

## **Olympiads**

Olympiads in mathematics are under way in some 85 countries and they occur on national, regional and international scales. If properly structured Olympiads may serve as major instruments for promoting sciences to young students. They are vehicles for improvement of science teacher's skills, and they aid in the detection of young scientific talents. To achieve these three goals, the Olympiads should be large-scale events in each country, at several grade levels and in three different stages at each level. The first test is very friendly to students and their teachers, with many winners and simple prizes. The second stage involves those who performed well in the first stage. Finally, a third stage determines the best talents, who then compete internationally and are awarded fellowships for further science training. This is precisely the structure of the Brazilian National Mathematics Olympiads promoted by the Brazilian Mathematical Society and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development – CNPQ. IM-AGIMB has been a new partner in this important activity with two goals: to promote regional or state Olympiads within Brazil and to expand the Brazilian participation in international competitions, specially the International Mathematics Competition for University Students. IM-AGIMB's contribution lead to a participation of more than 130,000 students in the Regional Olympiads in different States of Brazil, as well as to excellent performances at the International Mathematics Competition for University Students, including being awarded a golden medal in 2004. Brazil also obtained 4 golden medals in 2004 at the Ibero-American Mathematics Olympiads, which took place in Castellón, Spain.