



Mathematics for a Better World

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

Press information

(14.03.2021, Paris). On **14 March**, the **International Day of Mathematics (IDM)**, proclaimed by UNESCO, will be held under the theme ***“Mathematics for a Better World”***¹. Celebrating the beauty and relevance of mathematics, it highlights the essential role played by this discipline in reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Organized by the International Mathematical Union, the IDM includes a mixture of virtual and face-to-face celebrations in 2021, including celebrations in classrooms. IDM 2021 is celebrated in more than 70 countries with over 410 individual events.²

“Mathematics, with its many technical applications, now underpins all areas of our lives. Together with algorithms, mathematics plays a key role in artificial intelligence and technological disruptions – and, as we address global issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, we are reminded of the importance of mathematics in responding to the challenges of our time,” says Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO.

The new feature of IDM 2021 is the [Poster Challenge](#): more than 2100 schools and organizations have drawn their own IDM poster to illustrate one facet of the theme “Mathematics for a Better World”. The posters are available to all under an open licence.

IDM 2021 is celebrated on all continents: from Madagascar to Gambia, from Panama to Chile, from Albania to Malaysia, from Bangladesh to Australia, people all over the world are organizing festivities. An [international live celebration](#) in three languages (English, French and Spanish) will take place on 14 March, 14:00 to 18:00 UTC. Also, [48 hours of live coverage](#) on the IDM website will start at 00:00 New Zealand. The international celebration is complemented by national and local competitions, conferences, exhibitions, and talks,

¹ Visit the [Mathematics for a Better World website](#) for many examples of how mathematics contributes to a better world.

² Browse the map of www.idm314.org.

organized by mathematical societies, research institutes, museums, schools, universities, etc.

In Algeria, many events are taking place all over the country to show how mathematics helps improve our world. They consist in the organization of webinars, national mathematics competitions, recreational mathematics, and classroom activities. *“A special event involving blind pupils shows that mathematics is a universal language. Celebrations are in partnership with the public television El Maarifa channel (TV7) who is reporting on the different events to promote them to the wider population.”* says Djamel Eddine Cheriet, Vice-President of the Algerian Mathematical Society.

In a [joint project](#) with the Simons Foundation, the mathematical societies of Algeria, Senegal, and the Republic of Congo will organize online and on site activities for a large audience in French, Arabic, and English on Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence and Mathematical Games. They also offer special teacher training programmes for teachers and educators in Africa and the Arabic world.

For Laura Vanessa Gomez Bermeo (Colombia) *“The IDM is an opportunity to share the knowledge that men and women have developed throughout history. It is also a space to create, share, motivate and inspire future generations with mathematics. It is a day to remember that mathematics empowers us, sets us free, and makes us better citizens.”*

“Through the gloom of the pandemic, the IDM is an opportunity for exciting and challenging activities in schools. Students can explore how mathematics helps to understand the spread of an epidemic and how the theory of fair division allows for more equitable policies.” says Christiane Rousseau, University of Montreal, initiator for the IMU of the IDM project.

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. In view of the pandemic, the 2021 theme is [“Mathematics for a Better World”](#). Mathematics and statistics are essential tools for decision-makers in predicting the evolution of the disease and optimizing mitigation strategies with limited resources. The role played by mathematics in building a better world goes well beyond the pandemic response, and schools are invited to explore the mathematics of *fair division*, which has so many applications in designing economic and social policies.

The **IDM website** is the main hub for the International Day of Mathematics, online at

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>

UNESCO at its 40th session of the General Conference, proclaimed 14 March of every year International Day of Mathematics. More information: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372579.page=37>

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.

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 the special IDM celebrations in Africa.

The **Canadian Commission for UNESCO** sponsors the 2021 IDM Poster Challenge.

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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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