

**International Committee Minutes**  
**Tsukuba, Japan IOI2018**  
**Room 403, 4th Floor, Conference Center**  
1-8 September 2018

Session 1

1. Welcome

The President welcomed everyone and apologized for not being able to attend the pre-meeting last night.

2. Apologies

No apologies from IC members.

3. ACER sponsorship

There was a discrepancy noted between the dates for sponsorship as understood by the different parties. Acer informed the President that it was in fact 2017-2021, where he had believed it to be 2018-2022. The President was to invite the representative of Acer to come to the IC meeting, so that she can explain their position.

4. Report by the President

No further report.

5. Report by the Secretary

The Secretary apologized for not being active the last months.

6. Increase of Registration Fee

Eslam suggest increasing the Registration Fee to 200 € per person (1200 for a team) where 1000 € goes to the host country and 200€ to IOI.

Mathias suggested a fund for emergencies. As part of the application process, future hosts could have bids with different registration fees.

Kim supported that idea. Valentina commented that it is best to have the same fee every year. Kim listed the registration fees for other science Olympiads. The IOI is not the cheapest but some charge US \$1700.

The President summarized that we need to prepare for the end of Acer sponsorship. It was decided that the President should explain the situation to the GA and the proposal.

7. Contingency plan for the predicted typhoon

Seiichi said if it lasts for two or three hours, the contest can be postponed. There is typically a day's warning of a typhoon and its severity.

8. Finances and Budget

Kim presented the basic situation, and will print the finance report, for later discussion.

9. Procedure for handling grievances, Code of Conduct

Ben suggested that a good model is that the IC assigns a group of trusted individuals, with the right background, to work with one IC member. The group should report the result to the IC. Mile asked who should receive a complaint. Ben: the IC should appoint a person or persons.

Eslam: the word sexual should be limited to the first paragraph. Sun Teck mentioned that the two problems at this year's opening ceremony were sexual in nature. The Secretary asked who would

decide on the punishment. Ben answered that the IC would decide. The persons assigned would only determine the facts and report to the IC. The President asked what options there are for punishment, other than disqualification.

10. The rule of large objects at the closing ceremony. Mile suggested a fine: eg: 200€ for a repeated offence.

**3rd Sept. 2018 11:40**

Eslam left the room during the Presentation of Future Hosts, as Egypt is one of the bidders.

11. Presentation by Future Hosts:  
**(a) Indonesia by Yugo Isal, Brian Marshal**

A video was shown. Indonesia has participated in the IOI since 1995 and has hosted various international science olympiads: biology, astronomy, physics, and most recently the Asian Games. Hosting the IOI is aligned with the objectives of the government, especially the development of talents in Indonesia. A Budget of between US 1M and US 2M is planned and the Government has committed to part of the funding. The current sponsors of the National Olympiad demonstrated an interest in sponsoring the IOI. Government commitment is assured but unfortunately the representative of the Ministry of Education had to return to Indonesia last night for medical reasons.

The IOI would be hosted in Jakarta or Yogyakarta (smaller). The dates are open.

Indonesia has the relevant scientific and technical experience and knowledge. It hosted the Asia-Pacific Informatics Olympiad in 2015 and currently one member of ISC is from Indonesia.

Questions: (Question asked is followed by response from bidder)

- a. Mathias asked if they would use the same organizers as the other Olympiads. They would for accommodation and transportation but not for the scientific component.
- b. Ben: The training staff should be separate from those setting up the IOI tasks. Do you have enough people? Yes, they have been rotating responsibilities.
- c. Mathias: would you invite all countries? Yes, unless the government decided otherwise. But they do not know any issue with of other countries.
- d. Valentina asked about the weather. It is always the same. But not too hot.
- e. Ben: The competition hall is different from other olympiads. Do you have experience? The response was that the National Olympiad has about 100 contestants and it's not a problem.
- f. Mathias: Would they use CMS or their own system? Open, but prefer to use own system.
- g. Ricardo: accommodation in hotel or dormitories? Plans are not finalised. The University is currently expanding dormitories and if they are available, they will be used.
- h. Ben: in the worst-case scenario, if there were no private sponsors, how much will the government offer in support? At least US 1M, from experience with the other olympiads.
- i. Ben: Is there a strong preference for which year? As 2020 will be in Singapore, they understand it would not be ideal to have two Asian countries in succession.
- j. Greg: Competition Hall, do you have a place for one building with the size of floor needed? Or more than one floor? Last year they had a problem with an auditorium for 1000 people, but they have a new auditorium now. No problem with the competition hall. Also, there are

large hotels that can accommodate all the participants if desired, or participants may be split across different hotels.

- k. Greg: how long to get an official support from the government? About two months.
- l. Greg: in the event of no Acer support? Yes, they will be able to host it.

Greg thanked Indonesia for the presentation.

## **(b) Egypt by Eslam**

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport is bidding to host. The main campus is in Alexandria. Egypt has experience as it hosted the IOI in 2008.

An extension of the AAST campus is being built in Alamien New City. It is 50,000 acres with a capacity for 3 million people. The Competition will be in the Innovation Center, with accommodation in the dormitories. It is 93 km from Alexandria and there are three airports in the region. The Government has promised air shuttles from Cairo for IOI participants. All activities would be within the campus. There is an Auditorium for 855 people, each dormitory holds 575 people, and has its own a restaurant. There is also an independent restaurant. AAST has a strong scientific and technical team.

### Questions

- a. Mathias: What is the status of the buildings now? There are videos on the internet. The Buildings will be ready by 2019. If they are not ready, Swarm-al-sheik is an alternative venue Dormitories there would be privately run.
- b. Mohammed: Iran will probably not be able to attend and will ask for an off-site competition. Eslam answered that they will do their best to invite and make it possible for all countries to attend. Mile commented that off-site competitions are only in cases of no diplomatic relations. Eslam answered Egypt will invite all countries.
- c. Ben: The training staff should be separate from those setting up the IOI tasks. Do you have enough people? There are many generations of students from ICPC, so it should not be a problem.
- d. Ben: Governments give travel advisories for countries, and Egypt currently ranks high. Are there plans concerning security measures? There are security problems in some parts of the country. Egypt is safe, the place where the IOI will be hosted has no security problems.
- e. Ben: is 2021 the only option? Answer: it will be difficult to be in 2022.
- f. Sun Teck asked what are the planned excursions? Two planned excursions: museum of WWII. And a beach city nearby, with several options for activities in the sea. Another option is Alexandria (96 km).
- g. Mathias: can you give examples of large events organised? Every year we organize the ICPC.
- h. Greg: Do you have a letter of support from the government? Yes, here is a letter from the President of the AAST. Greg: and from the government? We are currently supported by the Prime Minister and we will ask the support of the President through the Prime Minister.
- i. Mathias: Do you plan to use CMS? Yes.

Greg asked for comments from members.

Ben, Mathias and Kressimir raised the security concern with Egypt (and possibly Indonesia) again. Ricardo pointed out that Singapore and Indonesia in sequence is not ideal.

Greg asked what happens if a country becomes too problematic? Ben responded that from the GA point of view, countries could simply decide not to send a team. He also said that the regulations state that the decision must be ratified by the GA.

Greg Stated that 2022 needed to be decided now.

It was proposed to hold 2 votes – one for 2021 and one for 2022. A paper ballot was held.

Results were as follows:

**2021**

1 Indonesia

9 Egypt

**2022**

10 Indonesia

12. Mohammed raised a problem with the printing system for the task translations.

13. Report on IOI-2018

87 countries competing. 336 registered, but some could not come.

14. Report on IOI-2019

- A Presentation to two ministers (Education and Transportations) had been made. A representative of the Ministry of Education is attending IOI201 and will participate in the closing ceremony for the transfer of the IOI flag.
- Budget: asked for EU 2.2 M from the government in July and an answer is expected by the end of September. There are some tentative sponsors (Azercell may offer 150-300K and two people from the company are at IOI2018).
- The Domain [www.ioi2019.az](http://www.ioi2019.az) registered (for now only the message "coming soon"), but the logo has not been approved. The proposed logo was shown, and Sun Teck commented that there is no "Powered by Acer". Araz stated that they are still negotiating with Acer including the re-use of the laptops, potentially in a legacy centre.
- A practice contest in the IOI style is proposed, with 20-30 contestants to test translation and scoring. This was discussed with Iran and Russia for help in the HTC and HSC. Tentative dates are 10-17 August.
- Weather is mild (max 30 degrees, average 26 degrees, low probability of rain. Opening Ceremony: Heydar Aliyev Center (850 seats), Awards ceremony same place or the Baku Convention Center. Accommodation; Boulevard Hotel, 81 rooms (problem with king size beds. Competition: maybe at the hotel (1,332 m2, or Boxing Federation, which is near the hotel (400 m). Haydar Aliyev Center has a 1,700 m2 hall, but it is expensive. The Baku Convention Center is another possibility as is the National Gymnastic Center -- which has an Athletes Village nearby. An apartment in the village has three rooms, one shared bathroom and one common hall. Catering is in the first floor of each building. There are more people involved now, including from ADA University, the Ministry of Education and Azercell.
- The Winter Meeting is proposed for 20-24 February (Wednesday to Sunday). Greg asked if it is possible to move to one week earlier. Araz said he will check and report today.

Discussion

Greg asked if it is possible that the budget decision is delayed and Araz responded that it is improbable.

Greg asked if potential HSC members have been approached yet, and Araz answered not yet; Greg stated that it should be done as soon as possible.

Greg asked about the distance to the airport and Araz responded that it is not more than one hour from the airport to any place in Baku.

Greg asked about the guest fees and the number of guests and Araz thought it would be the same as usual, around EU 1500 and about 100 guests would be fine.

Greg asked if an invitation will be sent out to every IOI country including Armenia and would that be a problem? Araz stated that many events have been held in Baku in which Armenians take part. Kim asked about the promise of bringing one parent as a free guest, for every contestant from Armenia.

Sun Teck asked how many people from Singapore can come without paying? Araz says he will have to check. Ben said the requirement of the host is to pay only for the official committee members, and the host country may decide if it wants to allow more. Greg and Ricardo objected, stating that the regulations should be followed and not set a precedent. The host country could invite people to take part in its HTC or HSC, for example, and that would be fine.

#### 15. Report on IOI-2020

There is a new logo, the web site is already working, with basic information at <https://ioi2020.sg>. Dates are 19th-26th July.

Greg asked if they will use CMS and the answer was Yes.

First day excursion: Singapore iconic Marina Bay, "educational excursion", lots of things to do.

Second day excursion: Singapore's iconic Sentosa Island.

Eslam asked about the weather and Sun Teck answered that it is 32 degrees.

#### 16. Meeting with Acer sponsorship (new item)

The Acer representative stated that as of now they can honour the sponsorship until 2021. They have to go back and discuss 2022.

#### 17. Satisfaction Survey

Ricardo suggested that it could ask some questions about the organization of IOI, so that Future Hosts may benefit from the knowledge (food, accommodation, etc). Eslam stated that this was not a good idea as, for example, food is very culturally dependent. Similarly, accommodation (for example, a shared bathroom) may be adequate for some countries but unacceptable for others. Greg volunteered to prepare a set of questions and send to the IC, and if approved they will be sent to ISC.

#### 18. Diversity Survey

Ben stated that the IOI has a severe gender unbalance and has never done much to address this. One of the first things to solve a problem is to find out where the problem is.

There are under-represented groups. Ben suggested a broad survey is taken within the IOI community to gain a snapshot of where we are succeeding in this issue. Another survey would be done in the future and so on. The type of questions might be "are there diversity committees in your Universities you have experience of?" We could ask for professional help with forming the

survey. It would take a couple of months to produce the survey. The target would be anybody at all levels within the IOI community.

Greg had two comments. In Taiwan selection is based on their points, so the public is not who wants to be there, but the ones that got better grades. The second point is that schools and parents may complain and ask why am I asking those questions, which have nothing to do with what the students were invited to do (programming).

Mile asked are we trying to improve the IOI or National Competitions? Ben said it is both. Valentina proposed that we ask the GA to form a work group to discuss and come up with questions for the questionnaire. IOI is different because it is a competitive environment, so there are specificities that should be understood. Greg says it is possible to say to the students that they can answer the survey at this website (independent).

Araz suggests that we can ask the students that are here. Greg says it is interesting, but there are practical difficulties (eg: You cannot talk to them before contest day 2, etc).

#### 19. List of National Organizations

Mile says he has been trying to get this list for three years and has not been successful. We have to keep track of the organization of person who is responsible for a country and need to maintain this information updated. The decision from February is still good, and we will implement it. Kressmir would like to receive messages sent to the GA also (he receives only messages as Country Coordinator), and everyone also agrees with that.

#### 20. Report on IOI Projects

“Competition in a box” was approved, Kim proposed to pay the project on Monday, so that it can appear on last year’s expenses. The other project, Museum of the IOI, needed some minor adjustments.

#### 21. New countries

Nepal, Peru. Eslam is working with Lebanon who are starting to organize their National Olympiad.

#### 22. ISC and ITC Reports

**Rescheduled**

Mile started a new point: reserve some funding in the next budget for ISC members.

#### 23. Journal and Conference report

The journal of 2018 has 10 research papers (from 22 received), 6 reports, 200 pages. It is currently indexed in several databases, including Scopus (Elsevier). The journal has reports from 43 countries. Mile thanked Valentina for the hard work on the Journal and the Conference.

#### 24. IOI workshop

Kressmir says it was postponed (April 27 to May) due to accommodation problems. The money from the Ministry (EU 6.000) must be spent this year. It could be still possible to do the workshop in December. The website will be up by the end of the month and applications will be open until end of October.

Ricardo stated this is the third time we have put in the budget and asked the GA to approve it but it hasn’t happened.

The planning for twelve participants.

Mile: maybe we could have the workshop in sequence to the Bebras workshop, some people could benefit from it.

Greg proposes to put the workshop in the budget for EU 5.000 and in case it does not happen we can try to find a host for next year, maybe together with the Bebras workshop.

25. Urgent issue: The host realized that one contestant from Palestine stayed with the deputy leader during quarantine in the leader's hotel. The deputy leader was a government representative, and when the delegation arrived, the student was not feeling well and the Registration Desk allowed her to stay with the deputy leader instead of staying at KEK.

Eslam thinks the contestant should not be allowed to sit the second day. After discussions it was decided to offer the student two options: go to KEK before quarantine and sit contest day 2; or stay in the leaders' hotel and do not sit the contest day 2. In any case, the points from contest day 1 will be taken.

Ben stated that for either scenario, the number of contestants remains the same, according to regulations.

### **Wednesday, 5th Sept. 11:00**

26. Urgent issue (Ben): The ITC does not have access to the competition hall, nor to students' machines, nor the servers. Martin was finding it impossible to work. It is possible the head of the HTC has not been to previous IOIs, and thus does not understand the level of cooperation that normally happens between the HTC and the ITC.

Also, ISC reported that the HSC has not implemented all the recommendations from the ISC. Mathias thinks we should convey this to the Host. Seiichi responded that the original head of the HTC could not continue so they had to find a suitable person to replace him but could not find one. Seiichi agreed the situation was not ideal, but concerning ISC, they have to clarify some points, but they have generally worked well together.

Greg says that it is not the first time we have a change in the committee, and we have to wait to see the report from ITC and ISC to decide if we need to do something about it.

Ben says that the regulations do not state that we expect that the same people to stay on host Scientific and Technical committees for the three year and that maybe the regulations should be amended to state this.

27. Code of Conduct, discussion on final version

There has been some feedback from the GA and it is expected a decision can be reached.

Feedback 1: Include the extra word "and intent" (depending on the severity and intent). Decision: severity includes intent, no need to change it.

Feedback 2: different words in the document: colour, race. Suggestion: substitute both with ethnicity.

Feedback 3: Gender should be emphasised somehow in the beginning. Araz thinks we should not add such a phrase. Ben agreed as everything should be on an equal footing.

Feedback 4: Make it shorter. For example, remove the "Do not" example. It was decided that it is good to have the examples.

Feedback 5: Remove the line "Ask permission before you take photographs of recording someone". Agreed, include photographs in the line of "Harass or give anyone unwanted attention...".

28. Junior Olympiad  
Postponed, awaiting Valentina

29. IC procedures  
Mathias has several ideas to reorganise the work of the committee. Perceived problems include new members being confused or intimidated, the committee keeps returning to topics and not reaching a conclusion, work is not being completed between meetings. A solution is to share Drive and organise by date rather than topic.

Eslam stated his belief that the nomination forms should include a question as to why the candidate wants to be an IC member.

It was agreed that two months before the winter minutes the President and the Secretary should send reminders to IC members who accepted responsibility for undertaking any action.

The welcome package could be placed in the Secretary Drive. Greg thinks we could email the GA instead of only the new countries.

30. IOI checklist  
Mathias created a draft for the Future Host checklist. Do we make it available to the whole community as a working document? Eslam suggested that it should be sent to previous hosts for comment.

31. New website  
Mlle stated the website is up and running and there is a plan to put a link to the current Olympiad on the first page.  
Mathias asked how complicated is to change or add information? Mile stated there is an administration page, anyone with the password can change it. Mathias commented that there are small changes and organization changes. Mathias would like to be able to make small changes.

32. Confirmation of Minutes IC Winter Meetings 2018  
*[It is unclear from the notes if this happened]*

33. Data protection of IOI data

Eduard asked to discuss the data protection. What should he do when someone asks to remove the data?

34. Meeting with Observer Countries



Meeting with Dr. Areej Al-Wabil and Dr. Abdulrahman S. Alguwaizani, from Saudi Arabia. The President welcomed Saudi Arabia, introduced the IC and said we are happy that Saudi Arabia is returning to the IOI community. The President asked Saudi Arabia if they had any questions for the IOI. Saudi Arabia said they have already had the opportunity to ask technical questions. The National Olympiad will start in 2019. Saudi Arabia participates in several other science olympiads. Dr. Alguwaizani, represented the Mawhiba Foundation, Dr. Areej is the head of the Scientific Committee of our National Olympiad. Dr. Areej added that she has been learning much about the other countries' experiences, and that they are looking for a sustainable model that lasts longer, year after year.

The President stated the IC is happy.

Mathias asks if we should have a "package" for the new countries, like some documents. The President thinks that it is a good idea, to have for example the previous IOI newsletters as a package. The President said he will try to prepare something for the winter meeting.

### 35. ISC (Richard Peng) and ITC (Martin Mareš)

After the Winter meeting, the ISC started to contact the Host about one month before the contest. They thought that the Host had a strong team and would do a good job. For the tests and solutions, the host did a great job.

Martin, Chair of ITC, reported that there were some communication problems between ITC and HTC this year. HTC was somewhat reluctant to give access to the system to ITC members, or even share the technical problems that occurred during IOI with ITC. This behaviour is not what ITC expected. Martin said ITC members have more experience, and once they had access to the system problems were solved, but much time was lost because of communication problems between ITC and HTC members.

The President asked what could be done. Ricardo commented that there is no need for hard constraints, but there must be some guidelines. The scientific part of the contest is done before the contest, so there is no need to regulate the work of the ISC. But for the HTC, technical problems happen unexpectedly during the contest, and there must be a procedure to deal with the problems.

Ben: is there any possibility that ISC/ITC can draw up a document, and have the document endorsed, so that we can show the host what is expected.

Richard: The interaction of ISC is advisory, but ITC must be mandatory. When a problem happens, the ITC in general acts first. The purpose of ITC must be made clearer, and it needs to be more than advisory. The ITC member from Japan was not present during the Winter meeting, he left just before it.

Mathias: most important thing is not in the rules.

Richard: The regulation looks OK for ISC.

Greg: Could the ISC/ITC please propose a regulation change or write a procedure if appropriate.

Mathias: Indonesia mentioned they are willing to use their own judging system so asked if that would be a problem? Richard stated that the system itself contributes little, generally.

### 36. Meeting with Quantco (Simeon Bochev)

The representative from Quantco, Simeon Bochev, asked for a meeting with the IC. Simeon explained to the IC the reasons for sponsoring the IOI including to expose the company to the

students. Quantco also proposed to sponsor the IOI for five years, for the same amount the company gave for this IOI, US\$ 10,000.00. Simeon also asked if it would be possible for representatives of Quantco to interview some of the students during dinner, for example changing the seating arrangement so that the chosen students would be seated at a table with Quantco representatives. They would like to talk specially with students who had won medals in previous IOIs, and who were older. The President asked if they were interested in any particular nationalities. Simeon answered that no, the only preferences were previous medal and age.

The President thanked Simeon and said the IC would discuss the matter to decide. After the representative left, the President said the amount proposed by Quantco might be adequate for a local sponsor, but for a more permanent sponsorship we should aim for a much larger amount, similar to what Acer is proposing. There was also a discussion about the interviews, and the President voiced his concern that parents may not like for their kids to be interviewed, and therefore at least Leaders of the students should be present. Eslam said he did not like the idea of the students being interviewed. Ben said he does **not like the idea of a set of students being separated for a special thing.**

Everyone agreed that the President should politely answer Quantco that the proposal for longer sponsorship had been refused, and it would not be possible to arrange for a special seating during dinner.

### 37. Data protection

Eduards stated that we collect data (name, photo) but with the passing of new regulations in Europe (GDPR), I do not treat the photograph as essential. If anyone asks to remove it, then we can get the search engines not to index the page. But the results themselves must be protected.

You do not have to comply if the data is of public interest. Data from 2010 onwards is public and is probably in other sources. Frederick says the fines for not following GDPR are high. We might not be able to use the public interest argument. If you want to use the legitimate interest argument, then you should ask for consent. And we do not have a documented consent for the past data. Nobody really knows how it will be applied yet. Keep your head down and see what happens, because they will probably not sue us first is an option. It is possible that there will be a warning before we are sued. The physical hardware is in Latvia, Latvia University. The Statistics is part of the IOI, and so the IOI should be made responsible instead of Latvia. There is a lot of uncertainty. Greg asked what are the other olympiads doing? There are six reasons why you can keep data, consent and legitimate interest are two of them. Will contact the IMO to see what they plan. Araz sees that the IMO has already updated their website with a phrase about GDPR. Valentina searched other olympiads, and UGMO also has a phrase describing their policy regarding GDPR. Ben asked if requests for name changes had been received. Yes, contestant that changed gender between IOIs had and they were offered a choice: two different entities, two names, or merge both into one name. Kim stated that keeping the data we have is probably fine for ever, but publishing on a website may not be.

**These minutes: were written by the then Secretary Ricardo Anido in the form of notes and accepted at the Feb 2019 meeting. The new secretary, Margot Phillipps, was asked to make them more formal minutes. However some elements may appear incomplete.**