

Inaugural address by Beatriz Rumbos

Good morning to all of you, I shall be very brief so we can move on to the real fun part of the day.

Most mathematicians and users of mathematics take the foundations of the discipline for granted, perhaps because it would be too overwhelming to put in doubt the structure of their reasoning process on a daily basis; thus, in order to avoid anxiety the topic is best averted. Nonetheless, a few curious and fearless individuals have chosen to tread this path and to our fortune, this room contains a subset (alas, of finite cardinality!) of this population.

It is with great pleasure that ITAM is hosting this event. Being that Mathematics is the foundation of all sciences and Logic deals with the fundamental questions about Mathematics, the next few days will be filled with, what the uninitiated would perceive as near religious experiences! But, leaving the esoteric aside, programming, artificial intelligence, database design and countless other applications that are the basis of what is conceived as modern life, would not be possible without logic and set theory.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to this group of distinguished logicians who are here to participate in this 1st Mexico-USA Logicfest. A special recognition goes to the local organizers: Claudia and José Antonio and local chair Miguel Ángel. They have worked extremely hard in the last few months to make this event possible.

The Mexico-USA Logicfest (with a hyphen, rather than a wall between the names of both countries) is advertised as, I quote: *bringing together logicians of the two countries, Mexico and the United States, and worldwide friends in order to join forces in research by exchanging ideas, creating graduate student exchange networks and otherwise collaborating*. A couple of years ago this would sound like a standard pitch for any academic meeting; after all, and just stating the obvious, any creative process is enriched by collaboration, exchange and cultural diversity. Talent is randomly distributed across the world and the benefits of travel and migration are obvious...or should be obvious...but as of late, somehow millions of people seem to be missing the point and today, diversity is often seen as a threat and going across borders can turn into a nightmare process. But we should be optimistic that, eventually, reason will prevail. Let's hope it doesn't take too long!

I'm certain that the next few days will be extremely fruitful, packed with exciting new ideas, heated discussions and, most importantly, tons of questions. Now I have to give you my favorite logic quote before ending:

"I know what you're thinking about," said Tweedledum; but it isn't so, nohow.

"Contraiwise," continued Tweedledee, "If it was so, it might be; and if it were so, it would be; but as it isn't, it ain't. That's logic.

I promised to be brief so now I believe it's Juliette's turn to take over. Have fun!