International Committee

Minutes of the Meetings held in Taipei, Taiwan
21–23 February, 2014

Present:

Richard Forster	President	forster@olympiad.org.uk	Great Britain	2011–2014
Peter Taylor	Host 2013	pjt013@gmail.com	Australia	2009–2014
Greg Lee	Host 2014	leeg@csie.ntnu.edu.tw	Taiwan	2010–2015
Fuad Hajiyev	Host 2015	fuadhaci@gmail.com	Kazakhstan	2011–2016
Vladimir Kiryukhin	Host 2016	vkiryukhin@nmg.ru	Russia	2012–2017
Mohammad Ali Abam	Host 2017	abam@sharif.edu	Iran	2013–2018
Kresimir Malnar	Elected	malnar@hsin.hr	Croatia	2011–2014
Valentina Dagienė	Elected	valentina.dagiene@mii.vu.lt	Lithuania	2012–2015
Mārtiņš Opmanis	Elected	Martins.Opmanis@lumii.lv	Latvia	2012–2015
Ricardo Anido	Elected	ranido@ic.unicamp.br	Brazil	2013–2016
Eslam Wageed	Elected	eslamwageed@gmail.com	Egypt	2013–2016
Madhavan Mukund §	Executive Director	madhavan@cmi.ac.in	India	2011-2014
				§Non-voting

1.   Welcome

- Richard Forster welcomed the committee to the meeting.
- Greg Lee welcomed the committee to Taiwan and noted that there was full attendance at both the IC and ISC meetings in February, 2014.

2.   Apologies

There were no absentees.

3.   Confirmation of Minutes (IC meeting 6—13 July, 2013)

The minutes of the previous IC meeting were approved.

4.   Matters arising

- The GA minutes from July 2013 promised a public document demarcating the boundary between ISC and HSC responsibilities, as well as a scientific report documenting the technical issues encountered during IOI-2013 and a risk management plan. See agenda item **7.**
- The IC had suggested the possibility of producing the IOI trophies for IOI-2014 locally in Taiwan, to reduce costs. This option is under investigation. A spare trophy from IOI-2013 is available with the current hosts as a sample. See also agenda item **15.**
- Several regulation changes were discussed and approved by the GA during IOI-2013. A revised version of the regulations has been drafted by Richard Forster and will be circulated by email for discussion.
- During IOI-2013, it was agreed to hold an IOI workshop in 2013–2014. Mile Jovanov from Macedonia had agreed to coordinate this activity but there has been no further progress on this front, so some follow-up action is needed. See also agenda item **20.**

5. Report by President

Richard Forster reported on his activities since July 2013.

- The main focus during the current Presidential term has been to ensure that processes are put in place for IOI to run smoothly. Various initiatives are in progress towards accomplishing this goal.

6. Report by Executive Director

Madhavan Mukund reported on his activities since July 2013.

- Several enquiries have been received from new countries interested in joining IOI. Details are discussed under the agenda item **18.**
- There has been correspondence with potential hosts of IOI. Details are discussed under the agenda item **19.**
- In response to various enquiries from individual students about the procedure for participating in IOI, a section on *Participation* has been added under *General Information* for *Contestants* on http://ioinformatics.org.

7. ISC/ITWG Report

Fredrik Niemelä and Martin Mareš presented a joint report on the activities of the ISC and ITWG.

- IOI-2014 received an excellent set of submissions. Overall there were 66 submissions, including 19 from the host country, of which 21 were shortlisted. From these, 9 problems have been selected, including 3 reserve problems.

  The increase in the number of submissions is probably due to the greater publicity given to the call for tasks.
- The meeting with the HSC has been going smoothly. The IOI-2014 competition hall was reviewed. Though space is a bit tight, the network layout is good and things are under control.
- Some new contest rules specific to IOI-2014:

  - Wireless mice and keyboards will be explicitly disallowed.
  - The rules for full feedback and tokens will be as at IOI-2013. There will be a limit of 50 submissions per task.
  - Evaluations will follow per-user queueing for fairness. This will guard against misuse where one contestant swamps the system with submissions.
  - All students will receive a printed copy of the task in their preferred language as well as a copy of the official English version. During the "paperless" contests at IOI-2012 and IOI-2013, about 40% of the students printed out the task statements, mostly at the start of the contest, leading to a severe load on the distribution system and missed deliveries.

    Leaders will have the option to not provide their students a printed version.

    The long term goal of the ISC is to have a contest with no printers at all. This will be discussed during IOI-2014.
  - There will be a facility to provide translations of announcements by organizers, to be broadcast as text. This will require team leaders to be available throughout the contest. All translations will be available to all students—the user interface design is to be finalized.

    To reduce the work, a set of pre-defined messages will be provided to be translated in advance. The system will be tested during the practice contest with canned messages.
  - In general, to make announcements during the contest more clear to all students, efforts will be made to simplify the language of the English announcements.

- It was suggested to have explicit translation practice for team leaders to get familiar with the translation system. This could be provided for the practice tasks and for the canned announcements.
- Since leaders are expected to be available throughout the contest to translate announcements, clarifications will also be allowed during entire contest.
- In connection with the plan to communicate more effectively with the GA, the IC requested the ISC to contribute 2–3 paragraphs, highlighting the changes—see also agenda item **16.**

- Kazakhstan is keen to introduce Java in IOI-2015. To get data about timing, prior to IOI-2014, Martin Mareš will recruit helpers to write solutions in Java for previous IOI tasks and compare performance.

  The ISC will meet during IOI-2014, assess this data and make a proposal to GA about enabling Java in IOI-2015.

- Quite a few technical details about IOI-2015 are as yet unclear. They plan to use CMS but they lack practice running contests using CMS. Kazakhstan is organizing APIO for which they will use CMS, so this will help. It is strongly recommended that they send a large technical delegation to attend IOI-2014.

- The ISC traditionally deals with task quality. The ISC plans to have a stronger presence on the technical side as well. The strategy is to invite more members to participate in ITWG.

  In addition to Martin Mareš the current list includes Fredrik Niemelä, Bernard Blackham and Stefano Maggiolo. The ISC is looking for participants from Kazakhstan and Russia to join this activity. Since all the people involved will be attending IOI-2014 anyway, no extra invitations will need to be sent by the hosts. For the moment, this extended group is working mostly online.

- In this context, there was a discussion on expanding the ISC. The tentative proposal is to add one more elected member in the two years other than the year in which the ITWG Chair is elected.

- Ali Sharifi Zarchi will take a lead in creating a mailing list to match trainers with countries that need training. A presentation on this activity will be made at IOI-2014.

- As discussed during IOI-2013, the ISC is moving towards a system in which testdata can be formally verified with respect to the parameters in the problem statement.

- There is plan to have an online judge for the IOI-2014 problems available on an external server during the contest.

- The IC also requested the ISC to propose suitable candidates for the Distinguished Service Award.

- The IC asked if the ISC had any projects in mind that would require funds from IOI. The online judge being proposed for deployment during IOI-2014 will not need special funding. However, funds may be needed later to add archival problems to the judge

- The ISC confirmed that this year's contest would continue to use full feedback, and award contestants marks based on their best submission. This led to a discussion on how to recover from errors in a full feedback environment.

  - In response to a query whether giving marks to the best submission encourages random submissions, it was said that this effect had not been seen in practice. Moreover, the new per-user queue policy for evaluation would penalize frequent submitters.
  - In response to formulating guidelines to deal with unforeseen problems, the ISC stated that the difficulty is to predict such problems.
    Mārtiņš Opmanis suggested formulating some general guiding principles which could be relayed to the GA. Mārtiņš will send some specific suggestions by email and continue this discussion with the ISC.

- As a partial explanation about the technical failures during IOI-2013, it was noted that the hosts intentionally separated scientific and technical committees, to allow the technical committee to continue with team training. However, this led to communication gaps and misunderstanding of features such as the sharing/re-use of test cases.

- The ISC were questioned about the mode of operation of the IOI app that would be used for translations, in particular the policies in place to share translations in such a was as to make translations open , but guard against misuse. Ths ISC reported that it had not yet discussed the IOI app with the HSC, but promised to do so.

- Regarding the document about the demarcation of responsibilities between the ISC and the HSC, the final version is not yet ready and will be shared with the IC soon, as soon as it is completed.

- There was a question regarding who takes charge in case of a crisis, the HSC Chair or the ISC Chair. This issue is addressed in the document demarcating responsibilities betweeh the ISC and the HSC.

- Regarding the document identifying the causes of the technical lapses during IOI-2013, the ISC has prepared an internal version that "assigns blame" wherever necessary, but would not like to make this version public. This document would be shared with the IC to follow-up and to ensure that the IOI community does not forget the issues involved. If the GA insisted, the ISC would present this document publicly.

- Fredrik Niemelä confirmed that minutes would be written for this round of ISC meetings, like the previous two meetings, and these would be shared with the IC.

8.   Report on *Olympiads in Informatics* and the IOI Conference

Valentina Dagienė reported on the IOI Conference and the latest volume of *Olympiads in Informatics*.

- For the 2014 volume of *Olympiads in Informatics*, 19 abstracts of potential submissions have been received. In addition some individuals have been invited to submit papers (Tom Verhoeff, Ville Lepannen). 2 country reports are also planned.

- Following requests from the GA, it was decided to limit the IOI Conference to the first competition day during IOI-2014.

- For the second competition day, there was a proposal to have an invited lecture by a guest speaker who could then engage in a discussion with GA members. The hosts confirmed that accommodation could be made available for such an invited speaker for upto two nights. It was also unanimously agreed that upto € 1000 of support for travel could be provided from the IOI budget. Valentina Dagienė will contact potential speakers and confirm the details by April so that host could make suitable arrangements.

9.   Final Report on IOI-2013 (including registration receipts)

Peter Taylor presented the final report on IOI-2013, which was held in Australia.

- IOI-2013 was jointly organized by the Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) and the University of Queensland (UQ). The two level organizing commitee reflected this dual organizational structure. In addition to the Steering Committee and the Organizing Committee, there were several subcommittees handling different aspects of the organization.

- The total cash income was A$ 645,000, including A$ 500,000 from the Australian government, A$ 50,000 from the Queensland government and A$ 78,000 as guest fees. The remaining funds came from the Australian Mathematics Society (A$ 7,500), Brisbane City Council (A$ 5,000), UQ Alumni (A$ 3,000), private donations (A$ 1,000) and bank interest (A$ 1,000).

  In addition, sponsorship in kind was provided by Dell (computers, A$ 50,000), Cisco (cabling, A$ 15,000), Energex (generator, A$ 13,000), Ricoh (printers, A$ 12,800), GGF (servers, A$ 1,500) and Commbank (water bottles, A$ 1,500).

  Putting the two together, the total income was A$ 728,000.

- The total expenditure was A$ 836,000. This included accommodation and local hospitality (A$ 355,000), transportation (A$ 95,000), excursions (A$ 25,000), ceremonies (A$ 24,000), meetings (A$ 13,000), personnel (A$ 152,000), T Shirts, bags, bank fees (A$ 38,000), venue hire (A$ 17,000), competition hall and IT (A$ 12,000), telephone and fax (A$ 7,000), programmes (A$ 5,000), medals, prizes, awards (A$ 3,000), stationery (A$ 3,000) and miscellaneous (A$ 9,000).

- The deficit of A\$ 108,000 was shared by UQ and AMT.
- 304 students competed, from 77 countries. There were 57 guests. 7 countries could not participate due to financial difficulties. 3 countries could not participate due to visa issues.
- Transport worked out well. Delegations were picked up from the airport. Early arrivals were picked up from city hotels. In general, all the logistics went smoothly.
- Since two organizations were involved, more coordination was required. However, neither could have organized IOI on its own.
- One difference with respect to the last IOI organized in a university, IOI-2010 at Waterloo, was that on-campus accommodation in Waterloo was directly administered by the university, whereas, in Brisbane, each college had its own administration and culture.
- The technical issues involving the two competition days had a cascading effect on the organization, because of having to reschedule meals in the colleges, GA meetings etc.

  Neither the Organizing Committee nor the ISC had any contingency plan in place to cope with the problems created by the technical difficulties during the exam. This led to a lot of confusion regarding organizational readjustments to be made on the fly. For the future, there is a need to formulate a clear set of guidelines to deal with such situations, including identifying who takes decisions.
- There were no serious disciplinary issues. One student was found bringing alcohol to his room. This was before IOI started and the situation was sorted out with the delegation leader.
- One of the main hurdles to organizing IOI-2013 was mobilizing funding. Getting funding from the government was more difficult than expected. Sponsorships difficult to obtain.

  There were difficulties dealing with UQ protocol, which often interfered with the organization of the event.
- Two people made key contributions to the organization of IOI-2013. Andree Phillips was very visible, coordinating all aspects of the logistics. Bernard Blackham was less visible but was the key to ensuring that the technical side held up and that the competition could go on despite all the technical difficulties.

10. Report on IOI-2014

Greg Lee presented a report on IOI-2014, to be held in Taiwan.

- IOI-2014 will run from July 13–20 and follow the usual schedule, from arrivals to departures.
- The registration system will be kept open from April 19 to May 15. The IC noted that several countries may find it difficult to finalize their delegation details by May 9. A hard deadline of May 30 was proposed for updating registration details.
- The guest fee for IOI-2014 is US\$ 1500, to be paid in advance.
- The country registration fee remains € 200, to be paid in cash, onsite. The IOI Treasurer requested the hosts to allocate a local person to help collect the registration fee.
- Leaders, observers, committee members and guests will be accommodated at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. Students will stay at the Fullon Hotel, two to a room. The competition venue will be the Taipei International Convention Centre (TICC).

  The student hotel will be equipped with public access stations to check email and browsing.

  All venues will have high-speed wifi Internet access.
- The opening and closing ceremonies, contests and GA meetings (except on the final day) will take place at TICC. The IOI Conference will take place in the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The GA meeting on the final day will also take place in the Grand Hyatt Hotel.
- The contest floor will be split between two halls, each accommodating upto 160 students. Contestants will work on Acer laptops with 15″ screens running Ubuntu. 20 external monitors and keyboards will be arranged, to be distributed to contestants with special needs.

  High speed printers will be available in the contest halls. However, based on the experiences of "paperless" IOIs the past two years, it has been decided to print out task statements in advance to avoid long print queues at the start of the contest. See also agenda item **7.**

- Each delegation will be provided with two tablets on loan. An IOI app was being developed for use on these tablets, to distribute the newsletter, daily programme and scoreboard. The IOI app will also be used to distribute and collect translations of clarifications during the contest.

  There was some discussion about how the IOI app would handle clarification requests. In the current manual system, it is possible for a team leader to answer questions posed by students from another country if the original team leader was not available. The app should be designed to permit this kind of flexibility without compromising security and potentially allowing misleading answers to be relayed.

- Delegations will be picked up by bus from the airport. Delegations arriving early will be picked up from hotels in the city. Delegations that arrive early but are not staying in Taipei should make their way to the airport on the arrival day to be picked up.

  TICC is a short walk from the Grand Hyatt Hotel. Students will be transported from their hotel to TICC and back by bus. Excursions will also be by bus. All participants will be provided with MRT passes enabling free transportation on the Taipei Metro.

- The first excursion day will cover the National Center for Traditional Art (Leaders and Contestants), KaVaLan Distiller (Leaders) and Lanyang Museum (Contestants).

  On the second excursion day Leaders will visit the Juming Sculpture Museum and North coast while Contestants will be taken to the Lihpho Amusement and Water Park.

  After the closing ceremony, the Contestants will have a farewell party at Road Castle. Leaders will be taken to the National Palace Museum for a tour of the museum followed by dinner.

- IOI-2014 is sponsored by the Ministry of Education, the National Science Council and Taipei City. Private sponsors include Acer, Chunghwa Telecom, Intel and Google.

- There was a discussion about food options during IOI, especially for students who don't like Chinese food. The food at the student hotel will be international. Vegetarian options will be available and special timings are being organized for students observing fasts during Ramadan.

  In the Grand Hyatt Hotel, in addition to buffet meals in the Cafe on the ground floor, participants will have access to selected restaurants in the hotel, serving a limited menu.

11.   Report on IOI-2015

Fuad Hajiyev presented a report on IOI-2015, to be held in Kazakhstan.

- IOI-2015 will take place in Nazarbayev University, Astana. Astana is served by several international airlines.

  - The competition will be conducted in the Sports Complex (2600 m^2, 360 workstations).
  - The GA will meet in the Senate Hall (200 persons).
  - IC and ISC meetings will be held in Hotel Park Inn, where the leaders will be staying. Meeting rooms can also be arranged in the University.
  - The opening and closing ceremonies will take place in the Astana Opera (seats 2000).

- Leaders, observers, committee members and guests will stay in the Park Inn Hotel (Radisson group).

  Contestants and guides will stay in dormitories in Nazarbayev University. They will have access to sports facilities on campus.

- The tentative dates are July 12–19, 2015. IOI-2015 will follow follow the usual schedule, from arrivals to departures.

- The major sources of funding for IOI-2015 are the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, the Daryn Centre and Nazarbayev University.

  Private sponsors include Samsung, ExxonMobil, Chevron and Park Inn Hotel. In addition, confirmation is awaited from Acer and some telecom companies.

- The organization team would be led by two senior co-chairs from the two main organizing agencies, the Ministry of Education and Nazarbayev University.

  The technical team consists of 10 people.

  115 student volunteers and 10–15 school teachers would be involved as team guides.

- IOI-2015 will follow many of the practices adopted by the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) to be held in July 2014. Several organizers, including Fuad Hajiyev, would attend IPhO-2014 and hence not be present at IOI-2014.

  The IC urged the organizers of IOI-2015 to ensure that ensure that key personnel attend IOI-2014 to get a feel for the event.

- One of the suggested excursions is to visit Almaty, by chartered plane. The IC expressed its reservations about long excursions.

12. Report on IOI-2016

Vladimir Kiryukhin presented a report on IOI-2016, to be held in Russia.

- Some formal confirmations are still awaited from the government. Committees will be constituted once these confirmations are received. This is expected to take place before the next IC meeting in July.
- There is plenty of technical experience with organizing ACM ICPC.
- The proposed venue is a new IT city called Innopolis that is being built near Kazan.

  - The Technopark is expected to be completed by May, 2014.
  - The government has promised that all infrastructure will be in place well in time for IOI-2016.

13. Report on IOI-2017

Mohammad Ali Abam presented a report on IOI-2017, to be held in Iran.

- The government has accepted the budget of US$ 1 million in October, 2013.
- The organizers are starting to familiar with the CMS system.
- The process of registering the domain name has started.
- The original proposal was to house students on campus in Beheshti University. The organizers are exploring the feasibility of moving the students to a 4 star Olympic hotel in a sports complex. The main constraints are the number of rooms available in the hotel and the distance to the competition venue.
- The next step is to set up a Steering Committee in consultation with the government which will then select the organizing, scientific and technical committees. These committees are likely to be set up by July, 2014.
- Negotiations have started to identify private sponsors.
- Final decisions about accommodation, the competition site and the sites for the opening and closing ceremonies would be taken by the end of 2014.
- Regarding the dates for IOI-2017, July and August are both very hot, so it was proposed to hold the competition in September. The IC recommended freezing the dates well in advance, especially if they were non-standard.

14. Nomination of GA Chairman for IOI-2014

- The hosts proposed Prof Tei-Wei Kuo from National Taiwan University as the GA Chairman for IOI-2014. Prof Kuo has an MS and PhD from the University of Texas, Austin, USA and is fluent in English. He has participated in IOI in previous years and is hence familiar with how the GA works. As a senior faculty member, he has extensive experience coordinating meetings within the University.
- The IC unanimously approved the nomination of Prof Tei-Wei Kuo as GA Chairman for IOI-2014.

15. **Awards and Trophies**

- The IOI pins for IOI-2014 have been produced.

- Greg Lee will investigate the possibility of producing the IOI trophy locally in Taiwan to reduce costs.

- Eslam Wageed proposed a new design for the trophy based on the current IOI logo. After some discussion, there was a formal vote in which 10 members voted in favour of retaining the current design. There was 1 abstention.

- For the Distinguished Service Award, it has been decided earlier that proposals should be put forward by IC members with a brief write-up explaining the contribution of the individual. In order to widen the pool of names, the ISC would also be asked to send in nominations. Nominations would be solicited by the end of March for IOI-2014.

- There was a discussion about whether an award can be given to specific organizers from outside the IOI community who made significant contributions to organizing individual IOIs. In a related point, there was also a discussion on whether some award should be given to past IOI Chairs.

  It was agreed that neither of these would qualify under the scope of the Distinguished Service Award.

16. **Communication, including IOI Website, GA Newsletter**

- Mārtiņš Opmanis presented some details about http://ioinformatics.org.

  - The website receives about 150 visits a day.

  - The statistics page maintained by Eduards Kaļiņičenko has been updated to the extent possible using available data. Further updates require active contributions from individual countries to update missing information.

    It was noted that the colour coding indicating the quality of information avaiable on the statistics page could be explained better.

  - The journal *Olympiads in Informatics* has been integrated into the IOI webpage. Past issues are now available through this interface.

  - The main issues with maintaining the website are dealing with spam, getting hold of missing content and identifying new content that will be of interest to the community.

  - All broken links (e.g., some IOI task descriptions point to blank pages) should be notified to Mārtiņš Opmanis directly.

- The following suggestions were received regarding the website.

  - The website would be accessible to a larger audience if the content could be made available in multiple languages. The information could be structured to make it easier to isolate and translate selected sections.

  - The links to national websites need to be updated. Some links have been transferred from the earlier webpage but many countries' national websites are not linked. It was suggested that this information could be collected and maintained in the registration system.

- There was a discussion on publishing photographs along with names of competitors on the IOI website. The photographs are available in the registration system, but permission has to be obtained for publishing these photographs publicly.

  According to the current IOI regulations, a list of participants will be published. It was unanimously agreed to propose a change to the regulations to include the publication of photographs with the names. This would make the public use of participants' photographs part of the rules, so separate permission need not be sought from individuals.

- There was a discussion about communication between the IC and the GA. It was suggested that, after the IC meeting, the following information could be collated and posted on the IOI website, and a link sent to the GA.

- – A short report by the IOI President.
- – Short reports on IOI-2013 and IOI-2014 by Peter Taylor and Greg Lee, respectively.
- – A contribution from the ISC about the competition rules and other relevant technical details concerning IOI-2014.

- • Eslam Wageed initiated a discussion on the need to exploit social media better. Some initial efforts in this direction have come from the organizers of individual IOIs. It would be good to have this engagement year-round.

  There was a discussion on the positive and negative aspects. It was accepted by all members that social media could play a positive role in publicizing IOI. However, there were reservations about how to maintain an effective presence, in terms of generating regular new content to retain interest as well as monitoring and dealing with potentially awkward negative comments posted on the forum.

  It was suggested that this could be discussed in a wider group, either as part of the IOI workshop or on the second competition day of IOI.

- • There was a discussion about maintaining permanent archives of the local websites of each IOI. Different options will be investigated to achieve this.

17. Budget

Madhavan Mukund presented an update on the IOI budget, based on data received from the Treasurer, Kim Schrijvers.

- • The main income during this period was a sum of € 15,200 from registration fees.
- • A substantial amount, € 1,995.61, has been generated through bank interest.
- • The main items of expenditure during this period have been bank charges (€ 77.78), IOI pins for 2013 and 2014 (€ 917.13), IOI trophies (€ 679.35) and travel expenses for the Executive Director (€ 510.00) and President (€ 1045.00).

18. New Countries

- • Enquiries for participating in IOI have been received from the Dominican Republic, Panama and Lebanon. The email correspondence with these countries has been circulated to the IC.
- • The Dominican Republic had planned to have a national contest in place in April–May 2014. Panama had proposed to start their national contest in 2015. Lebanon also indicated a similar time-frame.

  It was agreed that to grant Observer status, there should be a national contest in place in the current year. The ED would communicate this requirement to the three countries in question and pass on the responses to the IC so that a final decision could be reached by the end of March.

- • There was a discussion on limiting the number of observers that a host country is obliged to support each year. It was felt that supporting 2–3 observers a year would not be a problem. This has been the approximate number in recent years.

  It was noted that some countries that have been invited as Observers have not followed up the next year as regular participants. There was a suggestion to collect details of country participation from recent IOIs to help keep track of such information. The ED will contact the organizers of recent IOIs (since 2009) for this data.

  There was a discussion on whether the IC should prescribe a formal limit on the number of observers that the host must necessarily support each year. There was also a discussion on whether and how to fund countries beyond this limit, should such a limit be prescribed.

  The discussion was inconclusive. It was agreed to postpone further discussions on this topic till historical data on country participation was made available.

- There was a discussion on the need to involve more countries in IOI and whether this goal should be actively pursued by the IC. It was felt that a realistic upper bound for participation was about 100 countries.

  Some concerns were expressed about the possible dilution of quality with increasing numbers and logistical problems for hosts in organizing the competition hall if the number of participants became too large.

  Several individuals have been actively seeking out and encouraging new countries to partcipate in IOI. The IC expressed its appreciation for the role played by these individuals in promoting the growth of IOI, in particular, and informatics, in general.

19. Potential Hosts

- A Letter of Intent has been received from Japan to host IOI-2018.
- Azerbaijan, which had bid unsuccessfully for IOI-2017, has indicated an interest in bidding for IOI-2018 as well.
- The ED will obtain and circulate the bid documents from Azerbaijan and Japan for IOI-2018 in time for discussion prior to the formal presentations during IOI-2014.
- Croatia indicated a preliminary interest in hosting IOI (for the second time) in 2021 in Dubrovnik, located on the Adriatic coast.

20. IOI workshop

- Mile Jovanov from Macedonia should be asked to revive activity related to the IOI Workshop to be held in 2014.

  Others who could be contacted along with Mile Jovanov include Wolfgang Pohl (Germany), Mathias Hiron (France) and Kim Schrijvers and Riis Kock (the Netherlands).
- A suggested date for the workshop is October–November, 2014, so that the outcome can be reflected in the next IOI.

21. Guidelines for publication of results during and after IOI

- The GA has been reluctant to publish detailed lists of non-medallists.
- On the other hand, IOI should aim to archive all the data that is available. This includes registration details, competition data (tasks, testdata, scores, evaluation), local event data (photographs, newsletters).
- It was suggested that the data could be held by the Office of the Executive Director in a suitable format, to be decided later.
- It would be ideal if the following data could be made publicly available.

  - Names and photographs of all competitors—see also agenda item **16.**
  - Tasks, testdata, official solutions and translations.

22. Clarification on voting procedures

This item could not be taken up due to lack of time.

23. Proposal to have an official online contest for countries unable to attend due to political/diplomatic problems

This item could not be taken up due to lack of time.

24. Other business

- There was a proposal to discuss the possibility of obtaining long term sponsorship for IOI. This item could not be taken up due to lack of time.

- There was a proposal to consider making the second team from the host country official participants in the competition. This item could not be taken up due to lack of time.