

Program Committee Appointed to Implement Pilot Phase of AMMSI

A Program Committee has been appointed to implement the two-year pilot phase of the African Mathematics Millennium Science Initiative (AMMSI). The committee, representing five regions of sub-Saharan Africa, was appointed by the Science Initiative Group (SIG), which sponsors the AMMSI.

Committee members are:

Central Africa: Professor David Békollé, University of Yaoundé I, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Eastern Africa: Professor Wandera Ogana, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

Southern Africa: Professor Edward Lungu, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana

Western Africa (Anglophone): Professor Samuel A. Ilori, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Western Africa (Francophone): Professor Mary Teuw Niane, Université Gaston, Berger de Saint-Louis, Saint-Louis, Sénégal

Members of the committee, which will be chaired by Professor Ogana, will serve for two years, during which they will fund and administer programs of graduate student assistantships and visiting lectureships. The creation of a web-based Clearinghouse of African Mathematics and some regional conferences will also be partially supported. Funding for the two-year pilot period has recently been provided by the [Mellon Foundation](#) in the United States.

The pilot program will lead into the full 5-year schedule of mathematics development activities, which have been proposed by a Writing Group of African mathematicians, reviewed by an external Scientific Advisory Committee and accepted by SIG, which will help secure funding.

AMMSI envisions two linked strategies: (1) to strengthen teaching in traditional disciplines, raise the low numbers of undergraduate mathematics majors, and begin to build sound graduate programs in mathematics; (2) to emphasize emerging areas of contact between mathematics and the other sciences of direct relevance to society.

It will also work with a complementary initiative, the [African Institute of Mathematical Sciences \(AIMS\)](#), which is designed to strengthen core mathematics in selected universities from its base in South Africa. By supporting and linking several small networks and pockets of excellence, AMMSI will stimulate training, build regional collaborations, and promote new interdisciplinary partnerships. Given the talented leadership already in place, AMMSI is positioned to advance and strengthen such programs in a cost-effective manner by helping to provide objective selection, quality control, and evaluation.

A small Selection and Evaluation Committee and an Advisory Board will be formed to aid the Program Committee in its work.