

International Committee

Minutes of the Meetings held in Waterloo, Canada 14–21 August, 2010

Present:

Arturo Cepeda	President	acepeda@auronix.com	Mexico	2008-2011
Krassimir Manev	Host 2009	manev@fmi.uni-sofia.bg	Bulgaria	2005-2010
Troy Vasiga	Host 2010	tmjvasiga@cs.uwaterloo.ca	Canada	2006-2011
Kanchit Malaivongs	Host 2011	kanchit.ma@gmail.com	Thailand	2007-2012
Marta Genoviè	Host 2012		Italy	Representing
Peter Taylor	Host 2013	pjt013@gmail.com	Australia	2009-2014
Valentina Dagiene	Elected	dagiene@ktl.mii.lt	Lithuania	2006-2009
Eljakim Schrijvers	Elected	eschrijvers@eljakim.nl	Netherlands	2006-2009
Rogelio Garcia Llano	Elected	rgllano@unsam.edu.ar	Argentina	2007-2010
Richard Forster	Executive Director	forster@olympiad.org.uk	Great Britain	2008-2011

1. Welcome

Arturo Cepeda welcomed the committee to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Benedetto di Rienzo due to illness; as a Future Host he was represented by Marta Genoviè. No apologies were received from Fredrik Niemelä or Metodija Janceski.

3. Urgent decisions regarding IOI'2010

- A discussion was held as to whether S5.10 should be changed to allow the final scores of all contests to be listed. It was unanimously decided that the current system, where the *official* final results only listed medal winning students, should be kept. Phrasing would be added to the regulation to make it clear that this was for the final result set, thereby distinguishing it from any provisional scores used during the contest (e.g. on the proposed scoreboard).
 - The above regulation change, along with other changes leading from discussions in March, would be presented to the GA.
- There were no pending issues with attending countries, other than collecting registration fees. In particular, no requests for exception had been made.
- Bangladesh were present with two leaders but one only student. S2.3 restricts delegations with one student to one leader. Troy Vasiga indicated that the Host had decided to do this to help promote IT in Bangladesh and had agreed to cover the cost.
- Kyrgyzstan were unable to attend due to visa problems.
- In addition to national media, there would also be a Japanese film crew at the IOI and a journalist from Wired magazine.
- Agendas for the IC meeting and GA meeting were approved.

4. Confirmation of Minutes (IC meeting 4–8 March, 2010)

The minutes were approved with no corrections.

5. Matters arising

- Rather than register multiple ioi20xx.org domains (as per the previous item 4) it was suggested that an alternative would be to hang different years of the same domain (e.g. ioinformatics.org/20xx). Multiple technologies could be supported on the same server and this would help with the persistence of sites across the years.
- As per the previous item 4 the ED reported that a replacement trophy had been acquired to give to Rob Kolstad, recipient of last year's Distinguished Service Award.
 - It was agreed that Arturo Cepeda would present the award during the first GA meeting.
- As per the previous item 4 the ED had dates of the major 2011 science olympiads. There would be an overlap of a few days with the mathematics olympiad.
 - It was agreed that the ED should keep up to date with available dates of the other olympiads.
- The ED reported that an email had been received from Mathias Heron regarding an IOI wiki which had been created during the recent IOI workshop. This might be an appropriate place for the collaborative resources mentioned under the previous item 25.
- The ED reported that a letter had been written to the TC3 committee of IFIP as per the previous item 25; no response had been received.
 - It was agreed that the President / ED would contact the Chair of IFIP and see what arose during the coming year.
 - It was agreed that there would be no IFIP presentation this year, and that no attention would be drawn to the fact.

6. Report by President

Arturo Cepeda reported on his activities since the IC meeting in March:

- Work had been done by Arturo Cepeda, Eljakim Schrijvers and the ED on finalising the Foundation bylaws.
- Talks with the World Bank (see item 25 on the previous minutes) had been stopped, although communication channels had been opened.

7. Report by Executive Director

Richard Forster reported on the activities of the ED:

- Costs continued to be well within budget. Around £800 for travel (including airfare) since March and no other running costs.
- The work commitment was currently around 1 day / month.
- No newsletter had been produced due to minimal received content (only a report on the workshop). Emails had been sent out on the ioi-announce list.
 - Troy Vasiga had also been sending out regular emails on the ioi-announce list and it was agreed that these small but regular emails were very good and similar messages should continue in future years.

8. ISC Report

Michal Forisek (present for items 8 and 9) report on the activities of the IC:

- The focus this year had been on tasks, which would be of a broader scope and be spectator friendly.
- The ISC had not been as strict this year as in the past, giving the HSC more room to experiment.
- There would be a "play along at home" version of one of the tasks.
- The rank list (after the contest) looked good, with a 250 point bronze cut-off and an almost linear distribution of scores.
- The experimentation with time limits (10s being typical this year) showed that limits could be relaxed which re-opened the new languages debate, since the speed of some languages would not necessarily be critical.
- A questionnaire was planned for the GA on the changes.

9. ITWG Report

Martin Mares (present for items 8 and 9) reported on the activities of the ITWG:

- The lack of progress on the modules was due to people being busy rather than a lack of financial resources.
- The sandbox module is the most stable, having been used both at IOI'09 and IOI'10.

10. Olympiads in Informatics Report

Valentina Dagiene reported on the conference (attached). In addition:

- Extra copies had been produced of the journal and would be available to people by request. This would be mentioned to the attendees at the conference.
- 50 copies had been sent out to libraries.
- Peter Taylor indicated that a similar journal existed in mathematics and would provide details.
- A template had been produced for country reports.

11. Workshop Report

Wolfgang Pohl was invited to the meeting to report on the workshop:

- The workshop had gone ahead successfully in May with a focus on collaboration and communication.
- There were 9 participants (from 8 countries).
- In contrast to previous workshops, attendees actually implemented their ideas.
 - A wiki was implemented which might grow to be the IOI web platform.
 - There were visualisation experiments, e.g. animated scoreboards and visualised tasks.
- The final cost was €4267.90, of which €1600 covered accommodation and the rest travel (primarily for the attendee from Australia).
- There was no need for a similar workshop next year on the same topic / with the same people. A strong topic / idea should be seen as a necessity for a future workshop.

The committee thanked Wolfgang Pohl for his work in organising the workshop.

12. Regulations

This was covered under item 4.

13. Communication

- Members of the committee were reminded not to use the IC mailing list for private communication and the exercise care when hitting the reply button when responding to individual members as a follow-up to general communication.
- The newsletter was covered under item 7 and the wiki under item 5.

14. Awards and Trophies

- Several names had been suggested for the Distinguished Service Award, from both IC and GA members. These were:
 - Attending the IOI — Zide Du (China), Wolfgang Pohl (Germany), Ivo Separavic (Croatia), Peter Walker (South Africa), George Mandaria (Georgia) and Gyula Horvath (Hungary).
 - Not attending the IOI — Jyrki Nummenmaa (Finland), Maris Vitins (Latvia), Jari Koivisto (Finland), Ha-Jine Kimn (Korea) and Don Piele (USA).
- A secret poll of the committee was taken (each member supplying two names) and those candidates receiving the largest number of nominations were discussed in depth. Following this discussion a vote was taken and the committee decided to award this year's Distinguish Service Award to Zide Du.
- The committee felt that just attending the IOI for many years or organising an IOI were not, on their own, sufficient reason to receive an award. Otherwise, the award would become automatic.
- The first set of IOI pins had been produced. These would be announced at the GA and then distributed. Some spare pins would be given to the host, e.g. to distribute with a thank-you card to task submitters.

15. Financial Report for preceding year

Eljakim Schrijvers presented the (attached) financial report verbally. Of particular note:

- The IOI has spent money this year, with a surplus of only €1747. There was an additional outstanding liability (trophies) of \$1200 that would appear on next year's report.
- The accounts had been audited and were approved by the IC.

16. Budget for coming year

- It was agreed to leave most budget figures at the same level as the previous year, excepting:
 - Lowered audit fees (since this is done at minimal cost by members of the GA).
 - Removal of telephone budget.
 - Lowered interest expectations.
- It will be made clear that the policy is to support the IC and ISC, and that money is available.

17. Registration fee for IOI'2011

Since this surplus this year was minimal it was agreed to recommend a registration fee at €200 again this year.

18. Report on IOI'2010

- Registration (arrivals) had gone smoothly.
- The following issues were noted after the first contest day:
 - There had been some translation issues owing to the printers becoming jammed and being inaccessible.
 - More coffee and food would be available for the second contest day.
 - More "bread crumbs" would be added to help delegations navigate between rooms. It was not possible to make more guides available.
- The experiments (task types and scoreboard) had been well received.

19. Report on IOI'2011

Kanchit Malaivongs reported on IOI'2011 (attached). In particular:

- The steering committee, which included the Minister for Education, will change due to the political situation. The new minister has been informed.
- Venues would include the Royal Cliff Beach Resort Hotel and the Pattaya Exhibition and Convention Hall (PEACH).
- The Minister has advised that the machines be rented rather than bought and passed on to schools (due to the date of the event being at the end of the budget year). Quotations for the network infrastructure look to exceed those of the machines.
- The domain ioi2011.or.th has been registered.
- The infrastructure had been tested during a contest in May (with 100 students) and would be tested again this May.
- Registration was expected to be 1 March - 15 May, with 15 June being the closing date for money transfers.
 - Registration for IOI'2011 will have to balance the fact that the contest is being run in July with the fact that some national contests may not select their students until after mid-May.
 - For IOI'2010, 77 of the 83 teams had registered in time.
 - It was recommended that consideration be given to what was required and at what date. E.g. a first step requirement for numbers (and genders), a second step for names and a final step for arrival times and passport numbers.
 - The GA would be informed as early as possible of the registration dates, since they would be earlier than in recent years.
- Some concerns had been raised by GA as to safety and the political situation in Thailand. The IOI is being held in a safe area, as is the airport (40km south of Bangkok).
 - It was suggested that a letter from the Minister, indicating that efforts would be made to make it a safe event, should be sought. This would help assure contestants' parents.
- The guest fee would be \$1250.
- The date 17-21 February was proposed for the IC meeting.

20. Report on IOI'2012

A presentation (attached) on IOI'2012 was given by ????. In addition:

- April would be the best month for the IC meeting given the weather and the IOI in September.
- Roberto Grossi would be on the ISC and was acting as an adjunct to the committee this year.
- Technical support should be covered due to the involvement of the Technical University of Milan.

21. Report on IOI'2013

Peter Taylor presented a report on IOI'2013 (attached). In addition:

- There was a good funding arrangement now with the previously reported government problems resolved.
- There is some concern over the unevenness of the accommodation, especially since multiple colleges will be needed. Hotels may be used for guests.
- The next government elections are the Saturday after the IOI, however olympiads are bipartisan.

22. New Countries

- Montenegro were here as an Observer and were actively taking part in the business of the GA.
- Contact had been made with Peru. They did not yet have a national contest and would be pointed towards the CIIC.
- There was discussion of some of the countries near Thailand that do not participate at the IOI. Kanchit Malaivongs will make some enquiries (e.g. with Malaysia and the Philippines) and pass potential contacts on to the ED.
- Peter Taylor indicated he knew a possible contact for Pakistan and would make initial contact, prior to passing on that contact to the ED.

23. Potential Hosts

- Bids for 2014 had been received from Taiwan and Kazakhstan.
- Iran had informally indicated that they be interested in hosting a future IOI.

24. Interview of Potential Hosts for 2014

A bid document was received from Taiwan (attached) and a presentation made by Greg Lee. In addition:

- There is currently plenty of activity between Taiwan and mainland China. China attended the recent ACM ICPC hosted by Taiwan.

A bid document was received from Kazakhstan (attached) and a presentation made by Bakhyt Matkarimov. In addition:

- 2015 would also be a possible year for hosting but a decision was needed relatively soon. IOI'2010 was the first olympiad to be held after IMO'2010 (hosted in Kazakhstan). The state enterprise Daryn has a special program which would fund the olympiad but that money may become unavailable if another olympiad is planned.

The committee discussed the two bids:

- It was noted that E4.2.1 says "It is the *intention* of the IC that the status of Candidate Host be conferred no earlier than IOI'n-5" and not that such status cannot be conferred earlier. It was felt that 5 years earlier was not unreasonable, although it would interrupt the current rhythm.
- The committee agreed (8 votes in favour, 1 abstention) to nominate Taiwan for IOI'2014 and Kazakhstan for IOI'2015, subject to GA ratification.

25. IOI Foundation

- Work had been done since the March meeting by the President, Eljakim Schrijvers and the ED.
- It was agreed that the by-laws of the Foundation be modified to specify that the board members be selected by the IC, along with any other necessary updates to make other by-laws consistent.
- Requirements on board members, since they would now be selected by the IC, could be laid down in the IOI Regulations. These are easier, and cheaper, to change in general than the Foundation by-laws.
- It was suggested that an appropriate logo for the Foundation would be the IOI logo combined with an F. Arturo Cepeda will produce a prototype.
- Arturo Cepeda would be added as a member of the Foundation board (which was established with Eljakim Schrijvers, Richard Forster and Wolfgang Pohl). The general intent being that the President of IOI be a member of the Foundation's board.
- The Foundation's bank account would require 2 signatories (out of Eljakim Schrijvers, Richard Forster and Wolfgang Pohl). Arturo Cepeda, as President, would have oversight and be able to view (although not sign for) financial transactions.
- It was unanimously agreed that, subject to the by-laws being updated, all remaining money being held on behalf of the IOI in Germany be transferred to the Foundation account.
- It was unanimously agreed that the registration fees collected at IOI'2010 be paid immediately into the Foundation account.

26. Task / Solution ownership

An investigation had been done by Eljakim Schrijvers, Peter Taylor and Fredrik Niemelä into the issue of ownership, and the ISC had been consulted:

- Three potential reasons behind the question had been considered: were we concerned with restricting their use by other parties; the generation of income by third parties; or poor associations if an inferior product appeared.
 - It was not deemed necessary to restrict their use by other parties.
 - If other parties generate income it's likely to be too small to be of issue, or they will be too big an organisation for us to challenge.
 - We care if there's a poor association, but if people are encouraged to point out they've produced a derivative work that should be enough.
- A suitable licence would be the "Creative Commons Attribution" licence.
- Currently we do not have ownership of past tasks. Having consulted a lawyer in most countries there is no "implicit ownership" and a contract would need to exist.
- This year's system, whereby the web-form for submitting a task required the submitted to agree to license the task to the IOI was suitable.
- It was unanimously agreed that, going forward, task authors be required to license their tasks to the IOI in accordance with the "Creative Commons Attribution" licence. Nothing would be attempted regarding past tasks.

27. Other business

- If consent forms (for delegation members including students) were required at future IOI they should be distributed to countries well in advance of their arrival. The signing of such forms, especially by contestants, on arrival at the IOI was at best legally dubious.
- The ISC wished to disqualify a student who had been caught accessing the network in a prohibited manner during the contest.
 - The IC would make it clear to the ISC that the decision to disqualify was (under S6.13) an IC decision, although in technical situations such as this it was pre-disposed to issue such a disqualification on the ISC recommendation so long as a suitable procedure had been followed.
 - The ISC Chair along with Arturo Cepeda (with the ED minuting) will meet with the Delegation Leader and Contestant.
 - The IC authorised Arturo Cepeda to make a decision on disqualification following this meeting and in consultation with the ISC.
- The issue of whether participants who are only attending for a few days (e.g. for the conference) should have to pay the entire guest fee. It was pointed out by Host members that it was often necessary to block-book rooms and that booking for a shorter period was not possible — hence reducing the guest fee was not necessarily possible. Host countries were recommended to try and assist such participants where possible, but it was acknowledged that this was a host decision.