

2006-09-12

The Korean Mathematical Society  
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Professor John Ball, President of IMU  
Professor Phillip Griffiths, Secretary General of IMU

Dear Professors Ball and Griffiths,

The Korean IMU Adhering Organization, the Korean Mathematical Society (KMS), proposes to move the IMU membership of the Republic of Korea from Group II to Group III or Group IV. The Adhering Organization shall keep its commitment to pay the corresponding membership dues annually.

This proposal was motivated by the remarkable growth, both in quality and quantity, of the mathematical research in Korea. In the year 2005 alone, there were about 700 research papers published in SCIE journals authored/co-authored by the mathematicians located in Korea. This number includes publications in premier journals as evidenced by the full list of journals separately attached to this letter. If we count the publications by the Korean mathematicians with foreign affiliations, then this number goes up significantly.

The growth in the level of mathematics in Korea is observed over a broad spectrum of mathematics including research publications at the high end and the popularization of mathematics among the general public at the low end. The Korean Mathematical Society publishes two research journals with international editorial boards, and the regional branch societies of KMS publish five research journals. In 2005, Korea hosted 29 international conferences and workshops in mathematics. Korea was the hosting

country of the International Math Olympiad (IMO) in 2000, and has done consistently well in IMO, ranking the 3<sup>rd</sup> in IMO 2006.

Out of the 192 four-year universities/colleges in Korea, 124 schools have bachelor's degree programs in mathematics and/or mathematics education. There are 61 universities with graduate programs awarding master's degree, and 42 universities with Ph.D. granting graduate programs. As an evidence of the high level of mathematical research in Korea, we wish to draw your attention to the selection, as invited speakers at ICM 2006, of the three Korean mathematicians fully or partially affiliated with Korean institutions.

In the following pages, we provide some of the data supporting our proposal. We request the Executive Committee of IMU to examine our proposal carefully and consider its merit.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyung Chan Min', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kyung Chan Min

President of the Korean Mathematical Society

## Mathematics in Korea at a Glance

**Adhering Organization:** Korean Mathematical Society (KMS)

- Was founded in **1946**
- Joined IMU in **1981**
- Was moved to IMU Group II on **Jan. 1, 1993**
- Has **2,574** Individual Members
- Has **97** Institutional Members (96 Universities and 1 Research Institute)

**Number of Publications in SCIE Journals**

- In 1992: **78**
- In 2005: **698**

**Number of International Conferences and Workshops**

- In 1992: **5**
- In 2005: **26**

**Research Centers in Mathematics Funded by the Governments**

1. Eight *BK (Brain Korea) Centers in Mathematics* scattered around Korea with annual budget of roughly 5 million USD
2. *Korea Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS)*, founded in 1996, with annual budget of roughly 12 million USD for mathematics and physics
3. *National Institute for Mathematical Sciences (NIMS)*, founded in 2005, with annual budget of roughly 2 million USD for mathematics

**Invited Speakers at ICM 2006**

Algebraic and Complex Geometry Section

*Jun-Muk Hwang*, Korea Institute for Advanced Study

Combinatorics Section

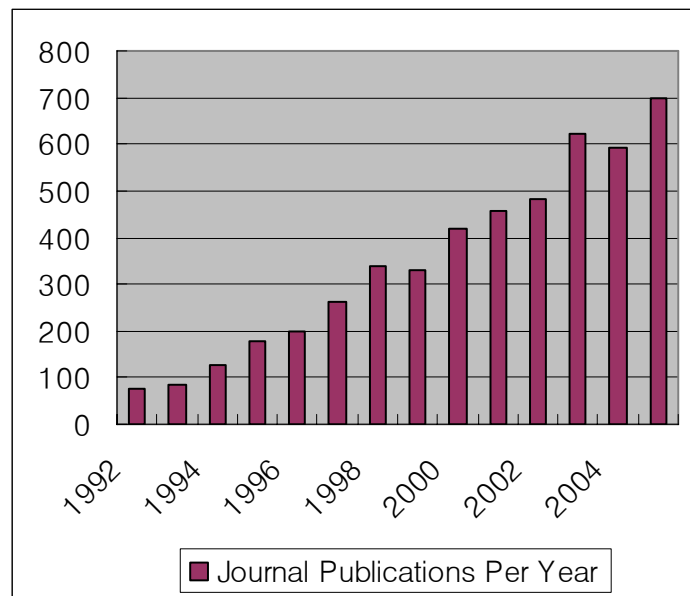
*Jeong Han Kim*, Yonsei University and Microsoft Research

Geometry Section

*Yong-Geun Oh*, Korea Institute for Advanced Study and University of Wisconsin

**Number of Publications (NP) in *Journals*,  
with at least one author based at a Korean Institution  
within the period 1992-2005**

| Year         | NP          |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1992         | 78          |
| 1993         | 84          |
| 1994         | 129         |
| 1995         | 177         |
| 1996         | 200         |
| 1997         | 263         |
| 1998         | 337         |
| 1999         | 329         |
| 2000         | 421         |
| 2001         | 456         |
| 2002         | 483         |
| 2003         | 622         |
| 2004         | 594         |
| 2005         | 698         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4871</b> |

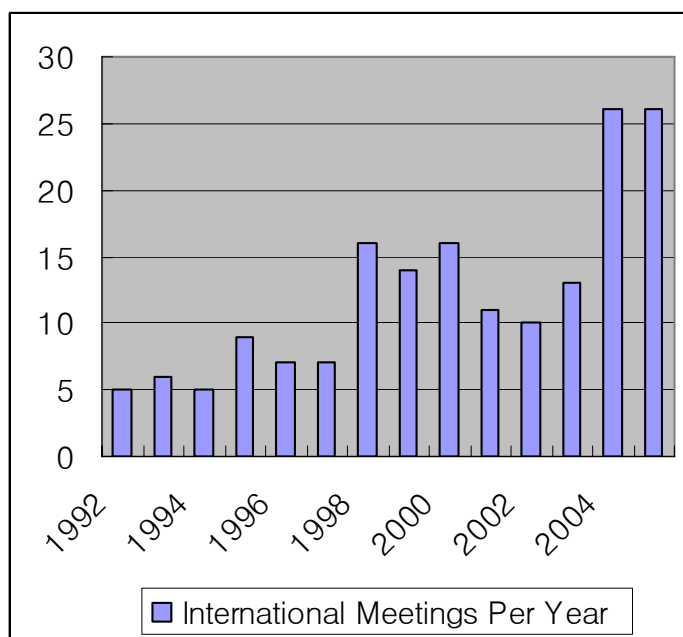


**\*Note:**

1. Korea proposed to move to IMU Group II in 1992.
2. The journal publications by Korean nationals affiliated with foreign institutions are **not** included in this table.

**Number of International Conferences and Workshops,  
Organized by Korean Institutions  
within the period 1992-2005**

| Year         | No. of Meetings |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1992         | 5               |
| 1993         | 6               |
| 1994         | 5               |
| 1995         | 9               |
| 1996         | 7               |
| 1997         | 7               |
| 1998         | 16              |
| 1999         | 14              |
| 2000         | 16              |
| 2001         | 11              |
| 2002         | 10              |
| 2003         | 13              |
| 2004         | 26              |
| 2005         | 26              |
| <b>Total</b> | 171             |



**\*Note:** Korea proposed to move to IMU Group II in 1992.