

IMAGINARY ISRAEL

scientific exchange and dissemination of current
mathematical research

Press release (09/Feb/2015)

Rehovot, Israel, February 9, 2015. On the occasion of the 50 year long diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel, the project *IMAGINARY Israel* by the Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach (MFO) will be announced. The project consists of two mathematics exhibitions for the general public and two workshops mainly for young mathematicians from Germany and Israel. *IMAGINARY Israel* will officially be announced during the visit of Federal Minister Johanna Wanka on February 10 at the Weizmann Institute of Science to celebrate 50 years of German-Israel diplomatic relations.

IMAGINARY is the name of an international mathematics outreach project by the MFO that aims to communicate modern mathematics in order to improve the image and understanding of mathematics for a broad public. The two IMAGINARY exhibitions will be shown during the summer 2015 at the Clore Garden of Science, The Davidson Institute of Science Education of the Weizmann Institute and later in Tel Aviv, aiming to fuel the mathematical interest of the general public in Israel. At the same time a summer school in Kaiserslautern with young researchers from both countries and a workshop at the Bar Ilan University on algebraic and tropical geometry will take place. This opportunity will allow for an exchange between research experts and aspiring young scientists in the field of geometry of both countries.

IMAGINARY Israel is organized within the “Research in Germany” campaign of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with the aim of strengthening the traditionally very good mathematical research collaborations between the two countries. Furthermore, the idea is to also share the long experience of the IMAGINARY project in staging mathematics exhibitions and communicating current mathematics research to the general public.

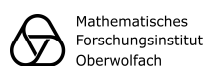
IMAGINARY was created by the MFO and started as a travelling mathematics and art exhibition for the German Year of Mathematics in 2008, funded by the BMBF. It quickly became one of the most important travelling mathematics exhibitions in the world, attracting several million visitors in more than 30 countries. Its online platform www.imaginary.org, launched in 2013, hosts a series of exhibits including two full exhibitions, “IMAGINARY - through the eyes of mathematics” and “Mathematics of planet earth”. IMAGINARY is currently mainly funded by the Klaus Tschira Stiftung.

The speciality and strength of IMAGINARY lies in its philosophy of presenting exhibits that have a close connection to mathematical research. At the same time it encourages everybody to use the IMAGINARY content and to share its own content and ideas for the communication of mathematics by providing free upload and download through its online platform. This enables anyone to stage a mathematics exhibition at schools, universities or museums.

The former director of the MFO and project lead of *IMAGINARY Israel*, Prof. Dr. Gert-Martin Greuel explains the idea behind IMAGINARY: "Mathematics does generally not have the status in public life it deserves, in view of the significance of mathematical science for the competitiveness of a society. IMAGINARY is an attempt to create awareness of mathematics by showing surprising applications and at the same time the beauty and art in mathematics, and in this way building a bridge between mathematics and the general public."

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