

and is addressed to mathematicians and engineers.

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NEWS

A debate on “Mathematical research in Portugal: trends, organization and perspectives” was held in Coimbra on 6, 7 December. This was an initiative of CIM.

The debate consisted of a sequence of sessions, with subjects introduced by invited speakers.

Around 80 people participated in the debate, representing research units in Mathematics and CIM associated institutions. CIM is considering the possibility of publishing a book with the contributions to the debate.

Support from JNICT, CMAF and CMUC is acknowledged.

PROGRAM

O financiamento do ensino superior e a investigação
Eduardo Marçal Grilo (Minister of Education)

O processo de avaliação de 1996
Irene Fonseca (Carnegie Mellon University e Max Planck Institut - Leipzig)

O futuro da avaliação

Luís Magalhães (Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia)

A Matemática e a Economia portuguesa

Artur Alves (Universidade de Coimbra)

Luís Trabucho (CMAF - Lisbon)

A organização institucional da investigação

Fernando Dias Agudo (Academia das Ciências)

José Francisco Rodrigues (CMAF - Lisbon)

Cultura vs. especialização

Maria Paula Oliveira (CMUC)

Teresa Monteiro Fernandes (CMAF - Lisbon)

Áreas preferenciais de investigação

Eduardo Rêgo (Centro de Mat. da Univ. do Porto)

João Paulo Dias (CMAF - Lisbon)

Escolas nacionais de Matemática

Ana Bela Cruzeiro (Grupo de Física-Mat. - Lisbon)

Graciano de Oliveira (CMUC) ▽

FIVE QUESTIONS TO JOÃO CARAÇA

João Caraça, who has a D. Phil. in Nuclear Physics from Oxford University and gained his Aggregate Professorship in Physics from Lisbon University, is Director of the Science Department at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and Professor at the School of Business and Management at the Technical University of Lisbon, where he supervises the Master's Degree in Economics and Management of Science and Technology. He is also the science adviser of the President of the Republic.

His interests lie mostly in the areas of science and technology policy, and in prospective studies. He has written over a hundred scientific papers and books including *From Knowing to Doing: Why Organize Science?* (*Do Saber ao Fazer: Porquê Organizar a Ciência?*; 1993) and *Science (Ciência)*; 1997), and collaborated in *Limits to Competition (Limites à Competição)*; 1994).

The portuguese scientific community has greatly benefited from Professor Caraça's activities in the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and JNICT. We would like to mention the strong interest he showed in the possibility of having some CIM activities funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

If you don't mind, I would like to begin with a rather abrupt question. Professor Caraça, What is Science?

‘As I have tried to explain in my book, science is a particular way of conjecturing about reality which cannot easily be summed up by a simple definition or

schematic phrase. It is a collection of responses which have evolved over time and result from different perspectives: the historical perspective; the world vision; epistemological perspective; learning, cultural, social, communicational perspectives etc.



It may be said, however, that science, as a specific area of disciplinary knowledge that requires very precise language, exists on an immaterial dimension; that is to say, it only comes into being because it is communicated, because its hypotheses are continually being