



# **MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES**

2009 Joint Meeting  
KMS-AMS, 18 Dec 2009

# Origins

Founded 1973, a Manila-based organization of mathematics teachers



helped establish PhD degree programs in three universities

organized summer institutes of math, with support from other countries



# MSP today

- Over a thousand members
- 7 regional chapters (in 5 main islands of the Philippines), each with 150-200 members.
- Focus: improvement of tertiary mathematics education and promotion of mathematics research



## MSP today

- More than 90% of MSP members are math teachers, without advanced degrees
- There are about 50-60 Filipinos with PhDs, and about half are active researchers

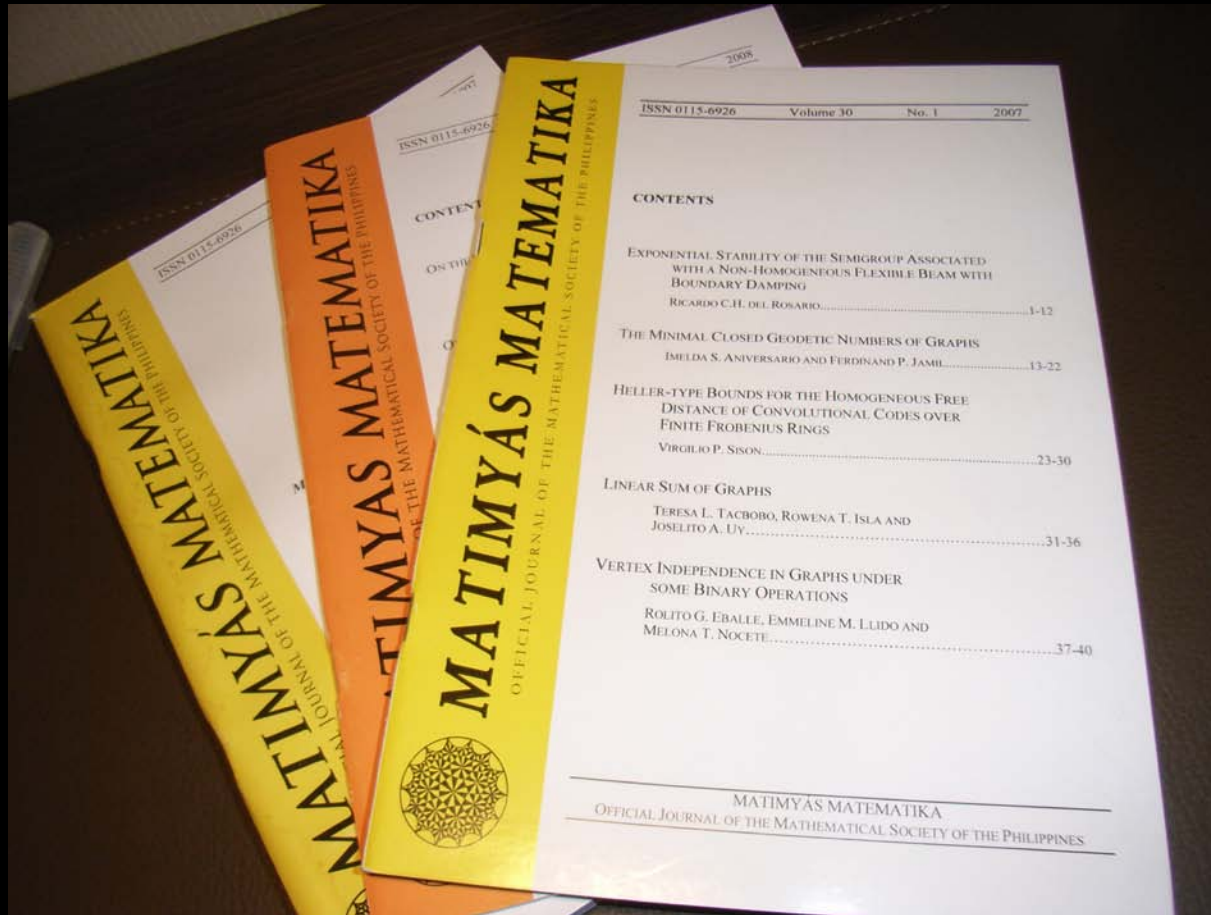
# conferences

- Each of the 7 chapters hold annual local conference
- MSP holds its annual national convention and General Assembly in May, every year
- Range of papers in each conference reflects the range of interests of members

## Other activities

- Teacher -training workshops
- Popular lectures
- High math competitions
- Radio program (problem-solving for high school students)
- Philippine Mathematical Olympiad
- Training for IMO

publication



Matimyas Matematika  
(3 issues a year)

Website: [www.mathsocietyphil.org](http://www.mathsocietyphil.org)

Finances: members' fees (~US\$6),  
other revenue sources, contribution  
of government and private companies

Linkages:

SEAMS (Southeast Asian Math. Society)

IMU (International Math. Union)

Reciprocity agreement with AMS (Amer. Math. Soc.)

CIMPA, France

# Difficulties

Poor quality education in primary and secondary schools

Small community of mathematicians

Public image of mathematics

Lack of journals

We lose students to industry and overseas employment.

# challenges

Influence public perception and  
education policy

Convince government to give more  
support to education and  
research in math and basic sciences

Encourage grad students to do math  
and stay in the country

Forge and strengthen linkages,  
especially within the region