

# Mikael Passare 1959—2011

Mikael Passare was born in Västerås, Sweden, on January 01, 1959, and died in an accident in Oman on September 15, 2011.

His death is a loss, and not only for mathematics.

He was very active in the creation of the Pan-African Centre for Mathematics (PACM), to be established in Dar es-Salaam. Mohamed E. A. El Tom, now Chairperson of the PACM Board, says that had it not been for Mikael, PACM would have remained a mere idea in the head of its initiator, i.e., Mohamed himself. Mikael was confident that the grand objective of establishing a worldclass Centre of Mathematics in Africa is attainable.

Mikael was a student at Uppsala University from 1976 and got his PhD there in 1984 with Christer Kiselman as advisor. He spent the academic year 1980-1981 at Stanford University; 1981-1982 at Moscow State University, and 1986-1987 at Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris.

He was a professor at Stockholm University since 1994; he was earlier Head of Department (2003–2010) and Chairman of the Swedish National Committee for Mathematics. In that capacity he led the Swedish delegation to the General Assembly of the International Mathematical Union in Bangalore, Karnataka, in 2010. At his death he was President of the Swedish Mathematical Society, Deputy Director of Institut Mittag-Leffler, a member of the Board of the International Science Programme, and a member of the Board for the Pan-African Centre for Mathematics.

He was a brilliant mathematician. His work on residue theory in several variables soon became widely appreciated. His latest work is on amoebas and coamoebas. His interest in tropical mathematics was a break with his work on complex analysis in several variables. He was the advisor of nine doctors.

Mikael's death is a huge loss to the Pan-African Centre for Mathematics, to the Department of Mathematics, Stockholm University, to the international community of mathematicians, but of course no words can describe the magnitude of this loss to his family and close friends.