

International Mathematical Union



August 26, 2013
IMU AO Circular Letter 4/2013

To: IMU Adhering Organizations

From: Martin Grötschel, IMU Secretary

ICSU request concerning national science advisors

High-level meeting of national-level science advisors - an ICSU proposal

Dear colleagues,

I am forwarding to you in the attachment a letter from the International Council for Science (ICSU) to the union members of ICSU describing a new ICSU project entitled "High-level meeting of national-level science advisors". I attach, moreover, the draft of the associated project proposal.

ICSU plans to hold a meeting of national-level science advisors of the countries that are represented in ICSU. This high-level meeting is supposed to be staged in August 2014 in conjunction with the 31st ICSU General Assembly to be held in New Zealand.

ICSU requests the unions to contact their member countries and ask the adhering organizations to identify suitable persons for such a meeting.

I have contacted John Ball, the former IMU president, who currently is a member of the IMU Executive Board. John thinks that this project - to have a first meeting and make it a more permanent activity - is a very good idea to improve the links and connections between science advisors around the world. He asked me, particularly, to request your support for this plan.

Some countries around the world have national science advisors (who usually participate in cabinet meetings and the like in order to support a country's political strategy concerning science, education and technology and, thus, have significant influence). Many other countries do not have such a position, but may have a minister of science, science and technology, science and education or the like, instead. These ministers typically play a broader role, but may have deputy ministers (or representatives in a similar role) who might be considered as an equivalent to national science advisors.

My request to the adhering organizations is to try to identify such persons and to contact the government (in your country) to point out that ICSU is planning this high-level meeting in New Zealand in August next year and to ask the government to send a representative to this meeting.

More details can be found in the attached documents.

May I ask you to send your proposals to Maureen Brennan (email: Maureen@icsu.org) by September 6, 2013?

Best regards,

Martin Grötschel
IMU Secretary