



MÉXICO
2006
MÉRIDA, YUC.

Issue 7, Saturday, August 19th
NEWSLETTER

August 19th, 2006

Today's reminders

- With the administration office, remember to:
 - ⇒ Check your departure times
 - ⇒ Download any pictures you want to be included in the official IOI CD
 - ⇒ Collect any extra copies you want of this and previous newsletter
 - ⇒ Buy souvenirs for your loved ones
- Exchange contact information with your new friends
- Pack your luggage

Today's schedule:

7:30 –9:00

Breakfast

9:30—9:45

Bus Boarding at FA, HI, HY

9:45—10:00

Transportation to SXXI

10:00—13:00

Awards and Closing Ceremony

13:00—15:00

Closing Banquet

15:30—16:00

Ballon Launching and Farewell

16:15—16:30

Bus Boarding at SXXI

16:30—16:45

Transport to Hotels

16:45—18:30

Free Time

18:30—20:30

Dinner at the Hotels

20:30—24:00

Bus Boarding and Transportation for "Ballet Folklorico" at Teatro Peón Contreras, and "Heart of Merida" festival

Awards and Closing Ceremony



Today is the last day of this wonderful event we have all been having fun at.

The Awards and Closing Ceremony is the official end of the event. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be given to the best competitors.

Diplomas and recognition will also be given to some of the persons that have made this and previous IOI's possible.

Please use the rest of the day to get contact information from your newly acquired friends; make sure administration office has your flight information right, so that you get timely transportation to the airport; buy souvenirs for your loved ones, and have fun.

At night, Merida government will have a Yucateca party at the Peón Contreras theatre (for free). Saturday is also a great day to go to downtown streets in Merida, because a lot of people go out to have dinner and dance.

The Medals

The medals that will be given during the Awards ceremony were made by Laurentius, Master Artisan Lorenzo Rafael, who among other things made the medals for the Olympic Games that were held in Mexico in 1968. They also made the Mexican coins for more than 30 years. Each one is a fine piece of art.



You can take the bus at the hotels at 8:00pm to go to the theatre, and then drop by the street festival (the theatre is nearby), and come back to pack your luggage and leave.

If you go by yourself, "Heart of Merida" festival is at Plaza and Calle 60 up to Calle 53, from 8am to 1pm. We will also have a "Noche Mexicana" at Paseo Montejo & Calle 47 starting at 7pm.

In order for us to plan the buses to downtown, please sign up for transportation at the administration office or game room or with your guides. Eight buses will be available for transportation.

Well, on behalf of the staff, we want to thank all of you for the hard work and wonderful memories you left with us!

Congratulations to all the winners!



IOI 2007: Zagreb, Croatia

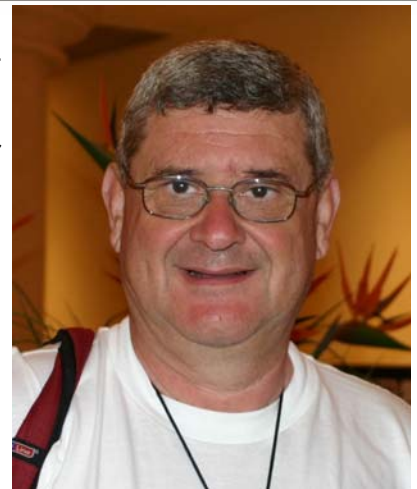
Ivo Separovic is the Chairman of the IOI 2007, that will be held from August 15th to August 22nd in Zagreb, Croatia.

Organizing an IOI has been his dream since 1993 when he started working with his team in the IOI. He is being collaborating as a team leader and as a member of the IC. He is also a member of the General Croatian of Computer Society. Every year his team has gotten better and better results.

In 1998 and 2006 he helped prepare the Central European Competition in Croatia. After

that he realized they will be fine organizing such a big event as the IOI. They have been planning a lot of things, but the hard work will start in September when they will finish recruiting the more than 100 people that will conform the staff.

"We were very happy here at Mexico. We like Mexico and this IOI a lot. And we are very happy to host the 15th International Olympiad of Informatics and to welcome all the countries. We will be happily waiting for you at Croatia next



IOI 2008: Alexandria, Egypt

Yasser Abdel Kader is the Chairman of the IOI 2008 that will be held in Alexandria, Egypt.

Yasser works for the Arab Academy of Science and Technology, the organization that has been sponsoring the local informatics Olympiad since year 2000.

In 2002 they organized the first Arab-African Olympiad in Informatics, a regional contest with the objective of raising the level in informatics of the 15 participating countries. In 2001, Yasser attended his first IOI in Finland. In 2002 he was elected an IC member. In 2004 he was given the IOI for 2008.

They will start preparing budgets and everything starting on September. The Olympiad

will be held at the Arab Academy, which is a closed campus University, with 5 student hostels, restaurants that can serve more than 1000 persons per hour and everything accesible by walking distance.

Besides de Arab Academy they are getting support from the government for the food and transportation.

Regarding Mexico's IOI, he said "I think it was very well organized. 5 star hotel accommodations were extra super. People are very kind: staff, guides and almost everyone I met. I always think the people is the key. A smile in their face makes all the difference. To do it and not to just pretend you are doing it. In Mexico I felt like at home. I would like to come back some time. And for now I will be waiting for you guys at Egypt to hopefully make you feel as part of a great family. I'll see you in Croatia"



Competitors and leader's parties

Yesterday's night everybody had fun at their parties: Competitors stayed at the Holiday Inn for dinner and music.

Leaders went and had fun at Rey Pakal's, a typical Merida food restaurant.





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Winning a Gold Medal at the IOI changed my life

Velin Tzanov, from Bulgaria, once had a dream. His dream was to go and study at Massachusetts Technical Institute (MIT) in the United States.

It was difficult for the dream to come true, first because MIT has very few places for foreign students in college. Second because studying there is very expensive.

But Velin did not stop the hard work, and on 2001 he won his first gold medal at the IOI. He repeated gold for IOI 2002.

He applied for MIT and wrote in his resume his IOI participation. MIT not only admitted him, but gave him a fellowship that allowed him to study at his favorite university without having to worry about tuition.

"Winning a medal at the IOI is usually very important for MIT and other prestige universities. The contest has become a good way to choose the best of the breed in the world. About 50% of international students at MIT had won a medal on some International Olympiad, of which the IOI is the most impor-

tant when you want to get into the computer sciences department", says Velin Tzanov.

Now he is 22, he has just graduated, and he is working at D. E. Shaw, a Financial Company in New York, where he gets to work with some of the most intelligent people of the world, with both financial-math and computer science knowledge.

"My job is very interesting. I actually work on kind of similar problems as the ones you have for the IOI, but adding the financial background to it. It is very scientific", continues Tzanov.

Velin Tzanov came to IOI 2006 as an observer for the Bulgarian team, since he is going to be part of the Scientific Committee for IOI 2009 in Bulgaria.

"I am very excited about the Bulgarian Olympiad. IOI has been very important in my life, and I am glad I have been invited to give something back to my country and to the IOI."

"I would like to congratulate all the competitors. The IOI is like the world championship. It is not easy to be a part of it and is even less easy to win a medal. It always takes hard work to achieve something, but the effort does pay well. Keep the hard work and enjoy!" finishes Velin.



Chichen-Itzá was hot in every sense!



Taking the group picture took a while, and we were not allowed to get the IOI flag into the ruins, plus part of the staff did not get into the picture, but finally everything went pretty cool, with red, yellow and blue IOI T-shirts all over the place.

Everybody agreed that Chichen Itzá was hot in the warm kind of hot, and hot in the pretty cool kind of hot. We appreciated the beauty of the majestic main pyramid, found out the hidden secrets of the game ball and heard stories about the rituals in the ancient cenote.

One of the leaders said: "it was hot like hell but it was worth it. This place is so full of life that I felt energized".



New IC and ISC Members were elected

New contest rules and regulations were approved during the 1st IOI 2006 General Assembly. The International Committee is a long-term standing committee. It consists of eleven voting members, all from different Participating Countries, plus a non-voting Executive Director:

- The President of IOI (elected)
- One immediate Past Host representative of IOI'n-1 (instead of three)
- One present Host representative of IOI'n
- Three immediate Future or Candidate Host representatives of IOI'n+1, IOI'n+2, IOI'n+3
- Five other elected representatives (instead of three)
- Executive Director (non voting)

The election of the IC and ISC members took place at yesterday's GA meeting.

The new members are:

- ⇒ Prof. Valentina Dagiene
- ⇒ Prof. Eljakim Schrijvers
- ⇒ Prof. Michal Forišek
- ⇒ Prof. Martin Mareš

These members will have the responsibility to keep IOI's level and importance in the scientific development of the world.

Congratulations to all of them and best of lucks!



Prof. Valentina Dagiene
Lithuania
New IC Member



Prof. Michal Forišek
Slovakia
New ISC Member



Prof. Eljakim Schrijvers
Netherlands
New IC Member



Prof. Martin Mareš
Czech Republic
ITWG

IOI Souvenir Sale!!!

- Long Sleeve T-Shirts, pens, baleros, cuchiletas and portabadges are gone.

We still have the following and it is on SALE:

- **T-Shirts: buy 3, get the 4th. For free.**
- **Polo-Shirts: 30% OFF** (from \$13 to \$9 USD)
- **Back-Packs 25% OFF** (from \$20 to \$15 USD)
- **IOI Paliacates 60% OFF** (from \$5 to \$2 USD)

Share your memories from this event back home with your loved ones (or with your boss)

