

# General Assembly

## Minutes of the Meetings held in Sirmione, Italy 23–30 September, 2012

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### 1. Welcome

- Richard Forster welcomed the members of the GA to IOI-2012 and introduced the new Executive Director, Madhavan Mukund.
- Professor Nello Scarabottolo was presented to the GA as the chair for IOI-2012.

### 2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

### 3. Appointment of scrutineers for voting during GA meetings

In accordance with the usual IOI procedure, it was proposed and approved that those past chairmen of IOI who were present should act as scrutineers.

### 4. Competition procedures

- The Chair of the SC, was introduced and presented the competition procedures.
  - A new Contest Management System (CMS) would be used for IOI-2012. This has been developed in collaboration with future hosts with a view to making it the standard competition environment for IOI.
  - IOI-2012 would be a paperless contest. Questions would be made available electronically to all contestants on their individual machines. Contestants would, however, be free to print out copies of the question paper during the contest.
  - A precise limit would be enforced on the number of tests and submissions permitted for a contestant for each task.
  - There would be limits on primary and release tokens. Release tokens would regenerate and accumulate during the contest.
  - Contestants would not be permitted to bring watches.
- The competition procedures were approved.

## 5. Call for Nominations for IC and ISC

- Two IC positions and one ISC position were due to be filled during the current IOI.
- In addition, there would be an election to fill the ISC position that had fallen vacant due to the untimely death of Mihai Pătraşcu. This position would be for one year, corresponding to the balance of the term of the existing position.
- During this IOI, the ISC should also elect the Chair of the ITWG, to be approved by the GA.
- The ED announced that the closing date for nominations for the IC and ISC positions would be the start of the GA meeting before the second competition day.

## 6. Confirmation of the Minutes (IOI-2011)

The GA minutes from IOI-2011 were confirmed by the GA.

## 7. Details for IOI Conference

The GA was informed that the *Olympiads in Informatics* conference would take place in parallel with the two competition days at Montichiari, the venue for the competition.

## 8. Presentation of Tasks for Competition Day 1

- Michal Forišek, Chair of the ISC, introduced the procedure for the presentation of tasks. As per the format in recent years, an initial period would be given in which to give major objections, to be followed by a vote to accept the entire problem set. Minor objections could be submitted until the ISC and SC froze the tasks later that evening.
- As part of the initiative to make IOI-2012 paperless, the tasks were distributed electronically.
- There were no major objections and the task set was accepted without any negative votes.
- A new translation system was announced, based on MediaWiki. There were some problems with slow response time. ITWG and HSC identified the source of the problem and mitigated them during IOI 2012 by tuning system parameters and installing several caches. For the future, changes in the implementation of the system were suggested by the ITWG.
- There were some problems with the power supply in the translation room, apparently due to an overloaded power circuit. The issue was resolved by laying a separate power line to the translation room.

## 9. Report on Competition Day 1

- The competition started a bit late due to delays introduced by the procedure for contestants to enter the examination hall.
- Two subtasks of the task *Odometer* had to be regraded during the contest. Affected contestants were informed and the impact was minimal.
- Estonia requested a clarification about the behaviour of one contestant's code for the task *Odometer*. It was checked and accepted by Estonia that the code went into an infinite loop on some inputs.

## 10. Presentation of tasks for Competition Day 2

- Unlike Competition Day 1, all three tasks were presented in printed form, as requested by the GA.
- There were some objections to the length and complexity of the description of the task *Last Supper*. The response of the ISC was that this was unavoidable in order to present a new task type ("advice complexity").
- The task set was accepted without any negative votes.

## 11. Report on Competition Day 2

The ISC reported that the second Competition Day went off smoothly. There were no appeals.

## 12. Report by President

- The President reported that the process of handing over items to the new ED, notably correspondence with new countries wishing to participate in IOI, was more or less complete.
- There were no other significant developments to report.

## 13. Report by Executive Director

The ED had no significant developments to report.

## 14. Presentation by candidates for IC, ISC and ITWG

- The following candidates filed their nominations prior to the deadline.
  - IC (two positions): Jose Trinidad “Trino” Gomez Barreto (Venezuela), Valentina Dagiene (Lithuania), Mārtiņš Opmanis (Latvia), Eljakim Schrijvers (The Netherlands).  
Eljakim Schrijvers withdrew his nomination before the election.
  - ISC (regular 3 year position): Stoyan Kapralov (Bulgaria), Ali Sharifi Zarchi (Iran)
  - ISC (1 year position): Michal Forišek (Slovakia)
- All candidates were given two minutes to introduce themselves to the GA. Information on all the candidates, which had been supplied on their nomination forms, was distributed to the GA.
- Martin Mareš (Czech Republic) was elected by the ISC to continue as the Chair of the ITWG. Martin Mareš was also invited to address the GA.

## 15. ISC report

Michal Forišek, Chair of the ISC, presented the ISC report.

- The call for tasks for IOI-2012 was announced in 2011, with a submission deadline in early 2012. 33 submissions were received from 23 authors. In addition, 3 unused tasks were carried over from IOI-2011. After a review process, the HSC and ISC arrived at a shortlist of 10 tasks for IOI-2012. Unused tasks would be returned to authors.
- There is a need to formally license tasks so that the right to reuse them in various contexts is clarified. Some version of the Creative Commons Non-Commercial license would be the most appropriate. One also needs to check whether the license is automatically transferred to translations of tasks.
- The ISC is working on developing a universal package format for sharing task data. A prototype is in place that covers most current IOI tasks.
- The ISC shared some thoughts on the following issues.
  - There has been an ongoing discussion about introducing new programming languages such as Java or Python in IOI. One important issue is the wide variation in running time across these languages, which makes it difficult to standardize on a time measure for evaluation. One suggestion would be to permit multiple languages but guarantee timings for only a few.
  - The GA was requested to send comments to the ISC on the IOI syllabus—about how useful it is, whether it is keeping pace with other changes in IOI, ....
  - The nature of competition hardware for contestants is changing and guidelines need to be formulated. In IOI-2012, laptops were used for the first time.

- The GA requested the ISC to ensure that official solutions, or hints, be published for all tasks after the contest.

On a related note, it was announced that in IOI-2013, when tasks were handed out for discussion before each competition day, the task descriptions would be accompanied with some indications about expected solutions.

## 16. ITWG report

Martin Mareš, Chair of the ITWG, presented the ITWG report.

- The ITWG continued to maintain the mailing lists connected with IOI, for the GA, IC and ISC.
- The ITWG would work towards coordinating and maintaining the IOI website and IOI Wiki.
- The ITWG recommended the creation of a permanent archive of each individual IOI's website as a subdomain of `ioinformatics.org`.
- A new sandbox has been developed with low overhead and support for multithreading. The ITWG is coordinating with the CMS development team about integrating the new sandbox with the CMS system.
- A new translation system based on MediaWiki was introduced at IOI-2012. Some initial problems with deploying the system at IOI-2012 had been overcome and this system will remain in use in IOI-2013. The China delegation expressed an opinion that the MediaWiki system was not very suitable for their requirements.

Some countries requested that other, more traditional, translation mechanisms also be supported during the transition period, till the new system stabilizes.

## 17. Financial statement for preceding year

Eljakim Schrijvers presented the financial statement for the preceding year.

- The amount budgeted for the IOI Workshop was not utilized because no Workshop was held.
- All other expenditure was as budgeted.

## 18. Registration fee for IOI-2013

There was a discussion on the registration fee .

- Some delegations felt that a reduction in the registration fee for IOI-2013 may help partly offset additional costs for travelling to Australia.
- Many members independently observed that frequent fluctuations in the registration fee are difficult to explain to external funding agencies.
- The President noted that individual delegations can request the IC for fee waivers.
- The GA voted in favour of retaining the registration fee at € 200.

## 19. Budget for forthcoming year

Eljakim Schrijvers presented the budget for the forthcoming year.

- The travel budget for the President and ED was higher than usual due to the extra cost of travelling to Australia.
- The budget includes a provision for a Workshop.
- The budget for the proceedings of the IOI Conference was increased slightly.
- A substantial increase in the budget for communication was proposed, voted on, and approved. The budget for this item was increased to € 5000.

## **20. Regulation changes**

- There were no regulation changes to be approved.
- The GA approved that Richard Forster could make minor changes to the regulations to remove grammatical mistakes and correct other clear errors.

## **21. Election of IC members**

- In the election for the two vacant IC positions,
  - 30 delegations approved of Jose Trinidad “Trino” Gomez Barreto,
  - 49 delegations approved of Valentina Dagienė, and
  - 53 delegations approved of Mārtiņš Opmanis.
- Valentina Dagienė and Mārtiņš Opmanis were elected to the IC for three year terms.

## **22. Election of ISC members**

- In the election for the three year ISC position,
  - 26 delegations approved of Stoyan Kapralov, and
  - 50 delegations approved of Ali Sharifi Zarchi.
- Ali Sharifi Zarchi was elected to the ISC for a three year term.
- Michal Forišek was elected unopposed to the ISC for a one year term.

## **23. Nomination of ITWG Chair**

The GA approved the continuation of Martin Mareš as Chair of the ITWG for an additional three year term.

## **24. Awards and honours**

- Chile submitted a formal proposal to nominate Professor Blagovest Sendov from Bulgaria to the Board of Patrons of IOI, in recognition of his efforts in establishing IOI through UNESCO.  
The Board of Patrons has been mentioned in the regulations of IOI since around 1995 and was introduced in an effort to involve distinguished members from academia and industry in IOI. However, the Board of Patrons has never had any members.
- The IC discussed the proposal and concluded that a more appropriate way of acknowledging Professor Sendov’s contribution would be to present him with IOI’s Distinguished Service Award (DSA).
- The GA voted on the issue of whether to award the DSA to Professor Sendov or to nominate him to the Board of Patrons. The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of awarding the DSA.
- The DSA was announced during the Young Talent Conference organized in Milan during IOI-2012 and the actual trophy was handed over to Professor Sendov in a separate ceremony in Bulgaria after IOI-2012.

## **25. Proper usage of national symbols in closing ceremony**

The GA were reminded to inform their students not to bring flags and large mascots onto the stage during the awards ceremony.

## **26. Results and confirmation of medals**

- The medal allocation algorithm was used to determine the medals.
- The number of official contestants was 310.
- 26 gold medals, 52 silver medals and 77 bronze medals would be given.

## **27. Proposals from GA members**

- China submitted a proposal to the IC about introducing more systematic checks on the facilities provided by the hosts. The proposal will be taken up by the IC.

## **28. Announcement of future host**

Russia will host IOI-2016 in Kazan, the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan.

## **29. Other business**

- Rogelio Garcia Llano, Delegation Leader from Argentina, formally announced that he would be retiring from IOI activities after many years of active participation.
- There was a discussion in the GA about the need to improve communication about IOI activities. In particular, the IOI website was out-of-date. One solution to the problem would be to merge the IOI website and the IOI Wiki to create a common resource that would be easier to maintain. The various parties involved would get together soon to discuss how best to achieve this, in coordination with the ITWG.
- There was a discussion on whether the IOI conference was reducing the time available to the GA to meet and discuss issues. It was suggested that the conference be reduced from two days to one day.
- There was a discussion about the policy on publishing scores. The following points came up in the discussion.
  - Publishing names of students with low scores may affect sponsorship for the concerned delegations.
  - More detailed publication of scores may help with publicity for IOI.
  - Privacy issues have to be considered. It may need to be prudent to have consent forms signed by contestants permitting publication of scores.

An informal vote indicated that most members favoured more public information being made available about scores. It was agreed to conduct a survey to collect opinions on this issue.