

International Committee

Minutes of the Meetings held in Brisbane, Australia 22–24 February, 2013

Present:

Richard Forster	President	forster@olympiad.org.uk	Great Britain	2011–2014
Giuseppe Colosio	Host 2012	giuseppe.colosio@istruzione.it	Italy	2008-2013
Peter Taylor	Host 2013	pjt013@gmail.com	Australia	2009-2014
Greg Lee	Host 2014	leeg@csie.ntnu.edu.tw	Taiwan	2010-2015
Bakhyt Matkarimov	Host 2015	bakhyt.matkarimov@gmail.com	Kazakhstan	2011-2016
Krassimir Manev	Elected	manev@fmi.uni-sofia.bg	Bulgaria	2010-2013
Valentina Dagiene	Elected	dagiene@ktl.mii.lt	Lithuania	2012-2015
Mārtiņš Opmanis	Elected	Martins.Opmanis@lumii.lv	Latvia	2012-2015
Madhavan Mukund §	Executive Director	madhavan@cmi.ac.in	India	2011-2014 §Non-voting

1. Welcome

- Richard Forster welcomed the committee to the meeting.
- Peter Taylor welcomed the committee to Australia.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Ginat, Vladimir Kiryukhin and Kresimir Malnar.

3. Confirmation of Minutes (IC meeting 23—30 September, 2012)

The minutes of the previous IC meeting were approved.

4. Matters arising

- It had been agreed that the ISC would prepare minutes of its discussions and share these with the IC. Richard Forster and Madhavan Mukund have requested Fredrik Niemelä, the ISC Chair, to share the minutes of the ISC meeting in February 2013 for discussion during the current IC meeting.
- The ISC had also undertaken to work towards a higher level of quality control, with the aim of making the working of the ISC more transparent. This issue was deferred to the discussion with ISC representative, Ben Burton, after his presentation of the ISC report to the IC.

5. Report by President

Richard Forster reported on his activities since September 2012.

- The handover of Executive Director duties to Madhavan Mukund has been mostly completed during this period.
- No specific personal “project” has been identified to be completed during the current term of the President.

6. Report by Executive Director

Madhavan Mukund reported on his activities since September 2012.

- The Executive Director has been assisting the organizing team at IOI-2013 with clarifications about official contacts and other communication issues involving delegations.
- There have been some enquiries from new countries, which will be discussed separately.
- An important issue that has been dealt with in the past few months is the change in the official representatives of Chile, which will be discussed separately.

7. ISC Report

Ben Burton reported on the activities of the ISC

- 32 external task submissions and 5 internal task submissions were received by the HSC, of which 9 have been selected for IOI (3 for each of the competition days and 3 backup tasks). The HSC is very happy with the quality of the tasks. As usual, authors of externally submitted tasks that have been selected for IOI will be invited as guest members of the HSC during IOI.
- The ISC is working on a mechanism to provide feedback to authors of rejected tasks. This requires some cryptographic infrastructure to be put in place.
- All tasks will be rigorously beta tested, including backup tasks. It is expected that backup tasks will be in as polished a state as regular tasks. Unused backup tasks will be preserved for future use. One of this year's selected tasks was a backup task from 2012.
- Every effort will be made to proof read and beta test the tasks so that last minute changes are minimized. Only limited minor objections will be entertained. The goal is to have version 1.0 as the final version for each task!
- In a change from previous years, tasks will be distributed to the GA with some notes about intended solutions. These notes will be more in the form of hints. Efforts will be made to circulate detailed solutions after the contest.

It is also planned to have a 30 minute presentation about the day's tasks on each competition day, during the clarification period.

- There was a discussion about the length of task statements. The expected length and complexity of the task statement was an important criterion for task selection. However, there is always a trade-off between novelty and task description complexity: in IOI-2012, the longest task statement also corresponded to the most "different" task.
- The CMS grader developed for IOI-2012 will be used in IOI-2013 as well. It has been used and tested in various local, regional and national contests and is quite stable. Bernard Blackham is part of the CMS development team.

The plan is to make CMS the de facto standard grader for IOI. The IOI-2014 team has already agreed to use CMS next year.

- IOI-2013 will be a paperless contest like IOI-2012. There will be an automatic screen lock till the exam starts, so students will not have to log in to start the contest. PDF versions of task statements in all languages will be available on the desktop.

To reduce the impact of students printing all task statements as a reflex action, printing could be disabled for a few minutes at the start of the contest. If this is to be done, it would have to be clearly announced in advance and informed to the GA and the contestants.

The long term goal is to eliminate all printing during IOI as this is a major source of mix-ups and also a potential mechanism for cheating.

- Translation will use the Wiki system from IOI-2012.

All computers provided for translation will dual boot into MacOSX and Windows. Microsoft Office will be available with special language packs.

- The competition computers will be provided by Dell. These will be laptops to reduce the power consumption and the overall UPS requirement. The exact specifications of the hardware are not yet finalized, though the software environment is fixed.

It should be possible to provide external keyboards and monitors if required. The registration system will include a provision to make a request for special hardware requirements.

It is possible that not all contestant machines will be identical. However, the ISC felt that this is not a problem because all judging is on the server and the tasks do not rely on fine tuning performance on local machines.

The competition hall will take 3 days to set up and 1 day to take down.

- The clarification procedure during the exam will support written clarifications. All clarifications asked will be documented, along with the answers provided. The time limit for clarifications will be two hours, like last year.
- To simplify the competition rules, all submissions will receive full feedback and tokens will be completely eliminated. Full feedback means that the actual score will be reported for each submission. Other details provided will vary from task to task.

To avoid automated submissions, there will be a reasonable limit on the number of submissions by contestant for each task, say 50–100. The limit will be high enough that human submissions are not penalized.

- There was a discussion about whether having full feedback on all problems changes the nature of the competition. There was also a question about how reevaluation/regrading would be handled in case some problem was encountered with the grading system during the contest.

One negative fallout of full feedback is that students spend less time testing and debugging their code. On the other hand, minor mistakes can be easily caught and the final scores are a more accurate reflection of the effort put in by students.

Ben Burton pointed out that the token system that has been in place since 2010 has essentially provided full feedback on all tasks. The tokenless system proposed this year is only a simplification of the overall process.

- The IC requested Ben Burton to discuss these issues concerning full feedback again with the ISC and publish the competition rules as soon as possible.

In particular, the ISC was requested to precisely define in the competition rules how to proceed in case errors were encountered with the grading system during the contest.

The ISC expects the competition rules to be ready by the end of March.

- This led to a discussion about communication between the ISC and the IC about proposed changes in competition rules and other important decisions.

It was proposed that an ISC representative outside the HSC be invited in future to attend the IC meeting between IOIs. The future hosts present at this IC meeting agreed that it would not be a problem to make local arrangements for one additional person at the IC meeting.

- The ISC is working towards formalizing its role with respect to the HSC. At the moment, there is no fixed protocol assigning responsibilities to the two bodies.

In the past 4–5 years, the collaboration between the ISC and HSC has been very smooth. Almost all decisions of the HSC and ISC in recent years have been unanimous. This formalization is mostly to codify existing practices and also to serve as a guideline for future hosts.

The proposed document will confirm that the ISC is central to all decision making and clarifications. If any discrepancies arise, the ISC should make the final decision. This clarification of the ISC's role is consistent with existing regulations.

- The ISC is working on a revised syllabus for IOI. The aim is to reduce the number of excluded topics to avoid “boxing in” the competition. Advanced topics would be labelled “out of usual scope” to indicate that tasks can be solved without using these topics explicitly.

The IC pointed out that in order to have a changed syllabus in place for IOI-2014, the revised syllabus would have to be discussed and approved by the GA at IOI-2013. The ISC will work towards finalizing the revised syllabus before IOI-2013.

- Regarding programming languages at IOI, there is no plan to remove any of the existing languages, but there has been some discussion in the ISC about adding languages like Python and Java. Allowing Python raises serious timing issues. Java is easier to support. IOI-2014 will experiment and test how well Java works with CMS. IOI-2015 is happy to have Java included formally in IOI.

Another suggestion is to update the regulations to distinguish between “allowed” and “official” languages. Languages classified as “allowed” would not have the same guarantees in terms of solutions being accepted by the grader.

- There had been a discussion in the GA at IOI-2012 about licensing of IOI tasks. The proposal was to ask all task authors to release tasks under an appropriate Creative Commons (CC) license. One point to be checked is whether translations of tasks would automatically be covered by the same CC license.

8. ITWG Report

There was no formal ITWG report. Ben Burton covered some of the technical aspects related to IOI in the ISC report.

9. Report on *Olympiads in Informatics* and the IOI Conference

Valentina Dagiene reported on the IOI Conference and the latest volume of *Olympiads in Informatics*.

- A summary of the past 6 years was presented. There have been 101 contributions from 37 countries. The content has been split roughly equally between research papers and material such as country reports and book reviews. A list of the most productive authors was presented.
- Compilation of the 2013 volume is in progress. About 20 submissions have been received, but only half seem to be of acceptable quality. About 3–4 country reports have been received and more are being pursued.
- Book reviews of three books are being actively sought.
- This year, more copies of the journal would be directly mailed to countries rather than handing them over in person at IOI, to avoid transporting the material a long distance.
- Efforts are continuing to have the journal included in indexes such as the Web of Science. The journal is already indexed by Cabell, Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL), Scopus and EBSCO.
- Richard Forster asked about feedback from the GA about the material in the journal. Informal comments suggest that readers approve of separating research content from country reports. There are many requests for articles pertaining to tasks, but it is not easy to get such contributions. It was recommended that a formal questionnaire be circulated at IOI-2013 to get feedback.
- Based on feedback at IOI-2012, it was proposed to conduct the IOI Conference for just one half day at IOI-2013, restricting presentations to only research papers.

Since the hall will be available for the IOI Conference on both competition days, it was agreed that a decision on the schedule could be deferred till the list of presentations was finalized.

- It was pointed out that the conference also serves as the default venue for team leaders to assemble for clarifications by students at the start of the contest. If there is no IOI Conference on one of the competition days, a venue needed to be fixed for this activity.
- There was a discussion about opening up the IOI Conference to local participants, as was done at IOI-2011. At IOI-2013, a separate outreach activity has been planned for the last day of IOI. External participants could be invited to attend the IOI Conference subject to seating capacity constraints.

- There was a suggestion to introduce awards for authors as an incentive to attract good quality contributions to the journal and conference. There could be awards in more than one category, including best paper and best presentation, as well as long term awards to productive authors. Another proposal was to have separate awards decided by the Editorial Board and by the audience at the conference. It was suggested that the actual awards be produced locally by each host country, within a prescribed budget, paid for from IOI funds.

10. Final Report on IOI-2012 (including registration receipts)

Giuseppe Colosio presented the final report on IOI-2012, which was held in Italy.

- The final meeting of the IOI-2012 Organizational Committee took place in October 2012. This included an evaluation of the IOI week and examination and documentation of the budget. Based on the discussions, a final report (in Italian) is being prepared to be sent to the partners, to the Committee of Italian Olympiads and to the Ministry of Education.
- The IOI-2012 Italian Organizing Committee had six main subcommittees: Host Scientific Committee, Finance Committee, Secretarial Committee, Program Implementation and Communications Committee, Volunteers Committee and Technical Committee
- IOI had the approval of the President of Italian Republic and the patronage of UNESCO. The main Sponsors were CARIPLLO (Foundation), ENI (Energy), Norton by Symantec (Software), SEA (Airport), Unicredit (Bank), along with DiRete, Eolo, Garda Village, Acer and Camst.
- IOI was supported by the following organizations and entities: State University of Milan, Assolombarda, Postal Police, Technical School Albe Steiner of Milan, Secondary High School Veronica Gambarà of Brescia, University of the Italian Switzerland, Municipality of Cremona, Education Authority for Veneto, Municipality of Brescia, Municipality of Milan, Rotary Club, E-ducazione and Nexus
- 84 countries took part in IOI-2012. There were 318 contestants, 82 Leaders, 80 Deputy Leaders, 4 Observers and 87 Visitors. In addition, 12 IC members and 7 ISC members attended IOI-2012 along with 7 authors of accepted tasks. The total attendance was 597.
- From the organizers, there were 120 Guides, 25 Students involved in production, 8 Teachers/supervisors, 10 internal staff and 4 contract staff from an agency, for a total of 167.
- The details of the budget for IOI-2012 are as follows.

– Revenue:

MIUR & Education Authority for Lombardy	€	592,000.00
AICA – Italian Computer Science Society	€	200,000.00
Province of Brescia	€	150,158.00
Municipality of Sirmione	€	66,900.00
Municipality of Montichiari	€	33,200.00
CARIPLLO	€	100,000.00
Sponsors	€	43,000.00
Visitors	€	98,000.00
Total	€	1,283,258.00

– Expenditure

Accommodation	€	324,000.00
Transportation	€	140,000.00
Competition and CMS	€	300,000.00
Communication and Press	€	76,000.00
Visits and Activities	€	139,000.00
Volunteers	€	45,000.00
Ceremonies	€	10,000.00
Gadgets and Others	€	30,000.00
Administration	€	20,000.00
Total	€	1,084,000.00

- There was an overall surplus of € 199,258.00. This surplus has been handed over to the Italian Olympiads Committee and will be used for the organization of the Italian Olympiads and for the participation of Italian teams in IOI.
- The website <http://www.ioi2012.org> was entirely designed, created and maintained by the Program Implementation Committee. It was used for information, communication, registrations and payments.
- For transportation, 18 buses, 2 vans, 3 cars were used. Two trains were organized for the excursion to Venice.
 - Participants were picked up from 4 airports (Malpensa, Linate, Orio al Serio and Verona Villafranca) and Desenzano del Garda Station.
 - Despite initial concerns, the transportation between the accommodation at Sirmione and the competition venue at Montichiari worked smoothly.
- All participants were housed at the Garda Village. Security was provided, and reinforced during the quarantine period. No problems reported with the food.
- The broadband at Garda Village was enhanced to 100 Mbps through a radio connection, providing service to the whole area. In Montichiari, access was provided to the wifi network of the Garda exhibition center. There were some complaints about signal strength of the network during the IOI conference, but this was due to the fact that the contest was in progress.
- No problems were reported at the competition venue and during the contest. New laptops with external keyboards were organized on loan at minimal cost for the competition, along with new cables and switches, UPS, new school desks and a separate control room. Information about the results was displayed live on external monitors.

The new grading system CMS worked smoothly. The four students, former Italian IOI contestants, who designed, created and installed CMS received a special scholarship.
- The newsletter was published only in digital, paperless form. This was done to save money and paper, allow richer content and enhance accessibility after the event.

However, there was also some criticism of this decision. There was less discussion and sharing of content among participants.
- IOI was covered well in the local and regional press, but was less visible in the national press. Special press conferences were held where the international press was invited. There was TV coverage on regional television, RAI 3, and RAI Educational.
- There were two conferences held during IOI.
 - The IOI Conference was successfully organized by Valentina Dagiene at Montichiari during the two competition days.
 - The Conference on Young talents and the Digital Future was organized in Milan between the two competition days, in collaboration with UNESCO and Assolombarda. At this Conference, Richard Forster, President of IOI, announced the DSA to Prof Blagovest Sendov, which was greatly appreciated.
- Excursions organized included a tour of Montichiari, Brescia, the Vittoriale and Salò (for Visitors), a tour of Milan (for Visitors, Leaders and IC members), a day at Gardaland (for Contestants and Leaders) and a tour of Venice and Sirmione (for all participants).
- The guides for IOI-2012 were secondary high school students from the northern provinces of Italy. They were selected by a special working group based on their motivation and their linguistic abilities. After a training period of seven days, they were assigned their tasks. Supervision and coordination of the guides was done by teachers.
- Specific issues faced by the organizers.
 - There were some problems with the registration process due to delays and changes in personnel by participating countries.

- Several countries needed personalized invitations.
- There were some complaints about excessive waiting time between the announced and actual departure times of buses. There were also some complaints from participants about having to wait a long time for transportation to Sirmione on arrival at the airport and also about being taken too early to the airport for departures. It seems that allowing 4 airports was a mistake, because it overly fragmented the groups and schedules, resulting in organizational problems and increased costs.
- A wallet lost on a bus was found empty by the police a week later.
- Rare incidents of alcohol consumption by contestants were reported. There was a discussion in the IC whether students could be prevented from having access to alcohol at IOI.
It was pointed out that though some mechanisms could be put in place to regulate alcohol at the venue students are accommodated, if alcohol is legally available to them in shops then there is no way to prevent them from purchasing it.
Overall, it is assumed that Leaders and guides will supervise students responsibly and not encourage them to drink.
In turn, the organizers of IOI should ensure that alcohol is not available freely at events where students are also present.
- A power outage occurred during the translation session of the first day of competition. The problem was solved in a couple of hours. As a backup, a UPS and an additional server were organized for the second translation session.
- There were justified complaints about the long waits and speeches in Italian on the tour of Venice. The organizers of the tour faced problems with high water (*acqua alta*) and with managing big groups in Venice.

11. Report on IOI-2013

Peter Taylor presented a report on IOI-2013, to be held in Australia.

- The main financial backing for IOI-2013 is from the Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) and the University of Queensland (UQ), both of which have agreed to underwrite AUD 340,000. Guest fees are expected to generate AUD 90,000 and the Queensland government has committed AUD 50,000, so the minimum expected revenue is AUD 820,000.

The Visitor fee for IOI-2013 is AUD 1500.

At present, the projected expenditure is AUD 800,793 of which about AUD 80,000 is towards IT equipment. A deal has been struck with Dell to provide laptops for IOI. This, together with an arrangement for free use of a generator, has resulted in substantial savings on the equipment front (approximately AUD 50,000).

Efforts are still on to get funding from the federal government. Additional funding from the federal government would help pay for more support staff and help reduce the financial burden on AMT and UQ.

There has also not been much success so far in obtaining corporate sponsorships.

- Accommodation for participants will be in five colleges around UQ. Students would all be accommodated in two colleges that are close to each other. All accommodation will be in single rooms, by default, with shared bathrooms. A limited number of double rooms are available.

All meals will be arranged at the respective colleges.

Participants who arrive before the official arrival day or leave after the official departure day will have to make their own arrangements for accommodation on those days. UQ college accommodation will not be available.

- Invitations have been sent to all countries. Registration will be kept open till around May 15.

A new registration system developed by Richard Forster and Kim Schrijvers is being used for IOI-2013. This system is planned as a continuing resource for future IOIs, allowing accumulation of data from one IOI to the next.

- For visas, AMT is coordinating with the immigration authorities. IOI registration data will be shared with the immigration authorities to facilitate the visa process.
- The IOI-2013 website is being coordinated by Bernard Blackham. Overall, public relations is being handled jointly by AMT and UQ. The Journalism School at UQ is likely to be involved in this activity
- The UQ Information Technology Services (ITS) will organize Internet access for IOI participants through a separate wireless network. They are investigating how best to implement quarantine for students.

During translation, Internet access will be available from the translation room PCs, again arranged through the UQ ITS.

- Andree Phillips is in charge of organizing the team of volunteers for coordinating various areas during IOI, including accommodation, activities, administration and hospitality, opening and closing ceremonies, guest programmes, excursions, registration and transport. Some student volunteers could get course credit for IOI work (for example, journalism students).

Team guides will be recruited from local high schools (primarily private schools, since term would have started for public schools). Several high schools have been contacted and have expressed interested in having their students involved. Many international students have volunteered and, between them, many languages should be covered.

- For transportation, a contract has been given to a single bus company. Participants will be picked up and dropped at Brisbane International and Domestic airports on the official arrival and departure days. Buses will also be used for transporting participants to the opening and closing ceremonies and for the two excursions.

Those who arrive early should make their own arrangements for transportation from the airport. They will be picked up from their hotels in the city. A similar rule applies to those who leave after the official departure day.

- The two main excursion planned are to the Underwater World and Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast and to the Australia Zoo. Additional excursions will be arrange for guests, such as Southbank, Lone Pine, Gold Coast and Brisbane City Tour.
- The opening and closing ceremonies will take place at the Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie).
- AMT is in charge of banners, backpacks, printing and other paraphernalia.
- The Competition Hall will be on the UQ campus and will be managed by UQ ITS. The contestants' computers will be provided by Dell (precise details about the computers yet to be received). UQ will provide networking and power equipment. Several UPSes will be deployed to ensure that servers are not affected by any power outage (an extremely unlikely event). Network switches are not on the UPS so there may be a brief loss of connectivity in case of a power outage but the student machines and the judging servers will continue to run.
- Translation rooms have been set up in the Mathematics department building. Several dual boot MacOSX/Windows computers with various font packs are available for delegation leaders. There are also several rooms with desks and chairs to connect personal laptops. Refreshments will be replenished throughout the night.
- The GA will meet in the Abel Smith building. Country pigeonholes will be set up in the foyer in the same building. There will be hospitality volunteers in charge of providing coffee and snacks as well has running microphones in the hall for questions. The GA Chair will be announced shortly.
- Additional meeting rooms have been arranged for HSC/ISC and IC meetings, as well as for administrative staff and the news media. Breakout rooms are available for groups wishing to have small meetings.
- A 24×7 information centre will be organized at the Science Learning Centre.
- In terms of medical requirements, all UQ security have first-aid training.
- A risk management assessment is yet to be done.
- An outreach conference is planned on the final day for teachers. These teachers will also be invited for the closing ceremony.

- The tentative schedule for IOI-2013 is as follows
 - July 6: Arrivals
 - July 7: Practice session (morning), opening ceremony (after lunch), GA meeting at 17:00 to discuss practice session issues, GA meeting at 18:30 to select Day 1 tasks.
 - July 8: Competition Day 1. Clarifications will be done in Abel Smith building (GA venue) alongside the Conference.
 - July 9: Excursion to Underwater World. GA meeting at 18:30 to select Day 2 tasks. Leaders will return from the excursion in separate buses so that the GA meeting starts on schedule.
 - July 10: Competition Day 2. Clarifications will be done in Abel Smith building (GA venue) alongside the Conference.
 - July 11: Excursion to Australia Zoo
 - July 12: GA meeting in the morning, closing ceremony at 16:00, farewell barbecue at UQ at night.
 - July 13: Departures.

12. Report on IOI-2014

Greg Lee presented a report on IOI-2014, to be held in Taiwan.

- The official website <http://www.ioi2014.org> has been registered.
- The tentative dates are July 13–20, 2014. This will avoid Ramadan completely, but there may be an unavoidable clash with the International Mathematics Olympiad, whose dates for 2014 are yet to be announced.
- The event will take place at the Taipei International Convention Centre (TICC). The original proposal to host the event in Taipei 101 had to be abandoned because it was not possible to confirm the availability of the venue sufficiently in advance. TICC is close to Taipei 101.
- The competitions will take place in two rooms in TICC which will together accommodate 330 workstations. The GA will meet in TICC in a room with a capacity of 200. In addition, two rooms with a capacity of 20 will be booked for IC and ISC/HSC meetings.
- The opening and closing ceremonies are tentatively planned for the TICC main auditorium that can seat 1200 at the lower level and 3000 in all.
- It is proposed to avoid having a separate room with dedicated computers for translations. Many leaders prefer to use their own laptops. The organizers will provide laptops on loan for leaders who do not bring their own laptops. The translation room will be set up with chairs and tables, power connections and food.
- Leaders, observers, VIPs and guests will stay at the Grand Hyatt Taipei, which is a 5 minute walk from TICC.
- Contestants and guides will stay in the Howard Plaza Hotel (two people in each twin room). This is 10 minutes by bus from TICC. It is also possible to take the MRT (metro) or walk.

Contestants will have access to sporting facilities (swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, gym) at the NTNU High School, a 5 minute walk from the Howard Plaza Hotel.

- On contest days, leaders will walk to the venue and contestants will travel by bus.
- Buses will be used for excursions. Local attractions such as the night market can be reached by MRT or by local buses.
- Taipei airport is connected by direct flights to major hubs in East Asia. There are also some direct flights from Europe, North America and Australia.

The bus ride from the airport to the city takes 50–90 minutes, depending on the traffic. The MRT link from the airport to the city is expected to be operational by the end of 2013.

- The event is mainly funded by the Ministry of Education and the National Science Council. In addition, several sponsors have been identified including Acer (Systems/PCs), Cisco (Network), China Telecom (Communications), Taipei City Government (Opening Ceremony) and Intel (Closing Ceremony). Additional sponsors are still being sought to cover food and excursions.
- The organization of IOI-2014 is being overseen by two main committees: the Organizing Committee and the Scientific Committee. Each of these has four subcommittees, each of which is headed by a Professor with some exposure to IOI.
- Guest charges are still to be fixed. The charges may have to take into account the higher cost of hotels. The organizers will collect statistics on the number of guests at previous IOIs before finalizing this.
- Guides are still to be arranged. The current plan is to recruit guides from a local high school.
- The weather in July is expected to be hot and humid. There is a possibility of typhoons, but bad weather is only likely to affect the excursions.

13. Report on IOI-2015

Bakhyt Matkarimov presented a report on IOI-2015, to be held in Kazakhstan.

- The current plan is to hold IOI-2015 in Astana, the new capital city of Kazakhstan.
- The current plan is to organize IOI activities in a hotel (GA meeting etc) and have the actual competition in the university.
- The event will take place in August, 2015, but end before August 15. There was a suggestion to hold IOI over 8 days, instead of 7 days, to permit a long excursion—for example, to Almaty. The IC expressed reservations about the feasibility of such a plan, especially in terms of the logistics involved, and strongly recommended avoiding any programme that involved shifting between the two cities.
- There was a proposal to have the competition days back to back. The IC expressed strong reservations about this and felt that it would be too stressful for leaders and contestants. It was agreed to adhere to a conventional schedule with a gap between competition days.
- A local excursion to Astana could be planned for the day between the two competition days. The excursion for the contestants after the second competition day could be to a national park. A different excursion could be planned for leaders. Details of the excursions could be discussed after the budget is finalized.
- There is no budget in place yet for IOI-2015. The IC expressed its concern over the lack of details regarding the budget.
 - The IC pointed out that even making a preliminary budget requires some early decisions, such as whether to buy or rent computers, decide on the type of accommodation, the venues of excursions etc.
 - Bakhyt Matkarimov promised to prepare a budget soon. The budget would be conservative and assume more expensive choices for the major items, keeping in mind that a budget cut was likely.
 - The International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) will be held in 2014 in Astana, Kazakhstan. (The venue has been changed at a late stage. The original venue was Slovenia.)
 - A joint budget may be prepared for IPhO-2014 and IOI-2015. The budget for IPhO is likely to be less than that for IOI, so the funding agencies will have to be sensitized to the different requirements for the two events.
- There was an extended discussion about the local organizational structure for IOI-2015.
 - Kazakhstan has a dedicated organization to handle all Olympiads, with a staff of about 100. Though the staff are very capable administratively, they have no IOI experience. Also, the number of staff with an adequate grasp of English is very limited.
 - IPhO-2014 will serve as a useful dry run for IOI-2015.

- As far as leading the IOI effort, only a small number of people—Bakhyt Matkarimov and the Deputy Leader—have any IOI experience. It is not always easy to ensure that the most appropriate people are assigned to positions of responsibility.
 - The ISC nominee for IOI-2015 is yet to be announced. Bakhyt Matkarimov said that he would most likely be the ISC nominee. The IC pointed out that in this case a different person needed to be nominated to the IC from IOI-2015, since one person cannot perform both roles.
It was agreed that the IC and ISC nominees would both be finalized before IOI-2013 and would participate in their respective roles at the meetings during IOI-2013.
If the new IC nominee is not sufficiently fluent in English, a junior assistant could accompany the IC member to assist with communication. However, it should be made clear that the IC member is the senior person in charge of making decisions and commitments.
 - There was also a long discussion about the composition of the HSC for IOI-2015. There appears to be a problem identifying enough suitable people within Kazakhstan for this role.
Bakhyt Matkarimov suggested that he would try to involve some external members from Russia for the IOI-2015 HSC. These people may also overlap with the HSC for IOI-2016 in Russia.
- Overall, the IC expressed its concern about the lack of clarity on a large number of issues concerning the organization of IOI-2015. The IC expects that these points should be sorted out and presented in much greater detail at the next meeting during IOI-2013.

14. Report on IOI-2016

Vladimir Kiryukhin could not attend the meeting so there was no report on IOI-2016.

15. Nomination of GA Chairman for IOI-2013

- Richard Forster reminded the organizers of IOI-2013 that the convention is for the host country to propose a Chairman for the GA who would be introduced to the IC and approved by them.
- The hosts are in the process of identifying a GA Chair from the Department of Mathematics of the University of Queensland. It was expected that the person should be named soon.

16. Awards and Trophies

- The DSA for 2012 was awarded to Prof Blagovest Sendov from Bulgaria, prompted by the proposal by Alexander Velkov of Chile to recognize Prof Sendov's efforts in establishing IOI through UNESCO. The award was announced during the Young Talent Conference organized in Milan during IOI-2012 and the actual trophy was handed over to Prof Sendov in a separate ceremony in Bulgaria after IOI-2012.
- In the current context, no new names for DSA have been suggested other than Arturo Cepeda and Jyrki Nummenmaa, whose names were discussed in 2012.
- In 2012, there was a plan to call for proposals within the IC to decide the Distinguished Service Award (DSA). Each proposal for an award should be accompanied by a short write-up about the individual justifying the award.
Though this plan did not translate into action in 2012, it was agreed that such call would be sent out this year by the Executive Director.
- Richard Forster reminded the IC that currently serving members on the IC and ISC were not eligible for the award. There have been precedents where award has been given posthumously.
- Regarding the trophy, it was agreed to continue with the practice of having the trophies made in Egypt, as in the past. If the name of the recipient was not available in advance, the hosts could make arrangements to have the name engraved locally.

17. Communication, including IOI Website, GA Newsletter

- There was a discussion on whether to revive the practice of producing IOI Newsletters to circulate to the GA between IOIs. The last such Newsletters had been produced during Richard Forster's term as Executive Director.

It was felt that compiling material for a Newsletter is difficult. On the other hand, if the IOI Wiki and website have regular updates, there is no real need for a Newsletter.

Mārtiņš Opmanis felt that it would still be useful to specifically prepare material to share with the GA in the months preceding each IOI. The IC, ISC and the hosts could each generate some content to be shared. For instance, the IC could report on some of its discussion while the ISC could discuss issues related to tasks, competition rules etc.

- Mārtiņš Opmanis made a presentation on the state of the IOI's Internet presence. At present, there are three main components to this presence and the challenge is to see how they can be combined most effectively into a single definitive resource for information about IOI online.
 - The official IOI website, <http://www.ioinformatics.org>, maintained at Waterloo, has long been out of date. Mārtiņš Opmanis has taken the basic content from Waterloo and updated it at <http://ioi.te.lv>.
 - Eduard Kalinichenko has set up a webpage at <http://ioi.eduardische.com> with statistics about participation and performance at IOI. Updates to this page are moderated by Eduard.
 - The IOI Workshop at Dagstuhl in 2010 resulted in an IOI Wiki, largely set up by Mathias Hiron and Wolfgang Pohl. Some sections of the Wiki are well populated, while others are not.
- In addition to these, there are other miscellaneous sites with information about IOI, including Wikipedia and the Russian site Snark News.
- There is a need to have a system in place to maintain and update these online resources that does not rely on a single individual. On the other hand, a completely volunteer-driven collaborative approach like the Wiki lacks direction.
- The IC could set up an Editorial Board. The Editorial Board would be responsible for keeping all material available online about IOI in a consistent and up-to-date state.
- The Editorial Board would solicit material from the community to be put up online. The exact technology to be used—website or wiki—could be decided by the Editorial Board.
- Mārtiņš Opmanis volunteered to be the IC representative on the Editorial Board. Mathias Hiron and Wolfgang Pohl could be consulted about naming a member to represent the IOI Wiki. The ISC could also be asked to nominate a member. It was suggested that the chair of the previous IOI could be an ex-officio member to remind the Board about deadlines etc.
- Troy Vasiga has requested that <http://www.ioinformatics.org> be moved out of Waterloo since he is unable to maintain it. One immediate suggestion is to point this URL at the updated website created by Mārtiņš Opmanis.

18. Budget

Richard Forster presented an update on the IOI budget, based on data received from Kim Schrijvers.

- The main income during this period was a sum of € 16,000.24 from registration fees. The odd amount is due to conversion from US\$ to €.
- A substantial amount, € 2,523.77, has been generated through bank interest.
- The main items of expenditure during this period have been bank charges (€ 43.39), IOI trophies (€ 700.00) and travel expenses for the Executive Director (€ 1130.13) and President (€ 1588.35).

19. New Countries

- Jordan, Tunisia and Uzbekistan will be new countries participating in IOI-2013.
- The IC approved the participation of Mozambique as an Observer at IOI-2013. Mozambique last participated in IOI-2002. They plan to hold a national contest in April 2013, with a second round in June 2013.
- It was suggested that when a country does not attend IOI in a given year, the Executive Director or the President should follow up and get a clarification as to why the country did not participate.

20. Potential Hosts

- During IOI-2012, a Letter of Intent was received from Iran to host IOI-2017.
- Bakhyt Matkarimov reported that Azerbaijan may also be interested in bidding for IOI-2017.
- Japan have expressed an informal interest in hosting IOI-2018.
- Bolivia have expressed an informal interest in hosting IOI-2020.

21. IOI workshop

- The aim is to hold a workshop related to IOI roughly once in two years.
- The last IOI workshop was held in 2010, which led to the creation of the IOI Wiki.
- Macedonia is interested in hosting a workshop in late August or early September, 2013.
- It was decided to set up a committee to identify a topic for the workshop and specify the deliverables. Some names suggested for the committee were Mathias Hiron (France), Wolfgang Pohl (Germany), Mile Jovanov (Macedonia) and Steven Halim (Singapore). Ideally, details about the workshop should be in place well before IOI-2013.

22. External awards during IOI closing ceremony

- The IC unanimously voted to disallow external awards for non-IOI events to be presented during the IOI closing ceremony.
- The host country may arrange for special awards related to the competition. However, the IC reiterated that there should be no ranking of performance by country.
- There was a discussion about reviving the IFIP medal to the youngest medallist at IOI. It was agreed that this could be done provided it did not include a presentation and speech about IFIP at the closing ceremony, which was of no relevance to IOI.

23. Guidelines for publication of results during and after IOI

- According to the regulations, the final published results should include the list of medallists with scores and the list of all contestants without scores.
- In practice, more detailed results survive online through the scoreboard etc and, at least internally, these statistics should not be lost.
- One solution is to stick to the regulations format at the surface but allow more detailed data to be found at a deeper level.
- Richard Forster and Mărtiņš Opmanis will formalize a procedure for publishing results, with a proposal for changes in the regulations, if needed.

24. Other business

- *Official representative of Chile at IOI*

The Chilean Computer Science Society (CCSS) had requested to be recognized as the official body in charge of selecting the Chilean team for IOI. The official IOI contact in Chile has been Alexander Velkov, a Bulgarian businessman with some business interests in Chile.

There was an extended email discussion between CCSS and the Executive Director regarding this issue, the details of which had been circulated to the IC prior to this meeting.

Based on the facts presented, the IC unanimously agreed to recognize CCSS as the official IOI contact in Chile.

It was also agreed that the Executive Director would write a brief note to Alexander Velkov informing him about this decision, and thanking him for his contributions.

- *Inappropriate behaviour by contestant*

The New Zealand delegation reported a complaint from their former guide from IOI-2011 in Thailand who received an inappropriate photograph from an IOI contestant (from another country). A majority of IC members felt that this was not a matter in which the IC should intervene and it was agreed that no formal action would be taken by the IC.

- *Finance Committee*

The IC has traditionally had a Finance Committee empowered to make quick decisions regarding financial matters in exceptional situations, without referring the issue back to the IC. It was agreed that this Committee is no longer relevant. In the modern context, such decisions could be taken in a timely manner after an email discussion involving the entire IC.

- *Treasurer*

IOI funds are now held in a bank account in the name of the IOI Foundation in the Netherlands. The people authorized to operate this bank account are the Trustees of the Foundation: Richard Forster, Kim Schrijvers and Wolfgang Pohl.

Kim Schrijvers has informally taken over the role of Treasurer from Wolfgang Pohl after the IOI account moved from Germany to the Netherlands.

The position of Treasurer is not formally recognized in the IOI regulations. The IC agreed that the regulations should be updated to include the role of the Treasurer. The Treasurer should be invited to attend IC meetings during IOI and should present the budget to the GA.

Since the Treasurer will need to operate the bank account, it is simpler to restrict the choice of Treasurer to one of the Trustees of the Foundation.

- *Use of flags*

Traditionally, the use of flags and national symbols, other than those of the host country, has been prohibited at IOI to avoid political controversies.

A vote was taken in the GA during IOI-2012 in which the count was 30–10 in favour of allowing the use of flags.

The IC debated the issue and voted to stick to the existing regulations prohibiting the use of flags and national symbols.

- *Minimum standards for host country arrangements*

At IOI-2012, China submitted a proposal to set minimum standards for accommodation and food arrangements at IOI. The IC felt that it would be difficult to codify the requirements in a formal document. However, the IC would continue to be responsible for ensuring that the facilities at each IOI are adequate.

- *Major sponsors*

Mārtiņš Opmanis asked about the possibility of approaching major international sponsors for IOI. Richard Forster explained that many attempts were made to identify such sponsors during the period 2002–2006 without success. However, any IC member with suitable contacts was encouraged to follow up on this possibility.

- *University recognition for IOI*

The University of Waterloo has a scheme to admit IOI medallists directly into their undergraduate programmes. There is no compilation currently available about incentives for IOI participants at other universities around the world. To compile such a list, one could approach delegation leaders at IOI to provide information about schemes in their respective countries.