

International Committee

Minutes of the meetings held in Baku, Azerbaijan

Feb 18-20 2019

Present:

Greg Lee	President	Taiwan	
Araz Yusubov	Host 2019	Azerbaijan	
Seiichi Tani	Host 2018	Japan	
Sun TechTan	Host 2020	Singapore	
Eslam Wageed	Host 2021	Egypt	
Yugo Kartono Isal	Host 2022	Indonesia	
Ben Burton	Elected	Australia	
Mile Jovanov	Elected	Macedonia	
Eduard Kalinichenko	Elected	Latvia	
Mathias Hiron	Elected	France	
Valentina Dagiene	Elected	Lithuania	
Eljakim Schrijvers	Treasurer	The Netherlands	Non-voting
Margot Phillipps	Secretary	New Zealand	Non-voting

- 1. Apologies:** Seiichi and Kim for late arrival and Seiichi for an early departure
- 2. Welcome:** Araz welcomed the committee to the land of Fire and wished the committee a productive time.
- 3. Voting procedure for IC :** The regulations now require a simple majority of the people present
- 4. Confirmation of Minutes:** Deferred until people had read them. Approved Day 3.
As they are notes rather than minutes, the secretary should now try to formalise them.
- 5. Report by President – Greg Lee**
 - New country requests from Saudi Arabia and Nigeria
 - ACER sponsorship: There was some ambiguity about whether it was for 4 or 5 years. Acer counted Iran (2017) as year 1 whether or not Iran adopted the sponsorship. This means Indonesia in 2022 currently doesn't qualify (as 2017 to 2021 inclusive is the 5 years).
 - So far there has been no show of interest from future hosts
- 6. Report by Secretary – Margot Phillipps**
 - **“Fixing” Drive :** With everyone having write access, errors were occurring. The secretary removed edit access from the IC, except for herself and the President and has restored its integrity as much as possible. The IC has View access.
 - **The bug report system** – discussion deferred.
 - **Missing minutes** - IC July 2017, (and GA 2018, may still be coming) Although these were approved at the IC meeting in Feb 2018, no one has a copy of them.
Ben said he can attempt to recreate them from the bug tracking system and notes taken by Mathias.
 - **Incorrect minutes:** Eduard said changes were needed to the GA2017 minutes as they were not approved because of an error. He would find out what it was and send to Margot to fix.
 - **New countries requests**
 - 1. UAE:** requested to send Ministry of Education as “Observers”

UAE is a past member country and has thus lost the right to Observer status again. The conclusion of extensive discussion was that, upon proving the writer's affiliation with their Ministry, they may send a paying guest to observe IOI 2019, who will be allowed to attend GA's. Upon subsequently receiving evidence of meeting the requirements (a national individual-style contest, open to all) the IC may ask Singapore to invite a full team for 2020.

2. **Algeria:** 3 requests by different individuals

- (a) Lebcir ala-eddine – appears to have no support or plans for a national contest.
- (b) Houcine Meniai – an inspector of Education who had organised a national Scratch contest.
- (c) Karima Sayah – has Bebras experience but not of an IOI style competition.

After discussion, it was agreed Karima should be sent the link to the syllabus and Mathias offered to work with Karima to educate her about the style of an IOI competition. Houcine and Karima would be offered the opportunity to work together. Lebcir ala-eddine did not have an actionable proposal.

The secretary is to add a link to the syllabus to the standard text response that new countries receive as well as a request in that text for the country to send a copy of a representative task. (actioned)

3. **Kosovo**

The application was strong but as the country is not recognised by the UN or UNESCO it does not meet the regulations for country definition. If the status should change, they will be welcome to reapply.

4. **Peru**

Only an email to date so no action is required.

5. **Oman, Qatar and Lebanon (Eslam)**

Eslam signalled he is meeting with the Ministry of Oman and they may send a proposal. The other 2 countries have approached Eslam but not yet offered a solid proposal.

- **Eligibility of Australian (permanent resident) student** recently arrived from Iran who doesn't not fully meet the regulations as he was not in school in Australia September to December 2018.
After discussion, a vote was taken to allow the student to represent Australia.
In favour: 8, Against, 1 (the Australian representative on IC abstained)
- **Observer status:** El Salvador and Honduras were invited in 2016 by Russia, not the IC. It doesn't appear either were confirmed by IC, so gained "back door entry". Discussions ensued on whether there was a need to tighten hosts' invitations. El Salvador has since attended IOIs and will be invited to IOI 2019.

Mile and Valentina proposed regular checking of all countries on a 7- or 8-year cycle. It was agreed, after discussion, that hosts should be asked in future to have the IC approve the invitation. The regulations may need to be altered to reflect this. The registration system should be adjusted so that the country is not automatically invited the following year.

- **Official Participation record** – A spreadsheet (passed on by Madhavan) was, maintained by the ED/Secretary until 2015, but is now no longer an accurate record. It was proposed and accepted that the Statistics website becomes the "official" source. Hosts should send the data to (Eduard) post the IOI and this requirement is to be added to the hosts checklist. (Actioned)

- **Unofficial Website** – the Secretary wishes to help it be maintained. There was no objection posed but the history of how it was replaced was explained. As a consequence, a letter of apology was to be drafted (actioned) and sent to Mārtiņš.

For the current site, Mathias stated backups should be held by the ITC as well as the website authors. Greg stated a concern that there may be a conflict in the information available if 2 websites are active. Eslam stated that Mārtiņš knows and is passionate about the IOI and it's not apparent that this is the case for the current webmaster.

- **Distinguished Service Awards vs Long service.** The secretary was unclear as to what had been awarded in the previous 2 years. None were awarded in 2018 and for 2017, Gokturk (Turkey) had been contacted but asked for a deferral. The Secretary is to contact him to see it is appropriate for it to be awarded in 2019. (actioned)
Ben stated the Long Service awards were held while Krassimir was President and were not required to be continued.
A call for DSA's should be made as soon as possible. (actioned)
Payment of flights for the DSA awardee has differed from year to year. The IC can invite 2 people, at the expense of the Host. One could be a DSA recipient.
- **Trophies** The number needed for 2019 was decided. Araz has 2 and the flag. Five more should be ordered. As shipping often results in damage, a new more robust design is needed. Eslam said the IOI logo should have the focus and he later circulated a design that was robust and featured the logo.

7. Azerbaijan Report for IOI 2019 Aug 4 – 11 (Araz Yusubov)

(joined by the Ministry of Education representatives and Mr Bahruz Hidayetzade and Ms Emilia Ismayilova, representatives of Caspian Event Organisers)

Committees: Steering, Host Coordination, HSC (support of members from Iran, Russia, Ukraine and Poland, 15 members), HTC (support from ADA and Baku Universities, 11 members). The technical committee will trial its processes with a mini IOI of 20 to 30 contestants.

Event Management Partner: Caspian Event Organisers (CEO)

Budget: Approximately 1.6 million US, with additional sponsors possible.

Venues:

Opening Ceremony: Baku Convention centre

Closing Ceremony: Heydar Aliyev centre

Contest: Gymnastics Arena

Students' Accommodation and Registration: Athletes Village (6 – 8 bed apartments)

Leaders' Accommodation, Assembly hall and meeting rooms: Boulevard Hotel

Logo and Website: Once the logo is decided upon, the website content is ready to be published.

Program: A relatively standard daily program is prepared.

Discussion:

Day 2: The 2nd GA will be about the practice. The students should be held so that leaders can talk to them after this. The IC suggests holding the 3rd GA meeting before dinner to hand out the tasks, and then a 4th after dinner for task approval.

Day 3: If leaders miss the conference, Araz could organise for a screen in the foyer so the contest can be viewed. Translation requests could be announced there as well as on the GA list. Contestants will have access to snacks which are not noisy or smelly. Lunch boxes could be organised for contestants at the arena so they don't have to go back and forth to the village.

After the review, arrange a small shuttle for leaders who may stay behind. The GA has been split by dinner. If appeals/issues are dealt with before dinner, the 2nd session can be cancelled. A suggestion was made to ask the ISC to not allow questions for the last 30 minutes of the competition. (This was later denied by ISC)

Day 4: There will be 2 concurrent groups of about 45 teams. Allow leaders to go with their teams if they want to.

Day 5: Similar to Day 3, but allow for small group discussions such as APIO

Day 6: Two events, leaders and students attend a different one, then swap. Possibly a cultural presentation by teams at the village after dinner. However, the leaders may want their own space.

Day 7: Students may have a tour of ADA and a film (of interest to students) while the GA is held. If it is optional, and buses have to transport them to the closing ceremony the right number of buses in the right locations will be necessary. Students may need time in between the tour and the closing ceremony to dress formally.

Volunteers: About 300, 2nd or 3rd year university students.

Acer: Please convey an International keyboard should be provided, and an external mouse.

8. Armenia: Request for offsite participation 2019

An invitation will be sent to Armenia. and official letters may also be sent if requested. The Ministry of Education representative said that extra security will be organised if Armenia applies to them. The CEO representative stated visas should be issued at the border. Araz said he expected there should be no problem. (Other events where Armenians had attended were cited.) Volunteers would be warned there should be no political discussions.

Written evidence (GA minutes) was provided to the Ministry representative that previously Fuad had said that a parent of each Armenian child should be allowed to accompany their son or daughter at no cost, other than travel. The Ministry representative had said if that had been promised, it would be honoured.

A vote was taken about granting the request: In favour 0, against 10.
(Araz and the visitors left the room for the vote)

9. IOI 2018 Final Report – Prof. Seiichi Tani

A full (146 page) confidential report was also provided, detailing the organising structure, maps, participants' details, the problems, photos, evacuation and medical procedures etc. etc.

A shorter verbal report was given by Seiichi.

There were 335 + 4 participants from 87 countries, with a total of 900 people involved
Thank you to the IC meeting in Feb, as lots of useful suggestions were then used to improve the plan.

Income \$2,700,000USD Expenses \$2,800,000

Network environment: cloud services were used as the servers were in Tokyo with a 100Gbps link (2 were guaranteed)

Teachers attended a workshop prior to the IOI and Tim Bell attended the conference and also then went to a primary school with Valentina.

Volunteers: 14 HSC, 38 HTC, 81 guides for 87 teams (40% foreign students), 22 others
Live streaming: interviewed a guide (Seiichi's daughter)

The princess attended the opening ceremony. At the closing ceremony, Martin and Richard were involved in presenting medals and Greg's words that "Competition lasts 1 day, friendships for ever" were profound.

The Typhoon stayed away, and despite earthquakes and thunder, everyone was safe.

Discussion: The extra cost was for security for the princess' attendance, and there were 23 more students than planned for and 80 guests, not the expected 50.

10. Future Host Reports

(a) Report on IOI 2020 – Singapore, Sun Teck Tan

- Dates: July 19 to 26 at NUS
- Website: <https://ioi2020.sg/> (The logo is visible there)
- Budget: Ministry has given 1.8 million and the first venue quote was 1.6 million, so the venue will be NUS.
- Program: A rough schedule is on the website.
- The Opening and Closing ceremony venue (University Cultural Centre) can hold 1000 people.
- The first excursion day (Marina Bay, flower dome, cloud forest) will focus on Conservation. The second excursion day will be to Sentosa and Universal Studios. Those with late departure flights will have a shopping trip to Orchard Rd.
- Visas should be straight forward for most countries.
- Committees: The Honorary chair is the Vice president of NUS. The admin team is calling for tenders for an event management company.
- Transport within the IOI - walking is possible amongst many venues (5 to 10 minutes) but shuttle buses will be available.
- Student accommodation: will be spread out over 2 blocks so as to increase the showers/toilets per person
- NUS is 25 minutes from the airport. The local MIT station is a little more than 10 minutes to walk to. Cards for the MIT and buses will be provided to participants.
- Guests and Committees will be at Kent Vale
- Guest Excursions will be to the zoo, a river safari, China town and Little India.

Discussion: The Winter meeting will be in the university recess week (Feb 22 to Sunday March 1) at Kent Vale. Kim suggested one weekend day is involved to reduce ticket prices

(b) Report on IOI 2021 – Egypt, Eslam Wageed

(day 3 of the meeting, Seiichi has left)

The "confirmation as future host" letters have been exchanged.

There is a commitment to Africa and some guests from African nations will be invited to observe.

Construction of the venue will finish in September 2019.

Discussion: Greg asked that Eslam keeps the IC informed of progress and liked that a whole facility is built for an IOI!

(c) Report on IOI 2022 – Indonesia, Yugo Isal

2019 has been a political year in Indonesia and after the elections, it may be easier to liaise with Ministries.

The formal bid letter has not yet been approved.

There are people for both the scientific technical committees available. 100 people have been contacted for such support as well as sponsorship.

The venue hasn't been decided but could be at Yugo's university, or in Jakarta or possibly Bali.

Discussion: Greg checked that they would still manage financially as the Acer sponsorship would not be available and Yugo replied that they would.

(d) Secretary to put out a call for Future Hosts (actioned)

11. Corporate sponsorship of IOI from Acer

Greg confirmed it finishes in 2021

12. Funded projects

(a) Report back on IOI-in-a-box project (Mile, Kim)

The technical work for the CMS (versions) is completed but packages for the 10 previous contests are not yet prepared. They will be asked to keep it up to date with at least the next 2 IOIs.

The journal can be used to alert people to its existence and a call for feedback. Mile will lase with Valentina to implement this. It is too early to have anything on the website.

(b) Proposals for new projects received

1. Bojan Kostadinov - Macedonia - IOI Cloud - 4000 Euro

This is more of a learning platform, so is not similar to IOI-in-a-box

Not enough of the committee had read the proposals, so Ben, Mathias and Mile will review them, with a deadline of 1 week for a decision. Secretary to remind (actioned)

2. Tomasz Idziaszek - solutions for IOI 2018 - 2400 Euro

There was a discussion about whether it replicated work of the HSC Ben Mathias and Mile were asked to also review this proposal.

(c) Proposals for 2019/20 projects to be called for by secretary. (actioned)

13. Swiss request for clarification of the definition of 'school'.

Are students in Military training (institution contains name 'school') eligible to compete in an IOI. (ie: they are post high school but pre university so are they eligible by our regulations?)

The IC decided they are not in high school and the secretary is to inform that such students are not eligible. (actioned)

14. Changes to the regulations: (Ben Burton)

(a) It is proposed that we add a new clause to the regulations, setting the expectation that an IOI host will keep the same IC member for their entire 5-year term. Similar clauses are already in place for ISC and ITC, so there is no need to add something for those other committees.

The proposed text:

When a member is selected to represent the Host Country for IOIⁿ⁺³, they should remain a member for five years.

This would go at the end of E3.4.

Discussion: It sets an expectation and thus supports the original person, but it cannot be enforced.

The text was amended to

When a member is selected to represent the Host Country for IOIⁿ⁺³, it is expected that the member should remain a member for five years.

- (b) After the events of day 2 in 2017, we have been asked whether the IC could propose some regulations on when and how the contest is allowed to be extended.

Ben – this was discussed in 2018 and we don't want to do anything until seen an opinion from ISC and we don't have one

- (c) Strictly speaking, we can have a situation where it is impossible to allocate medals. For instance, if every competitor receives the same score then we are required to allocate 0 medals overall (no more than 50%), but at least $n/12$ gold medals.

Deferred as the situation is unlikely.

- (d) Notes in regulations have no formal standing including S6.12, the code of conduct. Ben wishes to add a note (N6.12) with some examples of unethical behaviour – disqualification doesn't necessarily ensue.

The ideas of examples of behaviour which would lead to disqualification was discussed. The visibility of the Code of Conduct concluded that there should be a copy of the code of conduct in the students' packs, it is referenced on the website, that leaders should talk to their teams, and it was agreed that a pdf page should be appended to the rules. Ben was to approach the ISC to ask that this is done.

- (e) Mile suggested that many abstentions meant a regulation change was not well supported. Eduard said if you acted on this, it turned an abstention into a No vote. Mathias and Kim said an abstention simply meant you were happy to go with what the majority decided. Eduard added an abstention may be because the 2 leaders of a country don't agree so abstaining is an acceptable course of action. Eduard suggested that what an abstention means should be explained in the GA. Secretary to add to the agenda. for the GA.

15. Budget – Eljakim Schrijvers

Savings account: 135.244,81 euro.

Checking account: 634,71 euro.

Spending is on schedule, and we are not spending too much.

Workshop: Deferred as there needs to be a good topic and reason for holding it.

16. Awards and Recognitions, Certificates for leaving IC/ISC/ITC members

Committee members and past hosts are thanked at the close of meetings or at the closing ceremony. After discussion it was agreed that further recognition was not deemed necessary.

17. Taking and publishing pictures guidelines /questions in registration system. (Mathias Hiron)

Leaders tick a box at registration time to confirm that students' parents have given permission. Statistics and images cannot be published if this is not ticked and the Host is informed.

On arrival a host may ask that the leader consents to pictures being taken.

As every country has different laws, it is impossible to design an appropriate licence so that everyone may use "official" photos. With the

It was agreed that the checklist for hosts should contain a clause that although this practice is in place on the registration system, the host should talk to their own lawyers. (Actioned). Hosts need to ensure that photos can be published locally, that they are not sold or licensed and that they can be shared with leaders to use. An photo pack should be provided by the hosts so that leaders have good photos from the closing ceremony.

18. Contact person for each country should be collected from the registration Database (Mile Jovanov)

Eduard said the Stats website could store the name of the country organisation, the permanent email address and the website url.

19. IC is asked to clarify what happens to the total number of competitors (and therefore the medal boundaries) when a contestant is disqualified. (Jakub Łacki)

2015: A contestant was disqualified and the total number of contestants was not decreased. If A contestant was found ineligible, the total number would be decreased.

Eduard said if it was found to be a genuine mistake, after the contest, then the IC should disqualify them to keep medal boundaries same.

Ben will draft a regulation note for IOI 2019.

20. A proposal from Pedro Ribero in the GA: that we come up with a better voting procedure so that, when there are several positions available for different term lengths, it allows the GA members to express their preferences for who gets which length term.

Ben asked that this discussion be deferred.

21. Proposals left over from the previous agenda

- Documents for new delegations – Mathias' proposal from 2017. Mathias will try to spend some time creating these.
- Improve awareness of scoreboard status – to discuss with ISC.
- Increase student interactions at the IOI - Araz has a cultural evening planned for the last night.

22. Summary of IOI 2018 on social media (Eduard Kalinichenko)

Eduard presented several IOI related topics he had seen on Codeforces and suggested that if the IC gave feedback (he would volunteer to do it), it may reduce the heat in some discussions and reduce speculation.

Two examples were cited, which IC members had local knowledge of and the issues were in fact student mis-perception or sponsorship mis-understandings. A summary of relatively small issues was also presented.

Greg was concerned that this would make Codeforces an official channel through which students communicated with the IC and asked what about other channels.

23. Diversity (Ben Burton)

- Ben asked to distribute a page to leader's pigeon holes about how to manage students (and be pro-active as an ethical by-stander) with respect to following the code of conduct.

A slide could be shown at the Opening ceremony to re-enforce the code of conduct and Araz said the code of conduct would form part of the Guide's training.

- Ben asked for the IC to approve that there be a training program available on how to be an LGBTQIA ally. The people who undertook the training could then be identified by a pin that incorporated the IOI logo. The pin symbolised that you were a safe person to talk to.

Eslam suggested that we simply respect each other, as this idea was contrary to some religious beliefs and that we wouldn't want the IOI to then have to support any/all communities of interest.

There was discussion about the incorporation of "IOI" on such a badge. The word "ally" posed some difficulties but some other wording or form of visibility was use perhaps useful.

Greg suggested that GA sanctioning was required rather than the approval of IC. A vote was not undertaken.

24. Dress code

Any of the international committee members (ISC, ITC) etc. who are eg: presenting medals should be warned before they leave home for the IOI that they might want to bring formal clothes. (Araz will advise)

25. ITC Report – Frederik Niemelä

The HTC had completed many tasks already and seems well prepared.

The procedure for everyone (including English-speaking countries) will be that the documents will be printed and packed by the hosts, but not sealed, then the leader will come up, verify, sign and seal. This will also ensure that the pack is complete.

Languages: The ITC would like the GA to approve retiring Java in a few years and potentially replacing it with Python. Making different languages available would be easier if there was a move to using standard input and output.

Mathias says some people in the community already think Python is becoming available. Frederik said that the languages are part of the rules so it will be clear when they are sent out.

26. ISC Report – Ali Sharifi

- Clarifications: The IC suggested these end early as leaders will be on buses. The ISC thinks that the problem can be handled and can resort to Google Translate if necessary.

All non-English clarifications can be sent to the GA mailing list. Araz is not sure if the buses will have wifi but only one connection per bus is required. Volunteers could also be sent it and chase the appropriate leaders.

Jakub said that students must still be allowed to ask, even if their leaders were not available.

Mile said students don't have time in the last hour to act on clarifications. Frederik said most are "Yes/No", but if a general clarification was given in the last hour its because there is a problem.

Greg said there needs to be internet access on each bus, with at least one person subscribed to the GA list watching it Frederik suggested a separate mail list, with clarifications sent to both.

- The ISC asked why the IC wanted all questions to be translated – because of a concern about a possible cryptographic channel or because of transparency? Ben formed a possible scenario where the student asks a Yes/No question (eg: is this DP), which the leader reframes (eg: is B a polyhedron) so that the answer will be given to the student in such a way as to help them. After discussion of the myriad of ways to cheat it was decided the GA list makes it transparent enough.
- Contest Rules: would like them published within a month. It was suggested that the live statistics on a problem should be removed as it stresses some students. The changes are presented to the GA for ratification. Ben asked that the code of conduct is added as a pdf to the end of the rules and ISC agreed to it.
- The rule “contestants must not reverse engineer the test data and solve the problems in highly test-data-dependent manners” is changed to “contestants must not reverse engineer the test data in order to solve the....”
- Snacks: The GA wants students to be able to bring their own snacks. Araz suggested students will be informed of what the standard package of snacks are and if students want/need something different it is handed in at the practice session. It must not be smelly or noisy and contestants may complain if they are disturbed. Going outside to eat increases the disturbance and the possibility of cheating, so this is best avoided. The 2018 survey had 8 people mention they wanted more or to bring their own. The 2017 survey had 0 mentions of snacks. Diabetics need to be considered. Greg suggested that the ISC works with the host and comes up with a proposal.
- A future rule change (2020 earliest) will be presented to the GA re standard input and output
- Ben asked that it be made clear that the (blurry) lines on the scoreboard for medal cutoffs were unofficial
- Jonathan Gunawan presented a summary of the **2018 survey**, completed by 95 students and 71 leaders. There were 8 sections.
 1. Feedback on tasks: Nothing outstanding. The easiest one on each day (tasks 1 and 4) received a little more negative feedback. (Jakub stated we could have improved task statements and we could have done better).
 2. Contest Environment: 11 complaints about the lack of a mouse, 5 complained about Codeblocks (buggy?), 3 didn't want laptops/wanted a larger screen and 2 wanted more food.
 3. Online judge: generally positive about CMS' availability and being intuitive.
 4. Rule changes: For the live statistics, students and leaders had mixed feelings about keeping them for the next year (2019). Score rounding (0 or 2 d.p) and the Testing Interface also received mixed feedback (50 to 60% positive for both)
 5. Programming Languages – numbers didn't change much from 2017. C++ vast majority (> 90%) although some did ask if Python would be available.

6. Printing: students want printed task statements but to print during the contest is less important (23% said it was not at all important compared with 31% in 2017) so maybe being able to print is of decreasing importance.
7. Code of conduct: 94% leaders said they spoke to students , 71% of contestants read it.
8. Acer Sponsorship: Brand awareness was high (96%) and only 10% reported a negative experience at the competition. Complaints were about screen size, the touch pad and the lack of a mouse. The questions were requested by Acer but no one has asked for the results. Greg offered to share the results with Acer.

Discussion: There should be an open section about eg: accommodation, transport, food etc.

27. Greg thanked everyone for coming and Araz for organising this winter meeting.

The Meeting Times were:

Day 1 Sunday, 17 Feb - Arrivals

Day 2 Monday, 18 Feb : 9.00. - 12.30 (Afternoon :visiting venues.)

Day 3 Tuesday, 19 Feb - (Morning : visiting venues) 13.30 - 17.00

Day 4 Wednesday, 20 Feb - 9.00. - 12.30 (Afternoon :meeting with officials at University)

Day 5 Thursday, 21 Feb - Departures.