
CONFERENCE REPORT

THE TWELFTH ASIAN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE ON MATHEMATICS (ATCM – 2007)

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The Twelfth Asian Technology Conference on Mathematics (ATCM 2007) was held during December 16 - 20, 2007 at Taipei, Taiwan. The conference was organized by Mathematics and Technology, LLC, USA.

Dr. Sarwar J. Abbasi, Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Karachi and myself sent our paper which was later presented by me in the conference. The paper was entitled “How learning and teaching of Mathematics can be made interesting – a case study”.

Brief highlights of the conference are as follows :

- Theme of the Conference was “Making Mathematics fun, challenging and accessible through technology”
- The Conference adopted the slogan, “Do not make students love Mathematics. Make Mathematics that students will love.”
- Professor Inder Kumar Rana from India informed that there are more than seven hundred schools in India that have introduced Math Labs in line with the policy of their government. Math Labs are used in India at school level the same way as Chemistry and Physics practical labs are used. Professor Wei Chei Yang, Co-chair of the International Program Committee endorsed the idea of Prof Rana adding that Math Lab was also the demand of the government of Taiwan, Because the government of Taiwan wanted Mathematics to be accessible to more than 80% of the entire population.
- Most Asian Mathematicians were from Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, Korea and Japan, European Mathematicians in the conference were faster in technology and better equipped for their presentations.
- A new way of teaching mathematics was discussed. This “new” technique consists of four steps: make observation, form hypothesis, get verification and make a new result. This approach was appreciated, as it is indeed a better way rather than following the old practice of stating and proving theorems in classrooms.

- Scholars from Korea, Malaysia and Singapore presented their papers highlighting the gap between what is needed at national level and what is taught at school level. They emphasized the importance in narrowing the gap for empirical learning and in creating a more focused workforce.
- The scholar from Taiwan informed about “Hands on workshop” for mathematics in his country. The workshop bridges the gap between school education and higher education.

Being the only Pakistani and one of the very few ladies there, I had the honor of being appreciated by a good number of participants on my presentation and my observations on others’ presentation. Dr. Premjit Singh was gracious enough to offer me a job and to pursue a doctorate from Ohio University. It was a pleasure to see Dr. Tilak De Alwis, one of the co-chairs of the International Program Committee, mentioning my country’s name first while delivering his “Vote of Thanks” during the closing ceremony of the Conference.