



KMC: WHAT'S NEXT?

A PERSONAL LETTER BY THE DIRECTOR OF KMC MALAYSIA

Dear Participants, Teachers, Parents and Members of the KMC Community,

First of all, I would like to express sincere thanks to everyone for making the KMC 2015 a big success. KMC attracted more than 26,000 participants this year, making it undoubtedly the most popular math contest in Malaysia. When we started the KMC two years ago, we did not expect such overwhelming support from the Malaysian mathematics community.

I am writing this letter to the KMC community to explain the KMC plans for the future. When we first had the idea of organizing the Kangaroo contest in Malaysia several years ago, I always thought that Malaysian students have little need of another math contest, because there have been so many math contests already. What we need more is a mathematical movement: a dedicated group of people that runs mathematical activities for the community, such as workshops, conferences, publications, talks, public lectures, as well as a math contest.

This has always been the idea. However, in the first 2 years of KMC, we were not able to commit much resources on organizing the other activities, due to our lack of time and manpower (we did not expect so many participants!). We hope to change this in 2015: we plan to run more mathematical activities throughout the year, not just the KMC in March.

ABOUT THE KMC & KANGAROO MOVEMENT

When we started the Kangaroo movement, we decided to build the KMC on 3 main principles:

- **KMC should be fun and engaging**

The KMC papers are specially created to be fun & engaging to students at all levels. The level of difficulty is balanced (we admit that KMC is one of the easiest among national-level math competitions), so all participants have a chance to do well.

- **KMC should be open to all, not just a few**

We invited all schools in Malaysia to participate in KMC. We do not want KMC to be an "elite" contest, which is open for "selected" schools only. In fact, we take the initiative to contact schools from areas which are normally underrepresented in national contests.

- **KMC should not be "just a contest"**

The Kangaroo Math is a mathematics movement, and KMC is just a component of the movement. Starting from this year, we plan to organize more events for students, teachers and parents, outside the contest.

KANGAROO IS NOT ABOUT COMPETITIONS ONLY

Winning is important. However, we believe that the KMC is not all about winning prizes and certificates. The KMC is about celebrating, promoting and disseminating mathematics to schools and students.

In previous years, we have organized award ceremonies in several cities in Malaysia: Sungai Petani, Penang, Kota Bharu, Kuala Terengganu, Johor Bahru, Melaka, Shah Alam, Bangi, Putrajaya, and Kuching. We are very happy to meet parents, teachers and students from all over the country, celebrating the successes of our youths. Many of you took the chance to talk to us, and give inputs on how to make KMC better.

We are listening. This year, we have a better plan: to celebrate the winners not just by awarding medals, but by organizing several programs for the whole KMC community. I understand that many will miss our award ceremony, and this was a very difficult decision, but we feel that the KMC community will gain more by participating in mathematical activities.

(Along with this letter, we have mailed all the medals and certificates to the participating schools. We hope that the schools will celebrate their winners by organizing their own award ceremony at schools. Give them their deserved glory!)

SO, WHAT'S NEXT AFTER KMC?**FOR TEACHERS / PARENTS****1. KMC 2015 TEACHERS CONFERENCE**

We will organize a series of teachers conferences called the KMC Teachers Conference., scheduled to take place in 4 cities: KL, Batu Pahat, Ipoh & Kuantan. The conference will take place for two days, and all teachers of participating countries are invited. Please read the KMC Teachers Conference Info Pack for more information.

The theme of the conference is "Developing HOTS Generation". We will invite speakers in the subject of Higher Order Thinking Skills in mathematics. Parents are also welcome for the conference.

2. KMC TALK

For school in KL/Selangor/Putrajaya area, we provide a free hourlong talk on KMC at your school, any time of the year. Just call us to book!

3. PROBLEM SOLVING AND HOTS WORKSHOP

We also conduct problem solving & Higher Order Thinking Skills modules to schools. Please contact us for details.

FOR STUDENTS**1. BEAVER INFORMATICS COMPETITION**

We are happy to introduce our new competition, the Beaver Informatics Competition! BIC is an online contest on computational thinking that is part of international Bebras effort ("Bebras" means beaver in Lithuania, the country where the initiative was founded). Beaver Informatics Competition aims to promote interest in information technology, informatics and computational thinking to all students. As of 2015, Bebras competition has been held in 34 countries with more than 900,000 students participate. Please visit beaver.my for more details.



BEAVER Informatics
Competition
www.Beaaver.my

The BIC is co-organized by the Malaysian Development Corporation (MDeC), an agency under the Ministry of Communication and Multimedia.

2. KMC PUBLIC LECTURE

We plan to organize a luncheon and a public lecture by leading mathematicians and academics, for the KMC students. Due to the very high number of participants (therefore a very high number of medallists as well), we are only able to invite Gold Medallists only for the event. The details will be posted on our FB page.

3. KMC SUMMER CAMP

We have plans for summer camps during the school holidays in November and December. Stay tuned for more details.

A FINAL WORD

2015 is a cornerstone year for KMC. This year, we plan to pursue our original goal of KMC, which is the dissemination of mathematics to schools and students in Malaysia. And the way to achieve the goal is to engage and involve the KMC community in our activities and program. We hope to get your support for the programs, just as you have given your support for KMC.

As a final note, thanks again to everyone who made the KMC 2015 a successful event.

Feel free to contact me if you have any ideas and suggestions. Write to info@kangaroomath.com.my or call us at 03-41317672.

To our Muslim friends, have a blessed Ramadhan and Aidilfitri!

Cordially,



M. Suhaimi Ramly
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Kuala Lumpur
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