

International Chemistry Olympiad

Steering Committee Meeting

Ankara, December 9-12, 2010

Minutes prepared by Duckhwan Lee

1. Members of International Steering Committee

➤ *Elected Members(5 with 1 member absent)*

Mark Ellison(Australia, 2007, 2009, Mark.Ellison@anu.edu.au)

Duckhwan Lee(Korea, 2007, 2009, duckhwan@sogang.ac.kr, Chair)

Wolfgang Hampe(Germany, 2008, 2010, Hampe@t-online.de)

Alexander Gladilin (Russia, 2010, gladilin@direct.ru)

Peter Wothers (UK, 2010, pdw12@cam.ac.uk)

* John Kiappes(USA, 2008, 2010, jlkiappes@gmail.com) *absent for personal business*

➤ *Organizers(3)*

Tadashi Watanabe (Japan, 2010, watanabe@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

Jale Hacaloglu(Turkey, 2011, jale@metu.edu.tr)

G. Bryan Balazs (USA, 2012, balazs1@llnl.gov)

➤ *Coopted Members(3)*

Manfred Kerschbaumer(Austria, mkersch@gmx.net)

Carlos Castro-Acuna (Mexico, castroacuna02@yahoo.com)

Olivier Plaidy (France, oplaidy@gmail.com)

➤ *Observers(4)*

O. Yavuz Ataman (Turkey, Chair of IChO-2011)

Cecilia Hernandez (USA, C.Hernandez@acs.org, manager for IChO-2012)

Do Quy Son (Vietnam, do_quy_son@yahoo.com, host of IChO-2014)

Tran Van Nghia (Vietnam, host of IChO-2014)

2. Report from the Organizer (Jale Hacaloglu)

➤ **Period:** July 9 ~ 18, 2011

➤ **Total Budget:** approximately USD 1.2 ~ 1.5 million mostly from Government.

➤ **Main Venue:** Middle East Technical Univ. with 2 dormitories, convention center for official ceremonies, Chemistry and nearby Engineering facilities for theoretical and practical tests, guarded by check-points at the University gate for security.

➤ **Mentor's venue:** either Bilkent or Crown Hotel (about 10km from METU) with double rooms, internet, rooms for Jury meeting, translation (one PC for each country and one printer for two countries provided, personal laptops allowed), and arbitration.

➤ **Excursion:** Istanbul by plane for mentors, Cappadokia, Beypazan, Goreme, etc.

➤ **Official airport:** Esenboga International Airport in Ankara

- Assistance for visa and travel assistance will also be provided at Istanbul airport.

➤ **Participation fees:** USD 1,500 for a scientific observer and USD 2,000 for a guest; credit and cash on arrival will be accepted;



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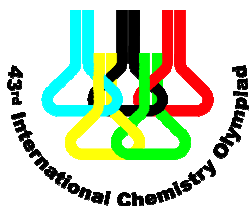
- **Pre and Post tour events:** will be arranged through travel agencies.
- **Comments:**
 - Internet within dormitories will be closed until the end of the competitions.
 - Need an effort to give identical environments for practical competitions, including size and height of table, as much as possible.
 - One big room with tables and chairs for theoretical competition (gymnasium or cafeteria) may be better than many scattered small-size rooms.
 - Should have enough number of apparatus and instruments like drying ovens.
 - Portable air conditioning will be prepared if absolutely necessary, although the buildings are well designed for the summer of Ankara, especially early in the day.

3. Reports from Past Organizer(Professor Watanabe)

- Total budget: about USD 4.6 mil. including the governmental support of USD 2.6 mil.
- The Japanese Organizing Committee will donate USD 2,000 per annum from 2011 through 2020 to the IChO.
- The Final Report on IChO-2010 will be posted on the Japanese homepages and the posting will be announced through the Turkish homepage.

4. Participating/Observing Countries

- **Cyprus** will be invited through Chair of SC.
- **Liechtenstein** will participate with 4 students from 2011.
- **Nigeria** and **Serbia** will be invited as second year observers.
- **Chile, El Salvador, Georgia,** and **Uzbekistan** will be invited as first year observers.
- **Macedonia** may be invited if they submit the Questionnaire (to be requested by Jale).
- **Georgia** has not responded to the request for Questionnaire.
- **The first year observing countries will be invited to a meeting with the SC in summer.**
- **Egypt**, absent since 2007 after 5 years of participations, will be required to observe for two years if they want to return.
- List of People to check:
 - **Tajikistan:** Abdufatkh Khotamov(HM) and Sheral Tursunbadalov(M) [Budapest, 2008]
 - **Azerbaijan:** Vaqif Abbasov(HM), Mutellim Abbasov(M), Yusif Abdullayev(SO), Nasim Ajdar Abishov(SO) [Moscow, 2007]



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5. Distribution of the IUPAC and Japan Support

- **IUPAC Support:** USD 10,000 (2011) + USD 6,742.15*
 - The amount includes USD 3,495.15 from Cambridge (deducted USD 4.85 for bank fee from USD 3,500) and USD 247.00 from Tokyo.
 - The suspended support of USD 3,000 for Cuba in 2009 is re-deposited to the fund.
- **Japan Support:** USD 2,000
 - It is agreed upon to apply the guidelines for requesting IUPAC support.
 - The support will continue until 2020.
- **Guidelines for requesting IUPAC support**
 - Countries which cannot afford the participation fee and therefore cannot participate in the IChO
 - Countries which cannot afford to travel with a team of four students
 - Countries which cannot afford to travel with two mentors
- **Reimbursement Procedure:**
 - Proper supporting materials such as air tickets should be presented to the Organizer.
 - The amount of reimbursement may not exceed the actual cost of air ticket.
- **Announcement of the IUPAC and Japan support:**
 - In addition to the official announcement by the Host, the members of SC should actively try to advertise the availability of this financial support.

➤ Distribution [Available Fund for 2011: \$18,742.25]

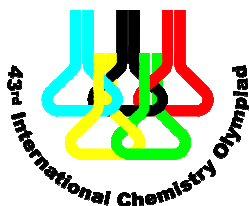
Year (Total)	Country	Participation Fee	Travel Expenses	Total
2011 (\$15,600)	Argentina	\$ 1,700		\$ 1,700
	Venezuela	\$ 1,900		\$ 1,900
	Uruguay	\$ 1,300	upto \$ 2,000 ¹	\$ 3,300
	Cuba	\$ 1,900	upto \$ 3,000 ²	\$ 4,900
	Peru	\$ 800	upto \$ 3,000 ²	\$ 3,800

¹ for the second mentor with 4 students.

² for bringing at least 3 students.

➤ Past Distributions

Year (Total)	Country	Participation Fee	Travel Expenses	Total
2010 (\$9,753)	Venezuela	\$ 1,800		\$ 1,800
	Croatia		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Tajikistan	\$ 700	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,100
	Argentina		\$ 2,853	\$ 2,853



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2009 (\$3,500) ¹	Uruguay	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,900
	Peru	\$ 600		\$ 600
2008 (\$9,990)	Cuba	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,800
	Kyrgystan	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 1,740
	Peru	\$ 500		\$ 500
	Tajikistan		\$ 1,150	\$ 1,150
	Uruguay	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,900
	Venezuela	\$ 900		\$ 900

¹The support of USD 3,000 for Cuba was cancelled at the 2010 December SC Meeting.

6. IChO Regulations and Miscellaneous

➤ Steering Committee Election

§8 (2) Members of the Committee are elected by the International Jury by a secret ballot to serve a two year term. There must be at least one person from each of the following regions: the Americas, Asia and Europe. Other three members can come from any region. The term of the elected committee begins on the 1st day after the IChO. Members are elected for no more than two consecutive terms.

- The election will be divided into two parts: “Regional” and “Open”.
- The registration form of candidates will be posted.
- Unsuccessful candidates for the Regional election may become subsequently candidates for the Open election.
- There will be elections for **one Regional** (Asia) and **one Open** positions in Ankara.

➤ Proposal for Revision of the IChO Regulations

§8 (3) There are the following ex-officio members of the Steering Committee:

- a) a representative of the current IChO,
- b) a representative of the immediately preceding IChO,
- c) representatives of the subsequent ~~two~~ IChOs **approved by the International Jury**
- d) the immediate past chair of the SC (for one year only)

- It is better to have all the confirmed future hosts involved in the December SC meeting as early as possible.

➤ Issue on over-training

- Over-training has become serious source of complaints for many participating countries, which may damage the spirit of IChO to **promote international contacts in chemistry through fair competition of students of secondary school level**, as stated in §1.
- The IChO Regulation §10(5) clearly states that “the training or any other special instruction for a selected group of 50 or fewer students containing the IChO team must be no longer than two weeks”.



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§10 (5) Training or any other special instruction that is carried out for a selected group of 50 or fewer students containing the IChO team must be no longer than two weeks.

- Nevertheless, there is no clear consensus as to what exactly constitutes ‘the over-training’ against the IChO Regulations since each country has a unique educational environment quite distinct from other countries. There is even an argument that ‘over-training’ in fact can restore “fairness” in some instances, as some countries do not have an educational system which allows their students access to self-initiated, higher (college-level) resources which are typically available to students from other countries. It thus appears to be necessary to find a way to resolve controversies on over-training.
- Until a reasonable proposal in detail for ‘proper level of training’ acceptable for the IChO can be drawn up, §10(5) of the Regulation will be understood as applied to **the effort at the level of the national organization responsible for National Chemistry Olympiad, not to the individual effort on the part of participating students.**
- As a way to emphasize the importance of maintaining the spirit of IChO, **each head mentor will be requested to submit, at the time of registration, a certificate for observance of the §10(5) as interpreted above and §3(2).**
- **Each head mentor will also be requested at the time of registration to provide information on the training of their IChO team.** The information will be reviewed at the Steering Committee Meeting in December of 2011 for drawing up a proposal for ‘proper training’ to be recommended to the International Jury.
- Anonymous information, delivered to the Tokyo Organizer last August, against a gold medalist was reviewed and the SC concluded that the student was in compliance with the IChO Regulations.
- **Preparatory Problem and Review of the ‘IChO Syllabus’**
 - The Preparatory Problems are to be continued
 - a) to give a degree of flexibility to the Organizer in choosing advanced topics, not covered by the Syllabus
 - b) to help the participating countries train students
 - c) to be a convenient way of communication between Organizer and head mentors.
 - Gabor Magyarfalvi(Hungary) and Peter Wothers(UK) will prepare a review on the experiences of the ‘IChO Syllabus’, which were adapted in 2008, with suggestions for improvements.
- **Recommendations for Authors:** (to be included in the ‘Guidelines for the Prospective Organizers’)
 - Balance of the scaled marks should be regarded seriously.



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- Detailed marking scheme will be helpful both authors and delegations.
 - **Number of significant digits** will not be emphasized too much at Jury Sessions unless an author specifically requires correct usage in a particular Theoretical task(s).
 - Authors are expected to be as polite as possible at arbitration.
 - Positive grading, in which points are added for correctly answering individual aspects of a particular task, rather than negative grading, in which points are deducted for errors, may be more helpful for smooth arbitration.
 - The Chair of Science Committee should have sufficient experience with mentors in order to have full understanding of mentor's point of view.
 - The person who is working at the computer during the International Jury should be fluent in English with sufficient understanding of Chemistry and computer skill.
 - The authors are advised to be present at the Jury Meeting in order to have better understanding of mentor's concern.
- **Recommendation for improving Jury Meeting**
- Need to focus more on the scientific parts, avoiding arguments on simple wording.
 - Need to utilize the 'Meeting with Authors' strategically.
 - Close cooperation with past and future Chairs of Science Committee is helpful.
- **Dress Code for Official Ceremonies**
- Shirts and jeans are to be avoided
 - Flags are to be reasonable in size so as not to block or distract other medal recipients.
- **Project for Future of IChO**
- The rapidly increasing size of IChO will clearly soon become a heavy burden on the Organizer with respect to budget, venues, etc.
 - It may be necessary to draw up a plan for the future of IChO in detail including the possibility of limiting the number of participating countries, reducing the number of students and/or observers per country, etc.
- **IUPAC Associated Organization:**
- USD 50.00 for annual membership fee
- **International Year of Chemistry**
- Mark Ellison(Australia), Peter Wothers(UK), and Olivier Plaidy(France) will attend the official Launch Ceremony of the IYC on 27 and 28 January at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.
 - The Organizer will look into possibilities of working with the Turkish Organizations.



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7. Reports from Future Organizers

- **ICHO-2012 by G. Bryan Balazs(USA):**
 - Period and Venue: July 21~30 at University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
 - Homepage: www.2012ICHO.org
 - President of IChO-2012: Prof. A. Zeweil, 1999 Nobel Laureate in chemistry
 - Considering the possibility of dividing the Practical Competitions into Analytical and Organic parts with swapping laboratories in the middle.
 - December SC meeting: December 8-11, 2011

- **ICHO-2013 by Alexander Gladilin(Russia)**
 - Delivered the letter of intent from Rector of MSU dated on Nov. 30, 2010
 - Period and Venue: July 14-23, 2013 at Moscow State University, Moscow
 - December SC meeting: December 6-9, 2012
 - Russia will be recommended for approval to International Jury in Ankara.

- **ICHO-2014 by Son Do Quy (Vietnam)**
 - Approved at Tokyo with the letter from Prime Minister (Nov. 25, 2009, P.D. Hien of Ministry of Education and Training)
 - Period and Venue: July 21-30, 2014 in Hanoi, Vietnam
 - Organizing Committee: Min. of Education and Training in cooperation with Vietnamese Chemistry Association and three universities in Hanoi
 - Ceremony: National Hanoi Convention Center

- **ICHO-2015**
 - Spain submitted letters of intent from Minister of Education, Asturias Government, and Univ. of Oviedo
 - Spain will be recommended for approval to International Jury in Ankara.

8. Communications

- Distribution of the minutes of SC Meeting
- Agenda and/or Reports for the International Jury
 - Introduction of the SC members (1st Jury)
 - Proposal for Revision of the IChO Regulations (3rd Jury)
 - Importance of the IChO Regulations including the issue of 'over-training' (3rd Jury)
 - Recommendation for future hosts(Russia for 2013, Spain for 2015) (3rd Jury)
 - Election of the new ISC members (3rd Jury)
 - Proposal for the 'Project for the Future of IChO' (3rd Jury)
 - Report on the IUPAC and Japan support (4th Jury)
 - Meeting with the first year observers (separate SC meeting)