
Chinese mathematics and the ICCM*

by Lizhen Ji[†]

Introduction

China is big and growing, and Chinese mathematics is also expanding and merging with the world mathematics. Chinese mathematics is a part of the world mathematics but has its distinct features. What is special about the community of Chinese mathematicians? How has Chinese mathematics evolved and interacted with the outside world? How will it impact the future of mathematics and the global mathematics community in the world?

Though these questions are complex due to sizes of mathematics communities and of China and historical reasons, one good way to understand them is to take a look at an organization which represents Chinese mathematicians and their friends and collaborators around the world: the International Congress of Chinese Mathematicians (ICCM).

In this short article, we will take a look at its history, activities and resulting records.

A Glimpse of the History of Chinese Mathematics

China has a long history, and Chinese mathematics also has a long history. China is the unique and only continuing civilization in the world for more than two thousand years. Though Chinese mathematics was directly motivated by applications in astronomy, agriculture and commerce, there were systematic expositions of theories and results developed by Chinese people. The most famous is the book *Nine Chapters on the Mathematical Art*.

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Since mathematics was not emphasized as a subject by itself in China, mathematics developed slowly, and it reached its peak, the Golden Age of Chinese mathematics, in the 13th Century. Unfortunately, Chinese mathematics paused or even declined after that, while the West was moving forward rapidly thanks to the Renaissance, the Age of Enlightenment, and the industrial revolution.

The gap between China and the West was wide at the beginning of the 20th century. Shortly after that, several brilliant Chinese mathematicians emerged on the world stage of mathematics: S. S. Chern, L. K. Hua, W. L. Chow, C. C. Lin, and P. L. Hsu. They built a bridge



S. S. Chern in the 1990s.



L. K. Hua smoking while at work in the 1950s.



A happy S. S. Chern in the 1990s.



Chern and Hua with their wives at the headquarter restaurant of Beijing Duck in the 1970s.

across the gulf between Chinese mathematics and Western mathematics. Visits to China of several distinguished Western mathematicians such as Wiener, Hadamard, Blaschke and Osgood were crucial to their success.

Modern Chinese mathematics reached another minor golden age in the 1950s and early 1960s. Then political turmoil settled in, and mathematics again paused.



S. T. Yau and some distinguished guests at the opening ceremony of ICCM 1998.



Yau during a reception of ICCM 1998.

History of the ICCM

With the open door policy in the 1980s, the Chinese economy and hence Chinese mathematics and sciences developed rapidly. By the 1990s, the time was ripe to establish an international platform for mathematicians of Chinese descent and their friends to share and exchange their achievements and ideas. The International Congress of Chinese mathematicians was established in 1998.

The first ICCM was held in Beijing on December 12, 1998. It has been held every three years since then: 2001 in Taipei, 2004 in Hong Kong, 2007 in Hangzhou, 2010 in Beijing, and 2013 in Taipei. In 2016, it will return to Beijing again for the 7th ICCM.

The invited talks of ICCM consist of plenary talks, 45-minute talks and Morningside Lectures. The idea of the Morningside lectures is to invite distinguished mathematicians to give lectures which may stimulate research in areas of mathematics that are not

strongly represented in China. For example, in 1998, there were 13 plenary talks, 55 invited 45-minute talks, all given by Chinese mathematicians whether they were working in China or outside, and four Morningside Lectures given by distinguished non-Chinese mathematicians R. Borcherds, J. Coates, R. Graham, D. Stroock.

Similar in format to the ICM, the morning of the first day was devoted to awarding of the Morningside Medal and the Chern prize to Chinese mathematicians who have made significant contributions to pure or applied mathematics. The Morningside Foundation in Hong Kong provided the funding for the Morningside Medals, which are open to people under the age of 45. There are other prizes for non-Chinese mathematicians such as the International Cooperation Award.

The first ICCM was attended by over 400 people, the second by over 500 people, the third by over 800 people, the fourth by over 1500 people, the fifth by over 1600 people, and the sixth by over 800 people. It is expected that the seventh will be attended by over 1600 people.

The increased and stable number of participants shows a steady growth of ICCM and its influence among the mathematics community. It also shows that ICCM has become a mature event.

Mission of the ICCM

This mission of ICCM was explained briefly by its President, S. T. Yau in 1998: "It was a historic event. It was the first occasion where the majority of Chinese mathematicians from all over the world gathered together to present their research. The results and the presentations were spectacular." The key point is to increase the interchange and cooperation between Chinese mathematicians. This is also the guiding principle of the Morningside Center of Mathematics in Beijing which was established in 1996

and whose new building was dedicated during the first ICCM.

The mission of ICCM is perhaps best explained by a Chinese essay written by Yau for the first ICCM.

第一屆全世界華裔數學家大會獻辭

丘成桐

公元一九九八年冬，華裔數學家，會于京師，講學修睦也。聚三地之精英，集九州之豪士。四方學者，同根同心。獻明月之章，傳不朽之作，猗歟乎盛哉！

中土數學，源于九章，盛于陳華。劉徽註術，祖沖割圓，陳氏作類，華氏堆壘。此先人之智慧，今世之光華也。當歐戰初萌，國難方殷，孫揚拔賢士於津滬，姜熊傳心法於清華。雲南講學，江表立所。薪傳至今，已歷三世。門生故舊，遍於天下。俟陳氏去國，續領風騷，竟存一脈於海外。而華氏返京，繼絕存亡，終創大業於國內。斯時也，華熊子弟，得數論精妙，莫復變根基，蘇馮門下，發方程微義，開計算先河。郁郁其文，無愧於先，彬彬大業，有傳於後矣。然後十年動亂，九州震盪，上下受刑，天地為悲。父子殊途，師友異路。學忠馬列，文必頌聖。長者不敢有謀，學者不敢有志矣。幸得將軍擒凶，國乃太平。小平開固，世傳中興。百姓樂業，萬國來華。惟國士不比外賓，商賈有逾學人。於是家家望子放洋，戶戶經商期富。文革宿怨未消，而國初銳氣消磨矣。晚近遊子思歸，學士東來，能者屢見於台灣，業績不斷于香江。兩地科研，有聲於外國；海疆數學，不亞於中土矣。歐美諸君，承先賢之餘蔭，得大師之薰陶，共馳域外，各取明珠。無奈華夏雖累，長城未修，天地雖寬，瑕疵難容。終究德不如歐美，力不逮乎日蘇。根之腐矣，枝葉不榮，葉之枯矣，根莖何養？今我同胞，其無相煎，如足如手，其無相負，如師如友。咨爾賢俊，其能養士，而敦而敬，其能養氣，而剛而正。出則博文，入則約禮，究天地之造化，爭日月之光華，庶可立德立言，不朽後世矣。其辭曰：

仲冬嘉會，華廈初築。眾我精英，言歡修睦。
集我同志，切磋演繹。思入風雲，玄想無極。

真理同探，永世其傳。何以為歡，必有歌弦。
何以為慶，必有德言。盛筵必再，以待千年。

An English translation is as follows:

Dedication to the First Congress of Chinese Mathematicians

In the Winter of 1998, mathematicians of Chinese descent met in the capital Beijing, giving lectures and collaborating with each other. The elites from the three regions converged, and the giants over the nine states came together. Scholars from four corners, with the same root and the same heart, presented their illuminating papers, and handed down their everlasting work. What a jubilant and grand event it was!

Chinese mathematics originated from the Nine Chapters and prospered in the hands of Chern and Hua. Liu made notes for the Nine Chapters, Zu cut the circle, Chern produced classes, and Hua sieved and added. These are the wisdoms of our ancestors, and they are still the essential lights today. When the Second World War broke out in Europe, China was faced with national calamities. At that time, Sun and Yang cultivated men of ability and virtue in Tianjin and Shanghai, and Jiang and Xiong passed on personal teachings in Tsinghua. Later, they gave lectures in Yunnan and established

institutions in the south of the Yangtze River. This fine tradition of passing on wisdom has been carried forward for three generations, and students and old friends of these masters are all over the world now. After leaving China, Chern continued to be an influential leader and nurtured a group of mathematicians overseas. Hua returned to Beijing to save the learning of mathematics from destruction and continue the lineage that had been cut off, eventually accomplishing the great cause in the Mainland. At this time, students of Hua and Xiong got the essence of the theory of numbers, and laid the foundation for complex variables. Students of Su and Feng expounded on the subtle meaning of equations, and initiated the research into computational mathematics. So elegant and outstanding were their achievements that they not only lived up to the standards of the ancestors, but also called for continuation of this heritage. Unfortunately, what followed was ten years of turbulence, which sent tremors across all nine states of China. People from all levels were put to torture. Heaven and Earth were in grief. Fathers and sons, teachers and students, as well as old friends were forced to take different roads. From all learnings, unquestioning loyalty to the so-called Marxism-Leninism was expected, and when speaking, people always made laudatory reference to the sacred. The elder did not dare to propose any plan, and the learner did not dare to harbor any ambition. It was after the villain was captured by the General that the nation regained peace. Deng Xiaoping initiated the opening up of China, and from then on, the country has been revitalized. The people lived and worked in peace, and foreign friends from afar came to visit. But much to our regret, we saw that gentlemen of the country were not comparable to their foreign counterparts, and learners were outnumbered by traders. Sending children abroad and making a fortune by engaging in trade became household wishes. At that time, old grudges held since the Cultural Revolution was yet to be settled, but the spirit of a new China was already worn out.

In recent years, the wondering son has been longing to return, and scholars have come eastward. As a result, virtuous and talented people frequently appear in Taiwan, and achievements are continually made by people in Hong Kong. Both Taiwan and Hong Kong are internationally known for their academic excellence. Mathematic studies in these coastal areas is as good as, if not better, than that in the Mainland. Inheriting wisdom of the worthy predecessors, and influenced by the masters, Chinese in Europe and America have earned their reputation outside China, each of them finding invaluable treasure in his own field. But in the Mainland, the Great Wall is not built despite its massive population. Though the country is vast, a flaw in the gem is hardly tolerated. As a result, we cannot compete with Europe or America in culture, nor can we surpass Japan or Russia in national power. Alas, the roots have decayed, so the branches and leaves cannot flourish. When the leaves are dead, from where shall the roots and the stem get nourishment? Today, we are gratified to see that we do not act to harm each other but to strengthen our brotherly relationship. Respecting each other as teachers and friends, we do not turn against each other. Virtuous and talented colleagues, let us work together to support sincere and respectful scholars, and cultivate a steadfast and honorable spirit. In time, we will be known abroad for our achievements in all learnings. At home, we shall keep ourselves under the restraint of the rules. We will explore the law of nature, aspiring to match the brilliance of the sun and the moon. It is our hope that we may serve to establish good virtue, and leave behind worthy words, so that our spirit and achievements can last for generations and bring benefit to posterity. Thinking about where we have come from and where we are now, a poem comes to mind:

In the mid winter, the magnificent mansion is completed. Gathered here are the elite of Chinese, and to our hearts' content we shall talk. We who share the same ideals, exchange views and hold scholarly discussions. Our mind is guided into

the path of truth, and our profound thinking has no boundary.

Jointly we seek the truth, handing down the tradition to posterity. To give vent to our jovial feelings, melodious singing there must be to celebrate this grand gathering, virtuous talks we will have. Such a grand feast will surely happen again. With faith and hope, we look forward to the new Millennium.

The mission of the Morningside Center of Mathematics is also well explained by the dedication speech of Prof. Yau:

Dedication Speech for the groundbreaking of the Morningside Center of Mathematics

晨與數學所奠基典禮講辭

丘成桐

在這個世紀結束，新世紀來臨的時候，數學盼望的不是萬兩黃金，也不是千年霸業。畢竟這些都會成為灰燼。我們追求的是永恆的真理，我們熱愛的是理論和方程。它比黃金還要珍貴和真實，因為它是大自然表達自己的唯一方法；它比詩章還要華美動人，因為當真理赤裸裸呈現時，所有頌詞都變得渺小；它可以富國強兵，因為它是所有應用科學的泉源；它可以安邦定國，因為它可以規劃現代社會的經絡。

希望大家能拼著赤子的熱誠，在科學院和陳氏兄弟的幫助下，不分界域，同心協力在中國建立一個有世界水平的數學中心。

The basic point of the speech says: At the end of this century and the beginning of the next one, we mathematicians are not looking for fortune, nor long lasting dynasties, since all these will eventually turn into ashes. They are looking for the eternal truth, and seeking theories and equations. They are more valuable and realistic than gold, since they are the only way that the nature expresses itself. They are more radiant and charming than poems, which are negligible

when compared with the naked truth. They can make countries rich and powerful, since they are the source of all applied sciences; and they can keep countries in peace, since they are the essence of planning for the modern society. Together we can establish a first rate mathematics research center for the world.

What Happens at the ICCM?

The purpose of ICCM is for Chinese mathematics and its interaction with Western mathematics. It is also a periodic occasion to celebrate major events and achievements of Chinese mathematicians and their friends.

The awards given out at ICCM recognized achievements and encouraged people. Besides reviewing what has been achieved, ICCM is more interested in what lies ahead. There are also events which explain how mathematics can be used and is indeed useful for many applications. Instead of summarizing the invited talks and Morningside Lectures at each congress, we describe some other highlights of the past ICCMs.

The first ICCM in 1998 was held in Beijing from Dec. 12 to Dec. 16, 1998, and was the beginning of all later ICCMs. For example, the first Morningside medals were awarded. Its organization was really impressive, and one unforgettable thing explains this. The opening ceremony was held in the Great Hall of the People, which was about an hour away from the Morningside Center if there is no traffic jam. In the morning of the first day of ICCM, more than a dozen buses carrying the congress participants left the Morningside Center towards the great hall. It was arranged that all the traffic lights were green for the whole bus line, which went non-stop all the way.



All medal winners at ICCM 1998 with S. T. Yau and Ronnie Chan, the donor of the Morningside Medal.



A group picture for the conference in honor of S. S. Chern during ICCM 2001.

For the ICCM 1998, several distinguished guests attended the conference and gave the warm speech: R. Graham (former President of AMS), J. P. Bourguignon (President of European Math. Soc. & Director of IHE), J. Jost (Director of Max-Planck Math. Inst.), M. Taylor (President of LMS), S. L. Lee (President of Math. Soc. of Singapore), T. Sunada (Treasurer of Japan Math. Soc.) and K.-S. Chang (President of Korean Math. Soc.). During ICCM, a concert was held in the Hall of the Chinese Association of Science and Technology.

The second ICCM was held at the Grand Hotel, Taipei from Dec 17 to Dec 22, 2001. During the congress, a special Morningside Lifetime Achievement Award in Mathematics was presented to Prof. S. S. Chern. The citation reads:

Professor Chern is awarded the Morningside Lifetime Achievement for his work on developing the foundation of Chinese mathematics, his epochal contributions to research in differential geometry, and his nurturing of leading mathematicians both in China and abroad. In the 1940s, differential geometry was at a low point worldwide; this area of mathematics was only beginning to be understood and to be used. Professor Chern became a pioneer in this subject. Some of his major achievements include the Chern characteristic classes in fiber spaces, and his proof of the Gauss-Bonnet formula. Today, differential geometry is a major subject in mathematics and a large share of the credit for this transformation goes to Professor Chern.

A conference was also organized for the 90th birthday of Prof. Chern, and Prof. Yau paid the following tribute to Professor Chern:

Born in Jiaxing Zhejiang, Professor Shiing-Shen Chern is a world-class, mathematician who is highly respected by all



Two winners of the Chern prize with Yau, Chan, and Jing Yu at ICCM 2001.

distinguished scholars. He attained great academic success at an early age and rose rapidly to fame in Beijing and Shanghai. He spent his 30s and 40s studying abroad and doing advanced research, which earned him a strong reputation in Europe and the United States. Professor Chern focused on dif-



The group picture of ICCM 2001 at the Grand Hotel in Taipei.



The winners of the Morningside Medal with Yau, Chan, and Yu at ICCM 2001.

ferential geometry and constructed the Chern classes. He also enhanced and developed the work of Cartan, and was a pioneer in topology. Professor Chern has taught us how to learn from the old and to seek the new. He has nurtured so many scholars who have bestowed upon him their highest respect and praise. Even those Chinese scholars who study mathematics, but are not his student, have a great appreciation of Professor Chern. We wish to thank him for his invaluable contributions of the past seventy years.

At this congress, the Chern prize was also established for Chinese mathematicians who made exceptional contributions in mathematics research or to public service activities which support mathematics.

Several distinguished international mathematicians attended the second ICCM. They include John Coates, Gerd Faltings, Peter Lax etc. Faltings gave a



A panel discussion during ICCM 2004.



A press conference of ICCM 2004.



An excursion in the Hong Kong Harbor during ICCM 2004 (Coates, Yau, Kulkarni, and Mok).



The former party secretary Zhang and Yau during ICCM 2004.

plenary talk and Lax gave a speech titled “The Development of Applied Mathematics in the 21 century.”

Two symposiums titled “How Science and Technology Impact Asian Economies and Business” and “The Development of Applied Mathematics in the 21st Century?” were organized.

The opening ceremony of the third ICCM was held at the Exhibition Hall of Hong Kong on December 17, 2004. Sadly, Chern passed away very shortly before this ICCM. This congress was dedicated to the memory of “our teacher and our leader: Professor Shiing-shen Chern.” Chern had always helped the Chinese mathematics and the Chinese mathematics community. Right before he died, Chern donated 100k Yuans to ICCM.

The ICCM International cooperation award was established for people who have promoted the development of mathematics in China.

Besides the usual talks on mathematics, two public talks at ICCM 2004 attracted a lot of attention. One is about Mathematics and Chinese Poetry titled “Mathematics in Poetry? Poetry in Mathematics” by C.-L. Liu, a former president of TsingHua University in Taiwan, and another is about Mathematics of Gambling by Benter titled “What are my odds? Historical and modern efforts to win at games of chance”. Mr. Benter used what he discussed in his talk to make an affluent living by betting on horse racing in Hong Kong and contributed generously to mathematics.

Together with this ICCM in 2004, Ronnie Chan supported the “Hang Lung Mathematics Awards” for



Yau giving a speech during the opening ceremony of ICCM 2007 in Hangzhou.

the high school students research completion for the first time, and the award was given at that time. This model was used and expanded as the Yau High School Awards in China later.



The opening ceremony of ICCM 2007 at the People's Great Hall of Zhejiang.



The Morningside Medal winners of ICCM 2007 during the opening ceremony.



The Morningside Medal winners of ICCM 2007 with Yau and some distinguished guests.



The press conference of ICCM 2007.



Yau giving a speech during a social event of ICCM 2007.

In 2007, ICCM was held in Hangzhou. The opening ceremony was held on Dec. 17 at Zhejiang Great Hall of the People, and others talks at Zhejiang University. A new award called “The New World Mathematics Awards” was established for outstanding doctoral, master and undergraduate theses, and it was presented for the first time at this congress.

A panel discussion on women in mathematics was organized, and the panelists included some distinguished female mathematicians such as Melissa Chiu-Chu Liu, Dusa McDuff, Chuu-Lian Terng, and Claire Voisin.

A symposium on challenges facing higher education in the twenty-first century was also organized, and panelists include Dean of Harvard College, Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dean of the graduate school of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University, Chancellor of UC Santa

Barbara, President of Zhejiang University, and President of University of Chicago.

These, together with other public events and outreach activities, attracted more than thirty mainstream media to ICCM 2007.

In 2010, 12 years after the first one, ICCM returned and was held in Beijing. It was dedicated to Chern and Hua. According to the preface of the Proceedings:

ICCM 2010 was especially dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Loo-Keng Hua, and to the 99th anniversary of the birth of Shiing-shen Chern – two of the greatest Chinese mathematicians of the twentieth century. While teaching at Tsinghua University, Hua and Chern trained many outstanding mathematicians (among them H. C. Wang, H. Wang, and Z. X. Wan) who went on to become leading mathematicians in China. Hua was a dominating figure in the



A bright and alert Chern at a very advanced age.



An energetic Hua at an advanced age.

development of mathematics in modern China, and was instrumental in the formation of the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science.

The purpose and mood of this congress is well described by an essay composed by Prof. Yau for this occasion:

華人數學大會前言

華裔數學家之會，始於京師，已歷一紀。辛卯之歲，二千籌人，復聚於京師大會堂。時值孟冬，冠蓋滿途，俊秀咸集，講學修睦，信可樂也。

金壇華氏，嘉興先師，百代之英，開籌學萬年之基，助華夏騰飛之勢。值二公百歲冥辰，豈可無辭以紀中華籌人不忘祖乎。

遂作辭曰：

聚諸賢兮會堂之中，
懷往哲兮善其始終。
展翅兮余懷，
鶴鳴兮九皋。
心飛揚兮浩蕩，
眾同遊兮學深。
展數之美兮高歌，
應天之真兮合節。
日將出兮國中，
夜皎皎兮既明。

An English translation is as follows:

Foreword to the Congress of Chinese Mathematicians

It was twelve years ago that the Congress of Chinese Mathematicians was first held in Beijing. In the early winter of 2010, two thousand mathematicians gathered again at the



Yau giving a speech during ICCM 2010.

Great Hall of the People in the capital. High-ranking dignitaries filled the roads and distinguished professionals congregated, giving lectures and showing their solidarity. It was such a pleasant and delightful scene.

Professor Loo-keng Hua, who was born in Jintan, and Professor Shiingshen Chern, who was a diligent educator from Ji-axing, were the most outstanding scholars over the past hundred generations. They established a solid foundation for the development of mathematical studies in the next ten thousand years and made significant contributions to the rise of China. This year marks the centenary of the birth of the two



The award ceremony for the Morningside Medal at ICCM 2010.



All winners of the Morningside Medal and the Chern Prize with some distinguished guests during ICCM 2010.

honourable masters, and how can we commemorate the Chinese mathematicians without a verse? We cannot forget our pioneers' achievements, can we?

The verse goes as follows:

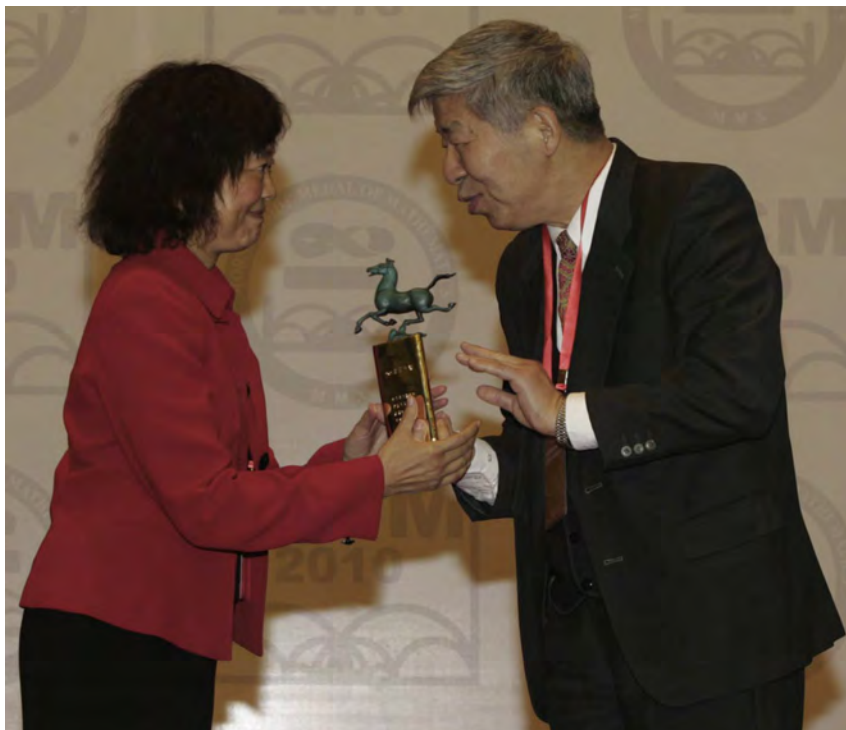
*Luminaries gathered at the Hall,
Cherishing the genius thinkers and their extraordinary life stories.*

*Spreading wings to express our remembrance,
Cranes whoops rolled across nine marshes.
Hearts were flying high and far;
Scholars immersed themselves in a vast sea of knowledge.
Manifesting the beauty of mathematics through lusty singing,
We responded to the law of nature with rhythmic beats.*

*The sun is about to rise over the country;
The night is to be moonlit and clear.*

Immediately after this ICCM in Beijing, some of the ICCM mathematicians joined another group of distinguished people from around the world to inaugurate the Tsinghua-Sanya International Mathematics Forum in Sanya, which is the largest conference center in the world devoted to mathematics and related subjects.

In 2013, ICCM was held in Taipei. A Morningside Special Achievement Award in Mathematics was presented to Yitang Zhang for his breakthrough on the



Winnie Li receiving the Chern Prize from Lo Yang at ICCM 2010.



Richard Schoen receiving the International Cooperation Award from Yau and Chan at ICCM 2010.

twin prime number problem, and the international cooperation prize was awarded to J.-P. Serre. During the plenary talk by Yitang Zhang, Serre asked Zhang about his use of exponential sums (relating to Weil's work on algebraic curves over finite fields) at a critical step of his proof. Zhang gave a perfect answer right away, and Serre was satisfied and liked the answer very much on the spot. This is one example of

the interaction and exchange of ideas among mathematicians during ICCM.

Publications of the ICCM

The main publications of ICCM are the Proceedings and Notices of ICCM. The former gives a faithful record of the scientific activities of each ICCM and



Jean-Pierre Serre speaks with X.-M. Peng (VP of Academia Sinica) prior to Serre's lecture at ICCM 2013, where he received the International Cooperation Award.

also includes pictures of awardees and ceremonies, and the latter provides a platform for mathematicians from all over the world to share their thoughts and ideas on recent major progress in mathematics, issues and problems facing mathematics. For example, besides descriptions of various activities in mathematics such as major conferences, mathematics research institutes and awards and prizes in mathematics, the ICCM Notices also contains expository and survey papers describing the most recent breakthroughs in mathematics, lecture notes of some cutting-edge topics, mathematical history (e.g. China and Japan, China and India), biographies of mathematicians (e.g. Pao-Lu Hsu, de Rham, Fano), and lists of open problems selected for students and young mathematicians.

Though Notices of ICCM is affiliated with ICCM in some tangential way, its authors and targeted readers include mathematicians, statisticians, and some physicists and computer scientists (both Chinese and non-Chinese) in all countries. This journal is circulated around the world.

It is clear from the proceedings of ICCM that Chinese mathematicians have made important contributions to a broad spectrum of subjects in both pure and applied mathematics. Indeed, all main stream topics are covered.

Impact of the ICCM

ICCM gives an identity to the loose group of mathematicians of Chinese descent around the world, and

provides a unique opportunity for them to gather together and exchange ideas in mathematics. Such a global interaction is very helpful to everyone, especially to those people coming from places in China that are not well exposed to modern mathematics.

The Morningside Lectures given by many distinguished mathematician who are not of Chinese descent keep the Chinese mathematicians informed of the most recent development in mathematics in other parts of the world.

The Morningside Medal and other prizes recognize works of promising young Chinese mathematicians and motivate them to continue their excellent work.

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