Opening words
Shigefumi Mori

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have moved the Award Ceremonies of Gauß Prize and the Chen Medal Award to tonight to share their excitement after having described and announced the winners of those prize and award in the Opening Ceremony.

We will start with the Gauß Prize. It is my great pleasure to introduce Dr. Michael Röckner, President of the German Mathematical Society, who will award the prize. Dr. Röckner, please proceed to the stage.

The Gauß Prize
Michael Röckner, President of the German Mathematical Society

It is a great honor for me to hand over the Carl Friedrich Gauß Prize here at the ICM in Rio de Janeiro. The Carl Friedrich Gauß Prize is awarded jointly by the IMU and the German Mathematical Society (DMV). It consists of a medal and a monetary award of 10,000 Euro. Its funding source is a surplus from the ICM 1998 in Berlin. The Gauß Prize Committee is chosen by the Executive Committee of the IMU. This time it was chaired by Professor Björn Engquist.

The Carl Friedrich Gauß Prize was created to raise awareness in the public that Mathematics is a driving force behind many modern technologies, and to honor scientists whose mathematical research has had an impact outside Mathematics – either in Technology, Business or simply in people’s everyday lives.

It was awarded first at the ICM 2006 in Madrid to Kiyoshi Itô, then at the ICM 2010 in Hyderabad to Yves Meyer and at the ICM 2014 in Seoul to Stanley Osher. Today’s awardee will certainly add a few more tons of scientific weight to this list of mathematical heavy weights and we are very proud that thus he will further enhance the reputation of this prize. Thank you very much for your attention.
Now is the turn for the Chern Medal Award.

It is my great pleasure to introduce Dr. Robert Bryant, Representative of Chern Medal Foundation (CMF), who will award the prize. Dr. Bryant, please proceed to the stage.

The Chern Medal

Robert Bryant, Chern Medal Foundation

The Chern Medal was founded to honor the memory of Shiing-Shen Chern, who passed away in December 2004 after having been a world leader in mathematics, especially differential geometry, for nearly 70 years. He made fundamental, essential contributions to differential geometry and topology. Mathematics and physics today would be unthinkable without the tools of Chern classes and the Chern-Simons invariants.

He was renowned for his personal efforts on behalf of mathematics and mathematicians, at all stages of their careers. In addition to having more than 1100 mathematical descendants, of which, I am pleased to say, I am one, he received numerous awards and recognition for his life’s work, including the Wolf Prize and the inaugural Shaw Prize.

He founded three mathematical institutes, two in China and one in the US, the famous Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, and was that institute’s founding director.

In 2010, in memory of Shiing-Shen Chern’s profound influence on mathematics, the International Mathematical Union, jointly with the Chern Medal Foundation (a charitable organization supported by the family, friends, and admirers of Professor Chern),
established the Chern Medal whose purpose was to recognize “an individual whose accomplishments warrant the highest level of recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of mathematics”.

This medal, first awarded in 2010, is awarded once every 4 years at the International Congress of Mathematicians.

Each recipient receives a medal decorated with Chern’s likeness, a cash prize of $250,000 (USD), and the opportunity to direct an additional $250,000 of charitable donations to one or more organizations for the purpose of supporting research, education, or outreach in mathematics.

As you already know, the 2018 Chern Medal is awarded to Masaki Kashiwara – “for his outstanding and foundational contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory, sustained over a period of almost 50 years”.

As I mentioned earlier, the awardee has the opportunity to direct an additional $250,000 of charitable donations to one or more organizations for the purpose of supporting research, education, or outreach in mathematics.

Professor Kashiwara has chosen RIMS, the justly famous Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences of the University of Kyoto, Japan, founded in 1963 to be the recipient of this contribution.

Some congratulatory words and an announcement

Shigefumi Mori

It is my great pleasure to congratulate Dr. Donoho on receiving the Gauß Prize, and Dr. Kashiwara on receiving the Chern Medal Award.

The Leelavati Prize 2018 winner, Dr. Ali Nesin was announced at the Opening Ceremony, and the award ceremony itself will take place during the Closing Ceremony on
Aug 9. In addition the Prize Lecture will be given by the Winner Dr. Ali Nesin at 18:00 on Aug. 8.