

The project on Scientific Cooperation between Iranian and European Higher Education Institutions

Brief presentation / Christian Duhamel, Scientific Attaché at the French Embassy,
Associate Professor of Mathematics at University Paris-South (Orsay)

On Tuesday April 24th, 2007 a letter of agreement for a project of “scientific cooperation in mathematics” was signed gathering three of major universities in Iran: Sharif U., U. of Tehran, and Amir Kabir U.. The Institute for Studies in Theoretical Physics and Mathematics (IPM) and the Iranian Mathematical Society also participated. The European partner members of the coordinating committee are: the International Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics (ICPAM-CIMPA-UNESCO), the U. of Versailles to which the coordinator Pr. Otared Kavian belongs, the French Mathematical Society (Pr. Maria Esteban), Universidade Autonoma de Madrid (Pr. Enrique Zuazua), the University of Paris VI (Pr. Michel Waldschmidt).

The purpose is to strengthen mathematical research and initiate new fields of investigation in Iran and to prepare Iranian students to pursue joint Master and PhD studies in Europe.

This year 2008, six modules of 22 hours of courses in Applied Analysis and PDE are being offered to students from these three universities and some talented students from other Iranian universities. A student who succeeds in the Master Degree from his university including 5 of these modules, will also get a French Master Degree (or, maybe, a Spanish Master Degree for the next year). We do hope that, each year, at least ten students will be given the opportunity of scholarships to prepare a “joint PhD in mathematics”: 4 or 5 months in a European Math lab each year during three years, concluding with a joint PhD from his university and the European one.

Up to now the following items have been materialized:

- Last year, starting in 09-2007: 3 French scholarships were provided for joint PhD students.
- This year 2008: two French Professors for modules “*Basic Tools in Applied Analysis and Partial Differential Equations*” and “*Linear and Semi-linear Elliptic Equations*” were supported. Four other modules with French or Spanish professors will be given before the end of December.
- In May and June 2008: two doctoral positions of 3 months each at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris.
- In July 2008: 10 days CIMPA Summer School at IPM in Tehran on “*Representation Theory of Algebras*”.
- Starting in September 2008: 2 (maybe 3) new scholarships for joint PhD with a French lab, another one with a Spanish lab, a post-doc position of 4 months in Spain, 2 post-doc positions for 3 weeks in France.

For the success of such a long term project, the first such experience in Iran with several universities working together, ***we need to be joined by other European countries*** having the possibilities of sending some professors to give a course agreed by the coordinating committee, and/or of offering scholarships for doctoral students and/or young post-docs. The selection of students will be made very seriously by the committee and if some other countries join the project, the committee can be changed and/or enlarged accordingly.

Tehran 30-03-2008, Ch. D. duhamel@scactheheran.com

Coordinators for EU : otared.kavian@math.uvsq.fr and for Iran : rahimzn@khayam.ut.ac.ir

Web site : <http://groups.google.com/group/iran-europe-master-math/>