

IOI NEWSLETTER

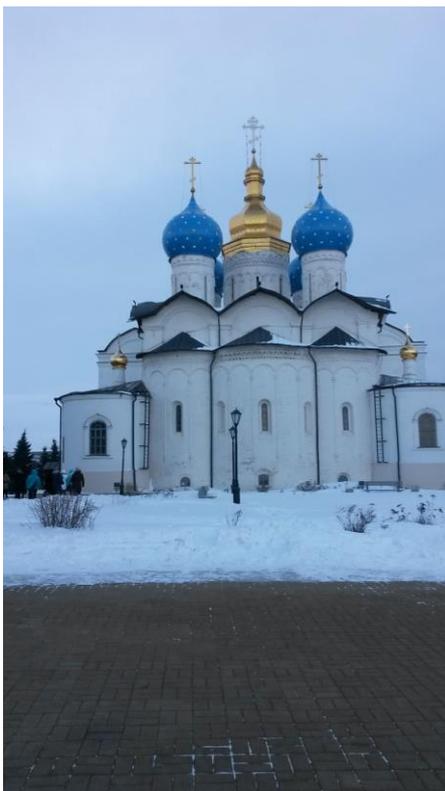


2015-2016 | Issue 2 | June 2016

The Committees Meet in Kazan

In mid-February the IC, ISC and ITC met for 5 days (including arrival and departure days) in Kazan, Tatarstan, the Russian Federation.

The ISC worked mainly on tasks, the ITC on the implications of possibly including Python as well as a technical manual for future hosts and the IC on regulations and host reports. There was also time for tours. Although cold, the visit to the Kremlin and the “island” of Sviyazhsk were beautiful and historically interesting.



in the

Universiade Village

The venue of the Universiade Village, with facilities for the competition, accommodation and meals and meetings relatively close together, is ideal with everything within walking distance. Preparations are well underway and the website (<http://ioi2016.ru/>) has up to date information.

The A-Z of the IOI

Country leaders are being invited to contribute an article about their experiences with the IOI which are less formal than journal articles.

From the end of the alphabet is UKRAINE

We started at IOI, as many other countries, in 1992. I was one of four to represent Ukraine that year.

We'd taken part in a lot of training sessions, were good in coding, but had no idea (the same as our coaches), what kind of tasks we were going to solve. It was just 4th IOI and the scientific committee had a great choice of absolutely new tasks to propose for the contest. We had one task and five hours to think about it, to invent a solution. It was not a sport that time, it was a challenge.

Olympiads in informatics in Ukraine originated in 1988, one year before the first IOI and some of those initial people are still in the team who drive our national contests. At some moment we switched from manual evaluation to a test based approach and it made everyone's life easier. Our first national contest with automatic evaluation was in 1997. That time, still, we had a lot of tasks to surprise contestants, to make the contest a challenge, not a test. I heard complaints from my colleagues that it's difficult for them to train their teams, every year some tasks were solved with approach which have never been used before. But the contestants enjoyed it.

These days IOI tends to be more predictable, we know which algorithms to teach and which to skip. This is good if the only target is a medal but it is not something we target in the national contest as we still want to give a possibility to the contestants who are able to invent. Can we give a task if we do not know full solution? Yes! Can contestant get more points than problem setter? Of course! Let them experience winning. This is the fun!

Vitaly Bondarenko

NEW COUNTRIES

At IOI 2016 there will be three new countries observing. They are Iceland, Morocco and Palestine. The observers have been invited to write a little of their motivation in joining the IOI.

From Iceland, Bjarki Ágúst Guðmundsson has written:



Iceland is a small island country in the North Atlantic with a population of only 332 thousand, making us the least populous participating country in IOI. Despite our size, we consider ourselves a progressive nation. We've had an annual programming contest for high school students, organized by Reykjavík University, since 2002. The number of participants has been growing steadily each year, with 134 participants this year. Being a contestant myself from 2010 to 2012, and a judge since 2013, it makes me sad every year to see

that the best students don't get a chance to prove themselves on international grounds. This has been my motivation for getting Iceland to participate in IOI, and I'm very happy that we'll be sending our first team in 2017. Many thanks to Reykjavík University and the Swedish and Finnish teams for helping us make this happen!

From Morocco Anas Abou El kalam has written:

There will be two Observers attending IOI 2016: Anas Abou El kalam and Abdeljalil Agnaou.

Our motivation for wanting to get the country involved was because we are very interested in the IT domain. Through the IOI, our goal is to introduce programming and algorithms to as many people as possible, creating and distributing free tools and content to make rapid progress in these areas and organize competitions to accompany this growth.

The institution supporting us is the Moroccan Association of Digital Trust (AMAN Association) and there is also official support from the Ministry of Education of Morocco.

By attending the IOI we hope to see and learn about existing and current experiences of organizing the IOI, getting contacts and enrich our knowledge in this area.

From Palestine Musa Alrefaya has written:

The motivation for joining the IOI is because of the rapid development of technology in all areas, make the learning of Computer Programming is a mandatory and a need for the school students as well as undergraduate students. Computer programming has the most job postings in the world. In Palestine, the investment and efforts in developing the school students' skills in technology and programming will have a great impacts on the country economy since no natural resources such as oil are available.

As I am the coordinator of the Palestinian ACM Collegiate Programming Contest for the last four years, I believe that introducing the IOI culture and creating the competitive motivation between school students will encourage those interested in this area and improve their programming skills. Indeed, encouraging students training and organizing the Palestinian Olympiad will positively affect the quality of the graduated students and assist improving this growing sector in my country.

The school plan includes Information Technology and Visual Basic Courses for School students from the seventh level to the tenth level. We organized two computer programming summer campus in the last two years at the university for the school students. The trained students have a middle level knowledge in programming. The supporting institution is the Palestine Polytechnic University and there is official support from the Ministry of Education

My goal in observing the IOI is to learn the Environment of the Olympiad, the organization and logistic requirements, the experience of other countries, the potential cooperation between neighbouring countries,