

**MATHEMATICS OF PLANET EARTH
PRESS RELEASE
MARCH 5 2013**



MATHEMATICS OF PLANET EARTH DAY AT UNESCO

Paris (France) – March 5 2013 – – More than 130 academic institutions and scholarly societies have joined in a major world-wide initiative: Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013 ([MPE2013](#)). This year-long effort will highlight the contributions made by mathematics in the study of global planetary problems: migrations, climate change, sustainability, natural disasters, pandemics... and in the search for solutions.

MPE 2013 enjoys the patronage of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, said, “UNESCO strongly supports this extraordinary collaboration of mathematicians around the world to advance research on fundamental questions about planet Earth, to nurture a better understanding of global issues, to help inform the public, and to enrich the school curriculum about the essential role of mathematics in the challenges facing our planet.” MPE2013 is endorsed by the International Council of Science (ICSU), the International Mathematical Union (IMU), the International Commission of Mathematical Instruction (ICMI), and the International Council of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM).

The [MPE Day](#) on March 5 at UNESCO Headquarters, jointly organized by the International Mathematical Union and UNESCO is also the European launch of MPE2013. “*The MPE2013 initiative will expose mathematics to the whole world, by showing their usefulness and stimulating research, says Marta Sanz-Solé, President of the [European Mathematical Society](#). From now on, mathematics can no more be associated to pure intellectual exercises without connection to the most important problems of mankind.*” An international [Open Source exhibition](#) on the theme of Mathematics of Planet Earth will be launched on March 5. Part of this exhibition can be visited at UNESCO on March 5-8 2013. The exhibition will continue to grow in the future. It comprises physical modules, that constitute the basis of a traveling exhibition realized by Centre Science, and virtual modules, mainly videos and interactive exhibits on touch screen. The virtual modules come from an international competition administered by MPE2013. The winners of the competition will receive their prize, and their modules will be presented to the public. The Open Source platform of the exhibition developed for [IMAGINARY](#) at the [Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach](#) is a model of collaboration that will last.

The program of the MPE Day includes an African component with a lecture of Edward Lungu from Botswana, “Utilizing the environment to manage HIV/AIDS”. Fanja Rakotondrajao, President of the Mathematical Society of Madagascar” will be panellist in the panel discussion “What can mathematics do for the planet?”, chaired by the science journalist, Sophie Bécherel. The film “EXIT”, realized by the Cartier Foundation for contemporary art will also be presented. The MPE Day will end with a public lecture by the climate scientist, Hervé Le Treut, Director of the Institute Pierre Simon Laplace.

For more information

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