An international Day of Mathematics

Summary

The proposal, prepared by the International Mathematical Union, is to have March 14 declared as the International Day of Mathematics (IDM) by UNESCO. The International Mathematical Union will be responsible of the organization of the IDM through its Committee of the IDM (CIDM), which will administer the IDM. Every year, all countries will be invited to celebrate the IDM in the schools and with the public, under a theme proposed by the CIDM. The worldwide activities will be posted on the website of the IDM. International activities will also be proposed by the CIDM, emphasizing the importance of mathematics and mathematical education as a tool for development towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda (SDG1-17) of the United Nations.

The major goals of an International Day of Mathematics are:

1. Improve the understanding of the public, the decision makers and the schools the importance of mathematics in education;
2. Contribute to capacity building in mathematical and scientific education, with special focus on girls and kids from developing countries (SDG4);
3. Improve the understanding of the public, the decision makers and the schools the importance of mathematics as a tool for development and the move to a more prosperous economy (SDG9);
4. Emphasize the importance of basic research in mathematical sciences as the seed to new breakthroughs in technology and management of the society (SDG8);
5. Highlight the role of mathematics in the organization of the human civilization, including its economic, financial, health and transport systems, telecommunications

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1 SG1-SDG17 refer to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations
and in the search of human well-being, etc. (SDG3);
6. Raise awareness on the role of mathematics in fighting disasters, epidemics, emerging diseases, invasive species (SDG11);
7. Highlight the role of mathematics in moving to a circular economy of sustainability compatible with preservation of biodiversity (SDG14 and 15);
8. Equip the public and the kids with tools to understand the planetary challenges and behave as knowledgeable citizens;
9. Increase the international networking and collaborations in public awareness on mathematics;
10. Increase the access to information, providing a simple way to give citizens a choice in all aspects of their daily life.

The expected benefits are:

Benefits for the students
1. Increased interest of the students, and in particular the girls for mathematics through the celebrations of the IDM, that associate mathematics with pleasant things and reinforces self-confidence (SDG4 and 5);
2. New stimulating material available for enrichment activities in the classroom;
3. A website where to share activities with the world, thus developing a sense of international community (SDG16);
4. Better knowledge of the role of mathematics as a preparation for better jobs (SDG1, 8 and 10);
5. Activities for the whole family around mathematics;
6. Creation of new activities and material for students with special needs (SDG4).

Benefits for the teachers
1. New stimulating material available for enrichment activities in the classroom, including for students with high potential and for students with special needs (SDG4);
2. More pleasure coming from teaching to more motivated students;
3. An opportunity for teachers who prepare material to share it with the world and get international recognition;

Benefits for society at large
1. Increased level of education in the country (SDG1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10);
2. Less drop-out students in schools;
3. More girls interested in mathematics;
4. Teachers more motivated with new activities to bring to the classroom;
5. Success stories activities of each country shared with the world;
6. Increased level of culture of the population through the cultural activities organized yearly around the IDM (including math fairs, public lectures, mathematical exhibitions) and their media coverage (SDG4, SDG16).