

International Olympiad in Informatics
General Assembly
August 13-20, Mérida, Mexico

Minutes

The GA of IOI 2006 met in seven sessions with the following main purposes:

1. August 13, 20-22h: welcome and presentation of contest rules
2. August 14, 17-19h: presentation of tasks for competition day 1)
3. August 15, 10.30-13h: reports and discussion (additional meeting, approved in session 2)
4. August 15, 21-22h: report on competition day 1
5. August 16, 17-19h: presentation of tasks for competition day 2
6. August 17, 21-22h: presentation of candidates; report on competition day 2
7. August 18, 18-20h: voting and announcements

1 Welcome

Arturo Cepeda, chairman of IOI 2006, gave a warm welcome to all delegations and opened the GA of IOI 2006. He introduced Gustavo Guerrero as GA chairman of IOI 2006.

2 Presentation and Confirmation of Agenda

The chairman presented the agenda for the GA meetings of IOI 2006. The agenda was approved.

3 Confirmation of the Minutes of GA Meetings Held at IOI 2005

The GA minutes of IOI 2005 had been distributed before IOI. The minutes were approved.

4 Approval of Contest Rules and Regulations

So far, the Scientific Committee had not provided printed copies of the final rules for the competition. The SC chairman, Cesar Cepeda, explained some major changes in the rules, as compared to IOI 2005: For some tasks, the contest system would give detailed feedback. Moreover, for some tasks, a test case would be a batch of test runs, with the test case score defined as the minimum score achieved in the test runs of this case. Contestants would be allowed to have small mascots or dictionaries during the contest, but these items would have to be submitted to the staff during the practice competition.

The contest rules and regulations were approved as presented.

5 Presentation and Approval of Tasks for Competition Day 1

Three tasks were presented: The Deciphering of Mayan Writing (WRITING), Pyramid (PYRAMID), and Forbidden Sub-Graph (FORBIDDEN). All tasks were approved to be used for the first competition.

6 Competition Day 1: Report and Appeals

Cesar Cepeda reported on the first competition. Three appeals had been made and settled. SC considered a re-evaluation of the task WRITING necessary; GA agreed with this action.

The procedure for checking results was debated, suggestions were made (1) to better announce the availability of contestant computers and of transportation between accommodation and competition site, and (2) to distribute results at the competition site. Both suggestions would be implemented on competition day 2.

7 Presentation and Approval of Tasks for Competition Day 2

Three tasks were presented: The Valley of Mexico (MEXICO), Joining Points (POINTS), and A Black Box Game (BLACKBOX). All tasks were approved to be used for the second competition.

8 Competition Day 2: Report and Appeals

Cesar Cepeda reported on the second competition. All appeals had been rejected.

9 Reports

9.1 Report by IC

IOI President and IC chairman Zide Du gave a report about recent IC activities. IC had had a web meeting in November 2005 and a meeting in Merida in March 2006. Furthermore, there had been an IOI-supported workshop on computer science competitions, where he had met IC member and temporary ED Wolfgang Pohl for discussion and exchange of ideas.

9.2 Report by ISC

ISC chairman Tom Verhoeff gave a report about recent ISC activities. ISC had met in Merida in March 2006, at the same time as the IC. Tom mentioned that the date of that meeting was early, relative to the state of task preparation, and that a joint meeting with IC would tend to distract ISC from its operation.

Tom also explained that ISC members were involved in work on an IOI syllabus. He presented a proposal for a syllabus, authored by Gordon Cormack, Krzysztof Diks, Gyula Horvath, and himself, and published in the journal "Teaching Mathematics and Computer Science", Vol. 4 No. 1, pp. 193-216. It was agreed that three months time would be given for feedback to this proposal, and three more months would be used for revision. The result of this process would be presented to IC at their mid-term meeting in Croatia.

9.3 Report by ITWG

ITWG chairman Jyrki Nummenmaa reported about the progress concerning the IOI Information System, which was used in the registration process of IOI 2006, and the IOI Practice CD. Further developments had been planned to make IOI more attractive to external observers, like the online publication of scores during the contest, but were currently prohibited by the IOI regulations and therefore postponed. Jyrki announced that he would not continue as ITWG chairman, but was willing to continue work on the IOI Information System.

9.4 Report by OED

The temporary ED, Wolfgang Pohl, gave a report about OED activities. Essentially, he had been occupied with the transfer of the OED, that is both IOI documents and money, to his place. He had not received any paper documents, but a collection of electronic documents. IOI money had safely arrived and is currently held in an account owned by the German Computer Society and administered by himself. After the transfer, most transactions were related to the IOI-sponsored workshop of January 2006 (which he had organized, but not as OED activity). Finally, he presented a budget for 2006/2007, as proposed by the IC. A paper version would be distributed, and the approval process would be settled later (in session 7). Since IOI money is used only occasionally, it would be beneficial to settle at least part of the money on an account with higher interest rates; the ED was asked to install and use such a second account.

10 Amendments to IOI Regulations

Richard Forster presented amendments to the regulations as proposed by IC: (1) increase the number of elected members within IC from 4 to 6 (including the President) and decrease the number of host represen-

tatives from 7 to 5; (2) give the GA the right to approve the IOI budget. These amendments were approved with a large majority.

11 Development of IOI

In addition to his report on IC activities, IOI President Zide Du presented his ideas and visions of the future of IOI; a corresponding document had been distributed beforehand. There were several comments: Tom Verhoeff (ISC) stressed that IOI regulations currently do not sufficiently deal with the long-term representation of participating countries; the role of permanent country contacts should be clarified. Pavel Pankov (Kyrgysztan) proposed to run a test competition with IOI tasks (with test participants) in order to check the tasks under as realistic conditions as possible. Furthermore, he suggested that tasks might be related to sponsors.

12 Appointment of Election Scrutineers

Several previous IOI chairman were appointed election scrutineers: Ha-Jine Kimn, Ries Kock, Don Piele, and Göktürk Üçoluk.

13 Election of IC Members

There had been a call for nominating candidates for IC membership at session 2. The ED had received two nominations for the two open positions: Valentina Dagienė from Lithuania, and Eljakim Schrijvers from The Netherlands. Both candidates presented themselves at session 6. Both candidates were elected by open approval; nobody had requested secret election (session 7).

14 Election of ISC Member

There had been a call for nominating candidates for IC membership at session 2. The ED had received three nominations from ISC and one from GA, and all nominees were proposed by IC: Ben Burton (Australia), Michal Forišek (Slovak Republic), Emil Kelevedjiev (Bulgaria), and Marcin Kubica (Poland). All candidates presented themselves at session 6. There were two rounds of voting: In the first round, 67 votes were given as follows: Ben Burton (26), Michal Forišek (19), Emil Kelevedjiev (12), Marcin Kubica (8), and 2 abstains. In the second round, Ben Burton received 31 and Michal Forišek 38 of 69 votes total. Michal Forišek accepted his election.

15 Medal Assignment

SC suggested to assign the medals according to an algorithm that had been suggested by Michal Forišek. A majority of 34 delegations voted for the SC proposal, while 18 delegations supported the request to see histograms of the score distribution, as in previous years.

16 Announcement of Future Host 2010

The Canadian delegation had applied to host IOI 2010 in Waterloo and given a very convincing presentation to IC. President Zide Du announced Canada to be the Future Host of IOI 2010.

17 Voting On Proposals Carried Forward From GA Meetings

IC and ISC elections see above

IOI Budget In contrast to the budget proposed by IC, Eljakim Schrijvers (The Netherlands) proposed to cut the amount reserved for OED staff to 0 (zero) and increase ISC funds instead. This proposal was supported by a minority only (14 delegations). Afterwards, a large majority approved the IC budget proposal.

ITWG chairman IC's nomination of Martin Mareš (Czech Republic) for ITWG chairman was approved.

18 New Business, Announcements

CoLib Krassimir Manev presented a new IC initiative, the Country Library (CoLib). The goal of this project is to provide IOI bodies (hosts, IC, GA) with reliable information about participation countries which could be used, e.g., to better estimate the relevance of the OI movement world-wide.

Executive Director IOI President Zide Du announced that IC had approved his nomination of Jari Koivisto (Finland) as new Executive Director.

GA Chairperson IC had decided that in the future the GA chairperson would be proposed by IC but had to be approved by the host.

Publication of Scores Publication of scores during the competition (to non-contestants) would help to increase attractiveness and transparency of the IOI. However, a change in regulations were required, and automatic computation of medal assignment became necessary, if scores were published during competition. After a brief discussion, a show of hands indicated significant support for this motion.

Partial Delegations According to IOI regulations, a delegation must have at least one contestant. Delegations arriving without contestants would be treated like guests and required to pay guest fees.

Task Selection David Ginat (Israel) proposed a change to the task selection process. He was encouraged to elaborate his proposal and submit it to ISC.

Awards IOI President Zide Du announced that in the closing ceremony, several awards would be given to IOI members with special merits. Specifically, awards would be given to

previous IOI chairpersons: Peter Kenderov (IOI 1989), N. Krasovsky (IOI 1990), George Philokyprou (IOI 1991), Peter Heyderhoff (IOI 1992), Alicia Buñuelos (IOI 1993), Yngve Lindberg (IOI 1994), Ries Kock (IOI 1995), Péter Hanák (IOI 1996), Lionel Hartmann (IOI 1997), Alexandre Cerveira (IOI 1998), Göktürk Üçoluk (IOI 1999), Jari Koivisto (IOI 2001), Ha-Jine Kimn (IOI 2002), Don Piele (IOI 2003), Spyros Bakogiannis (IOI 2004), Krzysztof Diks (IOI 2005), and Arturo Cepeda (IOI 2006).

previous ED: Lionel Hartmann (Distinguished Service Award, post mortem)

retiring IC members: Don Piele and Wolfgang Pohl.

retiring ISC members: Marcin Kubica, Ismail Hakki Toroslu, and Jyrki Nummenmaa (as ITWG chairman).

19 Dates of Next Meetings of GA

The Croatian delegation announced IOI 2007 to take place in August 2007. The date would be fixed soon.

20 Closing Remarks

IOI President Zide Du thanked the following persons, who left their positions in IOI bodies: Don Piele (USA) for 10 years of service in IC, including one year as chairman; Spyros Bakogiannis (Greece) for six years in IC, including one year as chairman; Wolfgang Pohl (Germany) for three years in IC and eight months as temporary ED; Marcin Kubica (Poland) and Hakki Ismail Toroslu (Turkey) for three years each in ISC; and Jyrki Nummenmaa for three years as ITWG chairman.

GA chairman Gustavo Guerrero thanked GA for their good cooperation (and GA returned an applause to him) and closed the GA of IOI 2006.