Speech for the Opening Ceremony of the Jubilee Congress for the 100th Anniversary of the Polish Mathematical Society

I would like to welcome all of you, who gathered here to take part in the Jubilee Congress for the 100th Anniversary of the Polish Mathematical Society once again, especially our respectable guests invited to the opening ceremony.

We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of organized mathematical life in Poland, which, for obvious reasons, could not have existed for over a hundred years beforehand. It is no coincidence, however, that the Polish Mathematical Society came into existence here, in Kraków, since it is where the first Polish university was founded, and during the time of the Partitions of Poland it was the area granted the largest amount of freedom. Of course, mathematical research was also conducted long before the Partitions: the Jan Brożek treaties and Copernicus' theorem are worth mentioning here.

Mathematics is a universal science, a universal language for other areas of science and a language for modelling our reality. It has been present in human culture since the beginnings of human civilization, and what is more, remained universal while being developed in different civilizations simultaneously. Mathematics is and always has been universal in space, as well as unchangeable in time. Empires and kingdoms, political systems and religions all rose and fell, yet mathematical theorems remained true, and in some cases only became more detailed (complicated for people outside the mathematical community, as well as for us). And a part of it, although it lacks semantic national traits, is Polish mathematics, which is institutionally represented by the Polish Mathematical Society, brought into existence a hundred years ago in Kraków.

A strong example of the presence of mathematical in common culture is the fact that we are celebrating the $100^{th} = 10^2$ anniversary, which is the consequence of adopting the decimal numeral system. Let us imagine what it would be like if we adopted the binary system, which is the easiest logically and used in both computer science and technology?

We as mathematicians, as humans, we live and work in various communities: professional (of teachers, researchers or others), urban, national, but also international.

These communities provide us with resources for our work, but also expect such results of our work that will be useful soon. We must keep this in mind.

In conclusion, it is worth saying that while we are looking to the past as our source of inspiration and strength, we must focus our attention on the future. The challenges of continuing and expanding our traditions, the intellectual adventure and universality dating back to the beginnings of humanity, and especially developing the utilitarian role of mathematics are possible only through cooperation. And so declaring possible forms of action for mathematics and for Polish science in general, including interdisciplinary scientific cooperation, as well as cooperation with engineers and teachers is, in my view, the most important task for this Congress.

I wish all of the participants many productive activities of various nature, as well as enjoyment of the richest cultural program in the history of European mathematical Congresses, or at least Polish ones.

Kraków, 03.09.2019   Wacław Marzantowicz

                                                                      President of the P T M

Adres dla korespondencji: ul. Śniadeckich 8, 00-956 Warszawa,
e-mail: zgptm@ptm.org.pl WWW: www.ptm.org.pl
Numer konta bankowego: 98 1500 1777 1217 7008 4349 0000