



# NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, Saturday, 23 July 2011



## Let's Meet and Greet!

The lobby of the Royal Cliff Hotel where the IOI 2011 is taking place came to a buzz as young delegates from 78 countries turned up for registration from yesterday morning.

Some teams showed up early in the morning while some even arrived a day earlier. Contestants said they had spent long sleepless hours on the plane before arriving here.

We managed to catch a few teams for brief interviews to get their first impressions after arrivals.



## The Viking team

Four young delegates showed up at the hotel lobby, shining out in the crowd with their colorful Viking hats which drew attention from the camera men, reporters and IOI staff who asked to take their photos.

When asked if those hats had any lucky meanings, their answer was 'nothing'.

"We just think it looks silly, to walk in the crowd with a yellow hat like this," said Jonas Olsson, smiling while showing the braids adorned to his hat, with tiny bells hanging at the ends.

"This is not for a girl," he explained.

"It's just a fun thing," he said.

Despite 11 sleepless hours on the plane from Stockholm to Thailand, the team still had smiles on their faces and cheerful spirit.

"We're overwhelmed with the beauty of the place," said Anton Grensjö, looking around the venue, "We looked at pictures on the web, but it's much better when we actually are here."

The team said it was their first time in Thailand, and although they came from a cold country like Sweden, they found the warmth in Thailand tolerable.

"It's summer now in Sweden, where the temperature is about 20-25 degrees celcius. The only difference here is humid, while in Sweden, it's dry," said Grensjö.

When asked about Thai food, they said they are familiar with rice and curry.

"There are several Thai restaurants in Sweden, but I'm sure the tastes are different from authentic Thai food here," said Olsson.

## Opening Day

### CONTESTANTS

06:00 - 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 - 11:00	Opening Ceremony
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 16:00	Practice Session
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner

### LEADERS

06:00 - 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 - 11:00	Opening Ceremony
11:00 - 12:00	GA Meeting 1
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 16:00	Practice Session
16:00 - 17:00	Dinner

### VISITORS

06:00 - 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 - 11:00	Opening Ceremony
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 16:00	Pattaya Floating Market
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner

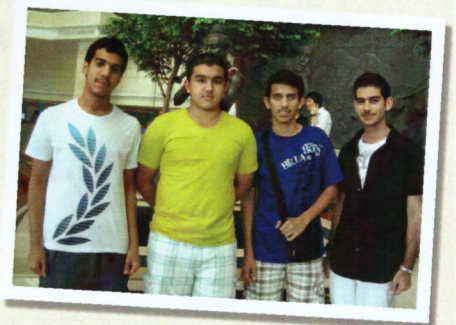
## The early birds

The Kuwait team arrived earlier on Thursday morning. They turned up fresh and relaxed for registration yesterday.

"On our first day here we went out to the mall by taxi, and for the rest of the day we mainly stayed and strolled around the hotel," said Talal Alshegaih.

"The weather here is so nice, better than Kuwait which is much hotter. The rain is so wonderful," he said.

The four team members said they had been preparing for this competition from four months to one year. Three of them are first timers for the competition. They feel nervous and excited. However, for Alshegaih who is a second-timer, the feeling is not much different.



"I'm still nervous, too." he smiled.

Tasting Thai food is one of the things the team would like to do, but after two days, it seems their wishes were not yet fulfilled.

The first meal they had on their own in the downtown was Pizza.

So we asked them what kind of Thai food they would like to try. One of them replied with a smile: "Sushi!!!"

## Weather Today



High	Low
33 °C	25 °C

## Opening Ceremony

- 8.00-9.00 Participants assemble in Peach Hall A
- 9.00-10.30 Opening Ceremony begins
- Welcoming speech by the Governor of Chonburi Province
  - Welcoming speech and introduction of the organizers by the president of IPST Dr. Pornpun Waitayangkoon
  - Video presentation in celebration of His Majesty the King's 84th Birthday Anniversary
  - Introduction of sponsors of IOI 2011
  - First Thai cultural performance
  - Introductory speech by the President of IOI Mr. Arturo Cepeda
  - Report by Chairman of IOI 2011 Dr. Kanchit Malaivongs
  - Opening speech by Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva Prime Minister of Thailand
  - Presenting gifts to co-organizers and sponsors by the Prime Minister
  - Group photo for the Guests of Honor
  - Second and Third Thai cultural performance
  - Introduction of participating delegations

## OPENING IOI 2011 WITH A TOUCH OF STYLE

Grandeur and splendid surprise are what the organizing committee has in mind for the IOI 2011 opening ceremony.

The ceremony, scheduled from 9.00 to 11.00 am., are fraught with fine details; however, some of them has to be silenced until the shows begin.

"We want to offer all participants a truly exceptional experience. A feeling of marvel," said Assist. Prof. Dr. Athasit from Chulalongkorn University who leads the team taking care of the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the farewell party for young and young-at-heart participants.

The event will be honorably presided over by Prime Minister of Thailand Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, along with a number of prestigious guests, including the governor of Chonburi province.

Additionally, to mark the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the King's 84th Birthday Anniversary this year, there will be a video presentation featuring royal projects that incorporate informatics technology to social and education development. They are for instance, Wang Klai Kangwon Royal Satellite Secondary Education Project, and the use of Satellite to ease traffic and flood problems.

Highlights of the event are three cultural shows; traditional mask dance known as *Khon*, singing and martial arts. Under the concept "Tradition meets Technology", Assist. Prof. Dr. Athasit said the cultural shows will present a smooth blend of Thai classical arts and culture and informatics technology. "These cultural shows are truly unique, you can't see them elsewhere," he smiled.



Assistant Prof. Dr. Athasit Surarerks

To promote the power and talents of youth, all the shows will be performed by youngsters, Assist. Prof. Dr. Athasit added. "I assure you all the shows and everything we prepare will be truly remarkable and memorable. You'll have to wait and see," Assist. Prof. Dr. Athasit left us high with anticipation.

# Exhibition to Inspire

The contest is not the only experience that young participants will gain from the IOI 2011. An interesting supplementary of the event is the IT exhibition which will demonstrate the potential of young Thai programmers whose abilities have been proved at both national and international levels.

The other part is an Exhibition Showcase for IT award-winning Thai students, such as the Receptionist Robot 'Namo' from the Institute of Field roBOtics (FIBO), SKUBA Project from Kasetsart University, and the Thai- 3D Sign Language Machine Translation System from Chiang Mai University, altogether in 29 booths.



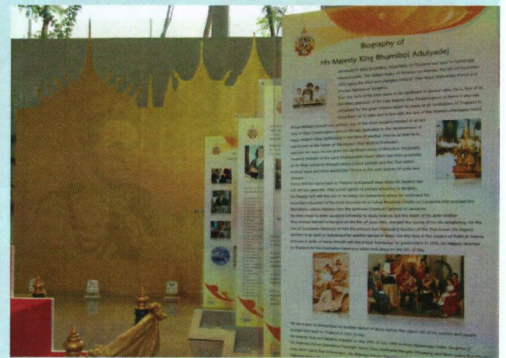
According to Dr. Chularat, the objective of the exhibition is to showcase the potential of Thai youths to the audience at national and international levels.

"We hope the exhibition will inspire young Thai viewers and get them to realize that Thai people also have competency in computer programming. We don't need to always buy software or depend on foreign developers all the time," said Dr. Chularat.

She hoped the involvement of Thai youths in the computer competitions like this will promote greater interests of children in computer science.

"The human resources we currently have in the field of IT remain inadequate, both in terms of quality and quantity," she said.

She explained that the country is still in need of good programmers with deep



understanding in the IT works they have created.

"What we exhibit here will demonstrate how a good computer program is like. The creators of these projects have true understanding in what they do. Their projects successfully meet the objectives of what they had been working on," she said.

Local visitors are warmly welcome to the exhibition, to witness the potentials of Thai youths.

"Children interested in computer science should come to see what senior youths had done to achieve at international level. They will realize Thais are also capable of developing computer projects and one day they themselves might get a chance to participate in this kind of contest," she said.



Dr. Chularat Tanprasert, who is in charge of the exhibition said the exhibitions are divided into two parts. The first part is a Commemorative Exhibition of His Majesty the King's 7th cycle Birthday Anniversary (1 cycle is 12 years, 7th cycle is 84 years) which presents His Majesty's initiatives in support of information technologies, such as the use of weather maps and His Majesty's own publishing design.

## Participant Shirts' Colors

Leaders, Contestants and Visitors



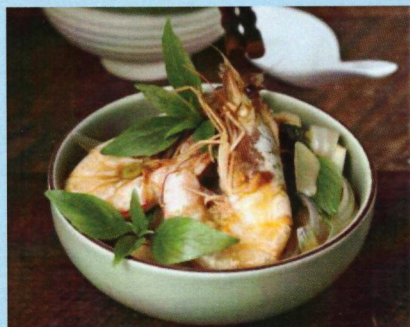
Guide



Organizing Team



## Tom Yam Gung



Ask any Thai food connoisseurs about their favorite dish and their answers tend to be Tom Yam Gung.

The sour and spicy soup is a classic Thai cuisine that has become a mainstay in all Thai restaurants across the world, a must-order dish if you ever wish to learn about the taste of Thai food.

Apart from its good taste, Tom Yam Gung is also famed for its many health benefits. According to a study by Thailand's Kasetsart University and Japan's Kyoto and Kinki Universities, the ingredients in Tom Yam Gung, mainly herbs and spices, have immune-boosting efficacy against cold

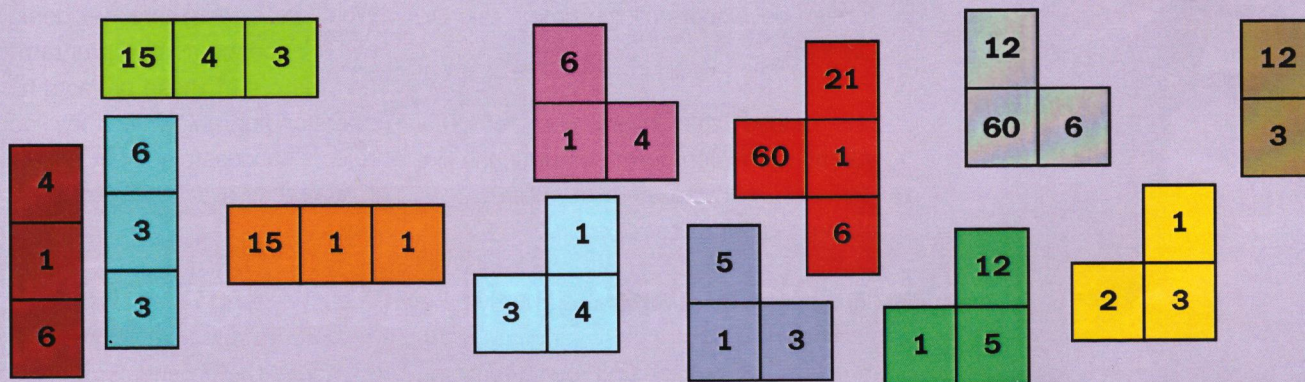
and flu; and are proved to be effective in inhibiting cancerous tumor growth.

Basic ingredients are shelled prawns, lemongrass stalks, sliced galangal root, halved straw mushrooms, lightly crushed red chili, tom kaffir lime leaves, and coriander.

This tasty and healthy soup is quite easy to make. Bring clear broth to boil. Put all ingredients into the pot. Season the soup with fish sauce and sugar. Turn off the heat, add lime juice, chili and coriander. There you are, an ideal soup to keep you fit and healthy!

## Puzzle

There are 12 blocks as shown below. Each block has a distinct color. Each block consists of some smaller cells with a number labeled on each. Merge all the blocks into a 6x6 square in such a way that: for any pair of cells of different colors whose sides share an edge, there exists a cell whose number is divided by the number on the other cell.



Solution next issue. ▶▶▶▶

## Thai Tongue

- Khun** You (also used as a title in front of people's name to show politeness such as khun Nida, Khun Mike)
- Phom** I (used by male)
- Chan** I (used by female)
- Chue** Name
- Arai** What
- Khun chue arai** What's your name?
- Pom chue ...** My name is ....
- Chan chue ...** My name is ....
- Aayu** Age
- Khun aayu thawrai** How old are you?

## Solution



Nonogram

						1												
						1	4			2	1			1	1			
						1	1	1	1		1	1		1	1			
						1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	4	4	1	4
				3	1	3												
		1	1	1	1													
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Credit: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nonogram>