



Salvador – Bahia, Brazil – July 15 to 20, 2012

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Our conference is coming up!

You are very welcome! We are glad to inform you that the program is available in our webpage, with timetables and titles of short courses, plenary and specialised talks, and posters. We have also included in our webpage other information about transportation and the social program.

In this third announcement, we point out the last-week hints:

Registration Fee

It will NOT be possible to pay the registration fee using credit card machines! However the PayPal system will be available during the conference. The registration fee may also be paid in person by check (only for Brazilians) or in cash (real or dollar); in this case, it will be possible to pay the fee with discount (350 reais for faculty, and 180 reais for student). The secretary will be open on Monday morning at 7:30 a.m.

Accommodation

If you have not made your hotel reservation yet, we ask you to make it through the tourism agency – *Caminhos Turismo* – which is responsible for the management of the hotel booking system (www.caminhostur.com.br). If you have made your reservation by yourself in the conference hotel or other hotel, we would be very grateful if you send us a message informing the name of the hotel.

Arrival

The conference hotel, *Grand Hotel Stella Maris Resort & Conventions*, is located in the city of Salvador, about 7 km from the International Airport. On July 14 and 15, there will be a monitor of the conference to help you in the airport at the meeting point close to the branch of *Banco do Brasil* in front of the currency exchange cashiers.

On July 14 and 15 a shuttle service will be available every hour, to transfer the invited speakers (and, in case of available seats in the shuttle, any other participants), from the airport to the hotel:

(a) July 14: from 16 h to 22 h;

(b) July 15: from 9 h to 13:30 h, and from 15h to 20 h.

The shuttle service will work also on July 21 from the hotel to the airport. A taxi will be available for a few invited speakers that will arrive out of shuttle hours or on July 13, and will depart on July 19, 20 and 22. Out of shuttle hours, the participants are recommended to take official taxis. For instance, the taxi fare of the TAXI COMTAS Company going to the hotel will cost R\$ 42 (forty two reais).

Poster

Since the poster presentation area is close to the conferences rooms, we suggest that the authors post them in their proper places according to their label numbers (see the program) after lunch of the day of their presentation (Tuesday and Thursday).

The posters should not exceed the dimensions 0.90 m x 1.20 m.

Exchange

The current trade exchange rate is about R\$2,00 per US\$1,00 (with daily fluctuations). If you need to exchange money, it can be made at the airport. We strongly suggest you to use *reais* (R\$) when purchasing any goods or services in Brazil. Paying in foreign currency is not usual, and if you succeed in doing this, the change rate will not be favourable to you.

Meals

Breakfast is included in Brazilian hotels. Welcome cocktail (at the conference hotel) is offered by the organising committee to all participants on Monday evening.

For lunch and dinner, the conference hotel have a buffet system with meat, chicken, fish, pasta and many options of vegetables. For dinner, there are also two other restaurants (Italian and Japanese cuisines) with a la carte system.

The organising committee has negotiated good prices for lunch and dinner with a large restaurant, called **Beach Stop**, close to the hotel (500 meters). The participants have to be identified by their ID in conference badge in order to get the discount. The meals are well served, with options of fish, shrimp, meat, chicken, pasta and vegetables; dessert is included for lunch. Moreover

they offer free transportation service for conference participants. There is also a sandwich house (called "Subway") very near the hotel (600 meters).

There is also a very good restaurant of sea food and typical food of Bahia, called **Mistura**, about 4 km far from the hotel.

City Tour and Dinner Conference

On Wednesday afternoon, a city tour through the Historical Centre is planned, leaving the hotels at 14h. Buses, with tourist guides, will pass through the higher and lower part of the city with a wonderful view of the Bay of All Saints. We will visit some famous sightseeing as *Farol da Barra* (Barra Lighthouse) and *Pelourinho*. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. We would like to remind you that the hotel is 30 km far from the Historical Centre of Salvador, so the city tour will be a good opportunity to visit downtown!

Buses will go from the Historical Centre to **lemanjá** restaurant where there will be the conference dinner and a folkloric show at 19 h. There, you will have the opportunity to taste typical food of Bahia in a free buffet system with soft drink, beer, *caipirinha* (*cachaça* with fruit) and *caipiroska* (vodka with fruit).

We hope you will know more about our culture and syncretism, enjoying the performances of *orixas* dance, *samba de roda*, *maculelê*, *capoeira* and so on, in the folkloric show. After that, buses will return to the hotel.

The price of the whole package (city tour + conference dinner/ folkloric show) is 100 reais. For people who will not go to the city tour the price is 90 reais. Soon the pre-reservation for the city tour and dinner conference will be available on our webpage (Social Program).

Visiting Salvador

Salvador is a city with over 2.5 million inhabitants that offers interesting attractions. However, as in many places around the world, violence cannot be excluded. Several actions can be taken to reduce the risk of being victim of violence: do not bring much money with yourself when leaving the hotel; walk in groups rather than alone; avoid desert places and streets; ask for a cab at the hotel reception; pay attention when strangers in the tourist areas offer you gifts or typical handcrafts (it is much safer to buy goods inside the stores); avoid exposition of large photographic cameras while walking on the streets.

We shall be glad to receive you in Salvador and we hope we will have a memorable meeting.

Thierry Petit Lobao

On behalf of the organising committee

For additional information, please check the webpage www.algebra2012.ufba.br or email to algebra2012@ufba.br