International Committee

Minutes of the Meetings held in Cairo, Egypt
16 - 23 August, 2008

Present:

Zide Du	President	zidedu@ict.ac.cn	China	2005-2008
Ivo Šeparović	Host 2007	isepar@public.srce.hr	Croatia	2003-2008
Mohamed Youssef	Host 2008	ric@aast.edu	Egypt	2007-2009
Krassimir Manev	Host 2009	manev@fmi.uni-sofia.bg	Bulgaria	2005-2010
Troy Vasiga	Host 2010	tmjvasiga@cs.uwaterloo.ca	Canada	2006-2011
Kanchit Malaivongs	Host 2011	sphon@ipst.ac.th	Thailand	2007-2012
Richard Forster	Elected	forster@olympiad.org.uk	Great Britain	2005-2008
Valentina Dagiene	Elected	dagiene@ktl.mii.lt	Lithuania	2006-2009
Eljakim Schrijvers	Elected	eschrijvers@eljakim.nl	Netherlands	2006-2009
Metodija Janceski	Elected	meto@ii.edu.mk	Macedonia	2007-2010
Rogelio Garcia Llano	Elected	rgllano@unsam.edu.ar	Argentina	2007-2010
Jari Koivisto	Executive Director	jari.koivisto@oph.fi	Finland	2006-2008

Item numbers correspond to agenda numbering (attached). There are items for which no business is recorded, or which were dealt with under other items.

1.   Welcome

The representatives of the Egyptian organising committee, Dr Ekram F Abdel Gawad and Dr Mohamed Youssef, and the President of IOI, Zide Du, welcomed the IC members to the meeting.

2.   Apologies

There were no apologies.

3 + 4.   Agendas

The IC + GA meeting agendas were accepted.

5.   Welcome and IOI 2008 status report

- 78 countries would be attending. Syria would not be attending, Norway had not sent any information and Israel had indicated that they would be unable to attend. Ghana would be coming to the IOI without having first been an observer; this had been agreed by the IC by email.
- It was agreed to grant Kyrgyzstan's request to waive the registration fee.
- Details were given regarding the separation of the closing ceremony ("for students") and the VIP dinner (where sponsors and ministers would receive recognition; 50 trophies had been prepared).

7.   Confirmation of minutes (IC meeting 21 - 25 March 2008)

The minutes were accepted with minor modification.

8.   Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

9. GA Chairman nomination

Dr Ziad Negm (from the hosting country) was approved as GA chairman for IOI'2008

10. Future GA Chairman nomination

- The general procedures for selecting GA Chairmen were discussed. It was agreed that the current procedure needs some clarifications but that no changes in the regulations would be needed.
- The procedure for the following years will be decided at the March IC meeting in Bulgaria.

11. IOI Technical Guidelines

- Technical Guidelines, which in practice means a syllabus, will be prepared for IOI'2009. It was commented that we should not rush them into use.
- Preparation of the guidelines is a regulated obligation of the ISC.
- Mikhal Forisek informed the committee that a new version was currently available (attached).
- The syllabus will be presented to the GA and its recommendations will step into force after IOI'2008.

12. Use of national flags and symbols

- The GA Chairman will remind the delegations of the regulation not to use their national flags or symbols in the awards ceremony.
- The regulation banning flags and symbols (S5.14) covers their use throughout the IOI, including printed material, opening and closing ceremonies.

13 + 14. IOI Awards & Trophy

- The IOI distinguished service award to be given to Vladimir Kiryakin.
- A trophy to be given to the top student.
- The President to hand out certificates of appreciation at the closing ceremony. Where certificates are to be handed out to retiring committee members it is only appropriate if they have not been elected to another position.

16 + 17 + 18. Candidates for IC, President and ISC.

- The procedure was explained and the deadline for nominations fixed as per the regulations.
- It was discussed whether it would be appropriate for an individual to stand for multiple positions. This will not be prohibited, and left to the candidates.

19. Nomination of ED

- It was agreed that the nomination of ED would be deferred until after the election of the President.
- After the President's election, Richard Forster was selected to serve as ED for 2009-2011.

20. Report by the President

Zide Du gave a report (attached).

In addition:
- The issue of future hosts, which had been mentioned in the report, was discussed. It was highlighted that switching the IOI to an internet contest was undesirable since meeting people is so much part of the experience.

21.   Report by ISC Chairman

Cesar Cepeda reported on the work of the ISC (attached).

In addition:
- It was noted that the committee is attempting to define 'longer roles' for some of its members, to extend over multiple years.
- There is a plan for an open source grader.
- There was a beta-test using students invited by the ISC. This was a good way to judge difficulty and was planned for future years.
- A past student (from Canada) had worked with the HSC to develop multiple solutions for tasks. This worked well and 1 - 2 such people per year would be a good idea.
- When asked about the syllabus, Cesar felt a document could be presented after the contest.
- It was brought to the committees attention that the question period on contest days had been extended to 2.5 hours. The ISC felt 5 hours would have been even better, but understood that delegation leaders had other responsibilities.

22.   Report by ITWG

Martin Mares gave a report (attached).

In addition:
- The budgeted lab money was not needed, thanks to a server donation, but would like to keep budget to use for work done by students.
- There is a small core team of three students, with contributions allowed from everybody.
- An internal version of the syllabus was used intenally; all this year's tasks are in the syllabus.

23.   Report by Executive Director

Jari Koivisto gave a report (attached).

In addition:
- There had been a lot of communication with Ghana as a new country.

24.   Report on IOI Workshop

Eljakim Schrijvers gave a report (attached).

25.   Report on the *Olympiads in Informatics* conference

Valentina Dagiene reported:
- There will be 16 presentations (25 papers were received and 16 accepted).
- Miguel Revilla will be a guest speaker.
- This year there are both long (6) and short (10) presentations.
- Mohamed has produced certificates for speakers.
- It was agreed that the editorial board would change to Valentina Dagiene, Richard Forster, Troy Vasiga & Krassimir Manev.
- Items being considered for the future are for invited speakers, more reviewers and possible informative reports (e.g. short reports on national olympiads).
- There had been an issue with the payment of costs, since the budget had been exceeded.

26 + 27.   Financial Statement / Audited Accounts for 2007-2008

The audited accounts (attached) were approved.

28.   Registration Fee

After the budget had been approved (item 29) it was agreed to leave the registration fee unchanged at €200.

29.   Budget 2008 - 2009

Eljakim Schrijvers presented the budget for the next fiscal year (attached). This was approved and would be put to the GA for ratification.

30.   Fundraising

• Eljakim Schrijvers presented a paper on fundraising (attached).
• Global sponsorship was discussed at length, including how and why. The difficulties in raising sponsorship at this level and the amount of time and money spent by the committee over the last few years were discussed. It was agreed (by a formal vote) that IC discussions on sponsorship at the global level would be closed and *not* revisited over the coming years.

31.   Chile

• Alexandre Velkov (Chile) was invited to present his case for representing Chile. He stated that he believed he was the IOI's official representative, that the new requests for representation were politically motivated, and that the new requests for representation did not have sufficient technical background. He also pointed out his personal commitment to the IOI since 2004.
• It was acknowledged that it was an unfortunate situation which will have disappointed some students.
• It was agreed that the IOI would write a letter to all parties involved (attached), stating that it was important that they reached a consensus themselves.
• A report or consensus, prepared by the Chilean organisations, will be discussed at the March IC meeting.
• It was emphasised that the IOI does not have representatives in countries, rather that countries send representatives to the IOI. I.e. that proposed delegations are accepted or rejected, but that acceptance is not a permanent remit.
• There can be only one team representing a delegation. There are no unofficial teams, with the sole exception provided in S5.8 for the Present Host.
• Future cases, where there are multiple groups wishing to represent a country, are to be discussed by the IC and not exclusively by the President and / or Executive Director.

32.   Requirements and Procedures for new countries

It was agreed that, for new countries attending the IOI, the IC would decide their suitability on a case by case basis.

33.   Observer Countries

• Iceland could not prepare any team for this IOI and would be trying to send an observer next year.
• Libya and Saudia Arabia are at IOI'2008 as observers, but there had been no prior contact.

34   Applications for hosting IOI'2012

A presentation was given by Italy (attached) and the IC voted to make Italy the Candidate Host for 2012.

35.   Potential Future Hosts

There are currently no Potential Hosts for 2013 and beyond. Ghana have expressed some interested (although they are new to the contest) as have Japan. There was some discussion about explicitly inviting Russia to host in the future.

37.   Report on IOI'2009 (Bulgaria)

Krassimir Manev gave a report (attached).

38.   Report on 20th Anniversary preparations

- The opening ceremony will be a central event.
- Intention to include participants from first olympiad.
- Intention to present a retrospective of past olympiads
- Intention to edit a book
- Intention to organise and exhibition of objects.

39.   Report on IOI'2010 (Canada)

Troy Vasiga reported:
- Fundraising is in high gear. University of Waterloo and Microsoft will probably be sponsoring.
- There are some mini-sponsoring initiatives through alumni.
- The university has committed to providing computers.
- Accommodation will be on campus.
- The media are being approached. Troy was on local radio the Friday before the IOI.
- Some local and provincial approaches are being made, but due to 'university safeguards' the IOI'2010 team cannot talk to them directly.
- The Governor General of Canada, Michaelle Jean, will hopefully be the honourary patron.
- The date will be one of the last two weeks in August, depending on the accommodation.

40.   Report on IOI'2011 (Thailand)

Kanchit Malaivongs reported:
- There is a new government in Thailand.
- ITST will organise the IOI.
- The minister wants to study the Egyptian committee, and has formed a steering committee for the IOI.
- The elder sister of the King has started a foundation to provide funding for the science Olympiads.
- Task preparation has begun; seminars have been organised.
- They ran APIO'08 (Asia-Pacific) successfully. Around 45 students, including those from China and India.

41.   Regulations

- The updated version of the Regulations was presented by Richard Forster, including regulation changes from the previous two IOIs and extensive re-formatting.
- Additional changes, to be presented to the GA, include a statement about the background of the delegation leaders (E2.3.2) and clarification about which country a student can represent (S2.5).

42.   Country Library

- Krassimir Manev reported on the Country Library (CoLib). The concept is for a single contact person for country, who does not need to be the delegation leader.
- One responsibility of the contact person will be to ensure the system is updated when there is a hand-over of contact responsibility.
- It was noted that the contact person and the person in charge of the national organisation may well be different people.

43.   Logo

It was agreed to bring the issue of changing the IOI logo to the GA. Rather than invite debate at a GA meeting the suggested 'new' logo would be shown and GA feedback (and design input) requested, to be received before the March IC meeting.

44.   IOI Website

The ioinformatics.org website is due to change server and domain provider.

47.   Communications with UNESCO, IFIP and other organisations

It was agreed that UNESCO and IFIP should be invited to the anniversay IOI.

51.   IFIP Medal

As in previous years, the IFIP medal would be awarded to the youngest medalist.

52 + 53.   Next IC meeting

This was confirmed for March 19 - 23, 2009

54.   Other Business

• The ED was authorised to use his personal mobile phone to contact relevant persons and chanrge the expenses afterwards.
• It was confirmed that, while not required by the regulations, it was important for countries to attend the IOI as observers prior to bring a team.
• The following procedure was agreed for financial payments. All requests (both above and below budget) to be sent to the Treasurer (currently Wolfgang Pohl), who would confirm payments with the President or Executive Director. The Treasurer cannot independently confirm or reject payment. Payments that are not allocated in the budget must be ratified by two members of the financial sub-committee (and not just the President or Executive Director).
• The financial sub-committee was agreed to be Rogelio Garcia Llano, Valentina Dagiene and Krassimir Manev.
• The syllabus (part of the Technical Guidelines) should state "Recommendation" and not be restrictive.

55.   Thanks and Conclusions

Zide Du, in his outgoing capacity as President, declared the meeting closed and extended his thanks to everybody who had made the meeting a success.