



Newsletter

International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education

Message from PME President Barbara Jaworski

Dear Colleagues in PME

Our 2016 conference is almost here!

Our hosts in Szeged (Hungary) are making the last preparations to receive us all in only a few weeks' time. Since I have been there twice in planning for the conference, I can tell you that Szeged is a delightful small town with a stunning cathedral. I think we will all enjoy it very much. Most of the hotels are close to the University buildings where all our sessions will take place.

(continued on page 2)

Inside this issue

PME International Committee Reports	3
PME 40: AGM Agenda	9
A call for IC nominations	10
Pre-submission support	11
Announcements	12



Message from the Editors

Welcome to our July 2016 Newsletter!

In this issue outgoing president Barbara Jaworski provides a new insight into the PME 40 conference in Szeged (Hungary) and encourages to think about becoming an IC member. In addition, this newsletter provides updates from the PME Portfolio Groups. Further, we are delighted that we can finally publish the agenda for the Annual Grand Meeting (AGM) which will take place at our PME 40 conference.

Enjoy reading the Newsletter! Take care.

Keith Jones (d.k.jones@soton.ac.uk) and Maike Vollstedt (vollstedt@math.uni-bremen.de)

Message from PME President Barbara Jaworski (continued)



As you probably know already, this is PME's 40th year. In these 40 years we have come quite some way in establishing our research community in Mathematics Education, and indeed establishing PME as our leading research conference. The systems and processes within PME are now at a far higher level of sophistication than when I was on the IC in 1990-4. This demands a dedicated and functional International Committee (IC). Following this letter from me, you will find some details of this IC and how you might become a member. We seek members at all levels of experience and particularly invite newer researchers to think of standing for a place in the IC.

At our conference this year we will celebrate our 40 years. At the opening ceremony we will reflect on 40 years of experience in PME conferences and on research in PME. The latter will take the form of a launch of our new Handbook in which we celebrate another decade of PME research. Editors Angel Gutierrez, Gilah Leder and Paolo Boero analysed the research reports and other documents from 10

years of PME, identified the key areas of research and invited authors, who had presented at PME in these areas, to survey this research. I hope you will purchase your own copy from Sense and enjoy this compendium.

The conference this year will encompass all the familiar kinds of sessions and engage upwards of 450 PME members. It will be preceded for the third time by an Early Researchers' Day (ERD) for which there has been a keen interest. We hope to establish this ERD as a regular event at each future PME. This will come to a vote at our AGM, which we hope you will attend. The AGM is where the official business of PME happens, with the IC bringing motions to the vote of the membership. We shall have a number of motions this year which will affect the smooth running of PME in the future as well as introduce new ideas and challenges.

As well as voting for new IC members at our AGM, this year you will have an opportunity to vote for a new President. My three-year term is shortly to come to an end. It has been a pleasure to serve PME and to see its growth over my three years. The future looks very rosy from where we stand now. You might like to think of who can take PME forwards over the next three years and encourage them to stand for election.

Sincere good wishes
Barbara

Barbara Jaworski
PME President 2013-2016

PME International Committee Report

The Vice-President's Portfolio Group (VPPG)

Wim Van Dooren, Belgium (Vice-President); Csaba Csikos (Hungary); Cris Edmonds-Wathen (Sweden); Mellony Graven (South Africa); Masakazu Okazaki, (Japan)



The focus of the Vice-President's Portfolio subgroup (VPPG) of the IC is the scientific activity of PME. Since August 2015, the VPPG has been working on several topics that were carried over from the previous years, and some new ones. Rather than listing all aspects that the VPPG continues to work on, we are elaborating a few issues that may be of direct interest to the PME members.

Early Researchers' Day

The past two PME conferences have been preceded by an Early Researchers' Day, an event which aimed at researchers at the end of their doctoral phase or the beginning of their postdoctoral career, in order to develop research skills, establish new contacts and build up scientific networks, and carry this network already into the forthcoming PME conference. The Early Researchers' Day precedes the annual conference, and has approximately 50 participants. Currently, a new edition of the ERD is being organized to precede the PME40 conference in Szeged. The programme is currently getting in shape and registration is open. The IC has appointed Stefan Ufer to be a PME representative. The local representative is Zsolt Lavicza. More information is available through the PME 40 website. The International Committee is currently also working towards a proposal to make the organization of an Early Researchers' Day part of the policy for future PME conferences.

Presentation formats

In the past years, we have worked on improving the descriptions of the various presentation formats (Research Reports, Oral Communications, Poster Presentations), including the main guidelines and processes for submission of a proposal for this presentation format. Currently, we are working further on the descriptions of some of the group presentation formats (Research Forum, Discussion Group, Working Session), with the goal to have more precise descriptions that delineate the differences between them.

A format that we are currently reconsidering is the Plenary Panel. At the PME 39 conference in Hobart, this panel was run in a different manner, namely as an 'Oxford-style' debate, in which two groups of opponents – under the strict supervision and moderation of a chairperson – debated over a controversial statement. Based on the various positive reactions from the audience at this debate, we have decided to

The Vice-President's Portfolio Group (PPG) Report (continued)

try out this new format again at the PME 40 conference. The controversial statement that is the focus of this year's debate is "It is impossible to teach mathematical problem solving". If also this experience is successful, we may consider changing the Plenary Panel format for future conferences.

Regional conferences

The VPPG has raised the idea to start a new initiative on behalf of PME, with the aim to provide support to researchers from regions which are currently under-represented within PME in order to organize a conference in their region with the aim to support the development of a regional research community that pursues the goals of PME (network building), to attract researchers from the region to future PME conferences (international networking) and support them in preparing high quality PME contributions. Based on the valuable feedback that we received during the Annual General Meeting at the PME 39 conference, we are currently working out a concrete proposal to the PME membership at the AGM.

Pre-submission support

When novice or inexperienced researchers have limited access to expert advice and wish to submit a Research Report or Oral Communication

to PME, they can receive guidance from more experienced PME researchers. PME has a pre-submission support procedure for this, the details of which can be found at the PME website. We have appointed a new co-ordinator for this pre-submission support, namely David Wagner. We are very grateful to David for willing to take on this important task!

Handling conference bids

Forthcoming PME conferences take place in:

- Singapore (2017)
- Umeå (2018)

Over the past year, we have been working with candidates to host the conferences for 2019 and 2020. Anyone who is considering to host a PME conference in the coming years is kindly requested to contact the vice president (wim.vandooren@kuleuven.be) or the PME administrative manager (info@ig-pme.org) in order to receive more information and the guidelines on how to place a bid.

Wim Van Dooren, on behalf of the VPPG



Mathematics Education:
How to solve it?

Policy Portfolio Group (PPG) Report

Submitted by Anke Lindmeier (Germany)

The Policy Portfolio Group (formerly known as President's Portfolio Group) works on issues of internal and external affairs, such as policy and membership. For the year 2015-16, the members are Kim Beswick (Australia), Marta Civil (USA), David M. Gomez (Chile), Anke Lindmeier (Germany, leader of the PPG). Besides taking care of the ongoing tasks, the PPG addressed several open topics and worked towards solutions. As a result, important policy documents were prepared and should be ready for presentation or approval, respectively, at the PME 2016 AGM in Szeged.

Ongoing Tasks

The PPG is responsible for collecting and keeping track of the official IGPME policies. Moreover, we maintain documents that are important for the work of the IC, e.g., an overview of decisions and discussions made over time.

Policies on Sponsorship and Early Researchers Day finalized

The PPG prepared two new policies during the past year, both of which were voted on by the IC and are now ready for presentation at the AGM. Both policies were addressed in the last newsletter, hence I only give a very brief summary here. The policy on sponsorship was developed to address the lack of a clear guideline on PME sponsorship practices. The new policy supports our conference organizers in providing a clear framework and should help to maintain good sponsoring practice. At this point I want to stress, however, that there were no issues arising recently in respect to sponsoring. The ERD, a two-day workshop for early career researchers ahead of the PME conference, is going to take place for the third time this year. So far it was



seen as a pilot. In order to institutionalize the ERD, it is however necessary to have clear guidelines on its goals, the responsibilities, and organizational as well as financial issues. To ensure the quality of the ERD and enable the evidence-based re-design in years to come, the policy also clarifies the need for a corresponding evaluation. Therefore, we are now prepared to continue the offer of professional development for our early career researchers.

Surplus policy

The third policy we were working on is one that should enable us to spend our surplus reasonably quickly, yet in a just and maximally effective way for fostering the aims and goals of our organization. IGPME acts very thoughtfully on financial issues, fully aware that IGPME money belongs to the IGPME members and is handled only in charge by the organization. Due to good conference planning, high numbers of participants, and a strategy to avoid a financial shortfall to the disadvantage of conference organizers, the

Policy Portfolio Group (PPG) Report (continued)

organization is in a healthy situation and holds a certain surplus. The term surplus refers to funds in addition to a reserve fund sufficient to cover the annual conference and operations for the year. As discussed at the last AGMs and policy meetings, the surplus should be expended in order to further the aims of IGPME. In addition, IGPME strongly values inclusion and thus activities that foster inclusion at all levels of operation should be considered as favorable for funding from the surplus. Therefore, we prepared a policy that (1) specifies criteria for spending the surplus, (2) gives a framework for the lines of actions to be funded, (3) describes requirements of a spending plan, as well as (4) gives guidelines on the processes that lead to funding decisions. The draft is under discussion in the IC, but we are confident that we can present a document at the AGM that allows us to further the IG PME plans on reduction of the surplus. According to the present state of discussion and provided that the AGM approves the policy, proposals can be handed in by November, 2016, so that – pending positive decisions – we can start funding proposals with the beginning of 2017.

Matters of external affairs – Call for your ideas on that topic!

The PPG group is also seen as being responsible for matters of external affairs of the IGPME. While the field of internal affairs is relatively

clear, the field of external affairs is – at the moment – not well-defined. Of course, we have a close connection to the sister organization of the North American chapter of the PME (PME-NA). However, we know that various regional working groups define their aims relating to the work of IGPME as well, but we do not have systematic information on this and cannot provide information on this ‘hidden’ network to our members. Do you have connections to a regional working group and want to network with other regional working groups? Another area of external affairs is networking on the organizational level. IGPME is, for example, present at the next ICME in Hamburg in form of an invited lecture (Rina Hershkowitz, Israel and Stefan Ufer, Germany on the topic *PME is 40! Four decades of research in PME*) and a 90-minute session as affiliated organization. In the latter, panelists of the last four PMEs will showcase the scientific activities of our organization. We will be happy if PME members participate in this session and represent IGPME. But should we build up more explicit connections to other scientific organizations as well? As you can see, we have a lot of questions and are curious for your thoughts on this topic. What kind of relations do we have – or should we foster – to other scientific organizations or groups? We would be grateful for some input on facts, ideas, wishes, etc. So, please do not hesitate to contact us if you can contribute!

The Secretary Portfolio Group Report

Michal Tabach, Secretary (Israel); Berinderjeet Kaur, (Singapore); Oh Nam Kwon (South Korea); and Stanislaw Schukajlow-Wasjutinski (Germany)

The Secretary Portfolio Group (SPG) is responsible for facilitating communication within PME and for keeping records of all PME activities. This year, Michal was elected again as Secretary of PME, with three more members to complete the group: Oh Nam who was part of this group also during the previous year, and two new members who joined the group – Berinderjeet and Stanislaw. As in the past years, the SPG has been working on various projects throughout the year. Some of them are ongoing and others reflect needs of our community as they arise:

PME Conference Review Process

Two years ago we started to analyze the PME review process, based on responses of Research Report authors on their reviewers' comments. For three years now (based on contributions to PME37, PME38 and PME39) we have analyzed all reviewers' comments and feedback from contributors on how useful these comments were. This has been an informative activity and we will present the main results at PME40 which will hopefully help guide contributors and reviewers in the future. In addition, under the guidance of Anke Lindmeier, a seminar activity took place during PME39 entitled *Reviewing for PME: A primer for (new) reviewers*. This Seminar is one of the group activities which will be offered again during PME40 as an opportunity for members attending the conference.

Access to PME Conference Proceedings

Currently, most past PME conference proceedings are available at the IGPME homepage. As it was the case during the last conferences, PME members will have access to the upcoming



PME40 proceedings as downloadable, searchable PDFs. For this year's conference, printed proceedings have to be actively ordered during the registration process – the default is a PDF version. Nevertheless, the print-on-demand service will be available through lulu.com for members who do not wish to travel with the proceedings. However, this service has differing costs based on where you are located in the world. We appreciate very much feedback on the quality of this service. Due to copyright issues we can only make proceedings prior to 2013 accessible to current PME members. Following of a discussion with the current ICMI Secretary, an organization to which PME is affiliated, PME proceedings from 2013 onwards (except for the current proceedings) are available for any registered member of PME.

Documentation

The SPG is responsible for keeping PME documentations in order. We are engaged with updating these documents as an ongoing effort, producing new documents when necessary, and where possible simplifying them. To make the documentation more accessible to the membership as a whole and to future PME conference organizers, we are under a process of building a Wiki platform on which all needed details will be available, and accessible. Due to some technical requirements this service is not in the advanced state we wished for it to be, but we hope we will be able to speed up our work, soon.

The Secretary Portfolio Group Report (continued)

IGPME Homepage

Our homepage is growing every year. All relevant information about IGPME as an organization and about PME conferences is available there. We keep the homepage up to date and encourage you to use the different channels for communication within the PME community.

IGPME Newsletter

Following a specific request from the current editors of the newsletter, Maike Vollstedt and Keith Jones, we have studied the structure of newsletters from the past few years and we have

prepared a basis for the table of content for each of the two annual newsletters. In fact, the current issue is already guided by this proposal.

New IGPME Ombudsman.

During the last few years, Fou-Lai Lin was acting as IGPME Ombudsman, and we are pleased to say that he had minimal work to do in this important role. We would like to thank Fou-Lai and we will announce the new Ombudsman during PME40.

Treasurer Portfolio Group (TPG) Report

Submitted by Olive Chapman

The Treasurer Portfolio Group responsibilities include: managing the financial transactions of IGPME (e.g., making payments and deposits, responding to financial queries, issuing confirmations), maintaining records, advising on fiscal questions from present and future conference organisers, and preparing annual financial reports. Current members of the TPG are Olive Chapman (Canada), Treasurer of IGPME, Keith Jones (UK) and Kai-Lin Yang (Taiwan). We no longer hold bank accounts in Finland because of changes to the Finnish laws that require us to conduct business in Finland to continue to hold the account there. As of May 2015 all accounts with Nordea Finland were closed and balances transferred to a new account with Barclays Bank, UK. Our International Committee approved that the currency of this account be in British pounds but that financial reports will be in Euros. IGPME continues to be financially strong. The Policy Portfolio Group has been working on a



policy to spend the surplus. We continue to collect information from conference Chairs to determine the minimum amount of money the organization should hold to guaranty covering its normal operating expenses in case of a situation that results in no income in a year and covering conference expenses in case of a “catastrophic event” that leads to an untimely cancellation of a conference. We are reviewing the history of financial policies of IGPME to make suggestions regarding any updates or revision to existing ones and new ones as deemed necessary.

Important votes at the AGM in Szeged: Surplus Policy and Proposal on Regional Conferences

This year, we are happy to present a number of new policies at the AGM. They have been developed over the last years and address important issues that need clear guidelines in order to make the decision processes within our society transparent.

The perhaps most important vote will be the one on the so-called **Surplus Policy**, which is a framing policy that should enable IGPME to responsibly spend the commonly owned surplus over the next years; a mandatory step in becoming a charity organization.

The rationale of this framing surplus policy is the following: It provides "criteria on criteria" for spending the surplus, a framework for the lines of actions to be funded, and determines a few technical issues about the processes that lead to funding decisions.

The surplus policy hence paves the way for *all IGPME members* – be it as individuals or groups – to hand in proposals for actions that fit to the framing surplus policy. Pending on a positive decision, the fundings should be available earliest at the beginning of 2017. An open call for proposals will be issued in autumn, if the AGM approves the surplus policy.

Good to know: A first proposal for an action that fits into the framing surplus policy is also presented at the AGM in Szeged - The **Proposal on Regional Conferences**. It refers to the idea

to actively support groups of mathematics education researchers from less well-represented areas to become part of our scientific community.

As always, you find all necessary information for the AGM and related documents on the IGPME homepage. Please visit also the Path-to-AGM Forum on our webpage (<http://www.igpme.org/index.php/forum/path-to-agm-forum>, only visible for logged-in members of the IGPME) for the full text of the **Surplus Policy** and the **Regional Conference Proposal**.



Cathedral of Szeged

PME 40 - AGM Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of the minutes of 2015 AGM held in Hobart, Tasmania
4. Elections
 - a. President
 - b. New members of the IC
5. Portfolio Groups reports
6. Treasurer report
7. Proposal: President elect
8. Proposal: Policy on the inclusion of the Early Researcher Day
9. Proposal: Policy on spending the IGPME surplus



IGPME Administrative Manager Bettina Roesken-Winter

10. Proposal: Regional conferences
11. Other items
12. Brief report on future conferences



PME 39 in Hobart, Tasmania



A call for IC nominations

The main decisions about PME as an international organization are made by those PME members who attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year during the conference. To run PME over the year, prepare and implement AGM decisions and do most of the everyday work, PME has an International Committee (IC) of 16 elected members. Each year, during the AGM meeting, four new nominees are elected for four years by the members present.

Being a part of the IC is a great opportunity to contribute to PME organization. The IC needs persons who want to bring their knowledge, skills and some of their time to shape PME and help that we keep our scientific community “at the edge”. The work on the IC involves taking part in the IC meetings one day before, some hours during and one day after the PME conferences, and to contribute to the work in one of the four IC portfolio groups over the year:

- The Policy Portfolio group which deals with PME policy issues
- The Vice President’s Portfolio group which is mainly responsible for PME scientific issues
- The Secretary’s Portfolio group which mainly takes care of communication within PME
- The Treasurer’s Portfolio group which is responsible for PME financial affairs

We encourage you to take part and become an influential member in our community. It involves some (sometimes hard) work, but it is also an interesting and gratifying experience.

Here is **how to stand for the IC**: You need to fill in the **application form** at our PME website <http://www.igpme.org/index.php/organization/international-committee> to introduce yourself and your involvement in PME. This form must be **signed by yourself and two researchers** who support your application. You hand this form to the PME Administrative Manager (Bettina Roesken-Winter) at least **24 hours before the start of the AGM**. You and your supporters should **be present at the AGM**, one of your supporters will be asked to introduce you shortly before the election starts. The main restriction for becoming part of the IC is that at most three members from one country are allowed on the IC at any time. A list of all current and past International Committee members can be found under <http://www.igpme.org/index.php/organization/international-committee>. The current IC would be very happy to welcome researchers from all countries, in particular also from countries which are currently not strongly represented within PME.

Consider standing for the IC, we would be happy to welcome you!

As mentioned in the President’s letter above, we also seek a new President in 2016. Please think about who you would like to take on this role and persuade them to stand. Information can be obtained from the Administrative Manager and on the PME website.

*Barbara Jaworski (PME President),
Wim van Dooren (PME Vice President),
Michal Tabach (PME Secretary),
Olive Chapman (Treasurer)*

Pre-submission support

If you are a novice or inexperienced researcher who has limited access to expert advice (e.g., from your university) and who would like to receive guidance in preparing a Research Report or an Oral Communication, you may contact the PME pre-submission support coordinator, David Wagner (Canada), dwagner@unb.ca. The earlier you do this, the better, but no later than November 1 in the year before a conference. David identifies two reasons for PME to provide such support. First, the research community wants to be equitable and support people who cannot access support in their contexts. Second, researchers who are eligible for such support often contribute research from contexts that are under-represented in the literature. We all benefit from research and insight from diverse contexts.



For more details see:

<http://igpme.org/index.php/annual-conference/pre-submission-support>



Singapore (PME 41, 2017)



Umeå (PME 42, 2018)

Announcements

PME Announcements Forum on the PME Website

The IGPME website (www.igpme.org) is the main portal for all communication and information regarding PME. A useful feature for PME members is the Announcements Forum as this is place to post items of information for PME members such as job announcements, conference announcements, and so on. To access the Announcements Forum, please log in with your 'conftool' log-in details. You can then find the forum in the 'Communication' section.

Since the previous PME Newsletter, the following items have been posted on the PME Announcements Forum:

- The KU Leuven offers two positions for PhD students for a research project entitled "Early development and stimulation of core mathematical competencies".
<http://www.igpme.org/index.php/forum/announcement-forum/153-position-for-2-doctoral-researchers-in-leuven>

- The 14th International Conference of the Mathematics Education for the Future Project will be held in Balatonfüred (Hungary) from September 10-15, 2017. The conference title is "Mathematics Education for the next Decade".
<http://www.igpme.org/index.php/forum/announcement-forum/155-hungary-conference>
- The Science and Mathematics Education Center (SMEC) of the American University of Beirut (AUB) invites researchers interested in all aspects of science and mathematics education to participate in and submit proposals to the 1st inter-regional Research Conference on Science and Mathematics Education.
<http://www.igpme.org/index.php/forum/announcement-forum/156-1st-inter-regional-research-conference-on-science>

The screenshot displays the 'Announcement Forum' on the IGPME website. The sidebar on the left contains links for 'Communication', 'PME Newsletter...', 'Path to AGM Forum', 'Announcement Forum', 'Open Discussion', 'Annual Conference', 'Publications', 'Membership', and 'Contact'. The main content area shows the forum header with a description: 'This forum is intended for news from the PME community (job announcements, conference announcements, etc.). Answers to posts are not possible in this forum.' Below the header is a table of topics in the 'Announcement Forum' category.

Topics in Category: Announcement Forum			
0 Replies	1st Inter-regional Research Conference on Science Topic started 12 Jun 2016 20:24 by Bettina Roesken-Winter	7 Views	Last Post by Bettina Roesken-Winter 12 Jun 2016 20:24
0 Replies	Hungary Conference September 2017 Topic started 12 Jun 2016 20:23 by Bettina Roesken-Winter	8 Views	Last Post by Bettina Roesken-Winter 12 Jun 2016 20:23
0 Replies	Hungary Conference September 2017 Topic started 12 Jun 2016 20:18 by Bettina Roesken-Winter	7 Views	Last Post by Bettina Roesken-Winter 12 Jun 2016 20:18
0 Replies	Position for 2 doctoral researchers in Leuven Topic started 06 Jun 2016 20:55 by Wim Van Dooren	11 Views	Last Post by Wim Van Dooren 06 Jun 2016 20:55

Path to AGM Forum on the PME Website

The IGPME website (www.igpme.org) is the main portal for all communication and information regarding PME. To access the Path to AGM Forum, please log in with your 'conftool' log-in details. You can then find the forum in the 'Communication' section.

During the last weeks several proposals have been posted on the Path to AGM Forum:

- A proposal for a policy on spending of the surplus of the IGPME was uploaded to the forum. Please feel free to provide your comments and feedback until July 10, 2016:
<http://www.igpme.org/index.php/forum/path-to-agm-forum/157-proposal-policy-on-spending-of-the-igpme-surplus>

- Another proposal, this time for PME regional conferences, eagerly awaits your comments and feedback until July 10, 2016:

<http://www.igpme.org/index.php/forum/path-to-agm-forum/158-proposal-regional-conferences>

- The last proposal focuses on the inclusion of an Early Researchers' Day as a stable part of PME conferences. There is already a discussion within the forum which awaits your opinion:

<http://www.igpme.org/index.php/forum/path-to-agm-forum/150-proposal-policy-on-the-inclusion-of-erd>

Communication
PME Newsletter...
Path to AGM Forum
Announcement Forum
Open Discussion
Annual Conference
Publications
Membership
Contact
Log out

Logout
Path to AGM Forum
Category Header
This forum is intended for discussions on the "Path to the AGM". Topics for this forum will be added by the Secretary of IGPME or the Administrative Manager. Please contact any IC member to start a "Path to the AGM" topic.
MARK TOPICS READ SUBSCRIBE
Topics in Category: Path to AGM Forum

4 Replies	Proposal: Policy on the inclusion of ERD Topic started 11 May 2016 19:43 by Bettina Roesken-Winter	66 Views	Last Post by Mellony Holm Graven 27 Jun 2016 13:12
0 Replies	Proposal: Regional conferences Topic started 21 Jun 2016 08:00 by Bettina Roesken-Winter	7 Views	Last Post by Bettina Roesken-Winter 21 Jun 2016 08:00
0 Replies	Proposal: Policy on spending of the IGPME surplus Topic started 20 Jun 2016 04:48 by Bettina Roesken-Winter	34 Views	Last Post by Bettina Roesken-Winter 20 Jun 2016 04:48