businesses. To this end, a funding programme entitled "Mathematics for innovations in industry and services" has been in place since 1993.

One of the goals during the current funding period is to integrate mathematics into the Federal Government's High-Tech Strategy. This strategy aims to intensify the cooperation between science and industry and continue to improve the general conditions for innovation. The Federal Government is aware that the role of mathematics in innovation and business is growing and that mathematical methods are becoming increasingly important when it comes to solving practical problems. Germany is already in an excellent position to intensify the practical application of mathematics, but we should not rest on our laurels. Instead, we plan to actively initiate a strategic dialogue about the direction in which mathematics should develop and the areas in which there is societal demand. In November last year mathematicians and industry representatives engaged in discussions with the aim of developing instruments and structures designed to link mathematics more closely and more deliberately to practical application and increase its visibility. One key result of this discussion was the realization that the performance of modern mathematics needs to be improved by increasing the links among the various mathematical disciplines and between mathematics and other sciences.

By supporting the activities of the International Mathematical Union, the Federal Government hopes to contribute to this networking process on a global level. This brings me to the central point of today's event, the establishment of a Permanent IMU Secretariat here in Berlin. Many German mathematicians have had close ties to the International Mathematical Union and its activities and been Members of the IMU Executive Committee and other IMU bodies. As far as I am aware, the most important contribution to appear in the Proceedings of the International Congresses of Mathematicians to date was the article by David Hilbert on 23 unsolved problems in mathematics, which was published in 1900. Hilbert's contribution significantly

influenced the course of mathematics in the 20th century. The International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI), which is now part of the IMU, was actually founded before the IMU. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Professor William Barton, the President of IMU's International Commission on Mathematical Instruction. ICMI celebrated its 100th birthday in Rome in 2008. Felix Klein, who was not only an important mathematician, but also an important mathematics organizer in Germany, was honoured on that occasion as one of the initiators of ICMI. As you can see, German mathematicians were involved in the IMU from the very beginning and worked hard to promote its goals.

I have told you about the Federal Government's efforts to support mathematics and raise its profile. The IMU has been facing up to this challenge for many years. In particular, it promotes international cooperation in all areas of mathematics. In this way, the goals of the IMU are in line with the Federal Government's plans. The Federal Government was happy to provide active support for the application of mathematicians from Berlin and Germany to establish the IMU Secretariat, because we see this as an excellent instrument for promoting mathematics. At the same time, we hope that the additional activities will have the positive effect of increasing awareness of mathematics and its relevance, improving the global networking of German mathematicians, and helping Berlin in particular to acquire international appeal in the field of mathematics.

Germany places great value on mathematics and recognizes the enormous potential of this discipline. That is why it was so important to my Ministry to provide financial support for the establishment of a Permanent IMU Secretariat.

The IMU now has close ties to Berlin and to Germany. As a country with a strong scientific tradition, we are particularly pleased that so many people from across the world came to this opening event.

The Committee for Developing Countries had its first meeting here in Berlin in the last two days and planned its activities for the next four years. I would like to welcome Professor José-Antonio de la Peña, the President of IMU's Commission for Developing Countries. Mr. de la Peña, your commission and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research have a joint goal: We want to create worldwide networks in mathematics and contribute to mathematical advances. After all, progress in mathematics means progress in all areas. The Federal Ministry is currently investigating the possibility supporting the establishment of an African Institute for Mathematical Science in Senegal. I look forward to a global dialogue on the subject of mathematics.

In closing let me come back to my question from the very beginning: Does mathematics need a place, an office, a single location? The first answer derived from the brief description of Paul Erdös's life could have been: no! But let us take a closer look at Günter Ziegler's account. Where and how did he, the author and colleague, interact with Erdös? Well, of course they met. Of course there were locations where the dialogue took place – be it a "Kaffeehaus" or a private apartment.

Therefore, I encourage the IMU Secretariat to combine the best of all: Be a meeting physical place for mathematicians and be the hub of the global world of mathematicians. I wish the IMU Secretariat a good start here in Berlin and many constructive and successful activities in the future.

Professor Dr. Jürgen Zöllner,
Senator for Education, Science and Research of the State of Berlin,
speech read by Dr. Knut Nevermann,
State Secretary for Science and Research at the Berlin Senate

Sehr geehrter Herr Staatssekretär Dr. Schütte,
Dear Professor Daubechies,
Dear Professor Grötschel,
Dear Professor Bär,
Dear Professor Sprekels,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Guests!

I have the pleasure to welcome you in the name of the Governing Mayor Klaus Wowereit and of the Senate of Berlin. I am delighted that you have chosen the German capital to become the host of the first permanent secretariat of the International Mathematical Union IMU in its ninety-year history. Berlin is not only a renowned centre of culture and arts, but also a stronghold of science and research. This is witnessed by a great number of universities and of research institutions of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, the Leibniz Association, the Max-Planck Society and the Helmholtz Association.

We are here in the very heart of Berlin, in the old Berlin Friedrichstadt, a place of historical importance, in particular, for mathematics. Great names left their traces here. Just a few meters away from here, at the corner of Jägerstraße and Markgrafenstraße, the mathematician and philosopher Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz founded in 1700 the “Kurfürstlich Brandenburgische Societät der Wissenschaften”. Nowadays, it is the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, the third oldest academy in Europe.

Another outstanding mathematician who had a forming influence on science in Berlin for twenty-five years is Leonhard Euler, the most productive mathematician of the eighteenth century. Euler lived approximately 800 meters away from here in the Behrenstraße. Among other things, he functioned as the Secretary of the mathematical class of the

academy, which in the meantime had been renamed “Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences”.

Let me also mention the important mathematician Carl Gustav Jacobi, a native Potsdamer, who studied in Berlin, held lectures at the Berlin University, and did research from 1844 until his death in 1851 at the Prussian Academy of Sciences. Many mathematical objects are named after him, such as the Jacobian matrix, the Jacobi polynomials, and the Jacobi eigenvalue algorithm.

In addition to these researchers, further famous mathematicians from Berlin have paved the way for science, for instance, Eduard Kummer, Leopold Kronecker, Karl Weierstraß, or Johann Heinrich Lambert, who was the first to prove that *Pi* is an irrational number. This list could easily be continued. It witnesses the important role that mathematics has always played in Berlin.

But not only the merits from former times are impressive. From Berlin, many results of research originated the applications of which are parts of everyday life nowadays. As the Senator for Education, Science, and Research, I am very proud of these achievements of mathematics. And this is no accident: in fact, besides the excellent mathematical departments of Free University, Humboldt University, and Technische Universität, there are four graduate colleges, the DFG Research Center MATHEON, the Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics, the Zuse Institute Berlin, and the common graduate college of the universities of Berlin, the “Berlin Mathematical School”, which coordinate the mathematical competence of our city in a special way.

As an active place of research, with the broad expertise of its mathematicians, and with its good studying and working conditions, Berlin is very attractive for top researchers and talented young scientists from all over the world. There are more than 3000 students and 80 professors of mathematics in the city. Here, remarkable scientists are doing their research and teaching, such as the professors Grötschel, Ziegler, Mehrmann, and Mielke, to name just a few. Professor Mehrmann and Professor Mielke received in 2010 ERC grants of the European Research Council. Altogether, five ERC grants have been granted to mathematicians from Berlin since 2007 - a convincing proof for the competitiveness and excellence of science in this city. Dear Professor Daubechies, the IMU can fall back on a strong scientific potential in practically the direct vicinity!

As you know, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am not only responsible for the universities and research institutions of Berlin, but also for school education. I therefore want to emphasize one of the IMU’s commissions: the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction, which has made mathematical education its business. The President of ICMI, Professor Barton, and its Secretary General, Professor Carvalho e Silva, are here with us today. It has always been Berlin’s endeavor to improve the performance of education on all scales and to establish highest standards in every respect. In this regard, I see another benefit for our city, and I would be delighted about

cooperation with the international mathematical community on the improvement of school education in mathematics.

Let me assure you: Berlin and its Senate are extremely pleased that our bid for the Permanent IMU Secretariat, which was made jointly with the Weierstrass Institute and the German Mathematical Society, turned out to be successful for our city.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are very grateful for your decision for Berlin!

Politics in Berlin is taking mathematics very seriously! Indeed, Berlin does not only participate in the joint basic financing of the IMU Secretariat, but also the Einstein Foundation, which was founded by the Senate two years ago, provides an amount of approximately one million Euros in order to strengthen the worldwide integration of Berlin's mathematicians and to support various IMU activities such as those of the IMU Commission for Developing Countries.

Once again, dear IMU representatives: welcome to Berlin! I wish you a good start, every success in the promotion of mathematics all over the world, and a firm establishment in this city.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Professor Dr. Ingrid Daubechies,
President of the International Mathematical Union

Dear Staatssekretär Dr. Schütte,
Dear Staatssekretär Dr. Nevermann,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here for the official opening of the Secretariat of the International Mathematical Union, or IMU.

The IMU is truly what its name states: it brings together (the "union" part) mathematicians from all parts of the world to work, together, for the advancement of mathematics in many aspects.

Yesterday and on Sunday, even *before* the official opening, we held our first committee meetings in the beautiful premises at our brand new permanent Secretariat location. We had come from Costa Rica and Kenya, from South Africa and India, from Mexico, Korea, Vietnam and Cambodia, from Cameroon and Norway, from Thailand and the Philippines, and also from Germany and the US -- if this is not international, then what is?

We had come together to discuss many issues with which our Commission for Developing Countries is grappling. Helping developing countries build up their mathematical communities, and extend and strengthen them, is a matter of great importance to the IMU, and is also close to my own heart.

Represented here today is also another very important pillar of the IMU. Mathematics Education is of crucial importance in today's society, and we are glad to have here, celebrating this opening with all of us, the president of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction, in the person of Bill Barton, who came all the way from New Zealand.

Together, we can make things happen. This is something we all believe, very strongly, and we volunteer our time and our efforts to work out *how* to make them happen.

In recent years, it became clear that in order to work as efficiently as possible, the IMU needed a permanent location for its Secretariat. Several institutions put forward attractive, generous and interesting proposals, each of which would have provided an excellent solution. At the general assembly of the IMU in Bangalore last year, a clear majority of the assembled Delegates chose Berlin.

We are now here for the opening of the permanent Secretariat of the IMU, no longer a dream, but a concrete reality. Berlin is a wonderful choice -- all over the world, Berlin is known as a beautiful and vibrant city, and as mathematicians we know that it also boasts a vibrant and exciting mathematical community.

As president of the IMU, I have been given the privilege of voicing the gratitude we all feel to the Federal government of Germany, and to the City and Land of Berlin for your generous help to the IMU.

Thank you!

I promise you that together, we will make things happen.

Professor Dr. Christian Bär,
President of the German Mathematical Society (DMV)

Sehr geehrte Herren Staatssekretäre,
Mrs. President of the IMU,
Mr. Secretary of the IMU,
Dear presidents, vice-presidents, directors, representatives of the international mathematical community, Ladies and Gentlemen!

The German Mathematical Society celebrated its 120th anniversary last year. Its first president in 1890 was Georg Cantor, the founder of set theory. From the founding years of the German Mathematical Society up to the first third of the 20th century, mathematics in Germany was leading internationally. Among the presidents of our Society in this period were Felix Klein, Alexander Wilhelm von Brill, Max Noether, David Hilbert, Alfred Pringsheim, Friedrich Engel, Kurt Hensel, Edmund Landau, Erich Hecke, Otto Blumenthal, and Hermann Weyl.

Many of these famous mathematicians were prosecuted or forced into emigration during the Nazi times. The scientific culture was destroyed, not only in mathematics. After this darkest period for Germany and its mathematicians it took this country and this discipline a long time to recover. German division after the war didn't make things easier. Collaboration of mathematicians from the two parts of Berlin was very difficult.

I am glad – and a little bit proud – that mathematics in Germany and in Berlin has risen like a phoenix from the ashes. We now have two Max Planck Institutes for Mathematics, one in Bonn and one in Leipzig, and we have the mathematical research institute in Oberwolfach where over two thousand international top mathematicians gather every year. In Berlin we have the „Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics“ which will host the IMU Secretariat. We have the „Zuse Institute“, a research institute for applied mathematics and computer science, and the MATHEON, a Research Center funded by the German Science Foundation targeting „Mathematics for key techologies“. The Berlin Mathematical School, a graduate school for the brightest in mathematics worldwide, was started in 2006. Three universities in Berlin and one in Potsdam with their dynamic departments for mathematics complete this unique constellation.

Partly as a result of this development, the International Congress of Mathematicians returned to Germany in 1998 after an intermission of 94 years. With the Year of Mathematics in Germany in 2008, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and

the German Mathematical Society made – together with further partners - mathematics popular in public. The positive effects in the media, in schools, in universities sustain up to today.

I am convinced that the Permanent IMU Secretariat is here at the right place and at the right time. I thank the German and the Berlin government for providing us with the financial means to seize the occasion. Mathematicians in the Berlin region and the German Mathematical Society will do everything to support the IMU wherever possible. I am confident that the representatives of the IMU will enjoy working in the colorful and open minded city of Berlin. I am looking forward to a fruitful exchange of ideas between the German mathematicians and the IMU.

The German Mathematical Society, and me personally – wish the Permanent IMU Secretariat all its best here in Berlin!

Thank you!

Professor Dr. Jürgen Sprekels,
Director of the Weierstrass Institute, Berlin

Sehr geehrter Herr Staatssekretär,
Sehr geehrter Herr Senator,
Mrs. President of the IMU,
Mr. Secretary of the IMU,
Mr. President of the German Mathematical Society,
Dear Presidents, vice-presidents, directors, representatives of the international mathematical community,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

This is a truly remarkable event for the Weierstrass Institute. After more than two years of intense preparatory work, the IMU opens its Permanent Secretariat at WIAS today. Let us take a look back. Just twenty-two years ago, WIAS was the Institute of Mathematics of the Academy of Sciences of the former GDR, separated by the iron curtain from its sister institutions in Berlin. Then, in November 1989, the “Wind of Change” came, and the Berlin Wall fell. Ever since, WIAS, and mathematics in Berlin in general, have developed tremendously, culminating in today’s event. To be frank: we are very proud of having the honor of hosting the Permanent Secretariat of the IMU, and we thank the IMU for

entrusting us with this all-important task. Let me repeat what I promised the international mathematical community a few months ago in India: we will do our very best to serve you!

Let me say a few words about Karl Weierstrass. He was born in 1815 and started his career in 1842 as a high-school teacher in Eastern Prussia. After his groundbreaking results on abelian functions, he got an honorary doctoral degree by the University of Königsberg in 1854. From 1856 until his death in 1897, he was a professor at the Berlin University, which is named Humboldt University today.

Beyond doubt, he was one of the most influential mathematicians of his time, and still today every student of mathematics learns the concepts of his fundamental contributions to analysis, function theory, differential geometry, and the calculus of variations. His famous "epsilon-delta" definition of continuity is even taught in high-school mathematics. I, personally, had the fun of learning it in grade 11.

During the era of Weierstrass, the Berlin University was a world-wide leading center for mathematical research. From this point of view, the IMU's decision to take its official seat at the institute carrying his name has also a historical dimension. I am sure that also Karl Weierstrass himself would have been very proud of it.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this event is also an occasion to thank those who made it possible. We are very grateful to the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and to the Senate of Berlin for their continuing support for mathematics in general and, in particular, for their generous funding of the Permanent IMU Secretariat.

Herr Staatssekretär, Herr Senator, I dare say that this money is well spent indeed!

We also received much support from several German institutions: let me mention the German Science Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Einstein Foundation Berlin, the Deutsche Telekom Foundation, the Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft, and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. All of these agencies made a pledge to help the Permanent IMU Secretariat in the future, and I should not forget to welcome their representatives today. We are looking forward to cooperating with you! We are also grateful for the perfect cooperation and the enthusiastic support coming from the German Mathematical Society and from the entire mathematical community of Berlin. Finally, let me express my thanks to the Leibniz Association to which WIAS belongs and which is represented today by two of its vice-presidents.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Permanent IMU Secretariat is now opened, its staff hired. From now on, Alexander Mielke and his eager crew, and the entire Weierstrass Institute, will work hard to meet the expectations of the international mathematical community. We are looking forward to facing this challenge. So let us get moving!

Thank you very much for your attention!

Opening Ceremony:

Professor Dr. Jürgen Sprekels, Professor Dr. Martin Grötschel, Professor Dr. Ingrid Daubechies, Dr. Georg Schütte, Dr. Knut Nevermann, (from left to right).

The Team of the Permanent Secretariat

The team of the permanent IMU secretariat:

Lena Koch, Sylwia Markwardt, Anita Orlowsky, Martin Grötschel, Birgit Seeliger, Holger Kalweit, Alexander Mielke (from left to right).

Martin Grötschel, IMU Secretary
Professor at TU Berlin and Vice President of ZIB, member of the IMU Executive Committee 1999-2014 and IMU Secretary 2007-2014. His responsibilities as IMU Secretary include keeping records of the IMU membership, recording the business of the IMU, including EC and GA meetings, producing the IMU Bulletin and supervising the activities of the IMU secretariat in general.

Alexander Mielke, Head of IMU secretariat and IMU Treasurer
Professor at HU Berlin and Deputy Director of WIAS, appointed as IMU Treasurer 2011-2014 by the IMU Executive Committee. In his function as the head of the secretariat he assumes the personnel responsibility for the staff, as IMU treasurer he is responsible for all financial aspects, including collecting dues, financial reports and drafting the budget.

Sylwia Markwardt, Manager of IMU secretariat
Sylwia's responsibilities include to head and supervise all administrative operations of the secretariat and actively participate in the implementation of the decisions and duties of the IMU Executive Committee and the IMU General Assembly in cooperation with the IMU Secretary, communicate with the IMU member countries, draft written materials, write minutes and reports, supervise the IMU Web site, steer and control the secretariat's business operations and IMU finance, monitor deadlines.

Lena Koch, ICMI/CDC Administrator
Lena is primarily responsible for supporting the activities of the Commission for Developing Countries (CDC) and the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) administratively. She is, in particular, in charge of promoting the work of both commissions, managing their Web presence including public relations and communication, handling grant applications, supporting the Volunteer Lecturing Program as well as other programs in developing countries.

Anita Orlowsky, IMU Accountant
Anita is, under the supervision of the IMU Treasurer, in charge of executing the financial decisions of IMU which includes the budget management of the IMU secretariat, application for and supervision of third-party funds, handling membership dues, all financial aspects of grants and administering expense reimbursements.

Holger Kalweit, IT Administrator
Holger is responsible for running the IT operations of the IMU secretariat. This includes taking care of running the hardware and software infrastructure, in particular, the IMU server and mailing lists and planning the extension of IMU's IT services for its members, commissions and committees.

Birgit Seeliger, IMU Archivist
Birgit is responsible for the IMU archive which has moved from Helsinki University to Berlin in May 2011. She is in charge of developing a strategy for preserving and making accessible paper documents, photos, pictures, and IMU artifacts and supports IMU's decision process concerning the electronic archiving of IMU's steadily increasing amount of digital documents.

Impressions from the Opening Ceremony

More pictures at:
http://www.wias-berlin.de/imu/fotos/

Public Relations URLs:

http://www.berlin.de/pressemitteilungen/archiv/index/article/view/61317 (in German)
http://www.bmbf.de/press/3038.php (in German)
http://www.tagesspiegel.de/wissen/hauptstadt-der-mathematik/3788532.html (in German)
http://www.elpais.com/articulo/sociedad/Union/Matematica/Internacional/inaugura/primera/sede/permanente/Berlin/elpepusoccie/20110201elpepusoc_14/Tes (in Spanish)
http://www.mathunion.org/fileadmin/IMU/PressRelease/SecretariatInauguration/Pressespiegel.pdf

About the IMU

The International Mathematical Union is a non-governmental and non-profit scientific organization devoted to promoting the development of mathematics across the world. IMU is a member of the International Council for Science – ICSU.

The objectives of the International Mathematical Union are:

- To promote international cooperation in mathematics.
- To decide on the location and assist the organization of the International Congress of Mathematicians that takes place every four years.
- To support other international scientific meetings or conferences.
- To acknowledge outstanding research contributions to mathematics by awarding scientific prizes.
- To encourage and support other international mathematical activities considered likely to contribute to the development of mathematical science in any of its aspects, pure, applied, or educational.

IMU was founded in 1920 and reborn after World War II in 1951. Detailed information about IMU, its history, and its activities (ICMs, prizes, membership, publications, executive committee and other committees and commissions) can be found at IMU's website:

http://www.mathunion.org

and in condensed form at:

http://www.mathunion.org/fileadmin/IMU/ICM2010/hyderabad_booklet.pdf

A valuable history source is the book by Olli Lehto, Mathematics Without Borders: A History of the International Mathematical Union, Springer-Verlag, 1998.

Impressum

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Pages 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18 (left top, left middle, right middle) Kay Herschelmann (courtesy of WIAS);
Pages 16, 18 (left bottom, right top, right bottom) Lothar M. Peter (courtesy of Forschungsverbund Berlin e.V.).