

Minutes of the International Committee Meeting at Eindhoven University of Technology

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Date, participants and purpose of meeting

The International Committee (IC) met in Eindhoven from October 27 to October 30, 1994. The purpose of this meeting was to evaluate the IOI'94 in Sweden, to prepare changes in the regulations (if necessary), and to discuss the preparations for the IOI'95 in The Netherlands: the plans for the competition, the social and cultural program and the accommodations.

Invited were:

- Argentina: Alicia Banuelos (not present)
- Germany: Gabriele Reich
- Hungary: Péter Hanák
- IFIP: Peter Waker
- Portugal: Pedro Guerreiro (not present)
- South Africa: Per Stilborg
- Sweden: Håkan Strömberg, Yngve Lindberg
- The Netherlands: Ard Hartsuijker, Ron Helwig, Ries Kock, Franka van Neerven, Ria van Ouwerkerk, Martin Rem, Tom Verhoeff.

Changes in the IOI regulations

At the meeting The Netherlands proposed a number of changes in the regulations. A list of suggested improvements was completed on the basis of direct experience in previous olympiads and the study of previous regulations and the regulations of other science olympiads. The IC discussed the proposal and accepted several changes. Péter Hanák (Hungary), Peter Waker (South Africa) and Ries Kock (The Netherlands) will be responsible for the formulation of the renewed regulations. These will be sent to the participating countries in March 1995.

The most important change concerns the format of the regulations. The regulations will consist of two parts:

- A general part, which describes the objectives and general form of the IOI, the responsibilities of the host country and the participating countries and the

role of the various official IOI bodies. This part is intended to be more or less permanent.

- A particular part, which describes this year's olympiad in detail. This part of the regulations is drafted by the host country and may vary from year to year.

Changes in the competition

The scope of the IOI has been a topic of discussion for many years. It was also on the agenda of the IC meeting in October 1991 (see the [IOI'92 Report, page 22](#)). The IC then stated:

"During discussions on future developments of the IOI particular attention should be given to the following areas:

- a) possible new problem domains
- b) team work problems."

The Netherlands submitted a proposal to the IC for extending the scope of the IOI. This extension should be a gradual process. The long-term goal should be to make the IOI a general informatics competition, not just a programming contest. The exact form still needs to be found, but a suggestion is to have two competition days: one empirical day involving the use of computers, and one theoretical day without direct use of computers. This resembles the other science olympiads (apart from mathematics). The proposal was accompanied by extensive motivation.

For the short-term The Netherlands proposed to include one "different" problem on the first competition day (both days will have three problems). This problem is an informatics problem that will not require special knowledge or skills. It will fulfil such requirements as being neutral with respect to culture and gender, etc. Furthermore, it will not be too far removed from the current programming-contest problems. The IC accepted this proposal, provided that it will be carried out with the utmost care. The next IOI'95 Newsletter will carry two examples of different problems.

The permanent IOI Secretariat

During the final meeting of the International Jury at IOI'94, the Turkish team leader inquired whether someone would be willing to set up a permanent secretariat for the IOI. At that meeting no volunteers stepped forward.

The International Committee finds it desirable to establish such a permanent IOI Secretariat. This IOI Secretariat will collect, maintain, and disseminate IOI-related material. Thereby it helps ensure continuity in the development of the IOI.

During a meeting of the International Jury at IOI'95, the International Committee will officially propose to establish a permanent IOI Secretariat. Eindhoven University of Technology in The Netherlands has offered to implement the IOI Secretariat (see below for more information).

National Flags

During the meeting of the IC the Dutch organization offered to organize the collection of National Flags for future IOIs starting in 1995. Every country is hereby asked to take its own National Flag to the IOI. This flag will be kept at the Permanent IOI Secretariat in The Netherlands and transported to every future IOI. The dimensions of the flags should be approximately: 1.50 meter x 1.00 meter.

Announcing the Sweden IOI'94 report

The Swedish organization has announced that in the first half of 1995 a report of IOI'94 will be sent to each participating country.