

Executive Directors Report to the International Committee meeting –April 2005

This report covers the period since IOI 2004 in Athens, Greece.

Administration

The level of correspondence and interaction between members of IOI and the office of the ED has been fairly quiet since IOI. Some of this is seasonal, but the effects of the events at GA in Athens may have had a negative impact on the organization.

Despite this there has still been a fair amount of activity.

Some examples include an approach from Spain to assist them with a motivation to their Education authorities for financial assistance. Correspondence has also been attended to between the office and several countries enquiring about participation in IOI. I have also been in touch with all countries who had indicated an interest in hosting IOI and obtained preliminary information from them. This brought to light the fact that Chinese Taipei will rather be bidding for 2010. Produced a certificate confirming the contribution of one of our translators for last year.

As in the past, the Minutes of General Assembly and the International Committee meetings held in Athens were prepared and distributed well within the time limits specified.

The amendments to the Regulations arising out of the decisions of GA have been prepared in co-operation with Richard Foster and will be discussed at IC.

Development

I am in contact with the following countries who are potential participants/observers at IOI this year or in the future:

Bangladesh (Dr M. Kaykobad), Ecuador (Rafael Semper), Bolivia (Roy Espinoza), Costa Rica (Maureen Murillo), Dominican Republic (Jose Tavares), Lichtenstein (Phillipe Schauer mann), Malaysia (Martin da Silva), New Zealand (Raewyn Boersen), Panama (Azael Barrera), Peru (Min Hwang), Phillipines (Martin Gomez and Elmer Albacete) and Sudan (Anour Dafa-Alla). We have recently also had a very positive enquiry from Japan (Dr Etsuro Moriya).

Some of these countries are not likely to participate for a while, but I am hopeful that at least 4 will be present at IOI 2005 as observers or participants.

Finances

The Financial position of IOI continues to remain very favourable as will be seen from the financial statements. The amended Budgets prepared and approved by GA in Athens did not take into account the reality of actual expenses incurred and to be incurred and consequently many items are already in excess of the Budget for the full year. The Income budget shows a healthy increase and during the remaining part of the year will continue to grow positively because of the interest being earned on our funds.

It may be of interest to note that the South African Rand was the top performer in the world for 2002 and 2003 and the second best in 2004. First for 2004 was the Polish zloty. The windfall that IOI enjoys through its investments in South Africa have continued to strengthen during the year as the dollar continued to weaken and real interest rates in South Africa remained stable and positive.

IOI Publication

The planned publication on the history of IOI has been shelved. Andrew Morris who volunteered to carry out this task has not been able to gain access to the information he required to enable him to complete the task, despite several attempts. He has therefore indicated that for the time being he will not be proceeding with this project.

IOI Newsletter

The first Newsletter of the planned three was compiled and distributed after IOI 2004. The continued use of this medium of communication needs to be discussed at IC and a decision taken as to its future.

QUANTA 2004

During November 2004 I was fortunate enough to be invited to Lucknow, India as Guest of Honour to QUANTA 2004. It was a fascinating experience, bringing teams of young people from many countries (but mainly India) together to participate in a variety of activities including Mathematics, Science, Astronomy and Information Technology. In addition to written tests participants were also expected to participate in model building, debates and quiz programs to test their skills. A heavy emphasis was placed on cultural activities and many opportunities were created for interaction.

I was asked to deliver the Official Opening Address and used the opportunity to tell the IOI story and invite them to aspire to participate. From the perspective of IOI many contacts were made which have been passed on to the relevant countries to follow up. Some new IOI participation could also emanate from this.

Lionel Hartmann
Executive Director - IOI