IOI NEWSLETTER

A Happy New Year to the IOI Community

IOI Workshop

The topic of this year's workshop is **"Creating an International Informatics Curriculum for Primary and High School Education"**.

More information can be found at http://ioiworkshop2015.cs.org.mk/

Evert participant who attends the workshop should prepare a presentation on the current state of Informatics curriculum in his/her country. The draft presentation, should be developed using a template available on the website. If you have any suggestions on improvement of this presentation/questionnaire, you may write to mile.jovanov AT gmail.com no later than 15.01.2015. After this date, the improved presentation will be available at the same link.

Important dates:

Expression of interest to participate: **15.01.2015 (was the 5th)**

Suggestions on improvement of the questionnaire: **15.01.2015**

Invitations issued (information on grants will also be given): **31.01.2015**

Submission of the presentations by the invited participants: **15.03.2015**

The IOI foundation will cover the organizational expenses of the workshop. Additionally, the accommodation and travel expenses (up to 200e) will be covered for the invited participants.

The workshop will be held as joined event to the 12th International Conference on Informatics and Information Technologies (http://ciit.finki.ukim.mk/). Some participants may consider participation in this event also. They can contact Mile Jovanov, about the details.

More information can be found at http://ioiworkshop2015.cs.org.mk/

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.

Albania is Starting From A

It is just about 102 years since Albania proclaimed its independence, and 30 years since the University of Tirana established the Informatics study program and the Informatics Department. This was the year when Albania could not afford to attend the IOI, but its team came home with a

bronze from the Balkan Olympiad of Informatics.

Many things to celebrate, but the celebration won't be a long one.
In the past, Albania has had limited success in the informatics olympiads for many reasons that are too long or too boring to explain herewith. For this, in Albania we are starting from A, by first asking the Ministry of Education to reformat the National Olympiad in Informatics to be follow the syllabus of IOI, and then, in the search of talented students we will organize training camps accessible to all students from Albania, regardless how close or how far from the capital Tirana they may be. Epoka University did a great job in offering all possible trainings and facilities to the Albanian Olympic Team.
In May, we were guest competitors at my home country -- Montenegro, and our students showed great success. This year we will keep training and visiting our neighbours, until Albania builds a system that is not event driven, but it is a system that promotes excellence and equal opportunity to all students who want to embark on the everlasting fun of solving computational problems in a creative and efficient way.

Dr. Ilir Capuni

Ilir Capuni is an assistant professor of computer engineering at Epoka University in Tirana. He obtained his PhD from Boston University, and he trained and lead the Albanian National Team at the Balkan Olympiad in Informatics, in which Evis Hoxha received a bronze medal.

IOI 2015

IOI 2015 will be held in Almaty city, Republic of Kazakhstan, between July 26 and August 2, 2015. Almaty, also known as Alma-Ata, located in a beautiful Trans-Ili Alatau mountain area. The name of Almaty comes from Kazakh word "alma" – apple.

Aport, a special sort of apples, is a symbol of Almaty. Two fountains shown above located at Aport city mall (left), and at Kok-tube park, tourist attraction, a green hill with panoramic view of Almaty (right)

al-Farabi Kazakh National University – host of IOI 2015, April 2009 view

The 27th IOI will be supported by the Ministry of Education and Science, and organized by the Republican Scientific Practical Centre "Daryn" and al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Daryn is a State enterprise created for revealing, development and realization of potential of gifted children. The IOI 2015 host, al-Farabi Kazakh National University is a leading educational and scientific institution in Kazakhstan, a first host of the ACM ICPC Kazakhstan subregional contest.

University al-Farabi Library, main building for IOI 2015 activities. Built in 2014, it has four floors: museum (1-st floor), computing hall (2-nd floor, 200 seats), reading hall (3-d floor, 700 seats), ballroom dancing hall and conference hall (4-th floor). IOI 2015 contest halls, conference and meeting rooms will be located in this building.