



MÉXICO
2006
MÉRIDA, YUC.

Issue 1, Sunday, August 13th

NEWSLETTER

August, 13th 2006

Today's reminders

- Contestants prepare your hats for the opening ceremony
- Don't miss "Mérida on Sunday", which is an outdoor market and food festival on the Main Plaza, and up to calle 60 to Hidalgo Park and Santa Lucia Park.
- Don't forget to go with your Leader to the registration office right down the Fiesta Americana Hotel.

Today's schedule:

9:00– 24:00

Arrival and Registration

18:30– 22:00

Dinner at Hotel Restaurant

After registration

Free time

During registration you should be getting a back pack (blue, red or yellow depending on whether you are staff, professor or competitor), with all the following things:

- The schedule for the IOI 2006—with maps of Mérida and maps of the hotels
- Two T-shirts, or a T-Shirt and a Polo
- Your badge
- Balero (mexican game explained later)

Welcome from the IOI2006 Chairman

Dear IOI 2006 participants:

It is a great honor to welcome all of you to the 18th International Olympiad in Informatics which will be held at the beautiful city of Mérida, Yucatán, México.

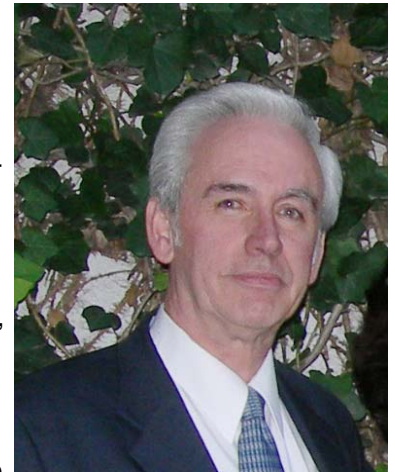
During your stay in this country you will experience the great hospitality of local people and discover a city rich in cultural activities.

Mexican food, mariachi and folk dances, ancient traditions and legends are all part of this adventure. The IOI itself was carefully prepared over the last year, and it is designed to test and evaluate the talents and skills of the best young Computer Scientists in the World.

In behalf of the "Comité Mexicano de Informática" and all the Mexican people involved in the IOI 2006 organization, I wish you all a fruitful, happy and unforgettable stay in México.

I will also like to thank all the members of the staff, some of which have been working for long hours with a lot of dedication to get you the best possible experience during this week.

So make friends, compete fairly, have fun, and above all, use this visit to our country to improve your mankind, your spirit and enhance your knowledge and



skill in informatics.

*Arturo Cepeda Salinas
Chairman of the IOI
2006*

Got Everything?



- Cuchileta (mexican game explained later)
- Paliacate (explained later)
- White cap
- IOI 2006 pen
- Touristic information regarding Mérida, Chichen-Itzá, Uxmal, etc
- Competition rules, submission system user manual, and linux environment introduction
- Invitation to contest and activities
- This bulletin



Chairman of the Host Scientific Committee's



The Chairman of the Host Scientific Committee, César Cepeda, celebrated his 31st birthday while working at what he likes more, the Informatics Olympiads: orga-

nizing, and getting his two kids involved as the youngest members of the staff.

To celebrate his birthday the staff went for a ride to downtown Mérida; celebrated with two delicious cakes and cheered with a tasteful wine wishing the dedicated chairman long and happy years to come.

Carnavalito and Turibus for a Sunday ride

If you were lucky enough to get to the contest on time, and you have a lot of energy, we recommend you to take a tour on the Carnavalito or Turibus buses. Carnavalito is only \$5 USD. Turibus is \$20 USD but you can get off wherever you want and hop in when you want.



It's excellent for a downtown visit and to get to know Mérida so that you can get around easily for the rest of your stay. It's also nice to start getting involved with local people.

Paliacate

The IOI 2006 paliacate is something very used in Mérida to protect yourself from the heat, wind and mosquitos. You can use it in a lot of ways mostly around your head or neck.



Balero

Balero is a very popular game in México. You are getting one in your personal backpack.



The objective is to get the mass on top of the stick. Once that you can do that, you can try a "capihucho" which is done throwing the mass into the air so that it makes a 360° spin and falls once again in the stick.

After the "capihucho" there are a lot of tricks. Ask your guides for more info.

Cuchileta

La cuchileta is another Mexican game. It's magic. You have to whisper to it "Cuchi Cuchi leta a la derecha" and it starts turning around clockwise. If you tell it "Cuchi Cuchi leta a la izquierda" it starts turning counter clockwise.

Try it! But you have to do the whisper-magic part, otherwise the cuchileta won't turn.





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Ma'alob a taale'ex (Welcome—in Maya)

Be most welcome to this, the 18th International Olympiad in Informatics. We hope that you had a nice flight despite any inconveniences that might have occurred along the way (delayed flights, lost luggage or new

airport security measures). With this small, but very proud, daily

newspaper, we hope to inform and remind you about all the events that will take place along the week. But most of all, what we really hope, through this newspaper is that you are able to take all the great moments and memories with you.

So please, from today, the very first day at the IOI we invite you to try to make the most out of this experience, go around, make new friends, admire the place and culture that surrounds you.

But beware, Mexican food can be really spicy and might make your stay not so pleasant. Try asking your guide

about the food before trying anything that look suspicious.

If you have any juicy gossips or anything that you want to share with fellow contestants, we'd be more than glad to write about it. So feel free to come to us at any time (we're the ones dressed in green).



Who's who In the Staff

At this event, you can recognize the staff based on their color of their shirts.

Contestants will get grey and navy blue shirts. Leaders, as well as guests will get red ones.

Administration and logistics staff will wear electric blue and white shirts.

The guides will wear yellow shirts.

The engineers in charge of the computer labs will wear military green and dark green.



The people in charge of this newspaper will wear green shirts.

Today's birthdays
Congratulations to
Edwin Niño from
Colombia!!!



Who is who in the pictures.

On top from left to right:

- Eugenia Schliter, guides supervisor
- David Casillas, Spain guide
- Juan Pablo Rodriguez, Turkmenistan guide.

Administration staff from left to right:

- Toño, Gilberto, Jorge, Daniela, Angeles, Gustavo, Noe, Arturo, Paula, Marga, Toñita, María y Elizabeth.



Places to visit

Today, we recommend you to visit *Merida en domingo* which is a display of traditional handicrafts that takes place in the *parque de las amélicas* and *downtown*.



It begins at 9 am and lasts until 5 pm.

If you're not much into muse-

ums, traditional architecture and handicrafts you can also visit *Gran*

Plaza, Merida's biggest mall.

Or you may also visit *Planet Bowl* where you can play pool, try out some bowling or grab some lunch.



What to bring with you

This summer, Merida's weather has been quite pleasant. For some of you it may seem very hot, but trust me, this year has been nice to us.

So, wear shorts and cool clothing.

You may want to bring along a light jacket because it generally rains on the evenings, although the weather keeps warm.

Also, don't forget to bring along your name tag and money, in case you want to buy some souvenir or food.

If you didn't bring comfortable clothes with you, you can buy them at the souvenir shops located at Fiesta Americana Hotel. There are plenty of them and you can buy pants and dresses starting at \$20 USD.

You can also buy IOI 2006 souvenirs at the administration office. Colorful T-Shirts start at \$9 USD each. You can also get caps, back packs and polo shirts.

Brave new world

After all the organization and effort that an event like this takes, we are very glad to know the day has finally come.

I am not sure who has dreamt and even dreaded more this day, the contestants or the organizing team.

I can say I had been looking forward to it very much.

I really hope that this event turns out to be everything that we want it to be.

We all have great expectations for this event and it's up to you to get them fulfilled, depending on what you want to take with you from this great experience. Do enjoy yourselves, I know I will.

Ana Paola, Press Team

Delegations started to arrive

