Minutes of the IC Winter Meeting 2018
February 20-24, 2018 Tsukuba, Japan

Greg Lee, Taiwan, IOI President
Seiichi Tani, Japan
Araz Yusubov, Azerbaijan
Sun Teck Tan, Singapore
Mile Jovanov, Macedonia
Kresimir Malnar, Croatia
Eslam Wageed, Egypt
Mathias Hiron, France
Valentina Dagiene, Lithuania
Benjamin Burton, Australia, Invited Regulation Keeper, non-voting
Eljakim Schrijvers, Netherlands, Treasurer, non-voting
Ricardo Anido, Brazil, Secretary, non-voting

1. Welcome
Seiichi and the President welcomed every one. Seiichi asked the IC if Prof. Katsuhiko Kakehi could also attend the meeting as observer, and everyone agreed.

Mile asks that three additional items are included in the agenda: Website, Call for projects and Official list of official representatives. Ben asks that two more items are included in the agenda: Distinguished Service Awards and Inappropriate behavior during the IOI. Everyone agreed that those items should be included.

2. Apologies
Mohammed sent his apologies, at the last minute he could not come.

3. Confirmation of Minutes (IC and GA meetings July, 2017)

The minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising -- Greg Lee, Ricardo Anido

The president informed that the only matter arising is the lack of proposals for hosting IOI2021 and IOI2022, and informed that we will discuss this issue in the item Future Hosts.

5. Report by the President - Greg Lee
The President proposes the creation of the special position of *Regulation Keeper* within the Office of the IOI, and to nominate Ben for this position. All members agreed.

6. Report by the Secretary - Ricardo Anido
The Secretary informed that apart from answering requests of information from new countries, there was a matter related to a competition with the name similar to IOI. Brian Dean, from USA, pointed out in a message that the competition "International Olympiad in Informatics in Teams" was using the IOI lists to advertise the contest. Since the name was too close to IOI, Brian was concerned that the community could wrongly infer that the competition was organized or were endorsed by

the IC. The Secretary then contacted the organizer of IOIT, Giorgio Audrito, from Italy, explaining the concern and asking if they could change the name of the competition. Giorgio answered promptly, and agreed to try to minimize the problem. As a first step, for this year, since the competition had already started, it was difficult to change the name, but they changed the logo. For next year, Giorgio informed that they propose to change the name of the competition to International Informatics Olympiad in Teams (IIOT), to distance itself from IOI. Mile comments that the IC has no power to impose that they change the name of their competition. Everyone agreed with Mile, and that the new logo for this year and the new name for next year was a satisfactory solution.

7. Report on Olympiads in Informatics - Valentina Dagiene
Valentina informed that there has been a small number of submissions this year, around 10, so more work is needed to increase this number. The plan is to have one volume only this year, around 200 pages. The Journal is indexed in six databases, the main one being Scopus. Valentina thinks that IC needs to discuss the future of the Journal. Valentina expects to continue to be responsible for the journal for the next two or three years, but would like to transfer the responsibility after that. Kim informed that the money for publishing and printing this year has been paid already (EU 4000).

Asked by Mile if not having printed copies would lower the cost, Valentina said that printing is not too expensive; preparing for printing is more expensive (layout, PDF, technical support). Printing 200 copies cost around EU 1000 last year.

Greg opened the discussion on the future of the journal. Should we have the journal in future? Araz thinks that the journal promotes the IOI and supports the scientific community associated with IOI. Mathias comments that the journal should not be responsibility the IC, although the IOI should support it. Ricardo comments that he likes Mathias' view; the Journal could be a project supported by the Call for Projects and other similar project in the same line would be a Magazine for teachers. Valentina commented that treating the journal as a projects may not be the best option, as the support must be continuous, since indexing in good databases depends on regularity, so we cannot stop publishing in one year because is was not one of the projects selected in the call for projects.

The President said he likes the idea of Mathias, but understands the need for a more stable support. The President then asked for a vote on whether IC agree to support financially the Journal, meaning that the IC will put the money in the proposal of the Budget for the GA. Everyone agreed.

8. Report on IOI2019 - Araz Yusubov
Araz reports that there has been a small but important issue since the last IC meeting: the Minister of Education changed, and a new Minister has not yet been assigned. Acer sponsorship contract has not been yet signed because the government still wants to discuss with Acer (with the intention of putting in the contract that the country can keep the computers). The President said that Acer informed informally that they intend to leave the computers in the IOI host country. Acer will not donate directly to the organizers, but the country Acer representative will decide how to distribute the computers. Araz informed that they will almost certainly sign the sponsorship contract with Acer soon. Araz also informed that the proposed date for the IOI is 10 to 17 August.

9. Report on IOI2020 - Sun Teck Tan

Sun Teck reports that the Opening and Closing ceremony venues are booked. The Sports Hall (which is also used for examinations) will be used for the contest is also booked. On the technical side, NUS

will use CMS in their competitions these next two years, to become familiarized with it. The proposed date for the IOI has been fixed: 19 to 26 July.

10. Report on IOI2018 - Seiichi Tani

Seiichi informed that the Guest Fee will be EU 1500, extra night for extended stay will be EU 90 per person per day. Pickup will be arranged from Haneda, Narita and Ibaraki airports. Proposed registration dates are May 15 to June 15. Kim says that the registration period is too tight. Deadline should be close to beginning of August. Since the contest is in September, the only problem is really countries which need visas. Ben suggests to change the name of PR Events by Companies to Technology Fair or something less corporate.

Excursions will be on the Tsukuba and Ibaraki areas. Contest hall will seat 320 (1320 m2). Accommodation for contestants will be in two different places (200 + 120 beds), distant 8 km from the competition hall (20 min by bus). IOI participants will be able to use public transportation for free if they want to transfer between venues at times different than the official bus schedule.

Ricardo asks if it is possible to take the delegations to the contestant dormitories on arrival day for registration, so that leaders see the accommodation, and contestants can take a rest, instead of arriving at the conference center and staying all day there. Eslam suggests that they consider swapping the accommodation venues between contestants and leaders, so that the transportation is easier for contestants.

Seiichi informs that the GA Chair will be Prof. Katsuhiko Kakehi. The President comments that prof. Kakehi was Chair of the Host Committee of the 2017 ACM ICPC World Finals in Japan, and has large experience in organizing big events, and asks if anyone has any more comments. There was a round of applause for Prof. Kakehi.

Some members comment that bath and toilets could be a problem, but discussion about this topic is postponed until the IC visits the accommodation halls. Ben asked about security and help with visas, two points that the General Assembly frequently complains about. Eslam says there is always a difficulty with Halal food, and Seiichi said they are aware of the problem and will take care.

Greg asks about the flags during ceremonies. RIcardo suggests that the Leaders should provide the correct flag at the moment of registration. Kim suggests that he could download the flag images before registration, show the flag at the moment of registration, and ask the Leader to confirm it is the correct one, otherwise advise the IC to change it (Kim does not want to let the Leader upload a flag, to avoid political problems). IC approves Kim's suggestion. Kim will be responsible for implementing it in the registration system: at the next registration, the system will show the Leader the image of the country flag the host will use and ask the Leader to confirm it is the correct flag. Otherwise the registration system will ask the Leader to contact the Host or the Secretary to change the flag.

11. IOI workshop Report - Kresimir Malnar
Kresimir comments that since last meeting, there was a change of date, from end of April to end of May (24th-29th). The venue has not yet been decided (Zagreb or by the Adriatic sea). Greg said that the workshop date is close, and information about the workshop should be sent as soon as possible, preferably until next week, even if some details are not known. Kresimir informs that the total

budget is EU 10.000 (EU 5.000 from IOI, EU 5.000 from the government). Accomodation and meals will be covered. The estimated number of participants is between 12 to 15 persons.

12. Trophies, pins

Kim informed that pins are ready. The President says that Mohammed informed in a message that some of the trophies were broken during transportation. Mile thinks that the trophy model is too expensive, and not robust enough. Eslam comments that although the design was make in Egypt, it does not relate to the IOI, and should be replaced. Greg agrees that the design could be changed. Eslam showed photos of the broken trophies sent by Mohammed, and apparently they can be fixed. The IC then decided to ask Mohammed to have the trophies fixed (Kim suggests that if they can be fixed for, say, US 200, Mohammed should do it, and he would be reinbursed). Mohammed has four broken trophies.

13. Regulation changes

Public output from IC, ISC and ITC

Bakhyt requested last year that we add a line to the regulations stating that output from all three committees should be made public (i.e., ensure that the committees have some reporting requirement). Ben comments that this should be done carefully, since some work of the IC and ISC (and probably the ITC also) needs to remain confidential. A weak solution might be to require all three committees to post minutes on the official IOI website. On another interpretation, the committees already do publish their decisions, as the IC minutes includes the reports from ISC and HSC. Mile comments that the IC has someone responsible for the minutes, which is not the case for the ISC and ITC. Ricardo suggests that we simply include a more detailed version of the ISC and IC joint report on the IC minutes: ISC and ITC could provide some notes on their decisions (what could be made public), Ricardo would prepare the final text and include in the IC Minutes. Ricardo's suggestion was approved.

Conflict of interest in ISC deciding vote

It was noted last year that we added a statement that the ISC chair has a deciding vote in the event of a tie (A3.13), but perhaps this is not desirable for the specific vote that happens every year where the ISC selects their chair for the following year. Ben comments another interpretation is that in case of a tie the status quo is maintained so it is not bad. After some consideration, it was decided that there is no need to change, since this has not happened before, and probably will not happen.

Unnecessary deciding vote for ITC

It has been pointed out to the IC that the chair of the ITC does not need a deciding vote, since the number of voting members is odd. The deciding vote was inherited from an earlier draft of the ITC regulations, in which the number of voting members was even. There is a proposal to remove the chair's deciding vote. After a brief discussion, the IC decided not to change the regulation, as a tie may happen due to absence of a member in a meeting.

Status of delegations with no contestants

The IC have been asked to clarify what happens if all of a delegation's contestants become ineligible. Specific questions include:

(i) how many countries do we officially have at the IOI?
(ii) does the country still hold the status of a national delegation, and in particular, are they still

allowed to vote?
(iii) if not, exactly when does the change take effect?

Regulations (S2.3) define a delegation to have 1-4 contestants, so it seems that the answer to (i) should be "one less than before". This is consistent with the decision of the IC at the end of IOI 2016. Questions (ii) and (iii) still need answers, however.

After some deliberation, IC decided not to change the regulations, as the IC does not expect to have contestants eliminated in future IOIs, and the IC should take action when it happens. The President comments that the past cases have to be well recorded, so that when this case happens again the current IC will have knowledge of the history. Ben comments that the tracking system will have all the information recorded for future use.

Regulations on extension of contest
After the events of Day 2 in IOI2017, the IC have been asked whether the IC could propose some regulations on when and how the contest is allowed to be extended. Mile thinks that it would be good to have some rule in the regulation. Greg says he would like to ask the opinion of ISC before we take a vote on this item, so the decision is postponed.

Change date limits for host selection
Ben explained the problem with the current regulation on the timeframe for selection future hosts. As we had no decision on a future host in IOI2017, we are violating the regulation.

One suggestion was to revert from n-4 to an earlier version of the regulations where we allowed the selection of hosts 5 years in advance. (Recall that the reason we disallowed this was to be fair on prospective hosts - if some country plans to bid for IOI n then they are likely to aim for a bid in year n-4, so if someone else is granted that IOI during year n-5 then the original country is denied the opportunity to make their case for the same year.)

The second suggestion was to more explicitly make n-4 an upper bound (as opposed to the current text, which makes it look more like a promise to select the host exactly n-4 years in advance - which is impossible in years like this year when no complete bids are presented.) Ben comments that if IC does this (which I think is a good idea), I would suggest making n-4 an upper bound but still writing the text in a way that shows our intention to award the IOI in year n-4 (and not later) if possible.

Yet another possibility is to have a queue, with no constraints on when to select a future host.

After much discussion about the possible solutions, RIcardo suggests to remove E.4.2.1 from the regulation, giving the IC flexibility about when to select a Potential Host to become a Candidate Host. The regulation item suggested to be removed was: "E4.2.1 The selection procedure will take place during IOI'n-4, and the status of Candidate Host will be conferred shortly after. " The suggestion was voted and approved.

Additional text for the off-site competition (minor)
In 2016, Bakhyt suggested the following changes to the regulations about the off-site competition. IC discussed these in 2017, and formally decided to postpone this discussion until this year. The proposals are:

E6.14: Append the text "Remote Competitors will not be distinguished from on-site Competitors in the official IOI archives and website."

A6.14.1: Append the text "The IC, ISC and ITC are responsible for working with this representative to ensure the integrity of this competition.⬚"

N6.14.2: Add a new note "The awards received by the remote Competitors may differ in appearance from the awards given to Competitors in the Host Country." (Also requires renaming the old N6.14 to N6.14.1.)

Since these rules will hopefully not be used in the future, after a brief discussion the IC decided to keep the rule as it is and act on it if there is the need for an off-site competition again in the future.

Bug in the medal allocation algorithm (minor)
Strictly speaking, we can have a situation where it is impossible to allocate medals. For instance, if every competitor receives the same score then we are required to allocate 0 medals overall (no more than 50%), but at least $n/12$ gold medals. After a brief discussion, it was decided not to try to fix the rule, as the wording would be less clear, and the situation where medals cannot be awarded will most probably not happen in future. If it does happen, the IC will discuss how to solve it.

14. Official list of official representatives of countries (moved up, since it is a proposal for Regulation change)
Mile proposes that we have a list of organizations responsible for selecting the IOI team for each country, updated every year. Also, IC must keep track of changes. Kim comments we have already the email of the country coordinator. Kim proposes that he collects the names of the organizations during this year's registration, and "locks" that information, so that further changes will have to be done through the IOI Secretary. Mile asks that a more permanent email of the organization is also collected. IC agreed to implement the following: during the next IOI registration, the system will ask for the name of the organization that runs the contestants selection process in the country (if it is a formal organization) and a "permanent" email (like "director@organization.name"). This information will be entered in the system and once entered it will be locked, so that the countries cannot change it themselves, but rather have to ask the IOI Secretary to change it, which will inform the IC of the proposed update.

15. Budget – Eljakim Schrijvers
Kim showed slides with the expenses and income since the last meeting. Expenses were bank charges (EU 73.50), Conference proceedings (EU 4000) and pins (EU 609.84). Income were Interest (EU 430.70) and Registration Fees (16200), leaving EU 124000 in the bank account.

16. Future Hosts from 2021
Greg comments that considering that both Indonesia and Brazil informed that they could not guarantee their government support for the bid and therefore would not formalize their bid for IOI2021, the IC is in a very delicate position. We have to find a Host for 2021 as soon as possible. Ben comments that one country approached him to ask for a copy of their proposal, for 2022/2023. He also heard that Spain may be interested. Greg asked Krassmir about the possibility of Croatia

hosting in 2021, and the answer was that he will take it to the ministry, but it will take some months do get the answer.

Decision was to act on three steps: Step 1, send a letter to the GA asking for proposals for hosting the IOI2021 (deadline end of June) and IOI2022 (deadline IOI2018). At the same time, IC members will approach personally some selected countries that have commented on the possibility of hosting the IOI. If there were bidders for IOI2021 by the deadline, a online meeting would be scheduled so that the bidders can present their proposal, and IC would vote electronically. Step 2, in IOI2018 we propose to the GA an increase of fees (for 2021 only, or for any future IOI, a point yet to be decided) and to allow that part of the IOI fund is used towards organizing the IOI2021, and ask for new bids, with a deadline at the end of the year. Step 3, if no bidders come forward, Eslam would try to host it Egypt.

17. Discussion on the site visits

Greg asks whether anyone has any comments about the accomodation halls visited. Ben asks if KEK have also a place for breakfast. Seiichi confirmed that it does.

Eslam asks if it is possible to take the students from KEK to NIST at meal times, so that all students have meals in NIST. Seiichi informed that this is one possibility, they are still negotiating meals with KEK and NIST.

Eslam says he does not see a problem with the number of showers and bathroom in KEK, but in NIST the public baths are a problem for some cultures. He asks if it is possible to have partitions set up in the public baths. Kakehi says he does not have that answer, but will ask. Eslam suggests that it is possible to use the Library building to store the backpacks/bags/badges to be distributed to the students at registration, and make the registration office in NIST. On arrival, all delegations would be taken to NIST, and then leaders would be transferred to hotels and 60 students would be transferred to KEK.

Mathias says that to solve the problem of showers the host could rent a shower truck (he just looked that there are some companies that advertise such trucks). Sun Tek asks if there are more rooms available at KEK, so that more students could be put in KEK.

Greg summarizes the options: curtains in the public showers in NIST, shower trucks, advise students to bring swimsuits, and as a last resort the students could shower in the hotels, in the leader's room.

Mile asks about lunch and dinner in the Convention Hall. Seiichi that in the first floor there are huge halls that are usually prepared for meals. Mile remarks that in Tehran, even with six lines of food there was a long wait, so please prepare the food so that a large number of independent lines are formed. Mile suggests that dinner for all students could be served in NIST, in all days.

Greg asks if tomorrow we can see the Multi-function Hall that will be used for lunch/dinner. Kakehi said they will arrange it.

Seiichi says that they will take all suggestions in consideration, and will report back to IC soon.

Greg asks about smoking in the rooms and in the Convention Center. Prof. Keheki answers that smoking rooms, where available, will be outside in KEK and NIST. Seiichi says that in Japan persons under 20 years are not allowed to smoke, so at least for students this should not be a problem.

18. New countries
Ricardo says that despite requests for information from several countries in the last yea a) no country has reached the stage required by the IC procedure to be invited as an Observer. The main obstacle is the requirement that the country has already organized a 'national' contest that tests the students algorithmic knowledge and programming skills. It is hard to start a competition when you don't know exactly what the competition is about. Ricardo thinks that in order to attract more countries the IC should relax the procedure, allowing countries that have not yet organized a national competition but have demonstrated experience, interest and technical/scientific competence, and have the support of the government (a letter from the Ministry, for example).

Mile thinks that a country could first be invited as a (paying) guest. Then, next year, if they have successfully organized a national contest, they would be invited as an Observer. The process would take two years.

Sun Tek agrees with Ricardo. He visited Myanmar, who have been participating in the ICPC, but they would have difficulty in preparing a contest. Singapore intends to invite Myanmar, Malaysia and Brunei. They have been visiting these countries and helping them to setup a national contest, but it is not easy.

Eslam explains what he has been doing, following the IC procedure: visiting countries and helping people start organizing a national contest. He suggests that the IC should choose and "appoint" a specific person (and the corresponding organization) as representative of the IOI in the country. Ricardo comments that this could put the IC in a difficult position, politically. Eslam argues that it is important for the person/organization to have the endorsement of the IC to be able to start the national contest.

Greg summarizes the discussion so far: there are two different issues -- to help a country to start an olympiad (Eslam) and to invite an organization (Ricardo) as Observer. Ben agrees with Ricardo, requiring that a new country organizes a national contest is a kind of Chicken and Egg problem, and also agrees that the IC procedure should be relaxed.

Mathias comments that requiring a letter from the Ministry would make it almost impossible for some countries to start participating in the IOI, such as for example France and England.

Araz thinks that it is good to ask a letter from the Ministry. The fact that some countries that are already members of IOI would not be able to get a letter from their Ministry does not mean it is a bad idea. Ricardo suggests that instead of "requiring" a letter of endorsement from the Ministry we could say something like "besides showing technical, scientific and organizational capabilities to make a national selection for the contestants, additional support/endorsement, either from the government or from a professional association, would be welcome".

19. Curbing inappropriate behavior during the IOI
Every year we are reacting, and it is not working, we must change the culture of IOI. That a long time commitment. We have already drafted a nice paragraph, Ricardo put it in the bug tracking system:

"IOI provides a unique opportunity for students to meet people with different nationalities, cultures, colors, creeds, religions, beliefs, genders, gender expressions and interests. The IOI community embraces diversity and promotes mutual respect and understanding. Inappropriate behavior, which violates these values, is not tolerated." We could try to pass this message through the leaders, or through the volunteers, but probably the best place to put it is in the Contest Rules, because everyone reads them. Mile says we could say something also at the opening ceremony, not only at the GA meeting, talk to the Host country to talk to the volunteers. Greg says it has to go through Leaders, because some of the students do not speak English. Mathias says we could put them in the Competition Rules and make the students sign that they have read the rules. Kim comments that some of the students will not sign it without permission from the parents. Mathias says that in Taiwan the students had to sign a paper giving permission for the photographs, so it has been done before. Eslam says we must talk to the Leaders, it is the most effective solution. Greg thinks the proposal we have is to put the paragraph that Ricardo wrote in the Contest Rules.

20. ISC/ITC Report - Richard Peng, Jakub Łącki and Martin Mares

Richard reported they have a good set of problems. A total of 56 tasks were submitted. The Host had a set of slides for each proposed task, which really sped the work, and they first selected . They discussed at some length the selected problems and coordinated the problem development tasks (sub-tasks,testing, etc.) with the host scientific committee. ISC is considering providing feedback to the students about how the other students are doing. After the first hour of contest, the students will see a bar with the percentage of the total points the students received, for each task. This will possibly help students identify the easiest task. Greg asks the ISC if the results of the surveys are available anywhere, and if they can be made available. ISC says it can be shared to IC, ISC and ITC, but three years ago ISC had a discussion and the decision is that some of the information should not be made public. But most of the information could be put in the IOI website. Greg asks if some more general questions about satisfaction could be introduced in the survey, and ISC it surely could.

Greg asks if the ISC has discussed rules for contest extension, Richard said they have started the discussion but have not finished it; they will report back later in the day, or by email if necessary.

Greg tells the ISC is thinking in putting a phrase about inappropriate behavior at the beginning of the Contest Rules, and asks whether that is possible. Richard asks whether it will be the statement or a link to the statement, Greg says it is the statement, which is short. Ben says we have a problem with gender diversity, and if we put too many things the message is diluted.

ITC reported that servers will be on AWS cloud, with hardware separation, but the imaging server and the grading servers will be on-site. ITC also discussed the introduction of Python, but at the moment does not see a good way to make Python a first-class problem.

As a last remark, ISC and ITC think the Host team has strong teams for HSC and HTC and foresee no problems in the tasks or systems areas.

21. Improve awareness of scoreboard status

Ben said this item was raised last year: find a way to improve awareness amongst the leaders and contestants that (i) the live scoreboard is not official; (ii) scores themselves are not final and are subject to appeal; (iii) the number of contestants is provisional; (iv)the medal cutoffs on the scoreboard are a guide only and do not take into account all factors (e.g., rounding). Ricardo says that even contestants and leaders complain that that the live scoreboard is misleading, the

contestants get disappointed when they think they got a medal but they did not. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the best think would be to ask the ITC to put a disclaimer in the live scoreboard making it clear that scores are not final and are subject to appeal.

22. Guidelines for food in competition
Last year food was not allowed and some countries complained about the food provided by the host. Greg says this is in the contest rules, Ben says the ISC is looking into this, but there were complaints from the GA last year, so we should discuss it. Eslam is concerned about the noise some snacks packages may cause. Greg says in Taiwan they provided water, a banana and a energy bar. But we need to think about special needs. The decision that the rule stands, but the host must to make sure the guides inform the students of the food that will be provided, and if someone has a different need he/she should ask their Leader to approach HTC to solve it; Seiichi agrees that the HTC would try to solve it the best way possible.

23. Empower IOI organizations
Mile wants to return to the discussion of the national organizations. Eslam says that we should recognize the organizations as the official representative of the country in the IOI. Greg says we cannot do that, it is up to the country to decide who is the organization/person/entity responsible for selecting and sending the team to IOI. In most countries it is the government who makes the decision, we cannot say we recognize an organization when the Ministry of a country considers another organization is responsible for sending a team to IOI. Greg says we have already decided to collect the name of the organizations, we will keep that, but will not recognized them as the official representatives of countries, the the representatives of a country for a specific year.

24. Increase interactions at IOI
Mathias says that we should not forget the IOI is not only a competition, he thinks IC should try to come up with suggestions to the host on how to increase interactions between contestants with different cultures. But I don't have any specific idea right now, it is just to remind us of the issue. Mile says that we have now the opportunity to have group discussions during the IOI, and this is a good theme. Ricardo says that in the United States they had a game which was a mixture of frisbee and golf, where contestants had to move around stations, and apparently they liked it very much. He suggested that the Host should have someone responsible for these kind of activities, where contestants play some games in mixed teams, as by the schedule of IOI2018 the students will stay a lot of time around the conference center. Greg says we do not have to decide anything on this point, only suggest that the Host organizes some activities for the students.

25. Publish in-progress IOI checklist
Mathias has been working on improving the checklist for Future Hosts. Ben said that he has been asked last night why we don't publish the Future Host Checklist, even if it is not finished. Mathias says he was thinking of publishing it for example in Google Docs, so people could edit the document. Ricardo says that it is better to publish a PDF version otherwise we will not have control of the document anymore. We could ask Martins to open a new section in the IOI website to publish this kind of documents. Ben asks Mathias if the document has more information than what has been published by Bakhyt in the journal, Mathias said there are a lot more information, and in a different format, as a checklist. But some data is still missing. Mile suggests that we could ask Seiichi to fill in the information regarding IOI2018 after it finishes, and then we can publish. Greg asks if everyone agrees, and then it was decided that Mathias would pass the checklist to Seiichi. Seiichi would see if

the checklist is adequate, suggest additions if necessary, and we will publish it after the data from IOI2018 has been included.

26. Documents for new delegations
Mathias raise this issue: do we have any documents that could be provided by countries that wish to participate in the IOI and/or start a national competition? Greg says we do not. Ricardo says that there are so many different ways to organize a contest, depending on the size of the country, the educational system, that he is not sure a set of guidelines would be appropriate. Valentina suggested interested countries could look at the reports in the journal. Ricardo agrees that is a good solution, if a new country asks for directions we could point them to the journal, which contain quite detailed descriptions of several national olympiads.

27. Support for West Africa
Ben said this was an issue raised during lunch time last year and he said he would bring for discussion in the IC: Nigeria expressed the desire to have support from the IOI Foundation to help develop IOI programs in West Africa. Greg says that any country needing support should submit a request to IC, explaining the reasons, and we will discuss it.

28. Remaining business (02:26:00)
The President says he would like to appoint Ben as a Regulation Keeper, because we need a native English speaker person, the correct wording of the regulations is very important. Ben says it is better that he leaves the room, but Greg says that this issue involves the regulations, so Ben should stay. The point is: can the President appoint another person and invite this person to the IC Winter Meeting in February? Ricardo says that we changed the regulation, before there was the Office of the President of IOI, and therefore the IC understanding was that the President could appoint any person he wished to help him. He could appoint a database keeper, or a journal editor, for example. But now it is the Office of IOI, so it is not clear, but he thinks the IC could approve it. Ben says that according to the regulations the Office of IOI is run by the Secretary, so in principle the Secretary could appoint any person to help. Kim: we should put in the regulations that the President could invite one extra person, and the Host has to cover the cost of it. Greg asks if it needs the approval of IC, Kim says it seems a good idea. Ben says that he sees three possibilities: the Secretary appoints, IC invites as Invited Guest, or the person comes as a Guest; the difference is who is responsible for the costs. Greg comments that in any of the first two cases it must be approved by the IC.

Greg then asks Ben to be excuse himself so that the IC can discuss it. Before leaving, Ben says that whatever the decision of the IC he would be happy. Greg says his intention is not to create more obligations for future hosts, on the assumption that he would be coming to the IOI. Mile comments the regulation defines that up to three people can be invited by the IC, and the host will cover that cost. Kim agrees, there is one invitation already Tim Bell, for the conference, and Ben would be a second person. Seiichi says the host will be happy to cover the expenses of Ben as Regulation Keeper. Greg then says that the appointment needs to be renewed in annual basis, because he does not want to impose more cost to future hosts, and maybe Ben will be in again the IC in the future, and there would be no more need for a Regulation Keeper. Greg asks the approval from IC for the nominations of Ben as Regulation Keeper and invite him to the IOI2018, with Ben paying for his airfare. Everyone agreed with the nomination. Ben came back to the room, was invited and accepted.

Greg said that with that he would not ask for any more items to discuss. He thanked everyone for

very productive discussions over the last three days, thanked the host for providing such good conditions for the winter meetings, and wished everyone a safe trip home.