

## International Committee

### Minutes of the Meetings held in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Feb 26 - March 2 2015

Present:

Krassimir Manev	President	<a href="mailto:krmanev@gmail.com">krmanev@gmail.com</a>	Bulgaria	2014-2017
Greg Lee	Host 2014	<a href="mailto:leeg@csie.ntnu.edu.tw">leeg@csie.ntnu.edu.tw</a>	Taiwan	2010-2015
Bakhyt Matkarimov	Host 2015	<a href="mailto:bakhyt.matkarimov@gmail.com">bakhyt.matkarimov@gmail.com</a>	Kazakhstan	2011–2016
Vladimir Kiryukhin	Host 2016	<a href="mailto:vkiryukhin@nmg.ru">vkiryukhin@nmg.ru</a>	Russia	2012–2017
Mohammad Ali Abam	Host 2017	<a href="mailto:abam@sharif.edu">abam@sharif.edu</a>	Iran	2013–2018
Seiichi Tani	Host 2018	<a href="mailto:tani.seiichi@nihon-u.ac.jp">tani.seiichi@nihon-u.ac.jp</a>	Japan	2014-2019
Valentina Dagiene	Elected	<a href="mailto:valentina.dagiene@mii.vu.lt">valentina.dagiene@mii.vu.lt</a>	Lithuania	2012–2015
Mārtiņš Opmanis	Elected	<a href="mailto:Martins.Opmanis@lumii.lv">Martins.Opmanis@lumii.lv</a>	Latvia	2012–2015
Ricardo Anido	Elected	<a href="mailto:ranido@ic.unicamp.br">ranido@ic.unicamp.br</a>	Brazil	2013–2016
Eslam Wageed	Elected	<a href="mailto:eslamwageed@gmail.com">eslamwageed@gmail.com</a>	Egypt	2013–2016
Ben Burton	Elected	<a href="mailto:bab@debian.org">bab@debian.org</a>	Australia	2014–2017
Margot Phillipps	Exec. Director	<a href="mailto:margot.phillipps@gmail.com">margot.phillipps@gmail.com</a>	New Zealand	2014-2017 Non-voting
Eljakim Schrijvers	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:eschrijvers@eljakim.nl">eschrijvers@eljakim.nl</a>	The Netherlands	Non-voting

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#### 1. Welcome

Krassimir Manev welcomed the committee to the meeting and expressed his hope that the IOI can be a beacon for the rest of the world, given its current state of unrest.

Bakhyt Matkarimov welcomed the committee to Kazakhstan

#### 2. Apologies – none

#### 3. Presentation and Confirmation of Agenda (missed from agenda)

Martins proposed the item on Regulations (Other business) be generalised

#### 4. Confirmation of Minutes (IC meeting, 13-20 July, 2014)

Approved (10 in favour, 1 abstention)

#### 5. Matters arising

Krassimir: all matters arising are covered by this agenda

#### 6. Report by President

- The newsletter has restarted and his first words in it encouraging the community to explore ways of increasing Informatics Education in the world were emphasized. IOI has role as community to help governments with ideas for organising education in Informatics and in teacher education. The workshop is a vehicle for this.
- The IC meetings should be productive and thus discussions prior to IC meetings on topics is encouraged. Non IC members may be included in such preliminary discussions.

- IC and ISC relations – decisions by ISC are not discussed with GA and IC. Cooperation is essential
- Krassimir has proposals for the structure of the IC.

#### **Discussion**

- Some preliminary vision of what the IC wants should be articulated and a smaller meeting could be arranged to achieve this.

#### **7. Report by Executive Director**

- Getting Started: Documents were handed over from Madhavan Mukund via an account on Google Drive. Advice was also sought from Wolfgang Pohl and Richard Forster (previous Executive Directors). It is recommended that incoming EDs (and new IC members) should be invited to the last session of an IC at the time of the IOI
- Standard Business (Participation data, approving expenditure, email)
- Communication: Newsletter and liaison with Mile Jovanov regarding the workshop
- New Countries: Details discussed in item 21 of the agenda
- IOI 2015 – Requests for monthly reports, visa issues
- IOI 2017 – Confirmed as host
- IOI 2018 – IC representative Seiichi Tani

#### **Discussion**

- Whether the Regulations should explicitly require a meeting which welcomes new members and farewells members leaving IC and ISC.
- The past ED should prepare the minutes from their last meeting, and should be circulated within 30 days

#### **8. Conference and Journal Report (Valentina Dagienė)**

- Statistics on past journals (the number of papers, presentations and pages) were presented. In general about 2/3 of the contents are good research (meaning 9-10 pages), with the rest being country reports, review of books, algorithms and task solutions (harder to get)
- Indexed in CEEOL, EBSCO, Cabell's publishing, ERA, INSPEC, SCOPUS (vol7, still not on for vol 8). The journal could get on to more databases if the IC wants it
- The journal is a balance between quality and this community
- For 2015 there are:
  - 10 research papers and the end of March is the deadline for full papers.
  - 3 country reports
  - 1 book review
 The conference will be 9am to 1pm on the first competition day (short and long presentations) and the second day may be a special session on teaching Informatics or an invited speaker or a discussion
- Volume 9: IC and ISC are asked to promote the journal and it is suggested to expand the editorial board (Michal Forišek and Martin Mareš have agreed to serve) . Valentina provided copy of what page looks like explaining Editor-in-Chief
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#### **Discussion**

- Speakers' summaries from the workshop could be included. (up to 20 countries overviews)
- Invited speakers : a local or someone from ICPC

- Requirements 2015: hall for 100, projector, student questions must be able to be asked, conference announcement (poster), information on the IOI website, certificates for presenters to be provided by Bakhyt (names will be known in June)
- How best to handle clarifications if people don't attend the conference – Ben offered to consult with the ISC
- Acceptance rate about 50%
- Journal not accepted in academic circles as prestigious and the Competitive Programming community is small and specific. Possibly change the title to “Competitive Programming”
- Open access policy - the journal has always made all content freely available without charge to user or their institution, but claims copyright over the papers. Aim to expand this to an author-held copyright model, which would give authors greater rights over subsequent use of their own work. One possible model involves giving the journal a simple license to publish; an alternative would use a well-known license such as Creative Commons with Attribution. Regardless, authors would need to sign an appropriate agreement, which is not done currently.
- Reviewing – more people, and possibly a second executive editor needed
- K. Manev to form a proposal for discussion online and at the July meeting

## 9. Communication (Mārtiņš Opmanis)

1. **ioinformatics.org** – about 200 visits per day. Growing from 150 per day 2014. The main issue is still content. Would like more than eg: Croatian (stable/regular) competition, minutes, UW scholarship, call for tasks, newsletters and extraordinary events such as In Memoriam

Information from ED, Mail list, current IOI website, other (new books, new contests...)

There should be some agreement or procedure how/when/why/whether information appears on webpage?

2. **Stats.ioinformatics.org**

Everyday work - validating and approving or rejecting requests such as photo changes, social network links etc.)

Completed information now (with Eduards Kalinichenko) – medallists and all participants since 2004 and complete from 29 (out of 99) countries. Incomplete: 1990 non medallist participants, and also for 1993,5,7,8,9,2001,2,3 (Team leaders, observers, visitors/guests)

IOI – history: Any single piece of info may be valuable – eg: photos from 2001 found on old Lithuanian site. From the photos they could ask the country “who were they?”

Keeping IOI history - Lots of documents are distributed during IOIs– are they kept in any form? Eg: Translation night 2014 diagram, old Nomination forms, letters. People's roles should be explicit with IOIn appended as it applies at time of IOI

Further activities – eg: linking authors of papers to their pages in statistics

Competition Materials – storage perhaps best discussed with ISC. He would like from the host countries: task descriptions, test data, MS Word version of all IOI tasks, all versions of a particular task description

## Discussion

- No formal permission is sought from registrants that their names and IOI photos maybe used on this site. Eljakim Schrijvers will include a permission form on the registration system with an option to upload permission forms for team leaders, with responsibility falling on team

leaders to check that they have met the privacy laws of their country. There will be a checkbox per student – if not checked then Martins will not receive the photo. However it still needs to be stored for later comparison in case of later (or possibly bogus) requests to update a photo.

- The registration system can be used to send a message to team leaders of countries with missing stats information
- Host country should provide model solutions (can publish in journal). Ask HSC to make someone responsible for collecting/collating rather than trying to regulate. Tasks are not provided in MS Word originally
- IMO wiki gives graphs. Martins – such diagrams can be added.
- Countries which are no longer members should appear as “former members” and Observers should show as a country
- Past host websites – store in cloud before universities close them
- Use of Facebook. Eslam Wageed to make a proposal

#### **10. Offsite contest (Discussion document had been pre-circulated)**

GA minutes July 2014: ***IC directed to establish rules to enable participation in upcoming IOIs for countries that do not have diplomatic relations with the host country***

##### **Possible Solution**

Country C asks 1 year before, IC/ISC choose a rep to assist with an off-site contest. Expenses covered by C. Off-site contest is held in C at the same time. A delay is possible but contestants must be quarantined. Results in the official contest will not depend on the off-site results. The IOI issues certificates which recognise where the students results would have fallen, if they had been able to attend. Hardware and grading server must be in C. With the right technical oversight (CMS or similar copy) the system can be sufficiently similar that ISC will be happy to approve that valid contest.

##### **Discussion:**

- What if > 1 C? Ries Kock willing to proctor C in C bit also willing to look at hosting in Netherlands if >1 C
- GA must approve in each case. Request should be 1.5 years out so IC can filter requests
- Future host selection should be ratified by GA (Regs 3.1) and it should be an ISC appointee who oversees the competition in country C
- Where the individual members of the IC disagree with the IC recommendation, the expression should be clearly expressed as personal.

##### **Alternative Possible Solutions:**

1. Such a team in these circumstances may go the following year and have 2 official teams.
2. If country C cannot participate in IOI'n due to absence of diplomatic relations with IOI'n host country, it may send extended team of up to six contestants instead four for IOI'n-1 and IOI'n+1 obeying all other IOI rules. Country C officially must apply for this before IC meeting prior to IOI'n-1 (i.e. approximately 1.5 years before event it can't attend). Decision will be taken by IC at meeting prior to IOI'n-1

#### **11. IOI 2014 report (Greg Lee)**

Details and Statistics presented: Content, Schedule, 90 mins opening ceremony, closing 2 hours , conference schedule, accommodations, special dinners for leaders, students had farewell party and night market theme at campus, guest and everybody excursions on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Stats – 81 official countries, 2 observing, 10 IC, 7ISC, 1ED, 311 contestants, 158 leaders, 75 guests, 3 invited guests, 115 volunteers and 75 professors part time staff (grad students)

83 countries registered (Kuwait withdrew July 3, Albania had no funds, Venezuela sent one student alone, Mexico acted as leader for him). 73 countries had 4 contestants, 5 had 3, 1 had 2 and 2 had 1. 3 top winners, 32 gold, 51 silver, 69 bronze

485 acer laptops, 20 AIO in internet room, 9 servers, 205 tablets, 32 switches (Cisco), TICC and Hyatt 100+Mbps, 15 printers (Canon), 1 UPS - all provided by corporate sponsors.

Software – Registration, CMS, new task translation, new apps for tablets (IOI 2014 newsletters, scoreboard) people counting (RFID on name tags for bus boarding) and an app for Lanyang museum guide for students to put on smart phones

Medical: 1 student had a respiratory problem, accompanied by father. 1 sugar allergic, many with egg allergy

Incidents – had nurses available 24/7. Some stomach aches, allergy etc. Room key loss – hotel started charging \$10. One room damaged and contestant agreed to pay

Innovations that went well – tablets and apps, RFID for bus loading, venue in city = \$0 travel, started contest on time, made an effort for students to mix

To improve – landing visa application, translation system (language specific issues), better utilization of tablets, closer hotels

Budget: Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science and Technology \$US1100K, free entrance to many sites visited, Guest fees \$US111K plus Corporate sponsorship which covered the contest system (ACER), volunteer training accommodation, local teacher conference, special meals (ACER last dinner) and activities and \$US15K (included Chunghwa Telecom, Cisco and Intel (Taiwan) , Schneider Electric and EasyCard)

Total about US\$1.2 million (broken down into hotel (\$424K), food (\$174K), contest hall and rooms (\$127K), transport (\$77K), Excursions (\$33K), Giveaways (\$80K), Press and Communications (\$30K), Staff and Travel (\$126K), Miscellaneous \$30K) . Budget total was \$US1101K

Had 4 full time staff – 2 in first 2 years and then 4 for last 2 years.

Steering committee oversaw the planning office which oversaw the HOC (Subcommittees: secretarial, hospitality, activity, publicity) and HSC (subcommittees: Task Creation, Task Solution, System, Contest environment)

Recommendations for future hosts: Send organising team to learn at IOI, decide on a system spec early and start testing. Minimise bus waiting

Hard decisions – hotel or university accommodation, Volunteers high school or university (advertised nationally and 1000 applied for 100 places), Quarantine procedures (phones) may have 2 phones. And don't want responsibility of them

Have capable trusted team leaders within host organisation to attend to issues arising during IOI – make decision and go with it.

## Discussion

- Accommodation: Greg recommended have 2 hotels but close with an IOI office in each. (2 fulltime staff in student hotel constantly that didn't go on excursions)
- Future hosts: useful to sit in on IC and see past budgets and planning

## 12. IOI 2016 (Vladimir Kiryuhkin)

Site: 2 variants

1. Innopolis 35km from Kazan, a new town currently being built. Dormitories are now constructed. Pictures shown of the translation room, lecture theatre, meeting room. The upper floors are finished, of the dormitory rooms with a kitchen. 4 campus buildings
2. University games venue in Kazan – an Olympic village. Has security, big sports hall for competition, modern.

The government favours Innopolis as it is to be an IT city, 30 – 40 mins from Kazan. Kazan has an international airport and a modern railway. Innopolis University has 200 places on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the main building for the contest, meeting rooms for the GA, IC, translation and ISC. There are 4 hostel buildings, each housing 200-300 people, with rooms for 2, 3 and 5 people and each has its own dining facilities. VIPs and guests may stay at a resort

Website: in development. Main pages are ready but need translating to English

Logo: not finalised

Excursions – Bolgar and Sviyazhsk

Plans for 2015: logo completed, website development and its informational and technical support, Russian Host Scientific committee to develop the evaluation system, problems, solutions and variants, quizzes, equipment and purchasing technical and scientific service.

Plans for 2016: Brand book developed and approved, recruit volunteers and train, airport transfers, media and newsletters, Feb (to April) 2016 IC and ISC meeting, opening and closing ceremonies

### Discussion

- Dates: – approx. end of July to the start of August (Sunday to Sunday)
- IC and ISC will meet at the same time in February (Feb to April and although Feb better there's still snow )
- ISC rep on Host organisation: Pavel has links to technical, HSc and ISC and will work with Andrei on tasks. The Organising committee will run the national contest in April 2016 to ensure the infrastructure will work.
- General discussion about dates. August is preferable but if hosts are dependent on when facilities are free then they must decide.
- Russia will use its own contest system (Yandex, which uses cloud technologies) and used in 40 regions. There is a plan to translate its interface to English. There was a discussion about the rationale of having a consistent experience between IOIs and to build experience in a single system. The compromise was that Yandex can be made to have the same interface as CMS for the students.

## 13. IOI 2017 (Mohammad Ali Abam)

Budget of \$1m has been accepted by the government – based on students in hostel, leader in hotels.

A Steering committee has been established – the chair is the Minister of Education, there are 5 ministerial deputies, 5 members of national committee, current and former presidents of YSC (runs all Olympiads in Iran)

Using CMS in training, Videoed all 2014, (developing [www.opedia.ir](http://www.opedia.ir) –a wiki for national olympiads)

Chair of HTC: Dr Hamid Zarrabi Zadeh – Sharif Uni, Iran team leader 2014, on ISC

Co - Chairs HSC: Ali Sharifi and Dr Mohammad Mahadian (ex-medallists) and are working on checklists of what to prepare.

The last steering committee meeting was in the presence of the minister.

Dates: July 2017, all costs paid by government. All attendees will most likely be hosted in a 5 star hotel. The host organising committee will involve high ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign affairs, the Ministry of Communications and IT, Tehran municipality and Tourism Ministry.

#### **Discussion**

- Involve the Ministry of the Interior early to ensure both security and freedom to move around.
- Mohammad – there will be one representative on ITC and one on ISC

#### **14. IOI 2018 (Seiichi Tani)**

Government will support IOI 2018 with about half the costs. There is a solid organising committee. The chair, Mr Furukawa, may get sponsors as he is chair NEDO, and HSc and HTC.

Location: Makuhari has comprehensive convention facilities and hotels, but it will change to Tsukuba 45 mins N by train from Tokyo. From Narita 100 mins by bus but there will be a new highway by then which will cut 16 to 17 mins from the journey. The Ibaraki prefecture government decided to support the IOI as it's a science city (robotics centre) and the venue is appropriate – leaders, and conference 3 buildings all close. Will host IOI 2015 ICPC regional. Size, power etc. all suitable

The International Congress centre has a convention hall for the opening and closing ceremonies, there are conference rooms for the GA and meeting rooms and translation hall and restaurants. It is confirmed that night use is possible. It is a 5 min to walk to that building from the leaders' accommodation.

The students' accommodation is yet to be determined

Future tasks: Early September the schedule will be developed, and plans for the network, meals, volunteers, and excursions will be planned (Possible excursions include scientific site such as JAXA, historical eg: Nikko, beach or pool, centre of popular culture (Akihabara) )

(No discussion)

#### **15. Workshops (Krassimir Manev)**

**Dates:** April 19, 4 days or workshop and depart April 24

**Topic:** Creating an International Informatics Curriculum for Primary and High School Education. It may extend to upskilling teachers.

**Budget and participants:** Mile provided an email with an initial list of participants and his suggestion for travel reimbursement. (Budget was 10,000 Euros and the proposal is less than 8000 Euros)

The IC should approve the budget

#### **Discussion**

- Expected outputs and outcomes for the IOI Community? 16 – 17 countries will report on their informatics education, then collate their thoughts on curriculum and possibly give it to UN. The outcomes should be published, with some papers in the Journal. (Country reports tend to be on their Olympiads)
- Several members reported that teachers trained have an obligation to train others. But often teachers trained are not able to manage the content.

- Rationale for the budget should be sought from Mile Jovanov before the IC approves. (Participants receive partial funding but this should be transparent)
- Publication of Outcomes should be clarified (possibly a report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference day)
- K. Manev to consult with M. Jovanov and he will communicate answers to the IC and ask for a vote

## 16. Future Workshop Oversight (Margot Phillipps)

The 2015 workshop duplicates much of the work of a 2006 Workshop working group. The IC should ensure that future proposals add to the community and that past work is not lost.

### Discussion

- 2010 Workshop explicitly worked on visualisation of the contest as an active attempt to bring the community into workshop activities. It involved the people involved in software development, popularisation, and the future direction of tasks and the syllabus. Ben would like to see future workshops be about developing the IOI
- In 2006 and 2010 (Dagstuhl) the accommodation was potentially paid for by the German government and many travel costs were met by the participants themselves. For future workshops, this model is attractive.
- Future organisers should give greater detail prior to budget approval

## 17. Private reports

Note: This item was discussed online by the IC prior to the meeting. This item ratifies the conclusion.

All documents "produced by the IC" are public. "Produced by the IC" means a document discussed and approved by the IC as a body, such as minutes of the meetings, and any document the IC decides to produce. It does not include emails discussions. \* Working documents are not public; in special, the writer of a document may ask the IC not to make the document public.

ITWG to facilitate a secure repository of such documents

In favour 10, against 0, abstentions 0

## 18. Budget (Eljakim Schrijvers)

Income: Interest on Savings and Registration (17905.81 Euro)

Expenses: Bank Charges (81.00), the travel cost for a presenter at IOI14 (1000.00), website domain renewal (75.00), the Executive Director's travel expenses (2400.00), pins (649.77) and trophies (1165.09) (Total: 5370.86 Euro)

Assets: Bank Accounts (116614.24 Euro)

## 19. New country

Note: This item was discussed online by the IC prior to the meeting. This item ratifies the conclusion.

Lebanon approved as new country, meeting the requirements of the regulations

In favour 10, against 0, abstentions 0

**20. Acer** as a sponsor (Maarten Schellekens, VP Global Marketing and Branding, ACER – introduced by Greg Lee). (Martin Mareš joined the meeting)

Overview of ACER – established 1976, 7700+ employees, US\$10 billion revenue, established Taiwan as a prime PC manufacturing country. Acer is agile because of the small number of employees



making them no 4 in the PC industry Worldwide and they have won many awards in the last 2 years for design and innovation.

Overview of IOI 2014: ACER was a platinum sponsor, received favourable feedback for the infrastructure and the first use of tablets at an IOI. Their status as a platinum sponsor was recognised in the website, promotional material in backpacks and newsletters, banners and acknowledgement at the closing ceremony.

Proposal for 2016 – 2020 Title Sponsorship: 5 year, with an option for longer. There is a natural fit between the IOI and Acer's brand values "Curious, Progressive, Human". Win-win as the IOI stimulates young talent's interest in Informatics and Acer helps people explore beyond the limits with innovative technology.

Acers support: Will give tangible benefits such as hardware (including UPS, servers, routers and broadband) and Intangible benefits such as IOI brand awareness, access to a global network, tech support, marketing and PR (eg: In the future develop a young talent program)

Marketing Partnership: IOI exposure will be through the Acer Marketing machine: includes a dedicated website page, PR, will refer to IOI on social media at time of IOI, will promote the IOI at its global events,( has 11.3 million Facebook followers, and large numbers on other social media channels) offer internships to winners, local offices will support local IOI teams, devote a CRM newsletter, help professionalise our website with professional designers. ACER has 15million visits to its website per month, and sends 170 million emails to 20 M active users across 55 countries in 28 languages

ACER exposure at the IOI: Mention ACER in IOI logo (requires more discussion, possibly side by side). Mention Acer in our PR, display ACER logo or mention ACER in venues, official pics, live video. ACER will provide backpacks, Tee shirts, banners. ACER should be on the IOI website, visible on badges, and a product booth at the IOI. Acer brand could be incorporated into the name and logo of the IOI competition. (IOI logos annually are inconsistent and thus brand recognition isn't possible – need for consistency)

More options for potential cooperation: build the world's biggest youth informaticians network – workshops, seminars etc. Acer could help with a Youth centric innovation program

#### **Discussion:**

- Kazakhstan would not be subject to the sponsorship due to timing but ACER is willing to support as the first step in the relationship.
- How long for negotiation of a contract? July after GA vote, but can start earlier and support IOI 2015
- Who would ACER not entertain as say gold sponsors? About 12 to 13 companies such as Lenovo who are direct competitors
- Would local sponsors be limited? (For example, Apple may sponsor travel and their logo would be on the tee shirts of some students) ACER would honour any existing relationships but new should not be ACER's competitors
- Logo/Logos: The national IOI logo is seen as important and government backers of an IOI may not allow ACER in the IOI logo. ACER would respect local laws and this can be incorporated into the contract. Side-by-side logos may be more acceptable
- Shipping: ACER would take full responsibility for the set up and used equipment would go to their foundation for good causes. Local vendors may be used for networking gear if its an issue
- IOI major cost is food and accommodation, 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest is technical set up: So country may look for big sponsor for food and accommodation. ACER would leave room for such a bigger

sponsor in the contract as they want to keep it related to ACER's core business. "This event is powered by ACER"

- Future host 2019 may be committed without knowing of the agreement. (2020 host will know) The community should be alerted
- 2018: Fujitsu and Hitachi have promised to support and Fujitsu have been a local sponsor for 10 years. ACER would see this as a conflict whilst they produce laptops
- 2016: If the government purchased hardware it would then distribute it among schools after the event. So there may be conditions on sponsorship of hardware. Would like to discuss with the local ACER representative
- ACER wishes to "power the IOI" and commit for a long time. But if it's too hard, then there is no need to progress the offer. There are hurdles but this is a wonderful opportunity and may enable new countries to host
- Greg Lee, Krassimir Manev and Eljakim Schriwers will form a working group and others, especially future hosts are asked to send their comments by the end of March.

## **21. Better Communications between the IC and the ISC (ISC and ITWG joined the meeting)**

### **21a. ITC Report: (Martin Mareš)**

ITC set up as an experiment and not much has been done yet but any work so far has been conducted by email. They are helping the hosts introduce Java. Improving infrastructure behind scenes such as secure repository for ISC documents.

The ioiinformatics.org domain name needs renewing in Sept 2015 (Troy Vasiga owns)

Websites are not good at preserving history (have already lost old contest sites ) so there is a need to capture test data and task descriptions and archive them on the main website.

#### **Discussion**

- Draft regulations in July for existence of ITC
- K. Manev to contact Troy with regard to transferring ownership to the Foundation
- Martin **Mareš** and Mārtiņš Opmanis to work together to retrieve what they can and to ensure if future, this information is captured immediately post IOI
- Contest submissions: should they be public also? They are owned by the student so it cannot be a default to make this public, although in some countries this is currently the case. It opens up the possibility of questioning results. And people may complain about incomplete test data, rather than wrong. If submissions are seen as a research resource there are other such repositories of code.

### **21b. ISC report (Michal Forišek)**

Increase quantity and quality of communications between IC and ISC. The February meeting is the best opportunity as the IOI is too busy.

At this meeting the ISC has spent 1.5 days on task selection and are confident of the quality.

#### **Other Issues**

1. If solution write-ups are required, then the regulations need to state this
2. If it is decided there should be an off-site contest in IOI 2017, then the hosts must send ISC the test data, the IOI representative present needs technical skills, and as long as it is in the same time zone, clarifications can be managed.

3. Translation clarifications: Translation could be submitted optionally with a phone number to call if the leaders need sleep. If no response from the phone call, then student told "Sorry"

4. Java technical issues (threads get started and rules used to say no threads so changed rules) and ISC confident can solve I/O in Java and time limits issue. Decided on only using one specific version

5. Full feedback has been controversial (and since 2010 release tokens, sub tasks etc.) This has been re-evaluated each year but that has not been communicated well. ISC un-did some changes such as release tokens. The ISC believe contests are better with full feedback. They do see risks such as in Australia, but any mistake in test data, reactive libraries incorrect etc. does increase risk. But.... full feedback makes debugging easier and makes a better competition. It awards points for ideas rather than subtracting points for mistakes. Students will see an aggregate (eg: of 17 test cases, 10 are correct, 5 are wrong, 2 timed out) and don't know which failed. The number of submissions can be restricted to say 20 to stop students trying to milk the system for information. Full feedback is considered friendlier for females.

6. CMS vs Yandex contest system: ISC don't see security or feasibility issues as host in IOI2016 has experience. However, one concern is that Yandex uses cloud testing and we have no guarantee that machines will have the same reliability around time measurement. So Martin Mareš has been appointed to report on this. If satisfactory, Yandex will be acceptable.

7. Backup tasks: ISC thinks it is useful to put effort into backup tasks and keep them. Unused Tasks returned to authors, but ask if they'd be kind enough to consider for next year

8. Breaking ties by time: Requiring an outright winner is not captured by our regulations. When task setting attention is paid to avoiding too many ties at medal boundaries. Trying to ensure an absolute winner may be at the expense of the other goal. So there is a suggestion to use submission times to break ties at the top. The ISC is not in favour as it is contrary to the mission of the IOI and encouragement. Similarly the total running time may cause students to waste time on crazy optimisations. Prepared to re-discuss.

9. Dealing with errors during the contest and does it necessitate regulation changes?

(a) What to do and (b) who is responsible?

The GA members have a natural bias which would find a solution which favoured their country. The ISC proposes that the HSC makes final verdicts as they feel that while, they are willing to do it, it is inappropriate for the ISC to recommend itself as the final authority. Appeals should be evaluated by the HSC and the GA informed but not able to evaluate. If there was a 2/3 majority in GA then they could vote to reject results if there was a fundamental error.

## Discussion

- Bakhyt Matkarimov offered to send submissions to Yandex as well as CMS at IOI 2015 to see if the submission times are the same. Some warnings were given as it may increase workload of the HSC and is unlikely to provide a real backup. Although task authors are invited to join HSC they tend to be busy helping during an IOI. It may be possible to experiment with IOI 2014 submissions.
- We are starting to see lesser emphasis on a question idea being totally unique. If the task idea has been used x years in past, this not necessarily a reason to reject. (Although the task author still asked to say its original.
- Competition rules are on the website (Margot – put in newsletter)
- Cancelling a day after points have been awarded should not be possible except in the case of natural disaster.

- In 2013 it was the GA decided and that meant there was no sense of improper action by the HSC. The ISC should be the impartial body. But the ISC proposes the solution and so shouldn't have the power to decide.
- Subtasks and full feedback remove the ability to re-grade or correct mistakes. Last year 2 part marks were combined. This practice needs to be stated or in the regulations. ISC responded: changes are always made for good reasons. At the moment full feedback doesn't, for example, reveal corner cases. There is no pattern and last year A and B submissions were added because the student was given incorrect feedback on A. However there was still an argument that there was no hard evidence to support the assumption that the candidate could solve both.

**22. IOI 2015 – This item was revisited several times and discussion occurred at each point. Thus this item is an amalgamation of discussions.**

**Registration** : invitation letters – sent March 2. Uzbekistan is still eligible and Bakhyt Matkarimov will take care of inviting them.

March – April invitation system open and Eljakim Schrijvers has provided the list of countries, updates forms

Registrations close May 15 (as 2 months are required for visa-sensitive countries and to avoid penalties with hotel cancellations) but can be extended to June 15. System may need to generate more than the usual 6 invitation letters with names. Guests must be registered by May 15 though. Guests may be asked if they are going on the excursions and whether they will help with translation. (ie: adjunct rather than guest)

**Arrivals**

Landing visas will be provided for teams without a consulate or free entry and instructions about payments on landing should be sent. They need to be timely. Subsequent registration can be organised by the university for students and by hotels for the adults.

Early arrivals – Students may stay in the hostels for free but hotels for leaders is more problematic as, for example, breakfast comes with full day. Half days are not usual. The NU hotel on the university may be a possibility.

**Misplaced luggage** – will be delivered

**Visitor fee: 1500USD**

**Busses:** Students will walk except for excursion days (mountains) and the arrival and departure days. Guides will be responsible. For Leaders there will be shuttle buses but the walk is 15 mins and shuttle will be 20 to 30 minutes as it's a busy street.

**Translation night:** Buses will run all night and should run either every 15 minutes or until full. There needs to be an information station to help anyone who has missed the last bus. Internet, printers etc. make it impossible to have translation at the leaders' hotel and would require leaders all had their own laptops connected to the translation system.

The printed version and the pdfs need to be signed off as matching by leaders.

**IOI Offices for Information and Medical Personnel:** needed at all accommodation venues

**Earthquake prone:** Written instructions on evacuation will be provided for all venues and for leaders to read to students and should be posted on site. If at contest time, signal agreed for evacuation.

**Internet access:** Leaders will have wireless at the campus and the hotel but not outside buildings. At the university it is password protected and students will see the leaders' network name. This will be solved by changing the password on translation nights.  
Current hotel would need increased bandwidth for leaders.

### **Venues**

**Contest Hall/ Room(s)** (Ballroom versus library and Reading Room )

Ballroom hot and sunlight and power not checked. (15 to 20 Kilowatts needed). But they can build a new and autonomous infrastructure there. If this is the contest hall, then they could use the reading room for translation and the Lecture theatre off it for the GA

Library and Reading Room – infrastructure set already and may be problems. Air a problem (will be hot) and number of entry points limited. Bakhyt Matkarimov to investigate the air conditioning and see how their switches integrate with his switches

A plan is requested to show whether sufficient tables for students and spares can fit within the geometry of the ball room, allowing for safety exits and passage by volunteers.

### **GA Meetings / Conference**

Al Farabi library or Lecture theatre if contest in ballroom – less walking in total. Newer and isolation is guaranteed by body guards. Coffee break at floor 2 - 3 if ballroom isolated. (Although noise may filter from the lecture theatre to the contest floor)

Alternative is the Dzholdasbekov palace which is larger and may be required if the number of conference participants is increased by inviting local teachers. However it doesn't have internet

### **Student hostels (9 floors)**

Other possibilities than the hostel shown were discussed but discounted as inappropriate accommodation standards. At the proposed hostel there is a need to reduce the number of students per floor in order to ensure all students can shower at a reasonable time on contest days. As the toilets and bathrooms are distant from each other, it is difficult for Muslim students. But because of quarantine they cannot stay elsewhere. It is possible they can organise more showers to be built per floor in spare rooms.

The food for students is provided on campus. Lunch boxes OK excursions. However there may not be sufficient seating for all students and leaders in the cafeterias at lunch time. Other cafes on the campus will be investigated.

### **Leaders' accommodation:**

No final solution. Breakfast will be at hotel, lunch at campus, lunch boxes for excursions, dinners vary.

**Volunteers:** Will stay at home being decision makers. Guides will be given written instructions and FAQ will be prepared for them. There will be layers of responsibility among the guides. Needs to be volunteers at the hostels to make the students are up, especially on contest days.

### **Host Organising Team**

Daryn, Al-Farabi Kazakh state university, volunteers on the HSC and Host Technical committee, Zhautkyov Republican specialised Physics-Mathematics school for Gifted Students, former contestants.

**Paperless contest:** Avoids volunteers' mistakes giving the wrong paper. Will disable printers during the contest.

## **Monthly Report:** Still required

(A vote was taken as to whether the trip to the Mountains should take place or whether the IOI 2015 discussion should be continued. Despite a vote against going, the trip went ahead as the hosts were keen that this should proceed. A small number of the IC stayed behind and worked on a checklist of tasks for organising an IOI)

### **23. Potential hosts**

Bolivia and Croatia: 2020 or later. Croatia needs 5 years which is a violation of the rules. They will be informed that the regulations must apply in the interests of fairness.

K Manev has asked Ramin if Azerbaijan would like to host in 2019.

### **24. New countries**

**Puerto Rico:** Does not qualify as a country without a regulation change. Solution was that US team leader (Brian Dean) was happy to have PR students participate in their selection contests and so Marko Schutz of PR and Brian Dean were put in touch with each other

**Lebanon:** approved by email as a new country which will be invited as a full team to IOI 2015

**Panama:** No further news on national contest since November

**UAE:** new person (Musadaq Hanandi) approached IOI. He was asked to get ministry approval as the previous leader (Saad Harous) said that was necessary. Mr Hanadi asked to talk to Saad Harous about the national program etc. No further news since November

**Palestine:** meets IOI regulations as a country, given information on other requirements (setting up national program and report back to IC, no reply since Dec 29 2014)

**Pakistan:** initial enquiry went to Bakhyt mid Feb. Asked to report on national contest once held and then IC to approve as an observer country.

### **Discussion**

- Palestine is going to Jordan for the national Olympiad so at present no evidence of own organisation.

### **25. Trophies**

2 (One top and one distinguished) already done for 2015.

### **Discussion**

Suggested 4 more and Russia could take any spare to cater for ties at the top. But they will oxidise and trophies will not be the same colour.

Greg Lee: Do each year and ship to country. Happy to cover shipping costs out of his budget.

Russia would like 5 more. Greg agreed to ship to Kazakhstan and Vladimir can take them.