# International Committee

## Minutes of the Meetings held in Pattaya, Thailand
## 17–20 February, 2011

Present:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arturo Cepeda | President | acepeda@auronix.com | Mexico | 2008-2011 |
| Troy Vasiga | Host 2010 | tmjvasiga@cs.uwaterloo.ca | Canada | 2006-2011 |
| Kanchit Malaivongs | Host 2011 | kanchit.ma@gmail.com | 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 |
| Greg Lee | Host 2014 | leeg@csie.ntnu.edu.tw | Thailand | 2010-2015 |
| Valentina Dagiene | Elected | dagiene@ktl.mii.lt | Lithuania | 2009-2012 |
| Eljakim Schrijvers | Elected | eschrijvers@eljakim.nl | Netherlands | 2009-2012 |
| Krassimir Manev | Elected | manev@fmi.uni-sofia.bg | Bulgaria | 2010-2013 |
| David Ginat | Elected | ginat@post.tau.ac.il | Israel | 2010-2013 |
| Richard Forster | Executive Director | forster@olympiad.org.uk | Great Britain | 2008-2011 |

---

## 1.    Welcome

- Arturo Cepeda welcomed the committee to the meeting.
- Kanchit Malaivongs welcomed the committee to Thailand and gave an introductory overview of the IOI'2011 preparations.

## 2.    Apologies

Apologies were received from Fredrik Niemelä.

## 3.    Confirmation of Minutes (IC meeting 14 - 21 August, 2010)

The minutes of the previous IC meeting were approved.

## 4.    Matters arising

There were no matters arising in addition to other items in these minutes.

## 5.    Report by President

Arturo Cepeda reported on his activities since the IC meeting at the IOI in Canada.  In particular:
- Work on finalising the Foundation bylaws had been completed, along with Eljakim Schrijvers.
- Following on from earlier communication with the World Bank an invitation had been sent to see if they were interested in sending a representative to the IOI in July.

## 6.    Report by Executive Director

Richard Forster reported on the activities of the ED:
- Costs continued to be well within budget.  Most of the work of the OED was performed by email with the only major costs being those for travel.
- The work commitment was currently around 1 day / month.
- No newsletter had been produced due to minimal received content.  Emails had been sent out on the *ioi-announce* mailing list.

## 7.    ISC Report

- Concerns were raised regarding the ISC's communication with the IC.  Reports from the ISC were lacking in detail and issues had not been raised with the IC prior to their being announced to the GA.
- In the early years of the ISC the chair of the ISC had attended some IC meetings.  This was not deemed necessary, although was not discounted for the future.
- The ISC had previously produced minutes for their meetings but these were not being produced at the moment.
- It was agreed that an active liaison between the IC and the ISC was required and that an appropriately technically knowledgable member of the IC fulfill this role.  Eljakim Schrijvers agreed to liaise.

A report from Michal Forisek (attached) was communicated to the IC members after the meetings.  In addition to information on the preparations for IOI'2011 these mentioned:
- Discussions as to whether laptops with external monitors were acceptable for students during the contest.
- A Task Archive that was being put together as part of the Polish MAIN project by Marcin Kubica.  (The ITWG also made reference to, and gave support of, this project.)
- A suggestion that the IOI website be transitioned over to the experimented wiki-based system demonstrated during IOI'2010.

## 8.    ITWG Report

A report from the ITWG (Martin Mares) was given verbally:
- The IOI infrastructure (mailing lists, dropbox for tasks etc...) was running smoothly.  Other than a machine upgrade there were no planned changes, only minor maintenance.
- The ITWG is researching the issue of precise and repeatable timing of tasks and will be producing a corresponding paper for *Olympiads in Informatics*.
- A non-specific funding request (i.e. no figures or supporting evidence) was mentioned re the MAIN project.  The ISC would be asked to make a more detailed funding request.

## 9.    *Olympiads in Informatics* Report

Valentina Dagiene reported on the conference:
- This year's conference would include research papers (as in previous years) in addition to brief country reports and some book reviews.
    - It was suggested that, along with country reports, it would be beneficial to include reports from IOI Host Countries.  Previously Hosts have produced some information, but it would be interesting to include detailed discussion and/or statistics in a paper.  Both organisational and technical material would be of interest.
- The suggested format would be for 10 or 25 minute talks, with corresponding 5 or 15 minute Q&A time.  Questionnaires presented at previous conference had indicated a desire for longer Q&A times after papers.
- Efforts were ongoing to increase the distribution and academic acceptance of the journal.  Many copies were being sent to international libraries.
- The Host Country was asked, as in previous years, to produce certificates for the speakers.
- Due to changes at Valentina's department at Vilnius University — the university has provided the printing and distribution (including electronic) of the journal — a signed sponsorship agreement had been requested.  It was agreed that, subject to an appropriate ownership statement expressing that the university was producing the journal on behalf of the IOI, this would be acceptable.  An agreement would be drawn up between the university and the IOI Foundation.

## 10.    IOI'2010 Final Report (inc. registration receipts)

Troy Vasiga reported on IOI'2010 (attached).  Of particular note:
- The organisation for IOI'2010 had included a small group of people, in a flat hierarchy, who *'knew everything'* and reported directly to Troy Vasiga.  This model was recommended.
- Arrivals and departures had been more work than expected.
- There had been work on making the event more publicly available and central to this had been a single person point of contact for the media.  Their phone was constantly called throughout the event.
    - The website worked well with the most page views being the results and real-time scores.
    - The website was also the first place that media organisations went.
    - A media summary document was available on the website.
- The administration and co-ordination of the even was very important and was a 24 hour / day task for the 3 months leading up to the event.
- 83 countries registered for the olympiad and 81 attended.  106 guests (and paid observers) and 304 competitors (including Host-B).
- 66 countries paid Euros and 14 in US dollars; no fee was due from the Observer.  Cash was transferred to the Executive Director.  No exemptions were requested.
- The IOI came in under budget.  A hidden cost was *"one year of the Troy Vasiga's life"* (the university had paid his salary) and hidden gains for the university included publicity and experience for their students.
- It was recommended that the practice session be run early to give as long as possible to resolved technical issues.
- Ramadan was dealt with successfully and did not involved much extra work.
- Excursions provide a useful day-off for the main organisers.
- The lectures were positively received.  Students are interested in knowing more about computer science and, in general, hosts should be encouraged to organise activities for students in the evenings.
- A successful womens' event (lunch) was held, open to female contestants, guides, leaders and faculty.
- A *"diary of running an IOI"* had been produced whilst preparing for and running the IOI and this would be written up formally.

## 11.    Report on IOI'2011

Kanchit Malaivongs reported on the preparations for IOI'2011:
- Committees, consisting of members from many sectors including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IPST and Pattaya, were meeting regularly.
- A single room would be available for GA meetings and the conference.  During the contest any student questions will be directed to this room.
- Registration should go live at the start of March and delegations should register by May 16, although not all information will be required by this point.
    - Some countries are unable to book flights until their visas have been issued.
    - The registration has already been tested for past regional olympiads.
- The guest fee will be high this year due to the value of the US Dollar and the cost of the hotel.
- It will be the rainy season and an umbrella will be provided in the backpack.
    - An extra generator will be in place due to potential risks with electricity in the rainy season.
- Experiments are currently underway for online broadcasts.
- Guides should all speak English and Thai, in addition to any third language.  A training programme, with written material, is being prepared.
- A press centre will be available to enable delegation leaders to send news.
- In-kind sponsorship is being provided by the hotel who have lowered their usual costs.
- A discount should be available through Thai Airways and a conference code would be sent to Delegations.

A presentation was given by the head of the HSC:
- The ISC meeting will be held in May.
- The format will be the same as last year, with defined subtasks.  No decision has yet been reached on whether there will be 3 or 4 tasks per day.  The Competition Rules / Judging Procedures would be the same as last year.
- There will be a test of the grading system with 100 students.
- The HSC is keen to provide some score-board visualisations.  A work in progress was demonstrated.
- The current call for tasks (due to finish within a couple of days) had given 9 submissions.  There were 4 problems in a reserve pool from last year.

The IC:
- Recommended that delegations were informed about the competition environment as soon as possible.
- Indicated that work on the environment needed to begin immediately and that waiting for the machine hardware to be finalised would be too late.
  - Previous hosts indicated that past hardware issues included missing drivers requiring a lot of work. They recommended that a sample machine — along with an undertaking that the same types of machines would be supplied — be obtained as soon as possible.
- Felt that the difficulty of putting together a suitable set of tasks had been underestimated and was concerned that the HSC had, so far, relied on all tasks coming from the Call for Tasks.
  - It recommended that the Call of Tasks be extended.
  - Additionally, direct requests should be made of individuals (including past HSC chairs) for potential tasks.
  - The IC would communicate to the ISC its concerns regarding tasks.

The IC spent a day examining the facilities that would be used during IOI'2011.

### 12.    Report on IOI'2012

Benedetto di Rienzo presented a report on IOI'2012 (attached).  In addition:
- The event will be held 22-9 September at Garda Lake, approximately 80km from Milan.
- Delegations will be accommodated at Garda Village; IC/ISC/Guests will be accommodated in downtown Sirmione.  Hotel accommodation will be used.
- Buses will be used to get to the contest site.
- The GA meetings will be held in the Convention Hall Sirmione.
- The registration program is being prepared and will be test during the national contests.
- Expected guest fee will be €1200.
- Guides will be selected from language schools.
- Expected date for the IC meeting will be March,at the Callas Palace.

### 13.    Report on IOI'2013

Peter Taylor presented a report on IOI'2013 (attached).  Of particular note:
- The agreement with the University of Queensland is currently verbal.
- $1m out of $1.8m (US) has been raised, taking the University of Queensland into account.  This is enough already for a 'basic' IOI.
- The dates will be 6-13 July, a necessary middle week in the university's 3 week break.
- The climate will be sub-tropical.

### 14.    Report on IOI'2014

Greg Lee presented a report on IOI'2014:
- Discussions have begun with the government regarding funding.  There is interested from two computing firms in becoming a "golden sponsor" and they are working on avoiding offending either party.
- The venue is still intended to be the 101 building on the 85th floor.  The management of that building are a little concerned regarding the logistics for moving the students and the timing of the contest may be partially dependent on the building's schedule.
- No dates yet.

### 15.    Nomination of GA Chairman for IOI'2011

The CV for Vilas ???? was supplied as the Host's recommendation for GA Chairman.  This was approved.

## 16.    Awards and Trophies

- A positive response had been received for the IOI pins and 300 (last year's number purchased) appeared about right, with under 50 remaining.
  - It was agreed that 300 pins be purchased again this year (by Eljakim Schrijvers).  The Host chose yellow as their desired colour.
- It was agreed that the Executive Director should ask Mohamed Youssef to produce, as in recent years, two trophies.  One for the top student and one for the Distinguished Service Award.
- The committee agreed that Wolfgang Pohl should be the recipient this year of the Distinguished Service Award.

## 17.    Regulations

It would be necessary to add the IOI Foundation to the Regulations.  The Executive Director will produce the necessary amendments to propose.

## 18.    IOI Foundation

- The IOI Foundation bylaws had been changed to stress the connection between the IOI Foundation and the IOI.
- The Registration Fees from IOI'2010 had, as per item 25 in the previous minutes, been paid in to the IOI Foundation account.
- The committee being happy with the bylaw changes, the Executive Director was asked to make a formal request to the appropriate body so that all remaining money being held on behalf of the IOI in Germany be transferred to the Foundation account.

## 19.    Website

Troy Vasiga reported briefly on the IOI website and noted:
- IOI'2010 material should appear on the website within the next month.
- Mathias Hiron had indicated an interest in assisting with a redesign of the look and feel of the website.

## 20.    Communication / Newsletter

The Executive Director expressed a desire to send out a newsletter to the wider IOI community and requested that members of the committee provide relevant material for that newsletter.

## 21.    Budget

- There had been minimal spending since IOI'2010.
- It was agreed that an IOI stamp should be produced since some countries had requested that their receipts be stamped in such a manner.  The Executive Director will produce an appropriate stamp.

## 22.    New Countries

The Executive Director reported on communications with potential new countries and the details that had been supplied by those countries:
- Uzbekistan would be invited to attend IOI'2011 as an Observer.
- Malaysia would be invited to attend IOI'2011 as an Observer.
  - Malaysia had not participated at the IOI for a significant number of years.  Their organisation was new and had no connection to previous organisations.  Since 3 years had passed and the organisation was new the IC felt, as per regulations, that it was both possible and *appropriate* that Malaysia attend as an Observer prior to full participation.
- Contact had been made with the Ivory Coast.  They did not yet have a national contest and would be pointed towards other nearby countries who currently run national events.

## 23.    Potential Hosts

- No further communication had been received from Iran.
- Russia continued to informally express an interest in hosting a future IOI.
  - They had asked whether it would be possible to *"swap dates"* with Kazakhstan (Future Host for 2015).  The committee felt that it would be inappropriate to take this further at this stage.  Firstly, no formal bid had been received from Russia and they had not yet been approved for any year.  Secondly the committee did not wish to place any pressure on an existing Future Host.

## 24.    Other Business

- IFIP had a new president who would be in that position until 2013.  Recent attempts at opening a dialogue with IFIP had not been fruitful, however the committee felt that the new president might provide a new opportunity.
- The issue of guest fees was raised, particularly for people who were only attending for a portion of the IOI; attending just the *Olympiads in Informatics* conference was particularly mentioned.
  - Previous hosts indicated that a lot of time was spent dealing with such exceptions and that, due to group rates / bookings for facilities, it was not always possible to accommodate such wishes.
  - The committee felt that the Hosts provisions for reduced guest fees was an issue that should be raised at the IC meeting before the IOI, but that the final decision would reside with the Host.
  - It was also noted that, where such an option was offered by the Host, it was important that requests for such exceptions be given far in advance.
- The applicability of the Board of Patrons (S3.9) was discussed.  This body has never existed.  It was agreed that this issue, especially considering the new IOI Foundation, should be discussed at a future IC meeting.  Members were requested to send their comments to the Executive Director.