



Mathematics for Everyone

On 14 March, the International Day of Mathematics will be celebrated worldwide

Press information, embargo until 12.03.2023

(14.03.2023, Paris). On 14 March, the International Day of Mathematics (IDM), proclaimed by UNESCO, will be held under the theme *“Mathematics for Everyone”*. This theme reflects that the planet shares one mathematical language, which is the language of science.

Organized by the International Mathematical Union, the IDM includes a mixture of virtual and face-to-face celebrations in 2023, including celebrations in classrooms. IDM 2023 is celebrated in more than 90 countries with over 1500 individual events¹.

“This Day is an opportunity to celebrate the great female mathematicians, from Hypatia in Greek antiquity to the mathematicians who have won the L’Oréal-UNESCO Prize “For Women in Science”, such as Alicia Dickenstein in 2021, and Ingrid Daubechies and Claire Voisin in 2019. Let us also recall the Ukrainian Maryna Viazovska, winner of the 2022 Fields Medal: she is, after Maryam Mirzakhani in 2014, only the second woman mathematician to receive this prize, out of more than 60 mathematicians... This Day is all about remembering that mathematics concerns us all, that it writes the world and makes it intelligible. It is a gift of endless generosity: there is still so much to explore.”, says Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO².

The special feature of IDM 2023 is the [Comic Challenge](#). More than 1700 individuals, schools and organizations have sent a comic to illustrate *“Mathematics for Everyone”*. The comics will be made available on March 14 and remain in a public gallery to all under a free and open license.

IDM 2023 is celebrated on all continents and new countries are joining this year: Curaçao, Haiti, Fiji. All over the world, people are organizing festivities, and teachers celebrate in the classroom, for instance by playing [Towers of Hanoi and Stockmeyer](#). Celebrations take many forms: national and local competitions, conferences, exhibitions, and talks, organized by mathematical societies, research institutes, museums, schools, universities, etc.

¹ Browse the map of www.idm314.org

² [Full text](#)

On 14 March, 12:00-13:15 and 14:00-15:15 UTC, an international virtual live celebration on the [IDM website](#) addressed to young people in school proposes lively talks by the four winners of the 2022 Fields medal and five other talks in different languages (Arabic, English, French, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese and Spanish). A live coverage will take place on the IDM website and social media on 14 March.

Bruny Mabien from College Côte-Plage and Fondation Éducation Développement, is organizing the IDM in Haiti for the first time this year: *“For once in our misfortune, mathematics brings a glimmer of hope to the lives of children in Haiti, a country where dreams often drown in doubt and uncertainty. Already this year more than 20 schools will celebrate the International Day of Mathematics, and my dream is that all schools in Haiti will celebrate it in the future.”* Several classrooms from Haiti have been paired with classrooms of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and exchanged IDM activities in the month before the IDM.

French workshops for primary and secondary mathematics teachers from Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have accompanied the IDM this year. It is part of a special series of online teacher trainings supported by the Simons Foundation with the goal to further engage with Africa and Latin America, and to expand the network for local IDM celebrations.

The theme was proposed by **Marco Zarco Rotairo** of the Trece Martires City National High School, Tres Martires City, Cavite, Philippines.

“I believe that Mathematics should be for everyone because all of us have mathematical ability, but only with varying extent and degree. Also, we must let everyone enjoy the wonders of Mathematics. The notion that Mathematics is only for the gifted and the genius must change.”

IDM 2023 is part of the celebrations of the [International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022](#). More than ever, access to truth and science-based decision making are needed for a sustainable future in a peaceful world. To highlight this, UNESCO is proposing to young scientists a webinar [Industrial Mathematics: Applications and Challenges](#). The French version of the UNESCO tool kit [Des maths pour agir : accompagner la prise de décision par la science](#) will be launched during that webinar.

The date of 14 March is already known as *Pi Day* and celebrated in many countries around the world. It is named after the important number π , the ratio between the circumference and diameter of a circle and approximately equal to 3.14. The IDM celebration expands Pi Day to include the whole spectrum of mathematics. Mathematical language and reasoning are accessible to everyone.

The IDM website is the main hub for the International Day of Mathematics:

www.idm314.org

It hosts information material to be used by press and organizers (including logos and flyers in different languages) as well as [proposals for activities](#) related to the theme for everyone interested in hosting an event. All the official material provided through the website is under an open license, which means it can be freely shared, translated, and adapted.

Partners:

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, is headquartered in Paris. As the United Nations' "House of Peace," UNESCO serves to develop mutual understanding and the strengthening of bonds among nations through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture. More information: <https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/mathematics>

The **International Mathematical Union (IMU)** is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organization, with the purpose of promoting international cooperation in mathematics.

The IDM is communicated and supported by the IDM website, which is hosted by **IMAGINARY**, a non-profit organization to communicate modern mathematics.

The [International Year of Basic Science for Sustainable Development 2022](#) (IYBSSD 2022)

Sponsors:

The **Klaus Tschira Foundation** (which supports natural sciences, mathematics, and computer science in Germany) sponsors the website and the IDM communications.

The **Simons Foundation** sponsors specific IDM activities with Africa and Latin America.

The **International Mathematical Union** supports IDM special activities and the Global Launch.

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Pictures:

The logo and all pictures below can be used freely for articles about the International Day of Mathematics. Please find high-resolution versions via the “Download Link”. The pictures are from locally organized events (exhibitions, workshops, festivals) to celebrate mathematics.

Logo of the International Day of Mathematics: <https://www.idm314.org/logos.html>

Press Kit page with images and press releases: https://www.idm314.org/press_kit.html



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