

**European Mathematical Society ERCE Program
CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN EN MATEMÁTICAS, A.C. (CIMAT), México.
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On CIMAT:

An acronym for Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas, CIMAT is located in the city of Guanajuato, México. It is a public national research center part of the CONACyT (National Research Council) system of 26 research centers, the only one in mathematics.

CIMAT was founded in the early 1980's and has become one of the strongest centers of mathematics in Latin America with an active academic life, evidenced in a dynamic organization of scientific conferences, high-quality graduate programs and international-level research. It counts more than a hundred mathematicians and engineers dedicated to research, graduate programs and consulting work with industry.

CIMAT offers bachelor, masters and doctoral degree programs in a rich scientific research environment. All graduate programs have received the highest rank from CONACyT. This rank implies, apart the public recognition of the programs, that all students, national or foreigners, at CIMAT receive complete scholarships. Moreover, the academic environment at CIMAT includes the necessary infrastructure for its students in order to perform successfully.

CIMAT is becoming a regional hub leading research in mathematics, training students from the geographical area and promoting the development of mathematics in all educational levels. CIMAT student population has been increasing over the years. Foreign students from several countries of origin (Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Iran, Kenya and Spain, among others) constitute the 15% of our total enrolment. In August 2013, CIMAT hosted the first Mathematical Congress of the Americas with more than 1,000 mathematicians from most countries of the continent and beyond.

On the ERCE label.

CIMAT received the label of ERCE from EMS in 2013. Apart of the recognition conferred to CIMAT, this label brought some immediate benefits:

CIMAT gains greater visibility in the mathematical world which, certainly, will attract to the center good students and researchers alike, fostering closer ties with mathematicians everywhere.

Moreover, CIMAT has promoted the creation of a network of ERCE centers for exchange of students and faculty that will, certainly, foster south-south collaboration in mathematics.

It was probably due to ERCE label that several very good students from Cambodia and other Asian countries applied for admission to the PhD program at CIMAT. Several of them work now in the graduate programs of CIMAT:

The director of CIMAT has participated in several EMS and CIMPA meetings along with other Directors of several institutions where it was clear that ERCE label is quite encouraging for the institutions to collaborate with each other. This can provide a base for collaboration among centers in the world, with the consequence of improving the quality of mathematics education and research in developing countries.

Conclusion:

To conclude this report CIMAT suggests that the ERCE program continues. The program has a great potential if the participating institutions find the means to foster some of the following capacities:

1. inviting and offering places to international students. In particular, a program of **Fellowships** should be initiated for PhD students and post-doctoral fellows of the member institutions;
2. give publicity to the courses available in the institutions;
3. organize periodic meetings between ERCE-labeled members.