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COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE  
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE  
(THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION)

ASSESSMENT IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION AND ITS EFFECTS

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

The International Program Committee appointed by the International Commission on Mathematics Instruction (ICMI) announces a study on “Assessment in Mathematics Education and its Effects”.

The study consists of two components, a *conference*, to be held in Spain, 11-16 April, 1991, and a *volume*, to be published in the ICMI Studies series based on (the contributions to and products of the outcomes of) the conference. This discussion document: (1) provides background on the study, and outlines its aims, scope, and issues; (2) announces a call for papers; and (3) provides preliminary practical and organizational information to potential contributors to the study.

BACKGROUND AND OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

WHY AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY ON ASSESSMENT?

Each ICMI study is conducted to contribute to the understanding and tackling of a specific topic or problem area which is of current importance to mathematics education in countries in different parts of the world.

Why is *assessment* of current importance to mathematics education in an international context?

The Program Committee believes that in many countries difficult questions, serious problems, and major challenges exist with respect to assessment in mathematics education. The committee also believes that many current assessment practices are counter-productive, the products of (and supports for) out-