

# Preface

The growing international visibility, and successes, of the world conferences on the theme “21st Century Mathematics” in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011 meant that the 6th edition of the World Conference on 21st Century Mathematics (WC 2013), held at the Abdus Salam School of Mathematical Sciences (ASSMS) during March 2013, would be the largest in scale and scope yet. And it indeed proved to be so. With over 120 invited and guest speakers from all over the world and over 400 participants from across the region and beyond, it can safely be said that WC 2013 was one of the largest mathematical meetings in the 2013 calendar year.

The main goal of these conferences is to provide a platform for young mathematicians in Pakistan to get in touch with researchers of world renown and to encourage Pakistani Institutions of Higher Education and Research. To this end, the importance of WC 2013 can be gauged from the fact that previous editions of this conference led to a marked increase in the awareness and enthusiasm for mathematical education among universities in Pakistan. Consequently, a large number of scientific events were organized by universities and centers in Pakistan, and even in neighboring countries.

The articles in this volume were carefully selected through the peer review process, and we have arranged them in alphabetical order by the last name of the first author. These articles are strongly representative of all the major mathematical themes of the conference and are written precisely with the goal of spreading awareness of mainstream mathematics to the relatively young audience. It is hoped that these efforts will inspire a generation of young mathematicians across the region.

It is a pleasure to thank all the authors for their contribution and their cooperation, the publisher for producing this volume, and the scientific committee of WC 2013 for their unstinted support. If there is one individual that I would like to especially thank, then it is Pierre Cartier. His towering presence and mesmeric lectures made WC 2013 truly memorable.

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