



DET NORSKE VIDENSKAPS-AKADEMI
THE NORWEGIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND LETTERS

International Mathematical Union
Office of the Secretariat
Zuse Institute Berlin
Takustr. 7
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Germany

Monday, October 05, 2007

Norway's membership in International Mathematical Union (IMU)

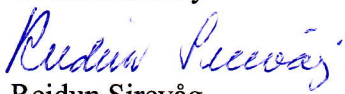
Dear Professor Martin Grötschel.


On behalf of the board of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, we would like to apply the IMU to upgrade Norway's membership status from group 2 to group 3. We understand the membership fee will change accordingly.

At its meeting on 7 July the board approved a proposal from our chairman for the mathematical division, professor Tom Lyche, for this upgrading of Norway's membership status.

If possible we would like the change to take effect from 1 January 2008.

Yours sincerely


Reidun Sirevåg
Professor
Secretary General


Øyvind Sørensen
Chief Executive



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Wednesday, 21 November 2007

Norway's membership in International Mathematical Union (IMU)

Dear Professor Martin Grötschel.

We refer to a letter sent earlier, dated October 5, about Norway's membership status in IMU and IMUs request for a report about the state of mathematics in Norway.

Attached you find the note "Documentation of Mathematical Activity in Norway 2002 – 2006", written by Professor Erling Størmer, Chairman of the National Norwegian IMU Committee.

If possible we would like the change to take effect from 1 January 2008.

Yours sincerely

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DOCUMENTATION OF MATHEMATICAL ACTIVITY IN NORWAY 2002 - 2006

Norway is applying for extension of its membership in IMU from Group II to Group III. In this connection the IMU Executive Committee has asked for an overview over the state of the mathematical activities in Norway. In particular there is a list of questions which we shall try to answer.

In Norway there are several scientific and state colleges which are now trying, and some succeeding, to get the status of universities. Before that there were four universities, University of Oslo, Norwegian University of Natural Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, University of Bergen, and University of Tromsø. The number of professors in mathematics at the four universities is, NTNU 25, University of Bergen 20, University of Oslo 26, and University of Tromsø 7. Adding professors at the new universities and colleges the number of professors is roughly 90.

The number of active mathematicians in Norway was listed as 111 in World directory of Mathematicians in 2002, and is roughly 130 at the present time. We have one mathematical society in Norway – Norsk Matematisk Forening – with close to 270 members.

A list of mathematicians whom the country considers well-known in the world-wide community, is (in alphabetical order): E.Alfsen, O.Bratteli, J.E.Fornæss, H.Holden, V.Lychagin, T.Lyche, R.Piene, I.Reiten, J.Rognes, K.Seip, E.Størmer, R.Winther, B.Øksendal. Of these Fornæss lives in USA, and Lychagin is Russian citizen.

The number of publications in the period 2004-2006 by mathematicians at the four universities is 651, so the total number is somewhere between 650 and 700. Many of them have been published in well-known journals. The number of papers cited in the period 2002-2006 is 580, which were cited 1040 times, i.e. 1.79 citations per paper. There is no mathematical journal published in Norway, but both *Acta mathematica* and *Mathematica Scandinavica* are joint Nordic ventures, and have always had a Norwegian on their board and as an editor.

The mathematical event in Norway that attracts most publicity, is the Abel Prize, which is awarded annually. In connection with the prize there is arranged a symposium – the Abel Symposium – which attracts a large number of participants. The country has over the years arranged several conferences. In the year 2009 the Nordic-British congress will take part in Oslo.

Mathematics is taught at all levels at the universities and at variable levels at the colleges. During the four years 2003-2006 there were a total of 80 ph.d.'s awarded at the four universities. In addition a few more were awarded at other institutions.