

Preface

The *Gesellschaft für Didaktik der Mathematik* (GDM) was founded in 1975 as an association of mathematics educators and researchers from universities and schools in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Meanwhile the GDM has members from many countries (e.g. there is an increasing number of members from countries in eastern Europe) which meet every year at the annual international conference of the GDM. Some 600 teachers and researchers participate in 200 different presentations and workshops.

The proceedings of each conference are published in German.¹ In order to give researchers and teachers all over the world a better access to current developments in mathematics education practice and research in German speaking countries, the GDM decided to publish selected articles of each year's proceedings in English with the 1996 English edition being the first in this series.

The papers collected in this English edition are translated and revised versions of original contributions to the 1997 German proceedings. The editorial board selected and reviewed these papers to convey the full spectrum of currents trends and developments in mathematics education in German speaking countries. Their broad range of topics and contents however, did not allow a thematical grouping and book structure.

On behalf of the GDM members, the editors hope that the English edition of the GDM proceedings will contribute to a better international understanding and appreciation of the themes and directions of mathematics education research and practice in German speaking countries.

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