International Olympiad in Informatics
International Committee
August 13-20, Mérida, Mexico

Minutes

Attendants:
Ricardo Anido, Arturo Cepeda, Zide Du, Richard Forster, Yasser A. Ghany, Krassimir Manev, Don Piele, Wolfgang Pohl, Ivo Separovic

1   Welcome

Zide Du, President of IOI, welcomed IC members to their meeting during IOI 2006 in Mérida.

2   Apologies

Spyros Bakogiannis and Krzysztof Diks were missing. IC accepted their apologies.

3   Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were confirmed.

4   Amendments to IOI Regulations

According to decisions made in the March meeting, two amendments (increased elected representation on IC, GA budget ratification) had been presented to the GA in their first meeting and both had been accepted.

Richard Forster presented a new format for the Regulations, where corresponding paragraphs of statutes, Explanations, Appendices, and Notes would be grouped together. IC encouraged him to continue on this line.

5   Matters Arising from the Minutes

Numbers in brackets refer to the minutes of the IC meeting in March 2006.

5.1   IOI syllabus (4.1)

IC agreed: The syllabus will be presented in the GA, and the GA will be given three months time for making comments and suggestions to the ISC. Another three months will be given to the ISC to review comments and suggestions and produce an updated version. IC thanked the authors of the syllabus: Gordon Cormack, Krzysztof Diks, Gyula Horvath, and Tom Verhoeff. From IC, Krassimir Manev will monitor and take care of the progress in this matter.   *Action: Krassimir*

5.2   IOI problem book/collection (4.1)

There has not been much progress in that matter. Richard Forster reported that there was potential interest from a publisher. He will talk to more people about the idea and give a report at the next IC meeting. *Action: Richard*

5.3   IOI organization Wiki (4.3)

There was no progress in that matter. Wolfgang Pohl is experiencing an extreme workload this year and gave up on this.

5.4 IOI as legal entity (4.4)

"'Hasso-Plattner-Institut'", part of the University of Potsdam, Germany, expressed their willingness to provide staff for an IOI office. IC agreed that IOI should not be linked to a single institute. Wolfgang Pohl would talk to the German Computer Society about the establishment of a legal IOI entity; Richard Forster would investigate possibilities in the United Kingdom.   *Action: Richard, Wolfgang*

5.5 Alumni Search (4.4)

IC agreed that GA members should be asked for help and cooperation on that matter.   *Action: ?*

5.6 IC cooperation platform (4.5)

There had been no progress in that matter. Responsibility for further investigation shall be assigned to an IC member after new members will have been elected.   *Action: ?*

5.7 Participating country information (4.6)

Krassimir Manev presented a form to be distributed to each delegation. The "Country Library" (CoLib) needs to be linked to the IOI Information System: contact person data must be synchronized. Furthermore, CoLib information relates to participation requirements. An IC working group (Zide Du, Richard Forster, Krassimir Manev, Wolfgang Pohl) revised and improved the form. The revised version would be distributed to GA. Feedback should be collected until end of November. Then, Krassimir Manev would set up CoLib as a web-based system in January, and delegations would be asked to fill the form until end of February. *Action: Krassimir*

5.8 Intermediary IC membership regulation (7.1)

IC agreed with the following proposal as prepared by the ED: This and next year, two new IC members will be elected. Thus, the required number of five elected members will be reached in 2007. To reduce the number of non-elected members as required, Don Piele and Spyros Bakogiannis leave IC this year, and Krzysztof Diks and Arturo Cepeda will leave IC next year.

5.9 IOI awards (7.2)

Zide Du presented the award documents that he will give during the closing ceremony: "Great Contributions Award" to previous IOI chairmen, a post mortem "Distinguished Service Award" to Lionel Hartmann, and "Special Appreciation" to leaving IC and ISC committee members. Wolfgang Pohl remembered IC not to forget about the merits of scientific committee chairmen.
The award items that were proposed by Krzysztof Diks were appreciated, but did not convince IC fully. Yasser A. Ghany would look for alternatives.   *Action: Yasser A. Ghany*

5.10 Participating country requirements (7.3)

IC agreed that data about participating countries shall be collected (see 5.7) before communication and application of participation requirements. Richard Forster presented three basic requirements which find agreement in the IC (see appendix B).

5.11 Potential Future Hosts (9)

Later in this meeting, Canada were to present his bid to host IOI 2010. The OED received to applications for 2011 from Italy and Thailand. Representatives of both countries shall be invited to IOI 2007 for presenting their proposals. Zide further was in touch with Australia, Singapore, and Russia about hosting an IOI. IC agreed to compile a list of requirements for candidate hosts; Yasser A. Ghany would review the Excel form used in previous years.   *Action: Ivo Separovic, Yasser A. Ghany*

5.12 IOI brochure (12.2)

Zide Du presented the new IOI brochure and thanks for contributions. 800 copies had been produced, with a cost of about 1 USD each.

5.13 Newsletter (12.2)

The ED had produced an electronic newsletter. IC approved the format. In the future, an archive with HTML document and pictures shall be distributed, to allow for offline reading.

5.14 IOI records (12.3)

Krassimir Manev would contact Mr. ??? on that matter. Furthermore, the data collected by Stanislaw Waligorski, reaching to the year 1999, should be consulted. The main goal would be to collect full information about country participation in IOI. Richard Forster expressed his willingness to collect and compile such data for the years 2001 to 2006.   *Action: Richard Forster, Krassimir Manev*

6 President Report

Zide Du presented the proposals contained in his document "The Reformation of IOI" that had been distributed to IC. Discussion was postponed to agenda item 7. For the future, IC asked the President to separate report topics from development ideas.

7 OED Report

7.1 Activity Report

After the OED's move to Germany, activities have been level. The OED managed the transfer of IOI funds to Germany, kept the finances of IOI, prepared an electronic newsletter, has been in touch with some participating countries, received and handled applications for hosting future IOIs, and prepared and suggested to the President agendas for both IC and GA meetings at IOI 2006. For the future, IC asked the ED to omit personal statements from the presentation of his report.

This report was followed by a discussion on the future of the OED. So far, IOI had had a centralized model of assigning administrative duties to an OED with a paid ED. Alternatively, such duties could be distributed to IC members. Such a decentralized model would require IC members to take over specific responsibilities.

7.2 Financial Report

The ED presented a financial report, giving the current status of the IOI account now held in Germany. IC approved this report. No IC member was willing to check the OED's bookkeeping; instead, IC asked for independent auditing.

8 IOI Budget Proposal 2006/2007

The ED presented a proposal for the next IOI budget. Taking into account the amount of money in the bank, IC decided in a majority vote to suggest a registration fee for IOI 2007 of EUR 200.

9 Host Country Reports

9.1 Croatia, IOI 2007

Several Croatian representatives, among them the Deputy Minister of Education, joined Ivo Separovic in his presentation. The following date for IOI 2007 was proposed: August 15-22. IC and ISC were supposed

to meet in late March.

The Croatian delegation gave a detailed presentation. At the IOI 2007 venue, all facilities are within walking distance from each other. The Host Scientific Committee committed to closely cooperate with ISC and ITWG. The minimum budget required for IOI 2007 is granted; additional money shall be acquired to further improve event conditions.

9.2 Egypt, IOI 2008

Yasser A. Ghany presented the progress towards IOI 2008, which will be held at the Arab Academy of Science and Technology in Alexandria. He had synchronized with government representative Dr. Fathy. Funding is not completely safe yet, but support of the Egyptian president will be used to acquire all necessary funds. Company sponsoring is not required.

9.3 Bulgaria, IOI 2009

Krassimir Manev presented the progress towards IOI 2009, to be held in Plovdiv. Organizers are supported by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Agency of Information Technology. The Vice-Minister of Education is personally involved. IOI 2009 will require a budget of 900.000 Euro, with 400.000 Euro to come from company sponsors.

9.4 Report of the Host

Bangladesh and Kyrgysztan had requested to waive their registration fees. The President approved this requests. The Mexican host is further subsidizing Kyrgysztan's stay in Merida. IC agrees that half the cost will be paid by IOI.

Some countries did not pay their full registration fee, because bank charges were deduced from the host account. The president will send an e-mail to those countries, asking them to pay full fees in the future. *Action: Zide*

Trinidad and Tobago is participating without contestants, and other delegations complained about this. IC decided that in the future, a delegation without contestants will have to pay guest fees. The President would announce this rule at the GA, and talk to the leader of this delegation.

The President suggested that if the number of contestants in a team were less than three, only one leader should be allowed to come to the IOI without payment, and further adult delegation members would have to pay as guests. This is to be discussed in the next IC meeting.

10 Presentation of Candidate Future Host

10.1 Canada, 2010

A Canadian delegation led by Troy Vasiga presented Canada's bid to host IOI 2010 at the University of Waterloo. There is a high level of support from the University. The event will probably require a budget of 1.4 Mio. Canadian Dollars, including computer equipment. IC unanimously approves of the Canadian proposal.

11 Report by ISC

Tom Verhoeff gave a detailed report. The following issues were discussed in some detail:

Contact to Computer Science Teachers' Association Don Piele agreed to write an article about IOI for the CSTA journal.

IOI Syllabus see section 5.1

IOI Guidelines A face-to-face meeting of (some) ISC members, probably at ISSEP 2006 in November, would be used (a) to select the essential parts of the guidelines that should be approved by GA, and (b) to further specify the process of task development.

Date of ISC meeting While a joint IC/ISC meeting between IOIs (March or April) might be convenient to the host, ISC strongly prefers a meeting at a later date. For IOI 2007, Ivo Separovic promised to have all scientific material ready for an ISC meeting in March. For Tom, this is a prerequisite for his own participation. IC, ISC, and Host SC would get in touch with each other to check the progress of task development for IOI 2007. *Action: Zide DU, Tom Verhoeff, Kresimir Malnar*

12 Report by ITWG

Jyrki Nummenmaa gave a detailed report. He offered to remain responsible for the IOI Information system (IOI-IS). Long-term changes could be done in student projects, short-term changes should be implemented by a paid programmer. It is also possible to run the IOI-IS on a server at the University of Tampere; in this case, some money were required to cover setup and maintenance cost. The IOI-IS should be extended with document management (for translations, e.g.) and reporting features. IC asked Jyrki to continue work on the IOI-IS; on the side of IC, Ricardo Anido will take responsibility for the IOI-IS and keep in touch with Jyrki. *Action: Ricardo*

IC thanked Jyrki for his dedicated work and his services to IOI. Responsibility for the IOI practice CD will be passed on to the new ITWG chairman. ITWG needs to be in touch with IOI hosts to make sure that the CD contains a software environment identical to that of the IOI competition.

13 New business

ED nomination The President nominated Jari Koivisto, Finland, as new ED. This nomination was unanimously approved.

ISC nomination ISC proposed three candidates for ISC membership: Ben Burton, Michal Forišek, and Marcin Kubica. Furthermore, the ED had received a proposal supported by 15 delegations to nominate Emil Kelevedjiev. All four persons were nominated by IC as candidates for ISC member elections.

ITWG nomination ISC proposed Martin Mareš (Czech Republic) to become now ITWG chairman. IC approved this proposal and nominated Martin Mareš ITWG chairman.

IC candidates Two persons had been proposed as candidates for the two open IC positions: Eljakim Schrijvers (The Netherlands; proposal seconded by UK delegation) and Valentina Dagienė (Lithuania; proposal seconded by German delegation).

GA chairman IC will generate a first proposal in the next meeting; candidates shall be asked for agreement beforehand. Candidates must have experience in chairing meetings as well as intimate knowledge of IOI. The host must agree with the proposal.

Use of national flags and symbols Delegations will be remembered to stick to the regulations and not use their national flags and symbols.

Registration for IOI Future hosts are strongly recommended to use the IOI information system for registration. If a host decides not to use the IOI system, they will be fully responsible for transferring registration data into the IOI system.

IOI Regulations Richard Forster proposed to initiate a general debate on how strict IOI should apply its regulations. Since liberal practice in applying the Regulations might stem from ignorance of regulation details, a FAQ of IOI procedures was proposed which would be based on the regulations.

Structure of delegations It was clarified that the rules allow for delegations with only one student. Delegations arriving without students can be treated as guests.

Assignment of responsibilities In the final meeting, including the new members Valentina Dagienė, Eljakim Schrijvers, and Troy Vasiga, specific responsibilities within IC and under control of IC were assigned as follows:

Regulations: Richard Forster

IOI Information System: Ricardo Anido

Treasurer: Wolfgang Pohl

Country Information: Krassimir Manev

Country Participation Requirements: Yasser A. Ghany

Guidelines / Handbook: Krzysztof Diks

Contact to CSTA: Don Piele

Contact to ISC: Eljakim Schrijvers

Contact to Sponsors: Eljakim Schrijvers, all IC members

Web Site ioinformatics.org: Don Piele was willing to update the site after IOI 2006. After that, the ownership of the domain would have to be passed. Troy Vasiga was willing to take over this duty.

14   Dates of next meetings of IC

IC would meet in Zagreb, Croatia, in late March 2007. Ivo Separovic would announce the precise date as soon as possible.   *Action: Ivo Separovic*

15   Closure

Zide Du, President of IOI and Chairman of IC, thanked all IC members for contributing to a successful meeting. He expressed special thanks to the leaving members Spyros Bakogiannis (absent), Don Piele, and Wolfgang Pohl, and welcomed the new members Valentina Dagienė (elected), Eljakim Schrijvers (elected), and Troy Vasiga (for IOI 2010). Finally, he closed the meeting.

Appendix

A Emergency meeting: IOI 2006 scores

Present: Ricardo Anido, Valentina Dagienė, Zide Du, Richard Forster, Krassimir Manev, Eljakim Schrijvers, Troy Vasiga, Cesar Cepeda (Chair of Host SC), Tom Verhoeff (Chair of ISC). NB: This meets the quorum requirement for the IC.

Due to a technical problem with the marks database, used to generate the ranking of students for medal allocation, several students were given incorrect medals at the closing ceremony. As a result of the error, 7 students received too low a medal and 6 students had been given too high a medal. The error affected the scores of additional 26 students but did not change their assigned medals. The correct student scores were given on the individual mark sheets distributed after each competition day.

An emergency meeting of the IC was held late on Saturday, with the Chair of the Host SC and the Chair of the ISC. IC agreed to ensure that no student was penalized by the earlier mistakes: Contestants who received too low a medal should receive their correct medal; contestants who received too high a medal will be allowed to change their medal, but in the corrected score table would be listed with the scores originally used to allocate their medal.

That is, IC decided that the published scores will be the corrected table with the exception of the 6 students who had been given too high a medal. The 13 students with incorrect medals will be contacted (or were contacted while still in Mexico). The 7 students who received too low a medal will be given their correct medal. The 6 students who received too high a medal will not automatically be stripped of their medals, but will be allowed to change their medal if they wish.

As president, Zide would send a letter to the GA. This letter would be written by Richard. The Host SC would contact the affected students.

B Country Participation Requirements

1. Students who are to be considered for representing their delegation at an IOI must meet the eligibility requirements for contestants set forth in S2.5 of the IOI Regulations.

2. The selection procedure must be based on ability and include a test of the students' programming and problem solving ability.

3. The selection procedure must be open to all eligible students, although restrictions may be placed on where, when and how students can enter the procedure.