

# Minutes of the January meeting of the Steering Committee of the IChO

**Friday January 10, 2014**

**Hanoi**

## **Present**

**Elected members:** Peter Wothers (UK, chair), Alexander Gladilin (Russia), I-Jy Chang (Chinese Taipei), Carlos Castro-Acuna (Mexico), Duckhwan Lee (Korea), Gabor Magyarfalvi (Hungary).

**Organizers of past / future IChO:** G.Bryan Balazs (USA), Nguyen Van Noi (Vietnam), Worawan Bhanthumnavin (Thailand)

**Coopted members:** Manfred Kerschbaumer (Austria), Martin Putala (Slovakia),

## **Organizers for 2014:**

Prof. Bui Duy Cam – Head of Orgniger (former Rector of Hanoi University of Science)

Prof. Nguyen Tien Giang, Head of Affair Dept VNU

Dr. Nguyen Tien Thao,

Dr. Trinh Thuy Giang, Orgnizer

## **1. Report from the 45<sup>th</sup> IChO, 2013 (AG)**

- A detailed report of the 2013 IChO in Moscow was circulated.
- Budget – mainly from Government, little from sponsorship.
- Fees now amount to 10% of total budget.
- Methods of paying – a number of countries still prefer to pay on arrival.
- Attention to new safety regulations (should ensure these are also followed in 2014).
- The procedure of reporting the results of practical BEFORE each country gets individual results was trialed successfully in Russia and the practice should continue in future years.

## **2. Report from 46<sup>th</sup> IChO, Hanoi**

- Dates confirmed as July 20-29<sup>th</sup> July
- Structure of committees
- Venues were listed [all venues were subsequently inspected by the committee over two days]

## **3. Countries to be invited to 46<sup>th</sup> IChO**

- Georgia, Montenegro have now observed for two years and will be invited as full participants.
- South Africa: The completed questionnaire was found to be satisfactory and hence South Africa are approved as observers, with usual conditions. **Letter to be prepared** and sent by organisers. Remind participation fee in 2016 will be \$1000.
- Macedonia – **need to write for an update** to see how expansion is coming on, but are to be invited.
- Liechtenstein to be invited. If requesting to bring no students, SC to be consulted.
- Egypt – have not attended recently. If they apply, the SC will be consulted and will hopefully allowing them to participate.
- Cuba have not attended recently but will be invited.

#### 4. Allocations of financial support

- It was noted that IUPAC has had to withdraw / suspend its annual support of \$10000. There will be no support available from them for the 46<sup>th</sup> IChO.
- Since none of the support from Japan was allocated for the 45<sup>th</sup> IChO in Moscow, hopefully \$4000 will be available.
- A one-off additional donation from the Royal Society of Chemistry has been offered to help cover the shortfall for 2014 since applications were made under the expectation of assistance from IUPAC. The RSC will be notified of the countries they will be assisting.
- Applications of support were received from five countries and the amounts allocated are shown below:

Country	Support
A	2000
B	2000
C	1100
D	2500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7600</b>

- The surplus of \$1400 will be put towards the 47<sup>th</sup> IChO.
- IUPAC to be thanked once again for their previous support, and we hope they will be able to continue supporting the IChO in the future.
- The chair proposed to approach a potential sponsor that has expressed interest in supporting the competition.

#### Saturday 11 Jan

#### 5. Report from 47<sup>th</sup> IChO Baku, Azerbaijan

- Apologies were received from Azerbaijan who had problems with their visas. A report was given on their behalf by AG.
- Dates need to be set – the SC recommend July 11 or 12 as a start date.
- Organized by the Baku branch of Moscow State University with help on the scientific content from Moscow. Russian group have already met with representative from Azerbaijan Ministry.
- Letter to be written by PW with assistance from AG.

#### 6. 48<sup>th</sup> IChO: 2016 proposal from Kazan, The Republic Tatarstan, Russia

A report was given by AG concerning a proposal to hold the 48<sup>th</sup> IChO in 2016 in Kazan, Russia. The current Rector of Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Ilshat Gafurov has expressed interest to host the competition. The Republic of Tatarstan has had much success sending students to previous IChOs, and has hosted the all-Russian chemistry finals many times. PW to write on behalf of the SC, with assistance from AG.

#### 7. 49<sup>th</sup> IChO 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

- A report was given by WB.
- The event is to be under the patronage of HRH Princess Chulabhorn.
- 3 major universities have submitted bids for consideration.

## **8. 50<sup>th</sup> IChO**

A report was given by MP. Whilst no firm commitment to host has yet been received, both the Czech Republic and Slovakia are working hard trying to secure funding for a joint Olympiad. PW should compose a letter on behalf of the SC to be included with the proposal to the Ministries to ensure the success of the 50<sup>th</sup> IChO. Publicity material used for Russian Olympiads should also be made available to the organisers.

## **9. Inspection of Venues of 46<sup>th</sup> IChO**

- The proposed venues for the opening / closing ceremonies and the accommodation of students and mentors were inspected and found to be more than suitable. The SC made a number of suggestions for the program and the running of the event.

## **10. Any other business (A.O.B.)**

- Further guidelines for hosts and mentors were received and discussed and are to be made available to all via the website
- It was proposed to trial a method whereby students could formally register if they had any significant problems during their practical examination that they felt were not adequately acknowledged by the invigilators. Exact wording to be circulated around the SC.

## **11. Thanks**

- The SC expressed its thanks to the organisers of the 46th IChO for all the hard work that has been put in so far and felt confident that it would be a most successful competition in July.