

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ATCM

The Asian Technology Conference in Mathematics (**ATCM**: <http://atcm.mathandtech.org>) was founded by Professor **Wei-Chi Yang**, from Radford University of Virginia, USA. In his paper *Mathematics Education Reform in the East and the West Technology Issues*, Dr. Yang wrote that many issues in mathematics education reform motivated him to initiate this conference. He pointed out that technological tools made significant impact on mathematics teaching, learning and research in the US, and computer software had influenced ways of teaching and research in higher education. In particular, how to make use of the hardware and software technologies to assist our *teaching, learning and research* in mathematics was one of the main purposes of why ATCM was founded.

The very first Asian Technology Conference in Mathematics was hosted by the **National Institute of Education in Singapore** in 1995. The purpose of this conference was to facilitate a series of discussions on the use of computers and related software in mathematics research and teaching among Asian countries. The conference theme was *How can Mathematics Software be used in Research and Teaching Activities*. The conference attracted more than 300 scholars from 22 countries around the world. About 40% of participants were from Singapore and 60% from other countries. More than 80 presented papers were published in the conference proceedings. The conference had wonderful support from participants around the world as well as software and hardware developers.

Since 1997 till 2015, the ATCM Annual Conferences were hosted by universities in various countries and regions. They are listed as follows:

- ATCM 1997 was held in Penang (**Universiti of Sains Malaya**), in Malaysia. Topics such as *Distance Learning* and *Teaching with Multimedia Technologies* started appearing.
- ATCM 1998 was held in **University of Tsukuba**, in Japan. Scholars gathered in the University of Tsukuba for the third ATCM conference. Although the conference theme was *Research and Teaching with Computer Algebra Systems (CAS)*, the topic *Computer Assisted Teaching and Learning in Mathematics* was also among the main topics discussed. The topic of *Distance Learning through the World Wide Web* was seriously discussed as well.
- ATCM 1999 was held in Guangzhou Normal University, China, and hosted by Guangzhou Normal University, with the theme of *Applying Scientific and Technological Methods in Mathematics Research and Teaching*. The conference first established the *Best Papers Award*.
- ATCM 2000 was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and hosted by **Chiang Mai University**. The major topics for the conference were *Graphics Calculators, Computational Algebra and Geometry, Internet Technology for Mathematics, Machine Learning and Theorem Proving, and Parallel and Distributed Computing and Applications*.
- ATCM 2001 was held in Melbourne, Australia, and was hosted by **RMIT University**. The major topics discussed at this conference included *Implementing Technology in Education from K-12 to University Level, Assessment of Implementation of Technology in Education, and Mathematics and*

Information Technology.

- ATCM 2002 was held in Melaka, Malaysia, and hosted by **Multimedia University**. The major theme of the conference was *Multimedia for the Advancement of Mathematics*. At this year's conference, suggested by the host University, *Multimedia Distance Learning* was added as one of the major topics for discussion. More than 300 scholars attended the conference. The number of participants was about the same as in the previous conferences. More than 90 presented papers were published in the conference proceedings.
- ATCM 2003 was held in Hsin-Chu, Taiwan, and hosted by **Chung Hua University**. This was the very first ATCM conference in Taiwan. Like the hosting universities of the previous ATCM conferences, Chung Hua University made great efforts to make the conference a success. This year's conference attracted experts in this field from all over the world, and provided opportunities for Taiwanese experts in this field to exchange ideas and experiences with the conference attendees. This made clear that ATCM was the most important conference in the field of technology application in mathematics research and teaching in Asia.
- ATCM 2004 was held in Singapore, and hosted by the **National Institute of Education** and Nanyang Technological University. The conference theme was *Technology in Mathematics: Engaging Learners, Empowering Teachers, and Enabling Research*. The conference attracted over 400 participants around the world.
- ATCM 2005 was held in Cheong-Ju, South Korea, and hosted by **Korea National University of Education**. The conference theme was *Enriching Technology in Enhancing Mathematics for All*.
- ATCM 2006 was held in Hong Kong, and hosted by the **Hong Kong Polytechnic University**. The conference theme was *Advancing and Fostering Mathematical Sciences and Education through Technology*.
- The ATCM Conference was conducted in Taiwan for the second time in 2007. At this time ATCM 2007 was hosted by the **National Tsing Hua University**. The conference theme was *Making Mathematics Fun, Accessible and Challenging through Technology*. The number and reputation of the speakers has surpassed the records of all previous conferences. The Electronic Proceedings of ATCM 2007 are now available at this site, <http://atcm.mathandtech.org/EP2007/EP2007.htm>.
- The 13th Asian Technology Conference in Mathematics was held at **Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University**, in Bangkok, Thailand in December 15-19, 2008. Thanks to IPST, MOE and many sponsors, the conference was well attended by over 400 participants representing from over 33 countries around the world. We are sure many of you, who have attended the conference; agree that the conference was indeed both enjoyable and instructive thanks to the hospitality of hosting university.
- The 14th ATCM at the **Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China**, December 17-21, 2009 was a blast, we attracted over 400 participants representing 29 countries. There were lots of interests in the use of technology from school teachers in China. We believe we will come back to China soon.
- The 15th ATCM was hosted by the **University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**, December 17-21, 2010. The country is in the process of changing the education curriculum using local languages in addition to English. We hope ATCM 2010 did provide enough guidelines and stress the importance of integrating technology in mathematics teaching and learning for the country.
- The 16th ATCM was hosted by the **Abant İzzet Baysal University, Bolu, Turkey**, September 19-23, 2011. The selection of Turkey is symbolic, it shows the ATCM is not only an international mathematics and technology conference held in Asia but because of location of the venue, we have attracted many European participants to this event. All in all, attracted over 300 participants from over 25 countries.
- ATCM 2012 with the theme of "*Creative and Critical Thinking in Mathematics Through Technology*" was held at **Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University**, in Bangkok, Thailand (December 16-20,

2012) second time in ATCM history. It was co-sponsored by the Institute for Promotion and Science and Technology of Thailand, the conference attracted over 400 local and foreign participants representing 28 countries around the world. The enthusiasm of participations from abroad and local, as expected, is overwhelming, and the Local Organizing Committee made a splash on the cultural performance during the conference dinner.

- The 18th ATCM, carrying the theme of "*Technology Integration in Math Curriculum*", was first time held in India at IIT-Powai, Bombay of December 7-11, 2013. It was indeed a remarkable experience to see various corners of lives from Mumbai. The success of the conference can be seen from many smiling faces from local and foreign participants during the closing ceremony.

- The 19th ATCM, November 26-30, 2014, was held jointly with local conferences at the State University of Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. With the contributions from all parties, there were over 500 participants representing 20 countries and regions around the world at the joint conference. We were thrilled to see many wonderful local presentations in English. Thanks to the efforts of LOC, the detailed planning of the programs including performance at the reception, conference dinner and closing ceremony were very much enjoyed by all participants. The ATCM 2014 indeed has been an enjoyable and instructive conference.

- We celebrated the 20th ATCM (ATCM 2015) during December 16-20 in Leshan China, which we attracted over 300 participants representing 22 countries and regions around the world. This is the first time we invited two members of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor Zhang Jing-zhong and Professor Lin Qun to give plenary speeches. The performances during conference reception, opening ceremony and conference dinner were all very enjoyable. We thank HP for providing ATCM 2015 an opportunity to bring participants to visit local middle school in Leshan in observing how teacher and students utilizing technological tool in a classroom. The conference boat tour to Leshan Giant Buddha was also delightful too. The conference theme for ATCM 2015 was 'Celebrating Mathematics and Technology'.

- The 21st ATCM (ATCM 2016) was held in Pattaya, Thailand. We are very thankful that the conference was organized by SSRU of Thailand and sponsored by the IPST of Thailand the third time since 2008 and 2012. We start seeing the conference is being attended by many high school students from China and participants truly appreciate such an international renown conference is being held in Asian Pacific regions year after year.

We are in the crossroad of integrating evolving technological tools into teaching and research in mathematics. The adoption of technology varies from country to country. Many people wonder if students from some countries did so well in the Program for International Student Assessment (*PISA*), where is the role of technology? Some will say – It is not simply how well students can perform in a test, it is how well they can discover more mathematics (if technological tools are adopted) and enhance their mathematics understanding to a higher level. In addition we believe that making basic knowledge of math and science accessible to more people is essential in any education systems.

Come and join us and contribute to the theme of "*Technological Creativity and Innovation in Mathematics Applications*." In Chungli, Taiwan, December 15-19, 2017.

Contributed by ATCM
friends