

## International Committee

### Minutes of the Meetings held in Pattaya, Thailand 22–29 July, 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
Giuseppe Colosio	Host 2012	giuseppe.colosio@istruzione.it	Italy	2008-2013
Daniela Rovina §	Host 2012	d.rovina@aicanet.it	Italy	Observer
Peter Taylor	Host 2013	pjt013@gmail.com	Australia	2009-2014
Greg Lee	Host 2014	leeg@csie.ntnu.edu.tw	Thailand	2010-2015
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
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

§ Non-voting

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#### **1. Welcome**

- Arturo Cepeda welcomed the committee to the meeting and congratulated the IOI'2011 organisation on the opening ceremony.
- Kanchit Malaivongs welcomed the committee to Thailand.

#### **2. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **3. Urgent decisions regarding IOI2011**

- Kyrgyzstan had requested a waiver from the registration fee. The committee expressed some concern that they had requested waivers for many years whilst other countries, who had on occasion required waivers, did not do so regularly. In some cases delegation leaders paid the country's fee personally. It was agreed to waive the fee this year but the ED would write to Kyrgyzstan informing them that a waiver would not be granted in future years.
- Egypt were last minute attendees and, due to the country's current economic problems, had requested a waiver. It was agreed to waive their fee.
- Clarification had been requested regarding the Host Country's requirement to pay the fee. Not all previous hosts had paid registration. It was agreed that, in their hosting year, a Host Country would not be required to pay the registration fee. The regulations would be amended.

#### **4. Confirmation of Minutes (IC meeting 17 - 20 February, 2011)**

The minutes of the previous IC meeting were approved.

#### **5. Matters arising**

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

## **6. Report by President**

Arturo Cepeda reported on his activities since IOI'2010. In particular:

- He had worked on an IOI Foundation logo
  - 6 logos were shown to the committee. It was agreed the most appropriate logo was the variant with the IOI logo and the work Foundation underneath.
- He had written to people in 85 countries regarding the Board of Patrons. The cost of this had been covered personally.
  - The Board of Patrons (S3.9 / E3.9) had existed within the Regulations for historic reasons and has never been in operation.
  - Only 9 of the 85 people approached replied and all rejected participation in the BP.
  - It was generally unclear to the committee what (if anything) we were looking for in a BP and what we could offer in return. Consideration and feedback was requested.

## **7. 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.

## **8. ISC Report**

- Eljakim Schrijvers had spoken with the ISC regarding the IC's concerns (see previous minutes). It was agreed that Eljakim Schrijvers, the ED, and the Chair of ISC should sit down and discuss these issues in more detail.

Michal Forisek reported on the ISC activities. In particular:

- All but two of the ISC members had been physically present at the task meeting, with the other two members online.
- During the year things had run smoothly; a little behind schedule.
- The IOI'2010 HSC had worked with the IOI'2011 HSC on Marmoset (testing system). Currently the IOI'2012 HSC was working on its own system. The IOI'2012 HSC will probably use Marmoset.
- The ISC is looking at translation systems but no good solution has been found yet.
- The ISC had discussed problem statement length and corresponding approachability for contestants.
- This year the first subtasks were easy, although contestants had to grasp a lot of concepts.
  - There were around 18 0s. UAE had 4 0s, Nigeria 3 and Kuwait 3.
- There has been a gradual change in marking. The subtasks means there are still marks available for wrong solutions.
- The IC again expressed concern that it did not receive minutes from ISC and that it wanted to ensure that the ISC has a memory.
- Concern had been raised by members of the GA as to whether a suitable backup task had existed. There had been 3 tasks, at different levels of difficulty, but the ISC had felt they were inferior in terms of appeal and their ability to distinguish contestants.
- The ISC was not concerned with the speed in which the top students had finished. Only a single student had achieved full marks. The ISC works hard to make the tasks distinguish all medal boundaries.
- All translations had been available online although printed copies had not been on public display.
  - It was queried whether the electronic copies had been verified as matching the paper copies. Troy Vasiga indicated that at IOI'2010 paper copies had been archived.

## **9. ITWG Report**

Martin Mares reported on the ITWG activities. In particular:

- The infrastructure was in “maintenance mode”; i.e. everything was running smoothly.
- The ITWG had co-operating with the HSC with sandboxing.
- The ITWG was co-operating with the IOI'2012 HSC on a grading system.
- The focus for the coming year was on translation issues. Currently a wiki system was being investigated which would give version control, reduce formatting issues and word versioning issues.
- The ITWG raised concerns about the IOI website and the long term stability of individual IOI'n websites. A wiki solution was mentioned along with a suggestion of subdomains on the ioinformatics domain for IOI'n websites. The IC indicated that it agreed and had discussed similar issues.

## **10. Olympiads in Informatics Report**

Valentina Dagiene reported on the conference:

- This year's conference proceedings would contain research papers, 7 country reports and book reviews.
- 14 papers were to be presented. 4 half hour talks and the remaining as quarter hour talks.
- The Host had arranged for some teachers to attend one of the sessions.
- 100 copies of the proceedings had been brought to the IOI and a further 90 mailed out in advance. In particular, Italy had requested a large number (20). All papers are available on the conference website in PDF format.
  - It was agreed that 20 physical copies was a reasonable limit for the number supplied to the host.
- The editorial board were happy to accept papers that did not require a presentation.
- Discussions are underway for promotion with online libraries.
- There was brief discussion on copyright issues. Authors are not currently requested to sign over copyright. It was agreed that an appropriate “open copyright”, such as creative commons, would be appropriate.

## **11. Regulations**

It was noted that the IOI Foundation and the Treasurer should be added in to the regulations.

## **12. Communication**

- Troy Vasiga reported that the website had received some updates. He noted it would be easier to maintain with a group of people involved and that the focus of the site should be decided: it currently served the purpose of both informing students / others about the IOI and providing administrative items.
- An experimental wiki was in place covering traditional content from the IOI website and tasks.
  - It was suggested that some pages on any IOI wiki, e.g. the public facing front page, should require moderation.
- There was brief discussion on communication results etc... to the outside world. It was noted in previous years that their publishing information in the Host's national media with appropriate words (e.g. International) had led to the item being picked up internationally.
- It was generally felt that the Host was best placed to pass information to the media.
- It was noted that community contributed news (for media information) might be useful and provide multiple languages, e.g. ioinews.org/russian.

## **13. Awards and Trophies**

- Two trophies had been produced. (DSA and top student.)
- Lapel pins had been produced for the second year in orange. They would be distributed after the second competition day and shown to the GA at the corresponding meeting.

## **14. Financial report for preceding year**

- The IOI had spent £6489 of the £13750 allocated.
- An interest rate has been negotiated with the bank. Approximately 2% from next year.
- All money was had now been transferred to the IOI Foundation account.

## **15. Budget for coming year**

Eljakim Schrijvers directed discussion on the forthcoming budget. Of particular note:

- Previous practice had been to budget £4k per year to a development workshop but only to hold the event every other year (spending two year's budget). It was agreed that an £8k item in years where a workshop was to take place (or other applicable value) would be more appropriate.
- There was debate over budgeting for communications and brochures. Several members expressed the opinion that countries were only interested in local news (e.g. how their students had performed). Concern was also expressed by several members as to the purpose of promotional material. It was suggested that a strategic proposal (at least with regards aims) should be in place prior to spending money on promotion or third-party advice.
  - A vote was taken on whether a communication budget should be in place without a specific plan. 4 in favour, 5 against and 1 abstaining. Rejected.
- It was agreed to keep the registration fee at the same level, in accordance with past discussions.
- It was agreed to make the President and OED budgets the same.
- No funding requests had been received from the ISC.

## **17. Use of IOI Funds**

- There was discussion as to the use of IOI funds for IC / ISC members. There was concern that if we started funding committee members the resources would quickly run out and it was suggested by some members that making sure funds (national / personal) were available should be made before standing for election. It was agreed, whilst funding would not automatically be available, it could still be available (with due consideration) in an emergency.
- It was also agreed that money will run out quickly, and be difficult to distribute equitably, if it went in part to delegations.

## **18. Report on IOI'2011**

Kanchit Malaivongs presented a report on IOI'2011 (attached). In particular:

- The location for the pigeonholes had not worked out.
- Minor medical issues had arisen: A student had hit their head in the pool; one student with bad allergies; a 3 month old child had become ill and sent to hospital.
  - It should be communicated to delegations that the IOI could not be expected to provide support for young children / babies.
- The Prime Minister had attended the opening ceremony, and spent time with students after the ceremony. Notice had been given two days in advance.
- On contest days the contestants had been sent to the contest room early and had been searching before entering the hall.
- There had been a strategy to use the IOI to promote ICT education in Thailand. This had included collaboration with universities, some outsourcing (including experts and the opening and close ceremony) and the involvement of teachers (who had been invited to the conference). There had been spots on prime time TV.
- There had been some politics with committees; e.g. three people who needed to chair committees.
- The live streaming system had worked well.
- 78 countries plus 2 Observers. 303 contestants, 151 leaders, 68 visitors and 5 task authors. Accommodation had been paid for task authors.

Problems included:

- The speed of communication both before and during the IOI. A realtime method of passing information would be useful as would a method for getting hold of people (e.g. the President) during the IOI.
- Some flight information had been received very late.
- Miscommunications with hotel. E.g. with respect to different cuisines.
- The clarification requests during the contest had had issues, including one clarification sent to the wrong student.

Recommendations included:

- Writing up information on processes and arrangements, otherwise each new Host has to think about what to do.
- There needs to be a method for communicating with the community when the schedule changes. Similarly there needs to be a way of communicating with all members of a given committee.
- A detailed program needs to go to all involved persons. E.g. In the opening ceremony everyone who will appear on stage needs to know when this will happen.
- During the contest a large number of people are required to escort students to toilets.
- You need to be aware of difficulties if one person (e.g. Chair of Host) has a project management role but has no money / authority since responsibility vests with another body.
- Pigeon holes needed to be conveniently placed.

The IC joined Arturo Cepeda in congratulating Kanchit Malaivongs on the success of the IOI.

## **19. Report on IOI'2012**

Giuseppe Colosio presented a report on IOI'2012. In particular:

- The DaVinci man logo was 99% finalised.
- The event will be held 22-29 September at Garda Lake with the usual schedule.
  - David Ginat pointed out that this would place the second competition day on Yom Kippur. Discussions included some thoughts on the quarantine of contestants affected by this. The host indicated that they might be able to shift the IOI by 1 day. This would be investigated and, if possible, the IOI moved to 23-30 September.
- Transport is being arranged by the province. Longer bus transfers will have a police escort.
- A memorandum of understanding has been signed with patrons, including the Education Ministry and the local province.
- In accordance with European law there is a call out for additional patronage.
- A "sure" relationship is in place for the technical infrastructure.
- Roberto Grossi will head the HSC.
- A grading system is already prepared for the national competition and will be demonstrated at the IC meeting.
- The ISC is working on a translation system with the HSC.
- The IC meeting was fixed for 20-24 April.
- There is UNESCO interest in a Young Talent conference to be held at the same time and based in Milano.
- It was confirmed that the late date of the IOI would not affect which students could attend. The regulations allow for students who have just started university (as commonly happens with the southern hemisphere) and require the students to have been at school (S2.5) "*during the period September to December in the year before IOI'n*".
- There is a guide programme in place, taking students from a tourism school. There will be a 1 week formal preparation which the Italian system will recognise formally.

## **20. Report on IOI'2013**

Peter Taylor presented a report on IOI'2013. Of particular note:

- The agreement with the University of Queensland is now formal.
  - Multiple colleges within the university will be used. These have different administrations.
- There are good contacts with but no assurances from the government.
- Currently \$AUS 1m of \$AUS 1.8m raised. It is still a little early for some sponsors.
- They are looking at supplementing voluntary ability with event specialists.
- There is no flexibility with the dates of 6-13 July for reasons discussed at prior IC meetings.
  - The organisation is aware of Ramadan. The days will be shorted than during Canada when this last occurred and was dealt with successfully.
- Computing facilities have not yet been decided.

## **21. Report on IOI'2014**

Greg Lee presented a report on IOI'2014:

- Dates are tentatively mid-July.
- The bulk of the funding will come from the Ministry of Education.
- The Howard Plaza Taipei is being considered for the opening and closing ceremony.
- Guides will be students from the NTNU.

## **22. New Countries**

The Executive Director reported on communications with potential new countries and the details that had been supplied by those countries:

- Uruguay had sent an initial contact but had not responded to any requests for further information.
- Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Jordan had been in contact and the committee determined that they were not yet in a suitable position to send an Observer to the IOI.

## **23. Potential Hosts**

- No further communication had been received from Iran or Russia.
- There were no currently applications.
- Countries should be encouraged to put themselves forward to host an IOI.

## **24. Other Business**

- It was agreed to add to the regulations the requirement for the Host Country to produce student certificates by the end of the IOI.
  - Troy Vasiga recommended that hosts should print Gold / Silver / Bronze certificates for each student in advance, to make certificate production faster on the final day.
- There was a brief discussion on whether students in the bottom 50% who had got a good result might be given an award / medal. It was suggested that the ISC should be requested to analyse statistics from previous years to determine if there were many such students who might be recognised, and the issue discussed at a later date.
- A recipient of the DSA had requested a corresponding certificate. It was agreed that this was good practice and that the ED (potentially in agreement with the Host Country) would organise this.