



NEWSLETTER

Issue 3, Sunday, 24 July 2011



PROBLEMS CREATED AND SOLVED

If you think solving the IOI tasks is tough, you may have to think again as one of the International Scientific Committee said, it is equally as hard to create new and challenging problems.

Over the last 10 and 15 years, contestants have greatly developed their competency, they did better and better each year. This has put a lot of stress on the ISC, said Mr. Bernard Blackham from Australia.

"It's always a problem to find new creative problems that haven't been seen before. The committee has to come up with new problems every year and it is a lot of hard work," he smiled.

Everyone involved in the competition knows about the nature of the problem and train themselves well for it. This challenges the committee to find new and more creative problems.

Basically, most problems come from one or two directions, Mr. Blackham explained. One is from problems to solutions, and the other is from solutions to problems.

"You think of a hard problem and then try to solve it. If you can solve it, then you can propose it to the competition."

"The other way you can come up with a problem is by thinking at what you want the students to do, then work backwards to create the problem."

Each year, the committee asks all participating countries to send in new problems. "Anyone can send in the problems as long as they are not competing," Mr. Blackham chuckled.

“ You need to convince the computer to help you solve the problem. ”

For the problem selection process, the host organizers get together and choose a very small number of problems. The debate over the final problems to be in the competition can take days, and for the whole selection process, it might last a few months.

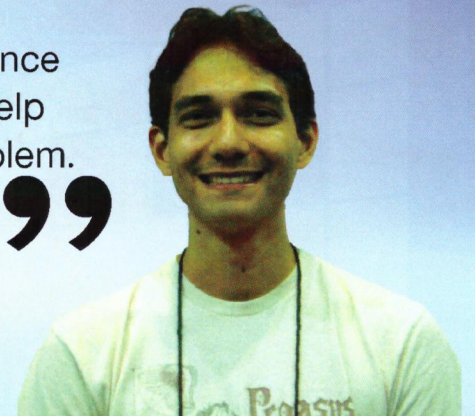
There will be three different problems for each competition day. The students have five hours to write three programs to solve different tasks. "Basically we judge the contestants on how fast their programs run and make sure that their programs actually solve the problems," said Mr. Blackham.

"The smarter, the cleverer they can write the computer programs, the more marks they will get."

Students taking part in the IOI competition are good at solving problems, said Mr. Blackham. And this skill is gained through training.

Being involved with IOI for eight years, Mr. Blackham has seen a lot of success from students who had participated in the event.

"Many of them are very successful in their career. We have a lot of students who have gone to work with Mac, Google and some banks. In the finance world, if you can solve very hard problems, you can get a lot of money. The problem solving skills are very sought after."



Mr. Bernard Blackham

Competition Day 1

Contestants

06:00 - 08:00	Breakfast
08:00 - 13:00	Contest
13:00 - 15:00	Lunch
15:30 - 17:00	Results and Appeals
18:00 - 20:00	Dinner

Leaders

06:00 - 08:00	Breakfast
08:00 - 10:00	Clarifications
10:00 - 13:00	Conference
13:00 - 15:00	Lunch
15:30 - 17:00	Results and Appeals
18:00 - 20:00	Dinner
20:00 - 21:00	GA Meeting 3

Visitors

06:00 - 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 - 18:00	Suphattra Land, Rayong
18:00 - 20:00	Dinner

Weather Today



High Low
29 °C 25 °C



International Scientific Committee



Ben Burton,
AUSTRALIA;



Bernard Blackham,
AUSTRALIA;



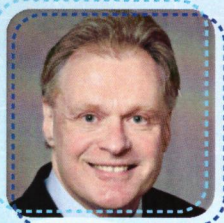
Michal Forisek,
SLOVAKIA, CHAIR;



Jittat Fakcharoenphol,
THAILAND;



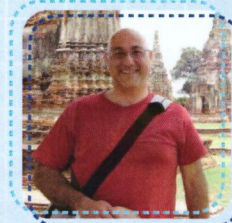
Martin Mares,
CZECH REPUBLIC;



Gordon Cormack
CANADA;



Mihai Pătrașcu,
USA;



Roberto Grossi
ITALY

Before the Big Day

It's all there now—the computers ready on the desks, the software's running, and the tests are readily prepared. The examination room for the IOI 2011 was set ready as the first-day competition is about to begin today.

Leaders and competitors of 78 countries packed the room yesterday for the practice session.

Each contestant was given three problems to solve so they had chances to familiarize with the environment, the computer and the system.

Sy Nguyen Nguyen, the 18-year-old contestant from Vietnam, had finished all the three tasks within an hour.

"The testing problems are very easy because this is just a practice session," said Nguyen.

Nguyen said he had been preparing for the competition for two months and a half, practicing four hours every day.

This, however, was not his first experience in an international competition. At 11 years old, Nguyen had won a silver medal in an international math contest.

However, since it was his first time with the IOI, Nguyen said he was still excited.

"What I can do now is telling myself to relax," he said.



Ani Margvelashvili, from Georgia, was among the only four female contestants in the competition.

As it was her first time with the competition, she couldn't help feeling 'nervous and scared.'

What is she planning to do then, to cope with her excitement?

"I'll go to the beach, relax and go to bed early," she said.

When asked how confident she was, she replied, "I'll do my best, and hopefully, I will return to my country with a medal,"



GATEWAY TO THE BRIGHT FUTURE.



The highly anticipated competition is about to begin today. Many contestants may have yet to get over their excitement. Well, no matter what the results are on the first day, the IOI competition is an experience that would last a life time. A former Thai silver medalist in 2003, **Prachya Paisanvipatchpong**, is telling us how the competition has shaped his life.

What are you doing at the moment?

I'm a software engineer at the Department of Advertising Product Development of Google Inc. My responsibility is to develop new products to boost Google's income by presenting advertisements that meet the demands of Google users at certain periods. What I'm doing starts from creating ideas, designing, researching and trying new advertisements to evaluate the income value and users' satisfaction towards the products, as well as extending products to cover Google users worldwide.

What kind of experiences do you get from the competition?

Contesting in the IOI changed my life from an ordinary student to be the one at the top of my class in computer science. The competition had stimulated our learning and developed our ability from the basic skills in the initial rounds to advanced skills in the deeper rounds of the competition.

While going through the Thai representatives selection camp, I had a chance to learn about computational concepts that were helpful to improve my potential in the future. The camp

also extended my connection with the academics and friends from other schools who shared the same interests. Those friends I've known from the computer camp are clever and smart. Although the camp was finished and we are now separated in many parts of the world, we still keep in touch. These friends are staying in the IT circles locally and internationally. We have many opportunities to meet and work together, and there are times that I have received good advice from those academics and friends.

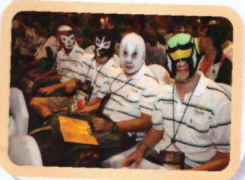
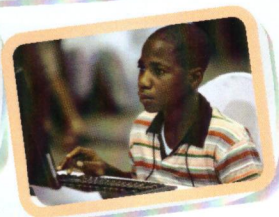
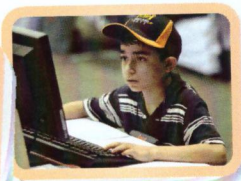


Prachya Paisanvipatchpong,

What's your advice for the IOI contestants this year?

Everyone who succeeds in this competition starts from zero. At the beginning, they knew nothing, but the love in what they do led them to self-development and achievement. Therefore, it's not important how much you know, or how better you are than your friends, it's your continual self-development that will determine your future.

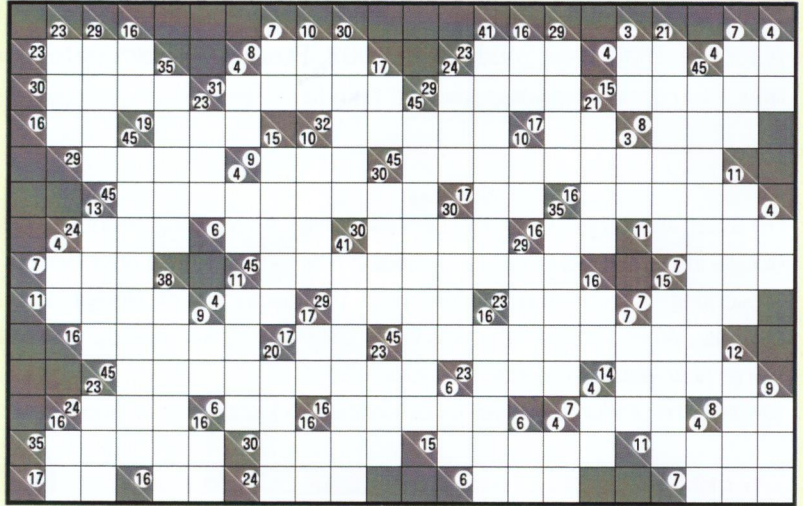
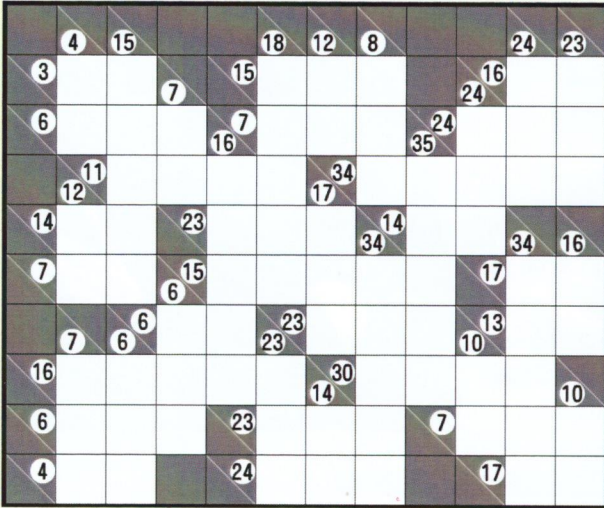
Moments



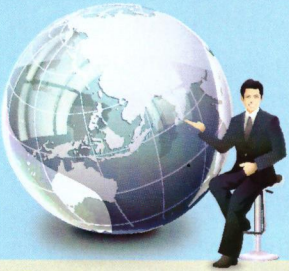


Kakuro

In this puzzle, you have to insert a digit from 1 to 9 inclusive into each white cell such that the sum of the numbers in each entry matches the number associated with it and no duplicated number from 1 to 9 allowed in any entry.



Solution next issue. ▶▶▶▶



Good Luck! Enjoy your tasks!

Solution

Puzzle

5	15	1	1	1	6
1	3	6	2	3	3
4	12	1	4	12	3
1	60	6	1	3	21
6	12	3	4	60	1
1	5	15	4	3	6

Thai Tongue

- Khor Thot** Excuse me. Sorry.
- Mai Pen Rai** It's all right. Never mind.
You're welcome.
- Yaak** Difficult
- Ngai** Easy
- Chai** Correct. Yes.
- Mai Chai** Incorrect. No.
- Dee** Good