# Opening ceremony

## Rolf Jeltsch, Congress Director

Frau Regierungsrätin,
meine sehr geehrten Damen und Herren,

Ich habe die Ehre die folgenden Honoritäten begrüssen zu dürfen:

Frau Regierungsrätin Regine Aeppli, Vorsteherin des Erziehungsdepartmentes des Kantons Zürich, Herrn Stadtrat Martin Vollenwyder als Vertreter der Regierung der Stadt Zürich.

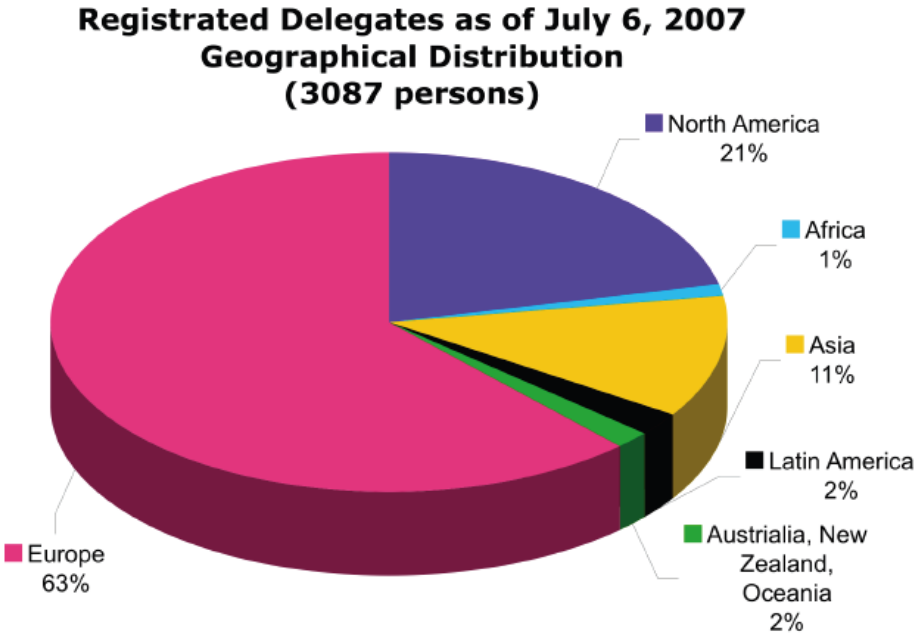
Ich möchte mich für die Anwesenheit der folgenden akademischen Vertreter bedanken:

Professor Konrad Osterwalder, Präsident ad interim und Rektor der ETH Zürich; Professor Heini Murer, Prorektor der Universität Zürich; Frau Professor Heidi Wunderlin, Rektorin designata der ETH Zürich; Professor Norbert Hungerbühler, Präsident der Schweizerischen Mathematischen Gesellschaft; Professor Ian Sloan, Präsident der International Council on Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Erlauben Sie mir, dass ich in englischer Sprache weiterspreche.

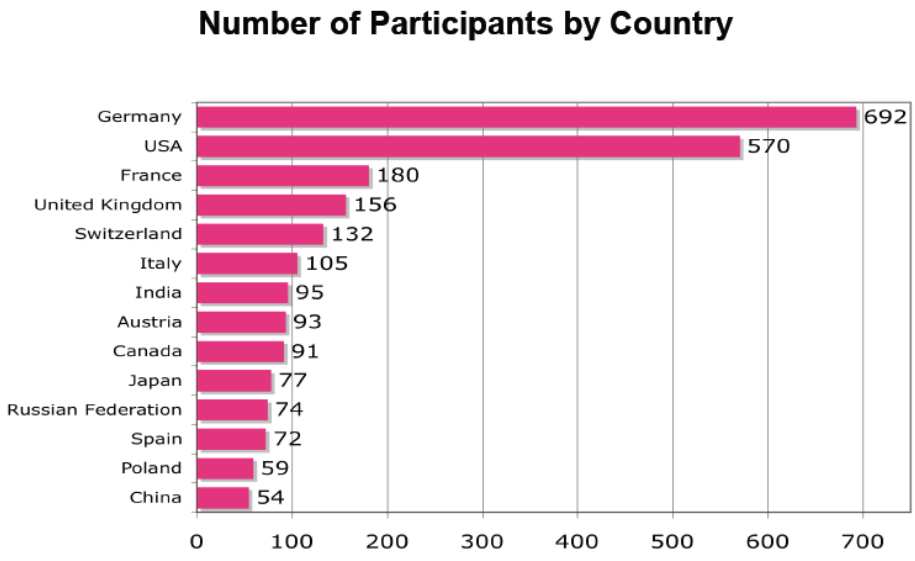
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
dear colleagues,

let me welcome you all on behalf of the local organizing committee, the Swiss Mathematical Society, our hosting organisation and the community of all mathematicians in Switzerland. We are overwhelmed by the huge turnout.




A week ago we counted 3087 registered participants from 89 countries. Colleagues came from as far as the Fiji's, from places like Vanuatu or Tuvalu, from Bolivia, Lesotho, Azerbaijan, just to name a few. Clearly the largest portion of participants, almost two thirds come from Europe.

On the next slide you find countries with large delegations.




I know that you all are extremely active mathematicians and the result you see on my final slide. More than 2900 lectures will be given and therefore you will have sometimes to choose one out of 71 parallel sessions.

# Program

2900 lectures

- 287 Mini symposia
  1751 Mini symposia talks
- 1051 Contributed papers
- 120 Poster presentations
- 7 Industry days
- 4 Embedded meetings (GAMM, ESMTB,CSIAM,AMU)

==> 63 - 71 Sessions in parallel

You can imagine that it needs a large organisation to handle such a congress with so many lectures and events. Therefore I would like to thank all the persons who have helped:

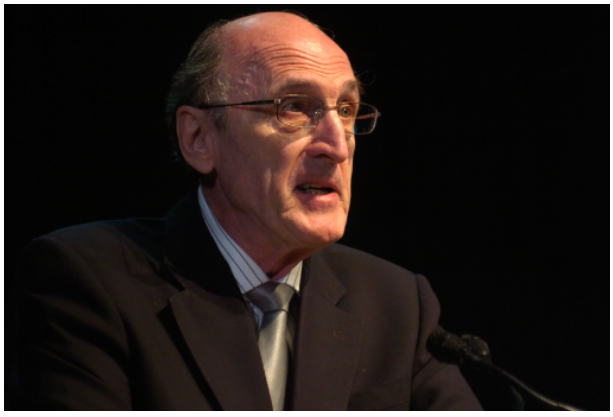
the Honorary Committee, the Scientific Program committee with its chair, Gerhard Wanner, which selected the invited speakers, the Scientific Committee who had to review more than 3500 proposals and abstracts under the leadership of Stefan Sauter, my colleagues on the organising committee, my deputy Martin Gutknecht, and the congress manager Dominique Ballarin, and all the people from the university of Zürich and ETH Zürich, the secretaries, the assistants the technical personal. In the Program book you find all the names.

Last but not least I thank the Congress Partners and sponsors.

I wish you all an interesting congress, many fruitful discussions, that you meet old friends and that you can make new ones. I hope you will find time to explore and enjoy the City of Zurich and its surroundings.

Thank you.

# Ian Sloan, President of ICIAM



Distinguished guests, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Twenty years ago the first International Congress of Industrial and Applied Mathematics took place in Paris. That first Congress was sponsored by four of the worlds great professional societies: GAMM, centred in Germany; the British IMA, the American SIAM, and the then new French society SMAI. ICIAM actually began life three years earlier as a gleam in the eye of Gene Golub, now acknowledged as the founding father of ICIAM. In 1984 he convened a meeting of the four societies, to consider mounting a great international Congress on the many applications of mathematics. That Congress three years later was a pivotal event in the history of applied and industrial mathematics: the first ICIAM, and the first ever celebration on such a scale of mathematics in action. Since then there have been successful ICIAMs in Washington in 1991, Hamburg 1995, Edinburgh in 1999, and Sydney in 2003. Now twenty years later, we are at the beginning of another great event, the sixth ICIAM in Zurich. Those twenty years since the first ICIAM have seen an explosion in the number of supporting societies: from just four in 1987, to now 27. Some are great, some small. Between them they represent most of the world's mathematical scientists with a significant interest in applications of mathematics.

As the number of supporting societies has grown, so has their ambition. It is no longer enough to sponsor the four-yearly Congress: now the aim is to promote the development of mathematics and its applications on a world-wide scale all of the time.

In 2001 this larger ambition was formalized by the creation of the International Council of Industrial and Applied Mathematics or ICIAM . So this is a second meaning of ICIAM, with the C now standing for Council rather than Congress.

The Council, with its 27 member societies, has recently focused its attention on the developing world. In particular, it recently announced a scheme to allow

the organizers of selected conferences to support delegates from developing countries. In this Congress year it means giving extra financial support to the Zurich organizers to bring more delegates to this Congress from developing countries. In non-Congress years it means giving targeted grants to other selected conferences. I think this scheme, still in its early days, is one that ICIAM can be proud of.

So what is ICIAM? It is both a Congress and a Council. Both are part of a great movement to promote the many applications of mathematics. May they both go from strength to strength.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in declaring the Congress open.