

Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting Budapest, 6-9 December, 2007

0, Manfred Kerschbaumer elected as SC chairman

1, Agenda approved

2, Participating countries

Number of participating countries – 68

Observers: Nigeria (2nd time)

Applied: Liechtenstein and Costa Rica

Debate:

- what do we do with very small countries
- limiting the total number of participants or countries

Decisions:

- Liechtenstein is not invited by Hungary based on the quality of their application (a Swiss PhD student applying on behalf of a country)
- Costa Rica will be invited as a first year observer to Hungary

Comment:

- We have to specify it in the application guidelines that application has to be submitted by a legal body (school, university, government, agency) and not by a person.
- We have to emphasize the message that new countries shall apply to the forthcoming organizer before the end of November.

3, IUPAC support

There were 8 countries requesting support. The requests by category were:

- Support for Registration fee: 5 800 USD
- Support for student travel: 10 160 USD
- Support for mentor travel: 5 014 USD
- Miscellaneous: 2 000 USD

Total requested: 22 974 USD

Approved requests:

- Registration fee: 4 900 USD
- Student travel support: 5 090 USD
on condition that a given number of students participate from the supported country

Total approved: 9 990 USD

Approved support by country and category:

	Participation fee	Student travel	min. number of students requested for support
Cuba	1600	1200	2
Kyrgyzstan	900	840	3
Peru	500	0	
Tajikistan	0	1150	4
Uruguay	1000	1900	3
Venezuela	900	0	
	4900	5090	

Communication of the results:

- An overview of the applications by categories and a detailed list of the approved support will be published on the website of IChO-40 and at Budapest
- Applicants will be informed about the decision by e-mail.

4, Participation fee – it is apparent that the relative contribution of the participation fees to the budget of the Olympiads has decreased considerably in the last years

Possibilities:

- Raise the maximum Participation fee to 2500 USD
- Convert USD to EUR and function in EUR in the future
- Follow inflation and have an increased rate

Suggestion to the International jury:

- Set the yearly increase after 2008 at 200 USD leaving the ceiling at 2000 USD

5, Steering Committee

- In case of voting only the elected members and the representatives of the Olympiad organizers are allowed to vote. Experts and guests don't have the right to vote.
- The mandate of a Steering Committee begins with the end of an Olympiad and lasts until the end of the next Olympiad
- The Chairman of the upcoming Steering Committee is elected before the end of the current Olympiad.
- The Experts of the upcoming Steering Committee are named before the end of the current Olympiad.

6, Academic honesty – irregularities were noted in Moscow in all the students answer sheets from one country.

Suggestions:

- Invitation to that country will be accompanied by a note that we ask the country not to send any of the mentors, scientific observers or students that participated at IChO-39.
- The Chairman of the SC will announce the past actions taken and will remind members of the International jury of the actions that might/will be taken if a student is caught.

- A declaration will be drawn up by the Steering Committee that will have to be signed by the students. The text will also be published in the Preparatory Problems. Head mentors will be requested to provide each student with a translation of this text in their own language.
- The mentors' translations of the competition tasks will be published on the web site of the Olympiad.

7, Reports from past, present and future organizers

- Russia: Official report
- Hungary: general and SC. Posting of preparatory problems in January 2008. KBrO_3 might remain in the Preparatory problems but it has to be stated that this compound will not be used in competition.
- UK: 18-27 July, 2009. Cambridge
- Japan: 19-28 July, 2010. Tokyo

8, 40th Anniversary

Plans:

- Special issue of the Catalyzer with memoirs, pictures, interviews, 1-1 old&new problems
- New flag for the Olympiad. Plans provided by Hungary and commented by the Steering Committee. If there is no agreement, then the Hungarian Organizing committee will make the decision. The new flag is handed over at the closing ceremony.
- Slideshow + speech at the opening ceremony (5'+5') – presentation of the first Hungarian mentor

9, Syllabus – to make the syllabus more useful for the preparation of the national teams and to orientate future organizers we suggest the restructuring of the present syllabus

Distribution:

- Published at the web site of IChO-40
- Distributed at the first jury meeting in Budapest
- Sent out with the Preparatory problems

Presentation:

- Gábor Magyarfalvi (Hungary) will introduce the restructured syllabus

New idea:

- To help the organizers to avoid issues of non-compliance with the syllabus they might invite the acting chairs of the two Scientific committees of the forthcoming Olympiads some days in advance for consultation.

10, Rearranging SC voting areas – to improve the flow of information between the Steering committee and the participating countries

Suggestions:

- We have to stick to the present practice of election since we have no better alternative for the moment. The SC will work on improving communication with participating countries.

11, Communications

Reports to the International jury:

- At the 1st Jury meeting
 - Introduction of the SC members at the beginning of the session, description of the role of the SC and experts
 - Introduction and distribution of the rearranged syllabus
 - Honesty issues – description of our decisions and a remark on the compliance of the involved country
 - Agenda list for the 3rd and 4th Jury meeting
 - Invitation to bring issues to the 4th meeting of the International jury
- At the 3rd Jury meeting
 - Election of the new Steering Committee members (the members of the new SC will meet to elect their chairman and to decide on the experts)
 - Schedule for the arbitration
 - Detailed introduction and voting on the acceptance of the restructured syllabus
 - Voting on the changes of the participation fee
 - Action to include a point in the Regulations about safety
- At the 4th Jury meeting
 - Report on the IUPAC support
 - Allocation of the medals and honorable mentions
 - Presentations by future hosts
 - Introduction of the new Steering Committee
- We send out the Minutes of the SC meeting with the Preparatory problems
- Eye catching sign on the web site about the Minutes of the SC meeting
- Information we send out to head mentors in January
 - 2 copies of Preparatory problems
 - syllabus and introductory letter
 - minutes of the SC meeting
 - guidelines for mentors
 - letter on honesty