

International Committee

Minutes of the meetings held in Kazan, Russia

Feb 14 – 16 2016

Present:

Krassimir Manev	President	krmanev@gmail.com	Bulgaria	2014-2017
Bakhyt Matkarimov	Host 2015	bakhyt.matkarimov@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
Seiichi Tani	Host 2018	tani.seiichi@nihon-u.ac.jp	Japan	2014-2019
Fuad Hajiyev	Host 2019	fuadhaci@gmail.com	Azerbaijan	2015-2020
Ricardo Anido	Elected	ranido@ic.unicamp.br	Brazil	2013–2016
Eslam Wageed	Elected	eslamwageed@gmail.com	Egypt	2013–2016
Ben Burton	Elected	bab@debian.org	Australia	2014–2017
Kresimir Malnar	Elected	malnar@hsin.hr	Croatia	2015-2018
Mile Jovanov	Elected	mile.jovanov@gmail.com	Macedonia	2015-2018
Eljakim Schrijvers	Treasurer	eschrijvers@eljakim.nl	The Netherlands	Non-voting
Margot Phillipps	Exec. Director	margot.phillipps@gmail.com	New Zealand	2014-2017
	Non-voting			

Apologies: None

Welcome: Vladimir welcomed the committee and presented Krassimir Manev with a bell and a spiked cosh.

Confirmation of the last minutes: Approved unanimously

Matters Arising: None

Additional Agenda Items:

Ben Burton requested the addition of an item: to add a clause to the regulations about the period of time in which the IC may select a future host.

President's Report:

- 1. What is a country:** About 10 countries have “disappeared”. The suggestion is that there should be a fixed time after which a country is not considered a member. (Proposed 3 years)
- 2. OED (office):** The office should be extended to include
 - a. Treasurer
 - b. Journal editor/conference organiser
 - c. Database maintenance role

IC is also asked to consider if it wishes to continue with the Wiki development and if so, this should also be in the OED

- 3. IFIP relationship:** IFIP used to be invited and awarded a medal to the youngest contestant. The GA didn't know why IFIP had this special relationship as they don't sponsor the IOI financially and the relationship was lost. IFIP has re-approached us and Krassimir Manev has replied with a summary of the history of the relationship. If IFIP responds with a firm proposal, then we can discuss it.

4. **Received communication from Mārtiņš Opmanis:** If a low number of countries attend an IOI, then is the current quorum of 1/3 sufficient? We need to fix “who is a member” (item 1 of the report) and then the concept of a “quorum”. Is it of those who attend or of member countries?

Discussion:

The regulations say a quorum is one third of countries attending IOI. If there isn't a quorum present the President may call a new meeting. There was a discussion about the host's ability to invite observer countries, a need for a repository of a country's organisational details (compared to details of past leaders), and whether observer status initially was mandatory. It is preferable that organisations of countries should be mandated by either their Ministry of Education or a Computer Science organisation in order to avoid the possibility of conflicts with which organisation is an official one. Bakhyt Matkarimov observed that the logistics of inviting new countries can be problematic if a host is required to issue invitations from Ministry to Ministry.

Chair of GA: The GA chair should be practiced at chairing meetings, competent in English, neutral and familiar with the IOI. There was some discussion as to whether it should be the Executive Director or President. Vladimir Kiryukhin offered for the proposed 2016 GA chair to meet with the IC during the meetings. This was accepted.

Executive Director's report

- Normal Communications including letters to future hosts incorporating the ACER sponsorship
- A request for a longer and earlier GA if contentious items arise was received
- Expenses approved
- Newsletters
- New Countries (to be discussed as a separate agenda item)
- Journal report received

Discussion of report

Acer sponsorship: Krassimir Manev is still concerned that the sponsorship with Acer will put countries off applying or that if they reject the sponsorship and therefore what can the IC do. Mohammad Abam is waiting on Maarten Schellekens (Acer), to provide the contract for Iran. Eljakim Schrijvers stated that Acer is currently working with Iran, Japan, Azerbaijan and Singapore. Margot Phillipps stated that the letters going to future hosts confirming acceptance of the IOI regulations also now included acceptance of the Acer sponsorship. There is only one more year of the 5 to account for whereby Acer sponsorship has not been accepted yet. (2021)

Longer and Earlier GA: Ben Burton stated that the fourth proposal for an off-site competition arose because of the lead time given by circulating the IC proposals early, so an earlier longer GA meeting is not necessary if we continue to signal contentious issues early on in the IOI. Time could be added to the first appeals session for presenting of regulation changes etc.

Journal Editor's report

- Research journal (with 2/3 of good quality research papers)

- Countries' reports on national Olympiads (training, organization, task developing, etc.)
- Review of books, algorithms, task solutions
- Indexed: Cabell's Publishing, Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL), EBSCO. Educational Research Abstracts (ERA), ERIC, INSPEC, SCOPUS – Elsevier Bibliographic Databases
- For 2016: 3 papers are submitted (Switzerland, Belarus, Italy), 13 research papers promised to be submitted, 3 national reports promised to be submitted
- Conference 2016: Half day during the **first** competition day from 9.30 until 13.15 , 20 min. for a long presentation + 10 min. for questions and discussion, 10 min for a short presentation + 5 min
- Having more (local) participants is desirable and a special seminar for local teachers on the **second** competition day (in Russian) may be planned.
- The possibility of a second journal on the teaching of Informatics was raised, published courtesy of the hosts.
- A proposal was made for a prize for the most interesting paper from last year
- Hard copies of the journal will be posted for European countries.
- It is important to raise dissemination of the journal so as to increase publicity, to attract strong authors from different institutions and outside IOI community and to take care of indexing in data bases: Cabell Publ., Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL), Scopus, ISI Thompson Reuters Proceedings...

Discussion of report

Vladimir Kiryukhin reported that the cost of the journal needed to be covered. Eljakim confirmed that 4000 € was paid to Valentina Dagiene on 18 December. Vladimir is also to discuss the 2nd journal with his colleagues and Valentina. The host Ministry of Education has agreed to an exhibition for schools.

It was agreed that much of the discussion about the number and quality of papers properly belonged with the editorial board. The IC's role is moral support and to cover the publishing costs. Time should be put aside at the IOI to allow the board to meet.

Krassimir Manev is to seek clarification about an indexing issue raised by Valentina prior to her report.

There was a question raised regarding the program for the 2nd contest day, where the leaders are scheduled to tour the Kremlin at 11am after the conference (9 to 11am). It was agreed that leaders will need to ensure someone is present for questions to be clarified if contestants are able to ask for the full 5 hours.

Report on IOI 2016: Vladimir Kiryukhin

Competition Location: Universiade Village: Competition hall is 1500 metres squared and a 600 seat complex. There are 2 alternatives for seating – staggered in pairs in rows or 4 tables at angles so they cannot see each other. After some discussion it was agreed it was an ITC matter.

450 laptops, the furniture for the workstations and the servers have been bought, ICL will network. Internet access during quarantine will be limited and equipment to facilitate this has been purchased.

GA Meeting Venue: KFUIT school, 2nd floor, seats 216, has projector, screen, and 3D projector set.

IC and ISC Meeting Rooms: A number of options of halls which seat 60 or 100 people.

Opening Ceremony: Academiya Concert hall in Universiade Village for opening seats 1200+

Closing Ceremony: Pyramid entertainment complex, seats 1130

Accommodation: Leaders, committees, students and volunteers will all be in the Universiade Village. 3 meals per day in 7 styles in restaurants with 600 seats will be provided. Every room has a kitchen part and sleeps 2 or 3. Teams will not be combined.

Observers and Guests will be in the Korston Tower hotel, 10 minutes from the village by car.

Transport: International airport (28 international flights and 13 from Moscow and 2 from St Petersburg daily) and 2 main train stations (9 from Moscow and 1 from St Petersburg daily)

The airport transfer is 30 minutes for teams, 40 for guests and observers.

On contest days leaders and students will each have a 5 to 7 minute walk. Excursions will be by buses with a capacity of 47.

Program: Standard Arrival, practice and Opening Ceremony, Contest day1, Excursion, Contest day1, Excursion, Award Closing ceremony and Departure day. Excursions are to the Kazan Kremlin and surrounds, the island of Svivazsk, the ancient Bolgar settlement and Innopolis.

Organisers: Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications and Kazan Federal University as well as the equivalent regional ministries of Tatarstan. Work groups and committees have been organised.

Budget: Total is approximately US\$1.5 million, being provided by Federal agencies (56%), Tatarstan Republic agencies (13%) and sponsorship (31%) ICL-KME CS is a major sponsor.

Additional: Early arrivals can be accommodated, the Visitors fee is 1500Euro. There will be a fleet of 17 to 20 buses, seating 45, 2 to 5 vans and 10 cars. Mislplaced luggage will be handled by staff. There will be a village map in each bag, along with a traditional hat, tee shirts (coloured by role), a Kremlin magnet, notebook and badge. All will have the official logo where appropriate.

Volunteers: Applications for the 250 began August 1 2015, with recruitment and training beginning February 2016

Website: Launched July 2015

Registration: Begins March 1 and runs til May 20, with 84 countries being invited

Discussion:

The IC preferred to be in the village than a nearby hotel.

Bakhyt Matkarimov noted that the fee has gone up from 1500 US\$ to Euros.

Eljakim Schrijvers noted that individual countries may extend registration (June 20 eg)

Krassimir Manev asked for translations of Invitation letter. Vladimir Kiryukhin will ask that precise instructions for visa applications be written.

IOI 2015, Kazakhstan report: Bakhyt Matkarimov

Photos: opening, closing ceremony, contest floor, leaders, invited lecture, the conference program and the excursions.

Bakhyt Matkarimov noted that the Turgen Gorge excursion was cancelled due to an official emergency notification.

Statistics:

83 teams attended of the 85 countries who registered, (Lebanon and Libya did not complete registration), 77 teams had 4 contestants and there were 3 teams with 3, 2 teams with 2 and 1 with 1. All teams had at least one leader.

0 observers (Madagascar and Pakistan did not qualify), 1 President, 1 ED, 10 IC, 8 ISC, 7 ITC, 24(29) HSTC,

322 Official Contestants, 161 Leaders / Deputy Leaders, 62 Guests + 7 Invited Guests + 2 children, 100+ Team guide volunteers (University students), 50+ Technical staff volunteers (University students), 40+ Organization staff. A few HSC didn't come. All communications were by email.

Medal Counts: Gold, Silver, Bronze: 27 (1 rounded up), 55 (1 rounded up), 79 (2 rounded down). One contestant was disqualified.

Accommodation:

Contestants and volunteers were housed at al-Farabi Kazakh National University Hotels and rooms were allocated by gender and then country rank.

Leaders, guests and the host scientific and technical committees were housed at the Atakent Park Hotel. Hotels and rooms were allocated by age.

International Committees and guests were housed at the Ritz Carlton, and rooms were allocated by family.

Hardware: 420 HP laptops for contestants and translation, 1 Fujitsu server for network storage, 16 HP/Fujitsu contest servers, 8 Samsung monitors for QA / Translation / IOI conference / information desk, 20+ Alcatel/Lucent switches, 10 black and white and 5 colour HP printers, 1 Fujitsu UPS, and various other peripherals.

Software: IOI Registration system, IOI CMS with Java programming language support, SpB ITMO Netadmin network administration system, Saratov SU Polygon task development system, IOI Task Translation system (adopted from IOI 2014), Transparency in Q/A session – questions shown to all leaders

- Step back: not implemented (that was implemented in Taiwan IOI 2014): IOI2014 General App (Newsletters, Scoreboard), tablet based Q&A translation system, people counting (RFID + backend server)

Programming Languages Used:

Day 1: C++ 312, Java 5, Pascal 5, C 4

Day 2: C++ 312, Java 11, Pascal 5, C 4

Could Be Improved: Transportation (more minibuses, air conditioning, shuttle between venues), lack of equivalence in student rooms (all girls on first floor, because no mirrors on 3rd and 4th floor, the 4th floor was worst for heat and was given to "lower ranked" countries), student cafeteria queues, printing queue on Translation night 1, no livestream, voting system at GA, no personal photo album, task and system preparation

Thanks to Good Fortune: Temperature decreased from the previous week, power backup worked at the Atakent when the outage occurred, a devaluation of the currency (Tenge) happened after the IOI so no losses for the largest contractors.

Incidents: Medical (none serious), Technical (outages, bugs, frozen screens) and a transfer difficulty were all resolved. An extra night room rate booked from overseas was not resolved. A minor crime was resolved by the party's agreement and police were not involved.

Budget/ Funding: Ministry of Education budgeted \$US 2 million approximately, no sponsors. Guest fee was \$93K. Total Expenditure was 1556K

Main Organizers: Ministry of Education and Science, Republican Scientific and Practical center "Daryn" & al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty city and Almaty region Administration with contributions from many other organisations.

Advice for Future Hosts:

- Send HSTC and organizing teams to learn at previous IOI
- Decide early on a contest system specifications (need 3+ years experience with International contest testing systems & environment)
- Hard Decisions to be made: Follow Contest rules / Quarantine Procedures, Volunteers / Specialists training / payment, Hotel vs. University hosting model, Transportation / Transfer, Translation hall inside / nearby Leaders hotel.
- Needs experienced/capable/trusted staff to attend to issues arriving during IOI and Checklists!

Thanks from the Ministry of Education for the opportunity to showcase Kazakhstan.

Discussion

Teams of 1 must only have 1 leader, and that no team comes without a leader.

Regulation Changes: Ben Burton

To address invitations to new/ lapsed countries , inviting the conference organiser to an IOI, GA chair having competent English skills, inviting every country and acknowledging them, (applies only post 2016) , dealing with countries unable to travel to a host country for diplomatic reasons (Formalising Off site Participation)

S2.6

"Exceptions may be considered by the IC for countries which have not participated in IOI'n-1, IOI'n-2 and IOI'n-3."

Delete italics portion

"Exceptions may be considered by the IC."

S2.7

The other invited participants, whose cost is covered by a Host Country:

Adds

" . The organiser of the IOI conference, if it is scheduled;"

S3.3

GA meetings are chaired by the Chair of GA. The Chair of GA is an independent individual, selected by the Host Country in co-operation with the IC, with extensive experience in chairing meetings.

Becomes

GA meetings are chaired by the Chair of GA. The Chair of GA is an independent individual, selected by the Host Country in co-operation with the IC, with *good English communication skills and* extensive experience in chairing meetings.

S5.6

The Present Host is obliged to empower the IC to invite to IOI'n:

- National Delegations

Becomes

The Present Host is obliged to empower the IC to invite to IOI'n:

- National Delegations, including a delegation from every Country that has participated in at least one of the past three IOIs;

New E5.6

The Present Host is obliged to acknowledge, on its website and official material, all National Delegations who have accepted this invitation. This includes acknowledging those National Delegations who are unable to attend the IOI due to matters of international diplomacy or any other difficulties.

New A5.6

If a new Country wishes to participate in the IOI as either a National Delegation or an Invited Observer, then they should apply through the Executive Director. The IC will discuss the case and decide whether to approve the application. The same process applies to a Country that has not participated in the past three IOIs. In this case, the IC will also attempt to contact the last representatives of the Country.

New N5.6

The IC and GA have voted to waive the obligations of E5.6 for those Current and Future hosts at the time when this Explication was added to the Regulations (that is, at the time of IOI 2016).

New S6.14

If a Country cannot participate in IOI'n because they do not have diplomatic relations with the Host Country, then the IC may, at its discretion, allow the Country to participate from a remote location. This Country must apply to the IC for remote participation no later than IOI'n-1.

New E6.14

The medal boundaries, as described by E6.11, are determined using only those Contestants who are competing on-site in the Host Country. The official archives and website of the IOI will also include the remote Competitors, with awards based on the medal boundaries that were determined on-site.

New A6.14.1

The IC, in consultation with the ISC and ITC, will choose a representative to oversee the remote competition.

New A6.14.2

The remote competition will take place as close as possible to the same time as the IOI. Some small delay is acceptable, but only if the remote Competitors can be quarantined.

New A6.14.3

All remaining details regarding the remote competition will be determined by the IC in collaboration with the ISC and ITC.

New N6.14

It is expected that remote participation will be a very rare event. In particular, S6.14 is not intended for common problems such as unexpected visa difficulties or funding shortfalls.

Discussion

S7.4: Experiments by the IC are allowed. So the IC can vote that this doesn't apply to current hosts. We must notify the GA a month prior. Later the IC can remove the note N6.14, as notes do not need to be voted on.

2016 Chair Introduced

Sergei Masaygin was introduced by Vladimir Kiryukhin as the 2016 GA chair.

He is in Pre University education and was involved in the Olympiad for 5+ years and attended the last 2 in Taiwan and Almaty and has been present in GA meetings.

Off-site Participation

Eljakim Schrijvers to remind Ries Kock to send his proposal to the IC up to 2 weeks prior to IOI.

Acer Sponsorship: Eljakim Schrijvers

Starting from 2017 we have 4 countries agreed. The contract for Iran isn't finalised. Acer is waiting to see if Iran needs changes. There is a minor change by Japan already, and then Acer will complete all 4. They want a common first 2 pages of the contract.

Discussion

There is sometimes an issue about taxes on donated equipment. Eljakim noted that Acer will take care of everything.

Advertising on TV may be difficult. Eljakim noted that the MoU doesn't insist but the live broadcast will say "Powered by Acer".

Mile Jovanov suggested finding other sponsorship for, for example, accommodation and using Foundation money to organise meetings to attract sponsorship

Inviting Universities to present to students

Vladimir Kiryukhin: IOI 2016 is ready to give such universities small exhibition space to present. He stated Krassimir Manev should send a letter to invite others, as well as MIT.

Discussion

The possibility of having universities pay and also for them to give access to their alumni for sponsorship money was raised.

Bakhyt Matkarimov explained that Chris Peterson of MIT paid for himself and the ability to invite him was just good fortune.

A small working group (Krassimir Manev, Vladimir Kiryukhin and Bakhyt Matkarimov) was proposed to make a list of the universities which should be invited.

Previous host universities should be included.

Host country's second team on scoreboard

The ITC are working on it. The extra contestants, if they appear, can give a false impression of medal cut-off points.

Budget and Finances: Eljakim Schrijvers

The Budget is decided in July.

Bank account: 112,873 € in savings (includes 115€ in current) account

Expenses by Category: Total spent since IOI 15 € 6.760,80, (includes 4000 to journal, 2506 for ED travel, 170 € for Eljakim Schrijvers to travel to the Acer launch of their sponsorship and bank charges)

Discussion

The fee is currently paid in cash, in person. There was a suggestion that Direct Credit or Mastercard would be better. In 2015 collecting the fee on translation night worked. The difficulty of matching transactions with teams will create new problems and potential chaos and less funds collected. The status quo will remain.

Vladimir Kiryukhin: The IOI 2016 invitation letter does not ask for the 200€ fee and there needs to be a separate letter from the Foundation. Eljakim Schrijvers will arrange it.

Vladimir Kiryukhin : Russia is now paying for the Conference organiser (Valentina Dagiene) and asks that the Foundation pays it instead. Krassimir Manev is to write a letter to the organisers to confirm she is currently a member of the Office of the Executive Director.

New and Lapsed countries

Ghana: Letter from MISE foundation read.

Discussion: Mile Jovanov suggested an IC member travel to their country at their expense.

Proposal: That Ghana should be invited as an observer: For 10, Against 2

Saudi Arabia: The previous organisation were insulted by the media for low scores in 2010 so wouldn't participate after that. There is now a new organisation interested in participating.

An observer may be from Ministry, not a technical person.

There is less evidence of their preparation toward a national program.

They should have until the end of April to furnish further evidence in accordance with the regulations, and that evidence can be considered by the IC via email with a view to them being invited as observers if the evidence is acceptable. For 9, 1 absent

Morocco and Palestine:

At present there is no evidence of a national program although Morocco has plans to prepare a contest this summer.

They also should have until the end of April to furnish further evidence in accordance with the regulations, and that evidence can be considered by the IC via email with a view to them being invited as observers if the evidence is acceptable. For 9, 1 absent

Discussion:

If invited, observers may give the IC a 5 minute presentation on the status of their organisation

Palestine: nothing since 2014 although a UNESCO country
Eslam Wageed to follow up. For 10, against 1

Puerto Rico: (A US territory, not recognised by the UN or UNESCO and thus does not meet our regulations to be a country)
If the GA is informed in 2016 (thus giving at least one month's notice) of an experimental change to the regulations, then in 2017 Puerto Rico could be invited to send an observer, provided they meet the other normal conditions of being accepted as a country. There is the possibility for a guest to attend in 2016. For 8, against 1

IOI 2018, Japan Report: Seiichi Tani

The Japanese Government will support 50% of the costs (about 1 million \$US). The venue is Tsukuba city in Ibaraki Prefecture – near Tokyo, 45 mins by train North East and 1 hour by bus from Narita airport.

Tsukuba city and Ibaraki Prefecture also support the IOI by providing the competition hall and accommodation (about 0.5 million \$US). Messages from the Governor of the Prefecture and the Mayor of Tsukuba city were presented. The International Congress Centre was used for the 2015 ACM-ICPC Asia region contest. (1360 metres sq. external power supply, configuration not yet settled). It has within it venues for the Opening and Closing ceremonies, Translation rooms,

Fujitsu will sponsor laptops and Acer the servers and networks. Thus the budget for these elements is 0.

IOI 2017, Iran Report: Muhammad Ali Abam

- The chair of each sub-committee was chosen.
- We have already setup the office of IOI17.
- We had several meetings mostly focusing on choosing the sub-committee chairs.
- The chairs must prepare a project plan by March 2016.
- We have already constructed a wiki to store all documents (doc.inoi.ir)
- Financial sub-committee is negotiating with some 5-star hotels.
- 3 logos have been designed but we have decided to publically call for designing a logo.
- By April, the minister will have a news conference to officially announce hosting IOI17.

- Accommodation, logo, website and dates are getting finalized by August.

IOI 2017 will be totally state funded. Some chairs are from the Ministry of Education and some are from the national committee, and each committee has someone on it from the national organisation.

The regional ICPC was held at the same university, although the contest hall will not be the same. The contest hall is within walking distance of the accommodation. The hotels planned are large enough for everyone (500 rooms) in 3 blocks so quarantine can be implemented.

Discussion

Temperature in July will be high but there will be air conditioning everywhere. Transport to Iran is normal.

IOI 2019, Azerbaijan: Fuad Hajiyev

Date 10-17th august 2019 in Baku

- Accommodation will be in the Athletes village (An Olympic village used for the
- 1st European Games 2015). IOI 2019 has sole access and there is accommodation, rooms for GA, ITC, IC ISC etc. cafeterias and is 15 minutes from the airport.
- The Opening Ceremony will be held in the Heydar Aliyev Center (5 minutes by bus)
- The Closing Ceremony will be held in the Baku Ballet and Opera Theatre
- The competition will be held in the Crystal Hall (15 minutes by bus). It has room for 500, enough network bandwidth and infrastructure for the entire contest, an independent power infrastructure and full air conditioning.
- Internet Access: The Athletes Village is connected to the internet via various redundant fibre optic links. There is a commitment from a Telecom Provider to setup a special Wi-Fi network. It will handle thousands of participants on site. A special network for the translation nights will be setup that is protected from the internet but all team leaders will have internet access to look up dictionaries.
- Excursions: 1. Old City of Baku and The Temple of Fire ("Ateshgah") (20 minutes by bus) and 2. Gabaland Fun Park.
- Visa: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan will sign a decree to instruct all embassies to help out with visas. An electronic visa will be provided by ADA University as needed.
- Transit: Pick up from Heydar Aliyev International Airport (GYD) in Baku. Early arrivals will be picked up from their hotel in Baku on August 10. Buses will depart from the airport when they are full or teams have waited for more than 45 minutes.
- Guides: Students from ADA University and top High Schools in Baku, selected based on their language skills. They will speak English. With the international culture we can have a guide speaking the local language of each team in a majority of the cases.
- Guests: A special guest program will be organized focussed on the culture, history and nature of Azerbaijan. Guests will visit the Gobustan National Park which is an open air museum, a carpet museum which documents the history of the carpet trade along the silk route. The guest fee is expected to be set to USD 1500
- Budget: An approximate total budget of 2M USD is provided by the government of Azerbaijan. No sponsors are needed. The government has planned budgeting of the event. Based on State regulations the official approval of the budget will be implemented in 2018 (only year before) A break-down of the budget was provided.

- Marketing & Media: A daily newsletter will be published. Several national TV-stations will be present on the Opening and Closing Ceremony. The broadcast will be freely available to foreign countries as well. A special livestream-room will be setup.
- Organising Committees have been established. The main institutions involved are the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Transportation, ADA University, the Institute of Information Technology of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The main committees are:
 - Steering Committee (Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Education of Azerbaijan, Ramin Namig oglu Guluzade, Minister of Communications and High Technologies of Azerbaijan, Hafiz Pashayev, Rector of ADA University, Azerbaijan)
 - Chair of IOI 2019: Fuad Hajiyev, ADA University, School of Information Technology & Engineering
 - Scientific Committee: Rasim Aliguliyev, Director of Institute of Information Technology, Academician-secretary of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Ramin Mahmudzade, Head of Department of Baku State University and Muhammadou Kah, Founding Dean, School of Information Technologies and Engineering, ADA
 - Host Scientific and Technical Committee: members are currently appointed from 4 universities and we intend to invite very experienced and well-known colleagues from different countries to be members of HSC and HTC
- Subcommittees for Guides, Transportation, Guests, Visas, Excursions and News have been formed.
- As the oil price dropping the university is to start a fund
- Discussed with Armenia at end of IOI 2015, that Azerbaijan would pay for one parent to accompany each participant to be assured of their child's safety.

(Seiichi Tani and Fuad Hajiyev had to catch flights so were not present for the rest of the meeting.)

Meeting with 2016 Ministry representatives

Vladimir Kiryukhin introduced Sergomanov Pavel from the Ministry of Education, Russian Federation who invited opinions on the venue from IC members.

Having everything in one place was considered very positive.

Potential problems or improvements raised included:

- The size of the competition hall may be slightly cramped
- The lighting in the competition hall
- The number of serving points for food may need to be increased as for the IOI everyone wants to be fed at the same time as opposed to a sporting event.
- Having a place for students who smoke should be considered.
- The student food should be "plain" but with an opportunity to sample food from the local culture. The facility to indicate a special diet is already in the registration system.
- The seating in the GA meeting venue is too small

- Officers at Kazan airport were slow to issue visas
- At the Ceremonies there will be Russian speeches so students will start to talk. Real time translation may solve this.
- Organise some sports (eg: soccer contest) for down time
- Tables in the GA room
- Fill buses and leave rather than waiting and organising by country

Sergomanov Pavel: Noted the issues raised and will try and solve them. For the visas, he will need the arrival information.

Regulation Changes for ITC/ISC: Ben

Draft changes were presented which can be summarised as

- For ISC: If there is no ITWG, then there are 3 host votes and 3 elected votes, thus a tie is possible on a vote. The regulations should be altered to allow the chair to cast the deciding vote and also that the chair should be one of the elected positions. The chair of ITC will be a non-voting member of ISC.
- References to the Technical Guidelines in the regulations will be deleted as they haven't existed in the ISC since its inception.
- Adding that the ISC maintains syllabus.
- The Chair of ITC is elected from within ITC, (not the GA as for ITWG) so now allow 4 members appointed plus Martin Mares. ITC will report to ISC. The ITC will have the same tie breaker by chair.
- References to the ITWG are removed.
- The ITC is treated similarly to the ISC in terms of meetings, being invited by hosts and not being in contact with contestants as they will have seen the tasks.
- The major regulation addition suggested is :
 - S3.14** The IOI Technical Committee, a long-term standing committee, works with each Host Country to ensure to ensure continuity and quality control of the IOI competition environment (hardware and software).
Members of the ITC may not be members of a National Delegation. The ITC consists of up to eight voting members, all of them computer specialists with a background in Olympiad contest systems, plus one additional non-voting member:
 - 1 member is selected by the Host Country for IOI'n-1;
 - 1 member is selected by the Host Country for IOI'n;
 - 1 member is selected by the Host Country for IOI'n+1;
 - 1 member is selected by the Host Country for IOI'n+2;
 - Up to 4 members are appointed by the ISC;
 - The Chair of ISC, who is non-voting.

S3.15 The appointed representatives on the ITC are appointed by the ISC for a period of up to three years. Appointed ITC members are individuals and not representatives of specific countries.

S3.16 The Chair of ITC is elected from and by the committee members. The Chair of ITC reports directly to the ISC.

E3.17 The ITC is obliged to meet during each IOI and between 2 and 6 months prior to each IOI.

Explications

E3.14 The ITC is responsible for proposals, development and support concerning technical matters.

Areas for consideration include:

- Supervising creation and implementation of the grading system and administrative software;
- Operating systems;
- Program development tools, including compilers, editors and debuggers;
- Computer hardware;
- Networks and IT security.

When a member is selected to represent the Host Country for IOI' n+1, they should remain a member for three years.

E3.16 The Chair of ITC must be one of the three members appointed by the ISC.

Appendices

A3.14 Persons with an interest in serving on the ITC should contact the ISC for consideration.

A3.17 ITC procedure:

- At meetings of the ITC, the voting procedure is on the basis of "one voting member, one vote". If there is a tie then the Chair of ITC may cast the deciding vote (in addition to their normal vote).
- The ITC may select adjunct members who may include Host Country representatives and other suitable persons. Adjunct members will not have a vote on the committee nor do any other invitees;
- The ITC will be in frequent communication technical representatives of the Host Country.

Notes:

N3.14.1 This structure is intended to ensure that the committee has both long-term and experienced members along with representatives of present, past and future organisers.

N3.14.2 The Chair of the ISC is non-voting because it is expected that they will frequently miss ITC meetings due to their ISC responsibilities.

Discussion

Whether the ITC should be a sub-committee of the ISC or a committee in its own right and should the members of the ITC be elected, as in other committees, rather than appointed by the ISC. The counter argument is that the specific skills required are the reason for appointing rather than electing.

Should the ITWG be kept and expanded (rather than a new ITC) because "Working group" is a better name as it's not really a committee, needing elections. But it should be invited to meetings.

CMS' are a competitive market and if the one provided by the ITC fails, what are the consequences? Not all hosts need an ITC or the CMS supported by the current ITC, and now hosts will be obliged to invite the ITC. However a technical representative from IOI's n-1, n, n+1, n+ 2 should always be invited. If a host needs more technical people it could simply

invite them, although this is an added cost for the host. Some hosts will welcome the extra technical help, although they could be in the local technical committee rather than an ITC.

The counter argument is that we want an infrastructure that lasts from year to year (visualisation, translation etc.) and this needs the same people involved who have the memory and knowledge, thus offering consistency. The concept of the ITC had no opposition in 2014, and was ratified in 2015. The proposition was always meant for a long term committee.

The meeting was joined by members of the ISC and ITC

Jakub Łącki for ISC

2016 Problem Set: The number of submissions was lower than usual; 8 shortlisted and the HSC is to find a 9th as back up. The problems which were not selected will be given feedback and the authors of those which were selected will be invited to the IOI.

The syllabus is going to be extended slightly, based on the results of the survey. Topics that are reported to be known by many contestants (e.g. bridges) and simple string algorithms that, because of unfortunate wording, are currently completely banned.

Unexpected problems during the contest: Whatever is said at beginning, the ISC will stick with and the ISC will describe their general policy but without it being absolutely binding. (eg: if there is a need to fix simple data mistake quickly, we will say: "We will only change test data if we discover what we have is not what we intended". If we can fix immediately we will, otherwise we will disable feedback and announce that). If a problem is detected in the last 2 hours, we will discuss if the contest should be extended for everyone. These policies will be public.

Survey: Mohammad Mahdian will take over the survey and it should be owned by the IOI. If the IC wants any questions added, contact Mohammad Mahdian.

Too much information maybe given to contestants about test data by using feedback to mine for information. This will be solved by the amount of feedback being more limited.

Bernard Blackham for ITC (chair Fredrik Niemelä could not attend)

The role of the ITC is to relieve the ISC of non-scientific duties. In particular the CMS, hardware, translation systems, and security around PCs.

Progressing languages allowed: Python is being considered. The ISC didn't have time to consider this, so the ITC is considering the implications of introducing Python.

Procedural: ITC has a CMS but Russia has its own for IOI 2016. If a host is using its own system, then there needs to be a specification of what is needed for an IOI. Stefano Maggiolo is documenting this.

IOI hosts shouldn't have to have own system (although Russia does). So the ITC wants to provide the translation service, machine management, CMS etc.

The same mistakes are made repeatedly, and some are avoidable. The ITC is looking to create a handbook on how to avoid mistakes (eg: how to change test data during the contest)

Discussion

A practice set will be provided prior to the IOI.

Total feedback can be a problem so it will be limited.

Hacking: Security against hacking wasn't a big concern last year. The graders can be made more secure and they will be made secure against last year's hack. Defending against attacks is non-trivial. Any small change to the grading system can introduce new problems (eg: The introduction of Java allowed for new C++ hacks)

Hosts should use a CMS they are familiar with, so long as it will meet the needs of the IOI contest. A suggestion by Michal Forišek was to become familiar with the IOI CMS during a national competition prior to hosting the IOI. In a National round there are less participants, so it doesn't have the same security concerns. Being familiar with the national CMS doesn't mean it's adequate. It's probably less work in the end to use the IOI CMS.

A country's own CMS may introduce new features. The ITC undertook to add these to the IOI CMS if the ISC wishes them to.

Questions to the IC from the ITC

1. Should the live coverage include screen shots of students' work?

Discussion

It's a trade-off between marketing the IOI and potential student embarrassment or discomfort. Even if students have an opportunity to opt in or out, students are still young and may later regret opting in.

A Plebiscite approval vote was held, including non-voting IC members

Do nothing: 7

Show the work anonymously: 8

Show the work with names after student opt in: 3

Show everyone's: 1

Show only correct programs: 2

2. Yandex wants to run the IOI online simultaneously one hour after the contest begins. It means they must have the test data the night before. The proposal is that it is sent after quarantine. This is extending trust beyond the leaders to Yandex. Is the IC in favour?

Assuming any technical issues can be sorted: For 7, against 0

3. The ITC in the regulations
 - (a) Rename to ITWG to reflect that members are appointed not elected. The ITC has no objection as there is no semantic difference in its purpose.
 - (b) The composition of ITC/ITWG: The proposal is to remove the 4 appointed members and for the host to ask for how many it would like. That is, the makeup depends on the wishes of the current host.

Discussion

Eslam Wageed noted that the ITC should find a way to encourage more people to join.

Michal Forišek noted there should be continuity. It wasn't until Italy that the required effort went into CMS. Without the support of IOI it may be lost. While the financial motivation is understood, and some hosts may not need the ITC, more than the one volunteer (as in the ITWG period) is required to assure continuity. If there is a variable number, the work and its benefits could be lost.

The meeting closed with the note that all committees need to meet early in IOI 2016