International Committee

Minutes of the meetings held in Kazan, Russia

Aug 12 – 19 2016

Present:

Krassimir Manev	President	krmanev@gmail.com	Bulgaria	2014-2017
Bakhyt Matkarimov	Host 2015	bakhyt.matkarimov@gmail.com	Kazakhstan	2011–2016
Vladimir Kiryukhin	Host 2016	vkiryukhin@nmg.ru	Russia	2012–2017
Mohammad Ali Abam	Host 2017	abam@sharif.edu	Iran	2013–2018
Seiichi Tani	Host 2018	tani.seiichi@nihon-u.ac.jp	Japan	2014-2019
Fuad Hajiyev	Host 2019	fuadhaci@gmail.com	Azerbaijan	2015-2020
Ricardo Anido	Elected	ranido@ic.unicamp.br	Brazil	2013–2016
Eslam Wageed	Elected	eslamwageed@gmail.com	Egypt	2013–2016
Ben Burton	Elected	bab@debian.org	Australia	2014–2017
Kresimir Malnar	Elected	malnar@hsin.hr	Croatia	2015-2018
Mile Jovanov	Elected	mile.jovanov@gmail.com	Macedonia	2015-2018
Eljakim Schrijvers	Treasurer	eschrijvers@eljakim.nl	The Netherlands	Non-voting
Margot Phillipps	Exec. Director Non-voting	margot.phillipps@gmail.com	New Zealand	2014-2017

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Welcome**: Vladimir welcomed the committee.
3. **Urgent Decisions Regarding IOI 2016**

The chair of the GA, suggested in February, is no longer available and the suggested replacement had no IOI experience. Thus the decision was made that Vladimir and Krassimir would jointly chair the first session. It is possible that the GA chair should, in future, be chosen from experienced GA members.

4. **Confirmation of the February 2016 IC minutes and Decisions made electronically between Feb 2016 and July 2016:**
1. Ratifying electronic decisions:
   - Accepting new countries (Iceland, Morocco, Palestine).
   - The criteria for Distinguished Service was discussed and some members of the IC wished for there to be just one recipient per annum. It was decided by Krassimir Manev that those proposed who reached a threshold of 6 votes would be awarded in 2016. The 2016 reward recipients were agreed (Richard Forster and Jari Koivisto) and travel assistance for Jari was approved.
   - That the Venezuelan team may attend without a leader due to financial constraints.
   All were ratified unanimously.

2. The February minutes were agreed as accurate.

5. **Matters arising from the minutes and electronic decisions.**

The host country invited 10 more countries to observe the IOI as guests. The invitations were sent to the respective Ministers of Education by the Minister of Education of the Russian Federation. Of these, 2 have registered: El Salvador and Honduras. It was agreed that they should be invited as observers to the portion of the IC meeting when the 3 new countries meet the IC.

Libya registered but is not attending. As Libya didn't attend last year either it may soon cease to be an IOI country due to the three year lapse rule.

6.   ITC and other regulation changes (Ben Burton)

There was discussion about:

- Deleting the reference to Technical Guidelines (E3.4) which don't exist. The change was agreed to after all IC members understood that as future hosts are represented on IC and ITC, they are exposed to all relevant decisions. Vote: For 8, against 1.
- The pros and cons on limiting future host selection to 4 years. (E4.2.1) Vote: For 9.
- Changes to allow constituting the ITC (S3.10 affecting the ISC through S3.14) including the intention behind the IOIn+2 representative being non-voting, and the low impact of this change. The constitution of the ITC, how it was and will be formed, the numbers and who appoints or votes for its members and its role interacting with the HSC were discussed at length. Approval votes confirmed a size of 7, that candidates must be endorsed by the ISC but voted on by the GA and that the terms should be 3 years but for continuity, the first 3 elected members should serve 1, 2 and 3 years respectively and that all members may vote.

7.   Executive Director's report

Communications included
- 2 newsletters
- Correspondence with potential new countries (Iceland, Morocco and Palestine are attending IOI2016). There has been little progress for Panama, UAE Pakistan and Puerto Rico in terms of a national IOI-style competition) Some progress in STEM and robotics but no further news of an Informatics contest.
- Letters confirming Japan, Azerbaijan and Singapore as future hosts (rather than candidate hosts.)

Other business included updating the Participation document, maintenance of IC mailing list, approving expenditure (Travel to attend ACER launch of sponsorship, journal publication, IOI pins, website), minutes and agendas and progressing unfinished business from the February meeting.

This year a number of enquiries were fielded about the slowness of the invitation letters required for visas for IOI2016. Notice was also given of the resignation, of the Executive Director, Margot Phillipps, effective the last day of the IOI 2016.

The president apologised for his part in the resignation. The appointment of an acting Executive Director for a one year period was approved.

8.   President's Report:
Awards: the formula proposed by the President for Distinguished Service was discussed. Some activities, such as running the registration system, were not assigned. Long service alone devalues the award as it makes it too automatic.

9.   Maintaining the Current Status of all countries
Countries and their official organisation and a permanent role/contact should be maintained.

10.   Mini Olympiad in Informatics/ Off-site participation for 2017

Holland has withdrawn its offer to organise an MOI off site. There is an offer from Russia. If it was held in Innopolis the ISC representative could be Sergey Masyagin so there is no cost to IOI to send a representative.

Countries other than Israel might yet apply (eg: the United States. However US citizens can apply for a visa and it will take approximately 3 months to be issued.)
Iran will be using CMS so Innopolis will have to use it also, rather than Yandex.

Two approval votes were in favour of accepting the Innopolis offer, either with or without the cost of 500 USD per Israeli team member being charged to the IOI.

11.   Report on IOI 2018 (Seiichi Tani)

The venue will be Tsukuba city in Ibaraki Prefecture. The dates are Saturday September 1 to 9. The dates were set because of lower costs and lower heat and humidity.

The IOI 2018 organisation committee had an initial meeting on June 30. Members of the committee are: Mr. Kazuo Furukawa (chair), Prof. Katsuhiko Kakehi (Deputy Chair) and representatives of Ibaraki Prefecture, Tsukuba city and the Japan Science and Technology Agency.
The president of University of Tsukuba has promised to support IOI 2018, especially in recruitment of volunteers.
Mr. Takahashi is attending IOI 2016 to observe and formulate an implementation plan of IOI 2018, and work will begin in September.

12.   Report on IOI 2019 (Fuad Hajiyev)

The preliminary dates are August 10 to 17. The Ministry is meeting to organise the committees. The dates may move to later as it is usually very hot. A fuller report will be available in Feb 2017.

13.   Office of the Executive Director

The president's proposal to change members of the office is now dropped.
Rationale: Valentina Dagienė will stand for IC and if elected will continue with the journal. The Treasurer position is related to the Foundation and Mārtiņš Opmanis and Eduard Kalinicenko are happy to continue with their website development and maintenance as they have in the past.

14.   Workshop (Kresimir Malnar)

A proposal was made for 2017 of a workshop to develop Ideas about talent identification: "from talent to an IOI medal". The concept is how to find the students in grade 5 (10 years old) rather than in the first year of high school when students encounter coding.
The proposal is for 12 to 16 different (successful) countries to be represented. The workshop participants would arrive on a Sunday, depart the following Saturday (5 working days) with two or three half day excursions. Each of the 12 countries could present and then groups of 3 to 4 to work on being able to present something useful on talent identification.
The budget would be 15000 euros, with some from the Ministry and some from sponsorship. Dates would be the last week of March or the first week of April

Discussion included:

- If it is funded by the IOI, then it should be open to the whole community and results from the workshop should be made accessible to the IOI community.
- That talent identification is not necessarily a topic well understood by people who are not at the coal face and that Bebras already exists and can serve this purpose.

15.   Report on the Journal and Conference (Valentina Dagienė)
Journal
The journal is indexed by: Cabell's Publishing, Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL), EBSCO, Educational Research Abstracts (ERA), ERIC, INSPEC and SCOPUS – Elsevier Bibliographic Databases. It has also been submitted to DOAJ – Directory of Open Access Journals and Thompson Reuter (Conference Proceedings Citation).
The number of papers and pages of the preceding journals were given and for 2016 there were 15 research papers + 6 reports (294 pages) and also a Special issue with 9 papers (96 pages).
Countries who have not submitted country reports were listed (27).
Conference
This was held during the first competition day and the second competition day was devoted to host country needs. It is important to improve the quality of papers, raise dissemination of the journal, attract strong authors from different institutions and outside IOI community, to support young researchers and to take care of indexing in data bases such as SCOPUS, ERIC, INSPEC, ISI Thompson Reuters Proceedings, etc.
Extremely productive authors were listed and thanked, as were reviewers and the Editorial Board, with special thanks to Richard Forster, the Executive Editor and Marina Tsvetkova, Guest Editor of the Special Issue.
Next year
There will be a focus on teaching methods and informatics teachers in schools. The Editorial Board should be renewed and expanded.

Discussion: A show of hands at the conference on day 1 was in favour of continuance for the conference, but preferably only for one day so that on the second there is a chance for members of the GA to collaborate informally. Valentina was thanked.

16.   Welcome and Introduction to the Three New Countries
Palestine: (Mousa Alrefaiyeh, regional director for ACM ICPC)
The intention is to work with the Ministry to involve about 300 students and choose the best 4. The ACM experience lends confidence to handling the technical and scientific aspects. However visas for Iran may be the most difficult part of participation by a team in 2017.

Iceland: (Bjarki Guðmundsson)
Since 2002 Iceland has had an Olympiad style contest with over 100 participants last year. Five years ago ACM style problems began to be used and last year they started using IOI style problems, with partial tasks etc. The plan is to take the best from that contest. Bjarki has been working with Sweden and Finland and will also go to the next Baltic Olympiad.

Comments: Have more than 1 round of contest but having 100 participants is impressive for the size of the population.

Morocco: (Anas Abou El Kalam)
Work is still progressing on the program for contests and training. Tunisia has been of help and Anas plans to also contact Canada as they helped Tunisia get established. They will also work use the ICPC resources to assist.

The IC offered advice about forming / participating in regional contests, using the actual IOI online (starting one hour later than the IOI) and of the journal.

17.   Financial Statement and Budget (Eljakim Schrijvers)

Two countries were allowed to pay their registration by a bank transfer, with instructions to include the country name in bank transfer. One country did, the other did not. So to extend this method is fraught.

Accounts
The organization stayed within the budget last year and there was no development workshop and no live broadcast. Although it was offered Russia said they would do it but it didn't happen. As parents enjoy it, it is an activity that we should try to ensure happens.

The accounts were accepted by a vote: For 11.

Budget (Explanations)
A new ED should have cheaper travel costs.
Bank costs for bank transfer outside of the EU is 5.5 € and about 11 € fees per month.
Communication: the website costs go to Latvia to continue to maintain the websites and the SSL certificates are paid directly.
As Iran agrees, the live broadcast budget costs are retained.
5000 € is budgeted for a planned workshop.
 For the Journal 500 € less is allowed for next year as this year's cost was 4500 € and the budget was 5000 €.
ITWG and ISC never actually spend anything but this year they will.
Remote Contest – the IC will propose to the GA to spend 3000 US$ and as that amount is close to Euros, it is kept as 3000 €.

Discussion. The ITC may propose a workshop also, so 10,000 € was suggested for that budget line. Although they will be very different workshops, there may be an opportunity for savings by combining the venue etc.
The fee for Venezuela was collected.
The cost for Awards included the payment towards Jari Koivisto's travel.
The live broadcast was further discussed as some members of IC didn't understand its purpose or how the costs are currently minimized compared to engaging professionals.

18.   ACER Sponsorship (Eljakim Schrijvers)
A general agreement has been formed which Singapore and Azerbaijan have accpted, but some further discussions are still to be held with Iran.

The non-registration of the IOI logo was also discussed. The reason for not doing it is because the Olympic Games will contest it. The GA will be asked to register it and then allow its use by Acer.

19.   Report on IOI 2017 (Mohammad Ali Abam)
- The dates will be 1- 8 July (31-34 degrees) or 21- 28 July (will be 40 degrees) but low humidity. The actual dates will depend on the presidential election as the mandate has been given by the current government and there will be a new one in August.
- Visas: Most countries except Canada, UK, Australia, NZ and US can obtain landing visas.
- The logo has been selected. There was a public call for a design with 300 submissions, 9 were shortlisted.
- A movie will be produced to show at the closing ceremony.
- A draft contract with Espinas Palace, a 5 star hotel, has been prepared. It has 23 floors, each with about 20 rooms, there are 2 halls of 1000 sq. m., and 1 hall of 1400 sq. m., at least 5 meeting rooms, 2 halls of 500 sq. m., several restaurants and an auditorium with a capacity of 2000 persons.
- The website is under construction and will be released soon.
- ACER is accepted as a gold level sponsor but there is an issue with using "powered by Acer" on the host logo. For the level of sponsorship, "powered by" is not considered acceptable.
- 17 members of the HSC and HTC and organizing committees are here in Russia monitoring everything
- The winter meeting will be Feb 1 to 5 (Temperature about 5 degrees)

Discussion: To allow for the IMO to finish, it may be possible to start July 28. Russia has a contest hall of 1500 sq. m. so 1400 could work but it will be close.

The question arose about how many rooms per team. The plan is a team of males would be in one room. The problem of bed sharing was discussed and Mohammad is to confirm that a room will have 4 beds, not 2. Otherwise 2 rooms per team are needed and maybe more when the team has girls. Also there are only 5 to 6 elevators.

20.   Honduras and El Salvador
These countries were invited to observe IOI 2016. They are keen to consider ways to get Informatics Olympiads established. Krassimir Manev is to talk to the observers.

21. Student Issues arising from Day One of the Competition and for Day Two tomorrow
a) Ineligible student.
It came to light that a student was not eligible after having sat the day one contest for the reason that he was enrolled in university, not school in September to December 2015. The leader (not present at IOI 2016) confirmed by email his ineligibility according to the regulations.
There was a unanimous vote to deem the student ineligible.
There was a vote to reduce the number of competitors by 1 and that we should announce this without mentioning the student's name or country. (For 9 against 1)
Furthermore the Executive Director will communicate to the leader that for the next two years proof of all team members' eligibility must be sent to the ED before registering.
The student was to be spoken to with the de-facto leader present prior to the second contest beginning.

b) New Zealand Student.
It was agreed to allow a student, supervised by a guide, upon discharge from hospital, to sit the second contest day despite not having been strictly in quarantine. (For: 10)

c) No translation was provided but a student asked for it.
The leaders of this country didn't translate and told their students to take in a dictionary. The leader will be asked to translate for day two.

22. Ineligible Student revisited
Because of quarantine, the student cannot be informed until just prior to the very beginning of the second competition day. The impact of that on those around him was discussed. A vote to let him sit the contest was tied. (For 5, Against 5)
The effect of several tied votes was that the student will be told after the contest.

The meeting resumed after the contest. Another vote to deem the student ineligible was held. For: 9. An IC member and the de-facto team leader should meet with him.

Krassimir Manev then raised that the situation was very strange and that someone was trying to make disorder and asked who reported the student. It was stated that the student was wearing an official ICPC tee shirt and thus must have been at University. The President reiterated that the situation was crazy and possibly fabricated. When accused of paranoia, Krassimir challenged the IC member to visit a hospital for a diagnosis of which of them was paranoid. Although the challenge was accepted, it was then ignored and the meeting continued. Ricardo Anido volunteered to be the IC member to speak to the student.

This meeting was also interrupted and when it resumed, it surfaced that a second contestant from the same team was also ineligible as he was also at university.

Potentially all leaders need to "sign" that their students are eligible. There could be a tick in the registration system, with a link to the rule.

23. ISC and ITC Reports

ISC (Jakub Łącki)
Since the February meeting 95% of the ISC's activity was to do with the competition. The reports for Day 1 and Day 2 attested to a successful contest.

There were two countries where leaders chose not to translate for their students. Whilst the leaders cannot be compelled, they should understand their obligations.

The IOI Survey has been prepared by Mohamad. If the IC wants any questions added they should speak to him. It will be published within a week of Departure day.

A discussion was held on the effect on the scoreboard of the ineligible students and the expectations caused by the scoreboard. There needs to be some signal:
- That scores are not final and subject to appeals etc.

- That the number of contestants is provisional
- That the ticks are a guide only as the line to medal "breaks" doesn't account for rounding.

Krassimir Manev apologized to ITC about the delay in informing them of the ineligible student(s).

ITC (Frederik Niemelä)

There is a proposal to phase out Pascal and add Python. The intention is to make the contest more approachable for the bottom half. It will increase the workload for HSC and ISC to add Python, so removing Pascal will balance this. Thus the proposal is one proposal (add one and remove the other) not two separate proposals.

The concept of a second class language was discussed and also what mix of tasks/subtasks should be solvable in Python. It should be possible to achieve a Bronze medal coding in Python.
The concept that students may code different tasks in different languages was raised with one option being to indicate with an asterisk which subtasks are solvable in Python.
As some countries train and students code in Pascal, removing it is more undesirable for these teams.

The GA will be asked to vote on the proposal. The ITC was seeking feedback prior to the GA meeting.

Fredrik asked if the ITC needed to prepare anything for the off-site competition. It is possible now that as there is not a mini Olympiad with other teams present that Israel will stay home and the ISC will need to send a representative. The possibility that other countries such as Canada may not get a visa means they may wish to join Israel. Technical issues of the same laptops and announcements or changes during the contest leading to a fair/unfair competition were discussed. As there is no Internet access between Israel and Iran it will be very hard to make sure it can happen technically. For that reason the Innopolis offer is desirable.

The proposal for an ITC workshop was raised. It will be a working workshop to build, test and break rather than conference style and would run Friday to Monday. There is an offer from Egypt to host it as well as the possible venue in Croatia which might offer economies of scale. The community would be asked to suggest topics, up to four would be chosen by the committee and approximately 20 people would be divided across the topics. There would be no restrictions on the number from one country. A small travel stipend is envisaged.

The IC approved of this model for a workshop. Dates and the final venue need to be decided.

The ITC would like to work with the conference organizer to have a tutorial section of the conference.

24. Publication of Committees Business
The output of committees are made public on the website.

25. Awards
IC and ISC (and ITC) members can't be awarded whilst serving. Krassimir Manev would like this to be changed. There was a lot of discussion about people dying before they can be recognized. A vote to

keep the current regulations or to exclude the ISC and ITC from the current regulation was held. To keep the current rule: 5, For the ISC and ITC to be eligible for awards: 6
The GA will be shown the required change to the regulations. But as 24 hours' notice will not have been given, the vote cannot occur until 2017.

26. Licensing country organisations
The IC asks competing organisations to negotiate and work together if it is not clear cut which organization represents the country. The IC did not, in general, wish to issue licenses. Further discussion should be scheduled for the winter meeting.

27. Replacement Executive Director
Those approached so far had declined or lacked the level of English required for the role. Ricardo Anido was proposed and unanimously supported. He asked for 24 hours to consider.

28. US Signaling a possible Request for Off Site participation
The US delegation, whilst hoping visas will be possible, is signaling in time, that it may ask to also participate off site. Mohammad Ali Abam confirmed an invitation will be offered and obtaining visas should take about 2 months and that safety is guaranteed. However the US government website states the US has no diplomatic or consular relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

A proposal to accept the application of Israel for Off Site participation and to defer a decision on the US and Canada, should they officially apply, until the February meeting. For 9, Against 1.

29. IOI 2016 report
Not supplied as Valdimir Kiryukhin was not present.

30. ITC election technical details
A vote was taken on: that as the three positions are for 1, 2 and 3 years, that approval voting is used. The person with the most votes takes the three year position, the next highest the two year position and the 3rd highest the one year position. In the case of a tie, a run-off vote is held. For 8, Against 1.

31. 2021 Potential Host
There was a presentation by the President of a middle school in Hangzhou where top IOI students have come from. The school has a tradition of good Informatics and the Chinese Computer Society (Zide Du) has given them a good promise of support.

Krassimir Manev explained the process for a formal application and other advice on demonstrating scientific and technical expertise was given.

32. Current chair of ITC
The current chair has a three year term. If he were not elected by the GA in 2016, then should the 3 year term be honoured. The IC agreed that the previous years have been an experiment and this year is the formal establishment, so the ITC starts afresh with all positions. For 10.

33. Budget and Accounts – final check before presentation to GA
ED expenses should be 2500 € and Off-site still 3000€
Of the three observer countries, one does not want to pay the registration fee as they didn't understand themselves to be "team". The regulations need to be made clearer that observers pay

the fee. Krassimir Manev volunteered to inform the observer that a payment should be made but an arrangement can be worked out.

34.   Post GA matters

   a)   As Valentina Dagienė was not elected she cannot come and work on journal. A proposal was made for another year of her being in the Executive Director's office. A decision will be made in February.
   b)   Welcome Mathias Hiron to the IC and thank Ricardo Anido and Bakhyt Matkarimov for their service.
   c)   Ricardo Anido has agreed to act as Executive Director for a year. Approved unanimously.
   d)   Vladimir Kiryukhin thanked the committee and he in turn was thanked for his part in IOI 2016.
   e)   Participating countries should be reduced by 1 from 81 to 80 because all of one team was comprised of ineligible students.
   f)   The IC should be more active prior to the meeting in February in Iran.