

International Committee

Minutes of the Meetings held in Waterloo, Canada 4–8 March, 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	sphon@ipst.ac.th	Thailand	2007-2012
Benedetto di Rienzo	Host 2012	benedetto.dirienzo@itctosi.va.it	Italy	2008-2013
Peter Taylor	Host 2013	pjt013@gmail.com	Australia	2009-2014
Rogelio Garcia Llano	Elected	rgllano@unsam.edu.ar	Argentina	2007-2010
Fredrik Niemelä	Elected	niemela@kth.se	Sweden	2008-2011
Valentina Dagiene	Elected	dagiene@ktl.mii.lt	Lithuania	2009-2012
Eljakim Schrijvers	Elected	eschrijvers@eljakim.nl	Netherlands	2009-2012
Richard Forster	Executive Director	forster@olympiad.org.uk	Great Britain	2008-2011

Valentina Dagiene was present for items 9, 11-25.

1. Welcome

Arturo Cepeda welcomed the committee to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Metodija Janceski. Valentina Dagiene arrived one day late.

3. Confirmation of Minutes (IC meeting 8–15 August, 2009)

The minutes were approved with no corrections.

4. Matters arising

- Item 14, the registration of ioi20xx.org domains and the investigation into the ioi.org was still outstanding. Troy Vasiga will act, as per the original item.
- Item 16, as regards the missing trophies, was still being dealt with.
- There was discussion as regards the lapel badges / pins for international recognition within the community:
 - It was agreed that everyone inside the community (i.e. excluding the Host's contributors) should receive an item. Included are delegation Leaders, committee members, task submitters and conference speakers / authors.
 - It would be inappropriate (and difficult) to produce items of different "rank".
 - The design should be consistent from year to year. It was suggested that the general IOI logo be used, perhaps with the year given and a colour that varied between years (starting with Red for 2010).
 - Eljakim Schrijvers took responsibility for organising the design and production of the badges for this year.
- Item 28, communication with the Chilean Ministry of Education had been deferred until after the expected change of minister this month. Arturo Cepeda will act, as per the original item.
- Item 30, as regards dates of other major science olympiads, was outstanding. The ED will act, as per the original item.

5. Report by President

Arturo Cepeda reported on his activities since the IOI (attached). In addition:

- Thanks and congratulations were given to Krassimir Manev for IOI'2009, and to Eljakim Schrijvers and Richard Forster for their work on the foundation.

6. Report by Executive Director

Richard Forster reported on his activities since the IOI:

- ED duties continued to take up an average of 1 day per month.
- A reasonable amount of time had been spent talking with a journalist from Wired and a short piece on the IOI, focusing on last year's winner, should have appeared in that magazine at the beginning of the year.
- Costs were within budget.

7. Report by ISC

Michael Forisek had sent in a report (attached). In addition:

- Troy Vasiga mentioned that there might be 4 tasks this year (as per last year) or 3 tasks with more subtasks.
- There was discussion as to the ownership of tasks
 - This issue had been discussed previously by the IC and, especially in the case of students, was potentially difficult due to the different nationalities and laws involved.
 - Gordon Cormack indicated that the ISC current task submission form mentioned granting rights to the IOI, including the right to publish but excluding exclusivity. Phrases about the IOI owning tasks had been dropped and the form says tasks "revert back if unused".
 - Peter Taylor indicated that in the mathematics olympiads there was an assumption that tasks were public although authors might own solutions. Published books usually give attribution.
 - A majority of the committee felt the IOI should have non-restricted use of questions.
 - Eljakim Schrijvers, Fredrik Niemelä and Peter Taylor would form a get together and discuss different forms of licences and report back to the IC.

The following points also arose during the IC meeting:

- It is the ISC's impression that an easy task is a good idea, and that smart students do not mind easy tasks so long as they are not tedious.
- ISC members are currently on an "honour" system as regards separating themselves from any national student obligations.

8. Report by ITWG

Martis Mares had sent in a report (attached).

9. Olympiads in Informatics Report

Valentina Dagiene reported on the *Olympiads in Informatics* conference:

- The flyer has now been produced to help attract readers and submitters.
- Some of the proceedings are on the "ISI Web of Knowledge".
- Additional papers are still required for this year's contest. Current only 4 papers have been accepted, 4 are "in progress" (awaiting reports from reviewers) and there are 4/5 strong promises.
- There was discussion that, since we were a small community:
 - We should aim to attract papers from outside our community.
 - It may be appropriate to produce a journal every other year.
 - We might widen the material, e.g. to include book reviews, country reports and announcements. and it was agreed that this would be determined by the editorial board.
- The conference is expected to be 2 half-days again, with short and long presentations. Fewer papers might have the positive side-effect of longer discussions.
- Troy Vasiga will produce certificates.

10. IOI'2009 Final Report (inc. registration receipts)

Krassimir Manev made the following positive observations regarding IOI'2009:

- No accidents / illness.
- The Bulgarian state had been involved at a high level, including the President and the Minister for Education. Additionally, there was good press coverage both before and during the event.
- There were 82 countries, 301 Contestants, 155 Leaders (inc. Deputies), 39 Observers (attending GA), 56 Visitors (not attending GA), 6 invited guests (2 Canadians, 4 1st olympiad gold medalists), 28 committee or task authors, and around 200 local organisers / guides.
- €15,000 was collected in registration fees.
- No financial problems; all bills paid on time.
- All registered countries received visas.
- The hardware and software worked (although it was noted that 10% of the purchased machines were no good).
- Grading system was good, materials were uploaded in time, and the contest started on time.

The following negative observations were made:

- Norway was present without any contestants.
- It took an enormous amount of effort to sort out visas.
 - Foreign consulates have a lot of power and often ignored the Foreign Ministry.
 - Direct contact (with consulates) can be difficult for delegation members in large countries (e.g. for interviews).
- Hotels proved to be high-risk. There were issues with the owners refusing facilities that had been offered, not serving food as contracted (quality and quantity), mini-bars not being emptied and the staff turning off power to servers.
- The translation room had to be moved (due to the hotel), so the network had to be built at the last minute and there was no collecting / publishing of translations.
- There are risks with too many observers / visitors from any one country. Some people had no relation with the IOI. There was a specific bad experience with one visitor and, in this case, the delegation leader had no power over that visitor.
- The financial distribution (done by the government) was unclear and did not always get to all areas where needed. No report was received.

The IC congratulated Krassimir on IOI'2009.

11. Report on IOI'2010

Brief introductions were given by Ian VanderBurgh (Centre), Terry Bae (Technical Lead) and Jen Nissen (Volunteer co-ordinator):

- The university was proud to be backing the event.
- CEMC (Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing), in charge of the departments' outreach programme, were involved.
- The machines had been ordered. The lab was not yet set up (116 day countdown) but space was allocated.
- There was discussion as to collecting translated versions of tasks, both with respect to making these available for scrutiny (see S6.3) and available to the students of multiple countries without requiring countries being obliged to stay up until the final versions were ready. The Host agreed to look into this, and Fredrik Niemelä volunteer to assist.
- Volunteers would mostly come from local high schools. There is a "40 hours" community service requirement for students and volunteering at the IOI would count towards this.
- The alumni magazine has contained a piece on the IOI and should lead to some volunteers.
- The intent is for 1 guide per team or, in some cases, 2 guides who switch mid-week.
- Guide training is due to begin in July.
- Registration should be available from the start of May and details of everyone who would be attending would be required by mid-June (for T-shirts and arranging transport logistics). Accommodation and food would not require such long lead-times.

Gordon Cormack made a presentation on the IOI tasks:

- The number of questions, and whether their difficulty would be “identified”, was currently being negotiated with the ISC.
- A draft of the questions is expected around one month before the ISC meeting.
- A grading interface, which had been in use over the last 4 years, was shown and discussed. This allows public tests (with immediate results given), release tests (a rationed “token” was required to see the results of these tests) and private tests.
- There is a facility in the submission server for students including their own test files.
- The environment would be a standard linux one.
- Discussions were still underway as regards a scoreboard; the GA would be informed in good time.
- A complete move to interface calls, as opposed to stdin / stdout was floated. This would have to be put in the Competition Procedures / Judging Procedures.

Troy Vasiga additionally reported:

- He oversees all of the committees.
- They are getting publicity.
- The Scientific Committee is mostly known to the IC. Tom Verhoeff will probably be involved.
- The guest programme will include excursions on most days, some of which will be full days. These will include a river tour and the Stratford Shakespeare festival.
- The opening ceremony is within walking distance; the closing ceremony will be a bus ride. We’re “not that big an event” for Bingeman’s (closing ceremony venue).
- Funding goal is €1.2m (400k machines, so “real budget” is 800k). 250k comes from RIM.
- The Muslim student association had been approached regarding Ramadan. There will be Muslim student volunteers, prayer space on campus, and arrangements for food. A question will be asked on the website as to whether delegation members will be observing Ramadan.
- Excursions are planned for *Canada’s Wonderland* and *Niagara Falls*.
- Final exams at the university finish on the 12th, which will give the organisation 13th-15th to get the machines set up.
- There were discussions regarding the timetable:
 - There needs to be an opportunity after the practice session for the GA to liaise with students.
 - Quarantine will be from 6pm, with translation starting at 8pm.
 - Competition is likely to be 8am – 1pm.
 - Students will require time in the lab after contest with the test data available. The amount of time depends on the team, but 1.5 hours is a minimum (if there’s one machine per student).
 - Students for the Wonderland excursion will be given the opportunity to get back “home” by 9.30pm.
 - Closing ceremony is likely to be 5.30pm – 7pm, followed by dinner.
- The CEMC will run activities, such as problem solving and scavenger hunts. Such events may be run in parallel.
- The “Grad House” will be available from 6pm until midnight for delegation leaders. The legal drinking age is 19.
- The CS department may offer a lecture series for students.
- There will be 4 machines to a table, and students will have a 4’ × 4’ space. This is ample space on desks since machines have a small footprint.
- The translation machines will be on the internet but on a separate subnet from the grading / contestants subnets.
- Part of the environment will be a constant backup system, every 5 minutes to USB keys. It was suggested that it should not be possible to take them to bathrooms — to avoid accidentally giving the impression of cheating.
- Once the country has picked students they will be requested to send 30s snippets, so that part of the website can be about the competitors. The IC suggested that, if this was done, it must be used unlike similar ventures in previous years.
- The guest fee is not yet fixed, but likely to be \$1200 (Canadian).
- There will be multiple serving points for the catering. They are used to dealing with 100s of students.
- There has been no contact yet from the Governor General, but their agenda for August is not yet set. The University’s government relations person is dealing with this.
- Not many dignitaries are expected.
- The logo will be available on website, in a format suitable for teams to download in advance; e.g. for t-shirts.
- Notes from arranging the event this year will be summarised and made available for future hosts.

The committee viewed facilities on campus.

12. Report on IOI'2011

Kanchit Malaivongs gave a presentation on IOI'2011:

- The dates are fixed at 22–29 July.
- The logo for IOI'2011 was shown.
- The location will be Pattaya (100km from Suvarnabhumi airport), probably at the Royal Cliff Beach hotel.
 - This is not a malaria region.
- A committee is working on cultural trips, and the hotel has sports facilities in addition to the sea. Other possibilities are the Pattaya floating market and the Ancient City.
- The registration and translation systems are being tested via a Thai high-school contest to be held in May.
- Committees are meeting every week.

13. Report on IOI'2012

Benedetto di Rienzo gave a presentation on IOI'2012:

- Dates will be 22–29 September.
- The logo is “in progress” and to be based around Di Vinci’s Vitruvian Man.
- Venue will be hotels near the Garda Lake.
- There are several airports within 100–150km, including some which budget airlines use.
- Likely excursions include to Milan and to an amusement park. Preference will be to give people the choice of excursions.
- The budget is estimated at €1.2m and currently €700,000 is assured. 50% of the budget will come from the Garda regional government.

14. Report on IOI'2013

Peter Taylor gave a presentation on IOI'2013:

- There are potentially serious financial problems, not just with the IOI but at a broader olympiad level. This is due to issues between two ministries involved in science, and some of the other olympiads may collapse. There is fairly effecting lobbying taking place.
- Preparations are being worked on the basis that the problems will be resolved. Peter Taylor hopes to clarify the situation at IOI'2010.
- There is a good relationship with the University of Queensland and a memorandum of understanding has been drawn up between them and the Australian Mathematical Trust (AMT).
- The University of Queensland will be used for both the contest and the closing ceremony. The opening ceremony might be elsewhere. There are 6 colleges and a range of rooms, though hotels for paying guests will be investigated.
- The steering committee has been established.
- The budget is \$1.5m; this is conservative and the event should be cheaper.
- The Queensland government have been approached for 30% of the cost.
- Peter Taylor will discuss (back in Australia) whether an official letter from the IC would assist and, if so, an appropriate letter will be drafted by the President / ED.

15. Nomination of GA Chairman for IOI'2010

Prof. David Taylor, Chair of the school of computer science, was nominated and approved. He has experience of chairing various committees and of pronouncing a range of names.

16. Awards and Trophies

- Mohamed Youssef had indicated (in discussion with the ED) that he was willing to produce the trophies again this year. It was agreed that he would be asked to produce trophies for the DSA and top student and that enquiries would be made as to whether it would be cheaper to produce them in advance for several years.
- The DSA was discussed:
 - It was mentioned that it was not necessary to give an award.
 - Zide Du, Wolfgang Pohl and Ries Kock were all mentioned as possible candidates.
 - It was agreed that the GA would be asked to suggest some potential candidates and that the recipient of the DSA to be decided by the IC during IOI'2010.

17. Regulations

- The ISC had requested that S3.10 be amended to include a representative of IOI' $n+2$. This was approved and the ED will prepare the appropriate change.
 - It was clarified that (as per S7.3) this would apply from the end of IOI'2010.
- The ED will prepare an appropriate change to regulations concerning the display of scores, should such an experimental regulation be required for IOI'2010.

18. IOI Foundation

- The IOI Foundation had been registered and boilerplate bylaws were presented to the IC (in Dutch) with a translation.
- Currently the account can be accessed by Eljakim Schrijvers, Wolfgang Pohl (acting as Treasurer) and Richard Forster (acting as ED).
- The IC expressed some concern that the IOI was not mentioned in stronger terms in the bylaws.
 - As previously discussed by the IC, there is a circular issue since the IOI is not a legal-body and the Foundation is intended to be an step towards such an existence.
 - It was suggested that bylaws / regulations could be adjusted so that board members are approved by the IC.
- The Foundation, as it currently stands, will address the current financial issue; namely that the finances are current kept in an account with the German computing competition and can now be kept in an IOI controlled account.
- Changes can be made to the bylaws for a cost.
- It was agreed that IC members would send suggested text alterations to Eljakim Schrijvers within 1 month and that he ask the notary who prepared the original documentation whether such changes would be appropriate. This would then be collated and passed back to the IC. (Agreed by a majority.)
- It was proposed and unanimously agreed that €2000 be immediately transferred into the Foundation account to cover any banking or legal costs.

19. Website

- Troy Vasiga reported that he had fallen behind on the ioinformatics website. He would like a subcommittee to sit down and discuss content and layout.
- A page will be put together (by Eljakim Schrijvers and the ED) detailing the Foundation.

20. Newsletter

- The ED reported that he would like to put forth at least one more newsletter before the IOI and requested content from the IC.
- It was suggested that the newsletter would be an appropriate place to ask the GA for suggestions for the DSA and remind them about the elections.
- It was suggested that a "where are they now" section on past students would be of interest.

21. Workshop

- The ED had communicated with Ries Kock, who had arranged the previous workshop. Only €3500 of the budgeted €8000 had been spent on that occasion, but the Dutch Ministry of Education had covered several costs.
- The workshop was confirmed as taking place in Dagstuhl, May 16–19.
- It was decided that, rather than the IC laying down rules as to which attendees of the workshop should be eligible for bursaries and to what amount, this responsibility would be left with Wolfgang Pohl in his capacity as organiser; so long as the budget of €8000 was not exceeded.

22. Budget

Eljakim Schrijvers gave the budget report:

- We currently have around €90,000 sitting in the account in Germany.
- Current interest rates are almost nothing.
- Everything is currently within budget.

23. New Countries

Requests have been received from Bolivia, Ecuador and Uruguay:

- The IC was satisfied with the information provided by Bolivia and gave approval to attend as an Observer for this year's IOI.
- The IC felt that, since Ecuador did not appear to have a suitable contest yet in place it was not yet appropriate for them to attend as an Observer. They would be directed towards the CIIC.
- Uruguay had not responded to requests for information. The IC felt it was inappropriate for them to attend as an Observer this year, and they would also be directed towards the CIIC.

24. Potential Hosts

Taipei / Taiwan had indicated that they were interested to host IOI'2014, although no formal Letter of Intent had yet been received.

25. Other Business

- It was suggested that the IOI could put together an online collaborative teaching resources, where delegations could be invited to submit information. This resource might include an online judge and a collection of problems. The project would require someone to take responsibility. This might be an issue to revisit in the future.
- There was discussion as to IFIP's role at the IOI. Some of the IC felt that the IFIP gained exposure but gave back very little. Is IFIP's involvement just an "IOI tradition" and, if so, does that justify its existence?
 - Any decision as to whether there should be an IFIP presentation at the IOI would best be made prior to the IOI. If a presentation was made, Troy Vasiga indicated that as Host he did not want last year's speaker making a speech.
 - The President / ED will contact IFIP.
- Arturo Cepeda had been in touch with the World Bank in Mexico. The IOI could put forward an application for money; e.g. to support the traveling of some of the poorer countries. Arturo Cepeda will look at whether a grant application can be made.