

Preface

The Mediterranean Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (MIMS) and the Geometry and Topology Grouping for the Maghreb (GGTM) held an international conference at the Cité des Sciences in Tunis, Tunisia during March 24–27, 2014. This event was held in memory of Mohammed Salah Baouendi, one of the finest mathematicians of the past century. It brought together geometers and topologists from around the world, many of whom were distinguished collaborators of Baouendi.

A special lecture series on CR-Geometry was given by Peter Ebenfelt and was attended by a sizable group of graduate students from Algeria and Tunisia. Invited speakers included Abbès Bahri, Hajer Bahouri, Ali Baklouti, Oliver Baues, Mehdi Belraouti, Jean-Michel Bony, Makhlouf Derridj, Ali Maalaoui, Hamid Meziani, Nordine Mir, Mohameden Ould Ahmedou, Ludovic Rifford, Linda Rothschild, Dmitri Zaitsev and Ghani Zeghib.

MIMS was founded in January 2012 in Tunis (Tunisia), and joins a long list of mathematical institutes around the world. Its multifaceted mission is to be a rallying point for the growing community of mathematicians across the MENA and the Mediterranean regions, to raise public awareness of the mathematical sciences in this part of the world, and to be a springboard for the young generation, making it easier for prospective students to connect to the vast world of mathematical research.

GGTM was founded at the initiative of a group of North-African geometers in 2003 in Marrakech (Morocco). Its objective is to promote mathematical research in geometry and topology in the Maghreb. This is done through increased collaboration between mathematicians north and south of the Mediterranean and across the Maghreb, by organizing regular meetings and by advising students.

Mohammed Salah Baouendi was born in Tunis and held one of its early academic positions there. After holding positions in Paris (France) and in Purdue (Indiana), where he headed the department for 8 years, he spent the rest of his life at UCSD (California). His influence on mathematics at large and CR-geometry in particular has been deep and long-lasting. This volume is a tribute to his work. It contains fine contributions by collaborators, friends and students of M.S. Baouendi.

This conference was sponsored by CIMPA (Centre International des Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées), LEM2I (Laboratoire Euro-Maghrébin de Mathématiques et de leur Interactions), TAFE (Tunisian-American Friendship Association), MedTech (Mediterranean Institute of Technology) and the Laboratoires LAMHA and LR13ES21 of the University of Sfax (Tunisia).

We warmly thank all contributors to this volume and all participants who made this conference a real success.

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