

**Dean Skorn's Welcoming Speech**  
**ICMA-MU 2011 Opening Ceremony**  
**17 December 2011, 9.00 am**

**Prof. Zelmanov,**

**Distinguished Professors, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I am delighted and honored to have this opportunity to welcome you to this International Conference In Mathematics and Applications 2011, which is hosted this year by the Centre of Excellence in Mathematics, under the auspices of the Post Graduate Research, and Education Development Office of the Ministry of Education, with full support of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University.

As the Dean of Science, I wish to extend a warm welcome to colleagues from the various countries. We are especially honored this year by the presence of the eminent mathematician and Field Medalist, Prof.Efim Zelmanov, who has graciously accepted our invitation to be here as the Keynote Speaker.

I recognize that these sessions are principally designed to enhance the exchange of knowledge and new discoveries in mathematics and related fields of applications. These bi-annual gatherings enable the building of a productive dialogue between participants of different nationalities. They also provide an invaluable opportunity for networking and fruitful contacts among international institutions.

Since Mahidol University is the lead university of Centre of Excellence in Mathematics (or CME), a consortium of 19 active universities in Thailand, Mahidol University's Faculty of Science has been supportive of the policies and projects under CEM. This is the fifth time that the conference is being held, this time with CEM as the major host of the event. I am pleased to be informed that as many as over 200 participants from 20 countries are in attendance. It is also our pleasure and honor to welcome the esteemed professors who are present to impart their expertise to the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all delegates and sponsors for their full support, cooperation and contribution to the ICMA-MU 2011. I also wish to express my gratitude to the Organizing Committee and the Scientific Committee for their diligence. The various sponsors are also thanked for their kind support.

In closing, I realize that you are fully dedicated to the sessions that will follow but I do hope you will also take time to enjoy fascinating Thailand, with its tropical setting, friendly people and multi-cultural cuisine.

I wish the participants a very fruitful and productive meeting and with that, I declare the International Conference in Mathematics and Applications 2011 open.

Thank you.