



Program Book

10th Congress of the World Federation of
National Mathematics Competitions 2026



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Mode: Physical & Online

22 – 28 July 2026

Welcome Message

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the **World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions (WFNMC)** & the **Local Organising Committee**, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the **10th WFNMC Congress**, held from **22–28 July 2026** in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**. Since its establishment, WFNMC has played a vital role in advancing excellence, creativity, and collaboration in mathematics competitions worldwide. WFNMC 2026 continues this tradition by bringing together mathematicians, educators, researchers, and competition organisers to exchange ideas, share research, and strengthen international cooperation in the mathematical enrichment community.

This handbook has been prepared to support you before and during your participation. It contains essential information on schedule, venue, and practical arrangements, helping you focus fully on the academic and professional experience. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we look forward to your participation and to an inspiring Congress in Malaysia.

Selamat Datang ke Malaysia! Welcome to Malaysia!

Local Organising Committee, WFNMC 2026

About WFNMC 2026

The **10th World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions Congress (WFNMC 2026)** continues the Federation's long-standing tradition of bringing together educators, researchers, and organisers of mathematics competitions from around the world. WFNMC Congresses are held every four years and serve as a global platform for sharing research and best practices in mathematics competitions, discussing innovation in contest design and enrichment programmes, strengthening international collaboration in mathematics education.

WFNMC 2026 marks the first time the Congress is hosted in Malaysia, reflecting the popularity of mathematical competitions in the Southeast Asian region.

Official Congress Website: **wfnmc2026.com**

Fact Sheet: Malaysia

- **Capital City:** Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya (administrative capital)
- **Location:** Southeast Asia
- **Population:** 34 million
- **Official Language:** Bahasa Malaysia (Malay)
- **Widely Spoken Languages:** English, Mandarin, Tamil, Cantonese
- **Currency:** Malaysian Ringgit (MYR/RM)
- **Time Zone:** Malaysia Time (MYT), UTC +8
- **Calling Code:** +60
- **Top-Level Domain:** .my
- **Power Type:** Type G (UK-style), voltage 240V; International adapters recommended

Malaysia is a multicultural nation where Malay, Chinese, Indian, Borneans, and many indigenous cultures coexist, making it a welcoming and diverse destination for international visitors.

About Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur (KL) is Malaysia's capital and largest city, combining modern skyscrapers with rich history and cultural heritage. The history of modern KL can be traced from the mid-19th century to its founding as a center of tin mining.

Key highlights: Iconic landmarks such as the Petronas Twin Towers, the Merdeka 118, and the Exchange 106. Extensive public transportation network. Renowned food scene, from street food to fine dining. Safe, visitor-friendly city with English widely spoken and understood. KL receives ~17 million visitors every year.

WFNMC 2026 activities will be held within Kuala Lumpur or its immediate surroundings, ensuring convenient access to accommodation, shopping, dining, and cultural attractions.

Plenary Speakers

➤ Richard Elwes

Prof. Elwes works at the University of Leeds, UK, where he does research in complex systems, random networks, and mathematical logic. He is a prolific author of popular math books, which have sold over 100,000 copies and appeared in more than 20 international editions (Maths 1001, Chaotic Fishponds and Mirror Universes, How to Build a Brain, Maths in 100 Key Breakthroughs). He also served as the Publicity Officer for the European Mathematical Society.



➤ Po-Shen Loh

Prof. Loh is a mathematics professor at Carnegie Mellon University, USA. He is the former national coach of the USA IMO team and currently serves as the Vice-President of the IMO Foundation. In addition, he is a social entrepreneur with a track record of inventing population-scale solutions to address real-world problems, from pandemic control to helping human society thrive in the AI era. His educational outreach takes him to cities worldwide, reaching over 10,000 people annually through public lectures and events.



➤ Alexander Soifer

Prof. Soifer is a mathematics professor at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. In addition to mathematics, he also teaches art history and European cinema. He is the founder of the Colorado Mathematical Olympiad (since 1984), now known as Soifer Mathematical Olympiad. He served as the President of WFNMC (2012–2018) and is the recipient of the WFNMC Paul Erdős Award (2006). He founded the journal Geombinatorics, and has lectured at multiple WFNMC Congresses.



➤ Lê Anh Vinh

Lê Anh Vinh is Director General of the Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences. He has served for many years as Leader of the Vietnam International Mathematical Olympiad team, playing an important role in training and developing Vietnam's young mathematical talents. He is the author and co-author of numerous mathematics textbooks and educational publications, including mathematics textbooks and enrichment books for gifted students from primary to upper secondary levels. He is also the founder of Hoc Toán cùng Jenny (Learning Math with Jenny), a math club that encourages children to enjoy mathematics, think creatively, and develop problem-solving skills from an early age.



Online Participants

Registered online participants can join all sessions of the Congress on the Zoom app at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/ZoomWFNMC26>

Meeting ID: 573 777 1606

Passcode: kP0v85

The Zoom meeting room will be open from **8.30 AM to 5.30 PM** (Malaysia time, GMT+8) daily during the Congress days.

WFNMC 2026 WhatsApp group

Please click the link below or scan the **QR code** to join the **WFNMC 2026 WhatsApp group**. All updates, announcements, and important information regarding the event will be shared in the group.

QR code WFNMC 2026 WhatsApp group :



WhatsApp group Link :

<https://tinyurl.com/WFNMC-2026>

Daily Schedule

Tuesday, 21 July Early Arrival Day

Time	Activity
All day	Early arrival of participants

Wednesday, 22 July Arrival Day

Time	Activity
All day	Arrival of participants

Mini-Excursion: Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya Heritage

Time	Activity
8:00 AM	Gather at the Lobby of Imperial Lexis KL (Level G)
8:30 AM	Departure from hotel
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Tour of Batu Caves (limestone caves & religious shrine)
10:30 AM	Depart from Batu Caves
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Tour of Tugu Negara (national monument)
11:30 AM	Depart from Tugu Negara
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch at Semuka Cafe, Carcosa Seri Negara
2:00 PM	Depart from Carcosa Seri Negara to Putrajaya
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Putrajaya Lake Cruise
4:30 PM	Return to hotel

Please Note: Due to limited space, this tour is **only open to those who have selected the tour** during the congress registration. The itinerary is tentative and may be subject to change due to traffic conditions, weather, or other circumstances. For comfort, please dress in a comfortable walking attire (light clothing, walking shoes & a cap) and bring a water bottle.

Thursday, 23 July Scientific Programme – Day 1

Time	Activity	Venue
6:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast	Roselle Coffee House (Level 8)
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Opening Ceremony: • Welcoming remark • Safety briefing from Imperial Lexis KL • Opening speech from the President of WFNMC • Congress briefing	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Plenary Lecture 1 Richard Elwes University of Leeds, United Kingdom <i>Puzzles, Stories, and Very Large Numbers – Complementary Approaches to Mathematical Engagement</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Coffee Break	Foyer of Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Topic Group (TG) 1: Building Bridges between Problems of Mathematical Research and Competitions Alexander Soifer University of Colorado, USA <i>Keynote by Chair: Bridges between Research Mathematics and The Soifer Mathematical Olympiad</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	TGI Kiril Bankov University of Sofia and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria <i>Using probability may help</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	TGI Regis Prado Barbosa Institute of Mathematics and Statistics, University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil; Colégio ETAPA, São Paulo, Brazil <i>Combinatorics: How Could a Syllabus Shorten the Distance to Research?</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch	Roselle Coffee House (Level 8)
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	TGI (online) Miroslav Marinov Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria <i>Erdős Problem 379 – Rows in Pascal's Triangle with Arbitrarily Large Maximal Prime Exponents</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Extra Presentation Omar Colón, Luis Cáceres University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, Puerto Rico <i>Promoting Geometric Reasoning Through the Development of a New Mathematics Competition in Puerto Rico</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Coffee Break	Foyer of Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	TGI Evgeny V. Khinko International Mathematical Tournament of Towns, Russia <i>On Modern Methods of Cheating in Mathematical Competitions</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	Special Film Presentation Alexander Soifer University of Colorado, USA <i>The Soifer Mathematical Olympiad is 40: A Film</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)

5:15 PM – 5:30 PM	Introduction to Workshop Suhaimi Ramly Kangaroo Math Malaysia	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
5:30 PM	Adjourn	

Friday, 24 July Scientific Programme – Day 2

Time	Activity	Venue
6:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast	Roselle Coffee House (Level 8)
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	TG2: Creating Problems and Problem Solving (online) Hayk Sedrakyan (Coauthors: Nairi Sedrakyan, Christophe Pinarbasi) Independent Research <i>Keynote by Chair: Sedrakyan's Area Formula: A Unified Distance-Based Area Formula for Convex Polygons</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	TG2 Robert Geretschläger World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions <i>Tetrahedron Problems</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	TG2 (online) Arno Mikaelyan, Advik Kishore (Coauthor: Hayk Sedrakyan) Independent research <i>Trapezoid Law, Trapezoid Theorem and Their Applications</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	TG2 Raphael Pinarbasi (Coauthors: Hayk Sedrakyan, Nairi Sedrakyan) Independent research <i>Generalizations of Sedrakyan's Inequality (Titu's lemma) and Equality Conditions</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Coffee Break	Foyer of Ballroom 1 (Level 10)

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	TG 2 (online) Jacob Gechlik, Diya Gandhi, Shaurya Jain Independent research <i>Creating Problems and Problem Solving. Some Properties for Hexagons</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Plenary Lecture 2 Po-Shen Loh Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA <i>After AI: From International Math Contests to a More Thought Full World</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch	Roselle Coffee House (Level 8)
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	TG3: Competitions Around the World (Focus on Developing Countries) (online) Paul Vaderlind Stockholm University, Sweden <i>Keynote by Chair: Challenges and Obstacles When Organising Competitions in Developing Countries</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	TG3 (online) Maria Losada Universidad Antonio Nariño, Bogotá, Colombia <i>Some Remarks on Colombia's National Mathematical Olympiad</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	TG3 (online) Krzysztof Ciesielski Jagiellonian University, Mathematics Institute, Kraków, Poland <i>From University Entrance Examination to a New Kind of Competition</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Coffee Break	Foyer of Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Workshop Session	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
5:30 PM	Adjourn	

Saturday, 25 July Excursion Day

OPTION A: Nature Experience

Time	Activity
7:00 AM	Gather at the Lobby Imperial Lexis Hotel (Level G)
7:30 AM	Depart for Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Forest Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
8:00 AM – 10:30 AM	FRIM exploration - Tour of FRIM Forest Park - FRIM Forest Skywalk
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	KL City Tour (Bukit Bintang, Merdeka 118, KL Tower)
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM	Lunch and Tour of the Islamic Art Museum Malaysia
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Tour of Sultan Abdul Samad Building & Central Market
4:00 PM – 4:20 PM	Depart for Petronas Twin Towers
4:20 PM	Leisure time at Petronas Twin Towers or return to the hotel

OPTION B: History & Culture Experience

Time	Activity
8:00 AM	Gather at the Lobby Imperial Lexis Hotel (Level G)
8:30 AM	Depart for National Museum
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Tour of National Museum with tour guide
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	KL City Tour (Bukit Bintang, Merdeka 118, KL Tower)
For the rest of the schedule, see Option A above (both groups will merge)	

Please Note: Participants have selected Option A or Option B during registration. Note that Option A covers an outdoor activity, so in case of inclement weather, the **FRIM tour might be cancelled** and replaced with a visit to the National Museum. For comfort, please dress in a comfortable walking attire (light clothing, walking shoes & a cap) and bring a water bottle. Those with limited mobility are suggested to take Option B.

Sunday, 26 July Scientific Programme – Day 3

Time	Activity	Venue
6:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast	Roselle Coffee House (Level 8)
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Plenary Lecture 3 Alexander Soifer University of Colorado, USA <i>Chromatic Number of the Plane Problem Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, and Mathematical Olympiads</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	TG3 (online) Navid Safaei Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria <i>The Friendly Competitions (Common IMO Preparations for Several Countries)</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	TG3 Agrey Kimaro Numbers Foundation – Tanzania Mathematics Olympiad (TAMO), Tanzania <i>Finding the Mathematicians We Never Meet: Building Inclusive Mathematics Olympiad Ecosystems in East Africa</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Coffee Break	Foyer of Ballroom 1 (Level 10)

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	TG4: Technological Applications in Mathematics Competitions and Didactics (online) Lukas Donner Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Mathematisches Institut, Germany <i>Keynote by Chair: Variation of a Competition Problem – From Placement of Sticks, Residue Classes and the Binary System</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	TG4 Andrew Kepert, Elke Grunschgl, Lukas Donner Kepert: University of Newcastle, Australia; Grunschgl & Donner: Georg- August-Universität Göttingen, Germany <i>Austrian Kangaroos and Australian Kangaroos: Similarities and Differences</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	TG4 Matjaž Željko University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Slovenia <i>International Kangaroo Open</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch	Roselle Coffee House (Level 8)
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	TG4 (online) Robin Gludovatz, Yasmin Theile, Michael Fischer University of Vienna, Austria; University of Cologne, Germany; University of Graz, Austria <i>The Digital Gap: Analysing Performance Differences in Online vs. Offline Mathematics Competitions</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	TG4 (online) Evita Lerchenberger University of Graz, Austria <i>Why Translation is Not Enough: Problems, Ideas and (Partial) Solutions for Blind Participants in the Mathematical Kangaroo Competition</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
03:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Extra Presentation Tim Sanders mathleague.org <i>Developing an Early Childhood Contest</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Coffee Break	Foyer of Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Workshop Session	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
5:30 PM	Adjourn	

Monday, 27 July Scientific Programme – Day 4

Time	Activity	Venue
6:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast	Roselle Coffee House (Level 8)
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Plenary Lecture 4 Lê Anh Vinh Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences, Vietnam <i>Developing Mathematics Competition Ecosystems in Southeast Asia: From Talent Identification to Educational Impact</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Extra presentation (online) Michael Fischer University of Graz, Austria <i>Teamwork and Task Design in Mathematics Team Competitions: Students' Experiences and Organizers' Reflections</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Extra presentation (online) Nicolás Atanes Santos Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain <i>Strategies for Developing and Sustaining an Engaging Mathematics League</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Coffee Break	Foyer of Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Extra presentation Chris Wetherell Australian Maths Trust, Australia <i>Sharing the Love: Experiences from the Australian Maths Trust</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Extra presentation (online) Aidan Mozayeni (coauthor: Hayk Sedrakyan) Undergraduate, Princeton University, USA <i>Formulas for Diagonals of any Quadrilateral</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Extra presentation Athmane Dadi Champs School Draa El Mizan, Algeria <i>Bridging the Gap Between School Mathematics and Competition Thinking: Insights from International Practice, with a Focus on Developing Countries</i>	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch	Roselle Coffee House (Level 8)
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	General Meeting of WFNMC First Session	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Coffee Break	Foyer of Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	General Meeting of WFNMC Second Session	Ballroom 1 (Level 10)
5:30 PM	Adjourn Gala Dinner to commence at 6.30pm	

Gala Dinner (Ballroom 2, Level 10)

Time	Activity
6:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Registration
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Speeches
7:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Dinner Cultural Performances showcasing the various ethnicities of Malaysia: - Zapin (traditional Malay) dance - Traditional Chinese and Indian dance - Orang Asli (indigenous people of Malaysia) dance - Bornean (East Malaysian) dance Closing Remark (at 9:55 PM)
10:00 PM	Conclusion of Congress

Malaysia Travel Guide

Weather

- July weather in KL hot and humid, with typical daytime highs reaching 33°C (91°F) and nighttime lows settling around 24°C (75°F)
- The high humidity (around 80%) can make it feel even warmer, so light, breathable clothing and staying hydrated are highly recommended
- July is a dry season, but it rains regularly, so it is a good idea to bring an umbrella while going outdoors.

Grab (transportation app)

- It is recommended to download the Grab mobile app – the main transportation app for getting around Kuala Lumpur (similar to Uber, which is not available in Malaysia)
- The app provides upfront pricing, cashless payments and easy airport transfer



Currency & Payments

- Currency: Malaysian Ringgit (MYR / RM)
- Credit and debit cards widely accepted
- ATMs available throughout the city

Language

- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.

Emergency & Important Contacts

Emergency Numbers (Malaysia)

- Police / Ambulance / Fire: **999**

Congress Emergency Contacts

- Suhaimi Ramly: **+60 12 3413546**
- Zafree Zaharidan: **+60 10 4233170**

Imperial Lexis Hotel

- Operator: **+60 3 2177 1188**
- Fire control room: **Ext. 1133**
- Duty Manager: **+60 11 35251189**
- Security On Duty: **+60 11 53912177**



NOTES & AUTOGRAPHS

