

For Jacob

Shigefumi Mori

I am happy to congratulate Jacob Palis on his 80th birthday.

It is noteworthy that he served the Executive Committee (EC) of the International Mathematical Union (IMU) for 24 years; from 1983 to 1990 as Member, from 1991 to 1998 as Secretary, from 1999 to 2002 as President, from 2003 to 2006 as Past President. The important roles he played over the long period simply shows how much IMU relied and trusted him. I, as Past President of IMU, would like to take this opportunity to express our indebtedness to him.

Personally I have known him since 1995 and am very grateful for his help and guidance all these years. We were colleagues of EC from 1995 till 2002. In 1998 Jacob was elected as President and I was as vice President. He was also elected as vice President of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU, a former organization of International Science Council), and I was asked to represent IMU in ICSU on his behalf. My first job in this assignment was to attend the Extraordinary General Assembly of ICSU in April 1998. The meeting restructured ICSU itself into the new International Council for Science while maintaining ICSU as its official abbreviation. It was a unique experience, and I later became acquainted with other academic unions and researchers in other disciplines through the ICSU business with Jacob's guidance. All through the EC business he created a relaxed atmosphere, and I could work pleasantly. I also visited the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA) to attend the IMU EC meeting in 1999. It was my first visit to Brazil, and I was impressed by his passion for IMPA and Brazil.

More than ten years later in 2014, I was elected as IMU President 2015-2018 to open the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) 2018 Rio. I visited Rio a few times to check their preparation and could see Jacob and feel his enthusiasm for the ICM. After all, It was my great pleasure as President to witness the success of the ICM 2018 which was made possible by our Brazilian colleagues and their international collaborators.

As one of his friends and younger colleagues, I adore Jacob's devotion and ability to research and education; he supervised more than 40 Ph.D's and his group fostered hundreds of Ph.D's, who have contributed to realize his dream to hold an ICM in Brazil.

Congratulations again, Jacob.