

The Junior Mathematical Congress series of youth outreach events

Mikael Vejdemo-Johansson

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The Junior Mathematical Congresses:
Prepared 1998. Participated 2000, 2002. Organized 2004, 2008.

Junior Mathematical Congresses

- 1992: Paris, France. (with 1st European Congress of Mathematics)
- 1996: Budapest, Hungary. (with 2nd ECM)
- 1998: Berlin, Germany. (with ICM in Berlin)
- 2000: Miskolc, Hungary. (with ECM in Barcelona)
- 2002: Miskolc, Hungary. (with ICM in Beijing)
- 2004: Stockholm, Sweden. (with ECM in Stockholm)
- 2006: Târgu Mureș, Romania. (with ICM in Madrid)
- 2008: Jena, Germany. (with ECM in Amsterdam)
- 2010: Miskolc, Hungary. (with ICM in Hyderabad)
- 2012: Miskolc, Hungary. (with ECM in Krakow)

Format

- 30-300 participants, ages 15-20
- Week-long meeting
- Modelled on large mathematical meetings: ICM, ECM, JMM...
- Participants prepare mathematics projects at home:
originality (new to self) required
novelty (new to world) not needed
- Participants present their own work to each other, in lectures and/or in poster sessions
- Small number of adults giving invited lectures as well.
- Social activities and excursions

Fundamental differences from other youth outreach efforts

- peer-to-peer: participants listen and talk to their own age group
- pushes participants to prepare, to discover and to experience *research*



Experiences organizing

- Funding is *easier* than many other conferences
Youth outreach is a relatively easy sell
- Tradition rooted in Hungary: significant institutional knowledge to tap
- Both in Sweden and Germany we had youth science outreach organizations ready to step in and work
- Less of a youth camp than most pure mathematics camps. Much more youth camp than a mathematics conference. Camp counselors important.

Experiences from participants

This was my first congress and the first longer stay in abroad. I remember meeting young students from many countries listening to their presentations [...] The whole event has left very positive memory in my mind.

I graduated as a physicist, and now I am finishing soon my PhD studies.

It was a very special opportunity that I could present my own research. At that time I was planning to study physics, so I would say that my participation confirmed my choice.

Imre Hagymasi, Hungary, participant 2004

Experiences from participants

[...] I am a doctor in mathematics now.

[...] the event was really inspiring. Some topics were really advanced, so it left a deep impression that there was more to be explored.

Per Alexandersson, Sweden

Participant 2004

PhD, Mathematics, Stockholm University, 2013

Experiences from participants

The JMC didn't awaken my interest in mathematics - had I not already been hooked I wouldn't have gone - but it played an important part in strengthening and growing that interest.

Participating in the JMC as a high school kid was great. Co-organizing it as a university student some years later was even better.

As I today work with educational policy on a national level, the JMC experience is one of the things that continue to inspire me with regard to how math and science can be made fun.

Jon Karlfeldt, Sweden, Participant 2000, Organizer 2004
Jon went on to study CSE & law, and is active in national politics



