

# Minutes of the IChO Steering Committee Meeting Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009

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Prepared by Duckhwan Lee with help of Yuki Nakamura

## 1. Members present

- *Europe :*
  - Gabor Magyarfalvi(Hungary, 2009, [gmagyarf@chem.elte.hu](mailto:gmagyarf@chem.elte.hu))
  - Vadim Eremin(Russia, 2008, [vadim@educ.chem.msu.ru](mailto:vadim@educ.chem.msu.ru))
  - Wolfgang Hampe(Germany, 2008, [Hampe@t-online.de](mailto:Hampe@t-online.de))
- *Americas:*
  - John Kiappes(USA, 2008, [jkiappes@gmail.com](mailto:jkiappes@gmail.com))
- *Pacific Rim:*
  - Mark Ellison(Australia, 2007, 2009, [Mark.Ellison@anu.edu.au](mailto:Mark.Ellison@anu.edu.au))
- *Asia:*
  - Duckhwan Lee(Korea, 2007, 2009, [duckhwan@sogang.ac.kr](mailto:duckhwan@sogang.ac.kr), Chair)
- *Organizers:*
  - Peter Wothers (UK, 2009, [pdw12@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pdw12@cam.ac.uk))
  - Tadashi Watanabe (Japan, 2010, [watanabe@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:watanabe@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp))
  - Jale Hacaloglu(Turkey, 2011, [jale@metu.edu.tr](mailto:jale@metu.edu.tr))
  - G. Bryan Balazs (USA, 2012, [balazs1@lnl.gov](mailto:balazs1@lnl.gov))
- *Coopted Members:*
  - Manfred Kerschbaumer(Austria, [mkersch@gmx.net](mailto:mkersch@gmx.net))
  - Anton Sirota (Slovakia, [anton.sirota@stuba.sk](mailto:anton.sirota@stuba.sk))
  - Carlos Castro–Acuna (Mexico, [castroacuna02@yahoo.com](mailto:castroacuna02@yahoo.com))
- *Observer:*
  - Masato Ito (Japan, [itomasa@soka.ac.jp](mailto:itomasa@soka.ac.jp) )
  - Cecilia Hernandez (USA, [C.Hernandez@acs.org](mailto:C.Hernandez@acs.org))

The Chair welcomed the SC members and in particular Bryan and Cecilia representing the Organizing Committee of the IChO-2012.

## 2. Reports from 2009 and 2010 Organizers:

### ➤ **Report on the 41<sup>st</sup> IChO in Cambridge**

The Organizer had 3 full-time staffs and the budget of 2 million pounds.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt were absent for no clear reason. Malaysia was absent due to serious spreading of swine flu. (A Nigerian who showed up as an observer a day before the Closing Ceremony was not accepted.)

A few countries experienced difficulties in getting the entry visa. (It may be necessary to encourage early application for visa if they expect difficulties.)

The Final Report will be posted on the Cambridge homepage.

### ➤ **Plan for the 42<sup>nd</sup> IChO in Tokyo**

Tadashi Watanabe presented the tentative plan for the 42<sup>nd</sup> IChO with the budget of \$5million. The Preparatory Problems will be posted online by the end of January without the solutions which will be e-mailed to the head mentors separately and posted online after the competition.

The delegations will be picked up at the Narita International Airport to the OVTA for registration.

The Practical Test will start in the afternoon after the Safety Instruction in the morning at Waseda University.

A PC and an ink-jet printer will be provided for each delegation..

Alcoholic beverage and smoking is strictly forbidden by law for the students UNDER 20.

Peter Wothers and Jale Hacaloglu will be invited to Tokyo a day earlier to help the Tokyo Science Committee finalize the Tests.

**Comments on the schedule:**

- The students should be given enough free time to relax in the morning of the Practical Test.
- It is necessary to prepare for those non-English speaking students.
- The mentor's schedules need to be revised to give more time for marking and etc.
- Extra copies of the original test sets may be useful in case of confusion in choice of languages
- It may be necessary to have the old versions of softwares ready. (Peter Wothers will deliver some ideas on how to manage the translation process.)
- The blue points should be provided to the mentors prior to the arbitration in order to facilitate the process.
- The pictures of guides on the web may be helpful. But the early contact with guides may not be desirable.
- The ban on cell phones is necessary in any case.
- Prepayment or deposit for guests may be helpful and a limit on the number of guests may be necessary.
- The number of guests may have to be limited.
- The mentors should sign the final results of marking before the 4<sup>th</sup> Jury Meeting.

**Comments on the NYC (accommodation for students):**

- The students must be informed in advance that **they have to share bath with others.**
- There were some concerns on the possible crowding.
- The graphic signs may be helpful for students.

**Comments on the OVTA (accommodation for mentors):**

- The auditorium is too large for the Jury session. A smaller room with chairs only may be better.
- The translation rooms should be allocated according to languages and the numbers of mentors and observers must be taken into account.

**Comments on the Waseda University (Practical Test):**

- Visual and/or pictorial presentation for the safety instruction may be helpful for those who do not understand English.
- It is desirable to provide the same bench conditions (space, apparatus, equipments, etc) for all students and to minimize unnecessary movements inside the lab by providing either pre-weighted chemicals or placing the common instruments strategically.
- A kind of divider on the bench may be helpful because of the height of benches.
- It is a good idea to identify any handicapped (color blind, etc) in advance.

### 3. Applications of new participating countries

- Tajikistan will be back with the participation fee of USD 700.
- Malaysia will be back with the participation fee of USD 500.
  
- Syria and Costa Rica will participate with 4 students.
- Serbia and Uzbekistan will be the first year observing countries.
  
- Liechtenstein
  - A letter of protest on the confusion of the communications with the Cambridge Organizer was received (and responded by the Chair) from the head mentor of Switzerland on behalf of Liechtenstein.
  - The Ministry of Liechtenstein (along with the Switzerland head mentor) will be informed that they must have a formal National Olympiad to select the participating students and that the observer must be someone who can reasonably represent Liechtenstein.
  - If necessary, we may request the Jury's decision on Liechtenstein.
  
- Egypt has been invited to the IChO-2010 although they have been absent for 3 consecutive years. [This issue may need to be discussed by the Jury.]
- Saudi Arabia has been invited although they participated in Cambridge without students
- Nigeria, who participated in Moscow as observer and was absent in Hungary and Cambridge, will be invited as the 1<sup>st</sup> year observing country if they submit clear proof of their National Olympiad. The Nigerian Observer will be requested to 'observe' the whole competition.
  
- The role of observers of incoming countries must be emphasized. They must observe the whole IChO and they are strongly advised not to bring any guests with them.
  
- People not to be welcomed:
  - Tajikistan: Abdufatokh Khotamov (HM) and Sheral Tursunbadalov(M) [Budapest, 2008]
  - Azerbaijan: Vaqif Abbasov(HM), Mutellim Abbasov(M), Yusif Abdullayev(SO), Nasim Ajar Abishov(SO) [Moscow, 2007]

### 4. IUPAC support

- The annual membership fee of USD 50.00 for the IUPAC Associated Organization was paid by the Organizer.
- USD 6,500, the balance of the 2009 IUPAC fund, will be transferred from Cambridge to Tokyo.
- Cuba will receive USD 3,000 for their participation for the IChO-2009 if they provide sufficient evidence for air-tickets.
  
- **Distribution of the IUPACS fund**
  - **Venezuela: USD 1,800 for participation fee**
  - **Croatia: up to USD 2,000 for two mentors and four students**
  - **Argentina: up to USD 3,000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> student**
  - **Tajikistan: USD 700 for participation fee and up to USD 2,400 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> students [There were some reservations expressed for the support.]**
  
- The unused portion of the 2010 IUPAC fund will be transferred to Ankara.
  
- **The Guidelines for the use of IUPAC support**
  - The IUPAC fund must be spent but not wasted.
  - The procedure for application must be improved. An application form will be prepared to be posted on the web.
  - The agreement with the IUPAC must be respected:

- ✓ Countries which cannot afford the participation fee and therefore cannot participate in the IChO
- ✓ Countries which cannot travel with a team of four students
- ✓ Countries which cannot travel with two mentors
- The reimbursement procedure must be clear. **A clear request for supporting evidence must be made in advance with the notice of the IUPAC support.**
- Previous supports:
  - ✓ 2009: Uruguay(2,900), Peru(600), Cuba(3,000)
  - ✓ 2008: Cuba(2,800), Kyrgyzstan(1,740), Peru(500), Tajikistan(1,150), Uruguay(2,900), Venezuela(900)
- IUPAC Special Award: Additional plaques will be presented. The awardees will be decided after consulting with the IUPAC.
- International Year of Chemistry(2011)
  - Masato Ito, on behalf of Tokyo Organizer, will prepare a special report on former IChO participants.
  - The Ankara Organizer is going to keep in touch with the IUPAC.

## 5. IChO Regulations and Competitions

- The Regulation § 10.(5) [*for training the participating students*] will be reminded to the Jury.
- The revision will be presented for vote to the Jury into three separate proposals:
  - **Proposal A: General Revisions** [underlined in the revised Regulations]
    - ✓ Application procedure for a newcoming country [§2(3)]
    - ✓ Chair of business sessions [§6(2)]
    - ✓ Removing the detailed description of working groups [§7(3)]
    - ✓ Clarification on Steering Committee members and procedures [§8(2)]
    - ✓ Adding the past SC president when necessary to provide continuity [§8(2)]
    - ✓ Election procedure of the chair of the SC [§8(4)]
    - ✓ Removing the part on the list of possible chemicals [§12(4)]
    - ✓ Automatic update of the safety appendices [§12(4)]
    - ✓ Basic mathematical knowledge clarified (Appendix C)
  - **Proposal B: Steering Committee**

***§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 1<sup>st</sup> day after the IChO. Members are elected for no more than two consecutive terms.***
  - **Proposal C: Immediate Past Chair of the Steering Committee**

§ 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,
    - d) *the immediate past chair of the SC*
- Procedure for Revision
  - The proposal will be sent out to the head mentors in January with the Preparatory Problems.

- The proposal will be introduced at the 1<sup>st</sup> Jury Session. The members of Steering Committee will be open for briefing on changes.
- The voting for three separate proposals will take place without discussion at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jury Session. [*§ 16(3) The regulations are valid from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2010. Changes to the regulations can be made only by the International Jury and require a qualified majority (two third of the votes with regard to total number of participating countries).*]
- If not accepted by the Jury in Tokyo, a new proposal will be prepared for IChO-2011.

## 6. Reports from Future Organizers

- Thailand and Singapore has withdrawn formally their offer of hosting IChO.
- **The hosting of Vietnam for the IChO-2014 will be recommended to the Jury with the official documents from the Government of Vietnam.**
- The hosting of Russia for the IChO-2013 will be strongly pursued through Vadim Eremin who received a positive response from the Rector of the Moscow State University.
- The hosts for 2015 and 2016 are open with possibility of Spain(2015?) and Australia(2016?).
- **Report on the preparation of IChO-2011 by Jale Hacaloglu**
  - Will be held during July 9-18, 2011 at Middle East Technical University (METU).
  - Organizing Committee: O. Yavuz Ataman(Chair), Jale Hacaloglu, Ahmet M. Onal, Ozdemir Dogan.
  - The budget may be around USD 1.5million.
  - The afternoon session for the Practical may be considered.
  - The website will be open in January of 2010.
- **Report on the preparation of IChO-2012 by Bryan Balawz**
  - July 21-30, 2012 at University of Maryland near Washington D.C.
  - It will be organized by the American Chemical Society.
  - The Organizing Committee is being selected with Professor Zewail as the President.

## 7. Communications and others

- Distribution of the Minutes of Tokyo Steering Committee Meeting.
- Agenda and/or Reports for the International Juries
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Jury: Introduction of the Steering Committee  
Announcement of revision of the IChO Regulation.  
\* The business session must be minimal.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Jury: Introduction of the new observing countries
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Jury: Voting for the revision of the Regulation  
Election, by secret vote, of the new members of the Steering Committee according to the current Regulations.  
(Election of new Chair, by secret vote, with past and future Organizers included)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Jury: Report on the IUPAC support
- The “Guidelines for prospective organizers of the IChO” has been updated.
- The solution for the Preparatory Problems will be posted after the competition.
- We may need to consider the possibility of making optional the Steering Committee meeting in December (considering financial factors, etc.)
- The homepage of the International Information Center need to be updated into English.
- A draft of the “Guidelines for Incoming Observing Countries” will be prepared by Wolfgang Hamper.

## [Appendix] Changes in the Regulations of the IChO

From time to time, the content and text of the regulations of the IChO need to be updated. Because the last major revision was done in 1999, the Steering Committee has decided in 2008 to revise the regulations. The SC has discussed the possible changes at its meetings and has the following proposal for the International Jury to consider. Note that these two proposals will be voted on separately.

The three proposals are as follows:

### A) [General Revisions]

There are corrections in the text and the wording of the regulations that do not cause any changes in meaning. In addition there are several minor changes that are mostly clarifications to align the regulations with the actual practice of the Olympiads:

- Application procedure for a newcoming country [§2(3)]
- Chair of business sessions [§6(2)]
- Removing the detailed description of working groups [§7(3)]
- Clarification on Steering Committee members and procedures [§8(2)]
- Adding the past SC president when necessary to provide continuity [§8(2)]
- Election procedure of the chair of the SC [§8(4)]
- Removing the section on the list of possible chemicals [§12(4)]
- Automatic update of the safety appendices [§12(4)]
- Basic mathematical knowledge clarified (Appendix C)

In the attached version of the regulations all these changes are highlighted, while the minor wording modifications are not indicated.

The SC recommends to the Jury that the revised regulations as noted above **should be voted on as a whole at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jury meeting in Tokyo without discussing any detail as these changes are thought to be noncontroversial. Jury members with questions or doubts about the changes are welcome to ask SC members before the meeting for detailed explanations.**

### B) [Steering Committee]

The Steering Committee is a body that helps to coordinate future Olympiads. Its members should have IChO experience and its composition should replicate some of the diversity of the participating countries. However, it is difficult to proportionally align representation on the Steering Committee with the continuously changing list of participating countries.

The proposed new text of §8(2) tries to ensure a diversity of regions together with added flexibility for the future. It will be discussed and voted on separately at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jury meeting in Tokyo.

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

All the changes in §8(2), if approved by the Jury, would be valid from September, and they would be applied first for the 43<sup>rd</sup> IChO in Turkey.

If this proposal is accepted, the SC elections would be held each year as follows:

- 1) Nominations would be collected (e.g. via a nomination box) to fill the vacancies left by outgoing SC members.

- 2) Nominees will be asked prior to the jury session if they accept the candidacy. If any of the three regions (the Americas, Asia, and Europe) would be left without at least one SC member, there must be a candidate from that region.
- 3) The names of the nominees who have accepted (the candidates) will be made public prior to the actual election.
- 4) Each country will have a number of votes equal to the number of outgoing SC members. Each country can give one vote for each nominee of its choice on a voting slip (secret ballot).
- 5) The candidate from a region without a sitting SC member that receives the highest number of votes will become a member of the SC.
- 6) The other candidates that received the highest number of votes become members of the SC so that the Committee has six elected members.

**C) [Immediate Past Chair of the Steering Committee]**

The continuity of the Steering Committee is becoming more crucial for successful future of the IChO as the number of participants increases fast. The ex-officio members without voting right have played important role for guaranteeing the continuous operation of the Steering Committee. The proposed new text of §8(3) is to ensure the continuity of the Steering Committee by having the immediate past chair as the ex-officio members when the Steering Committee elects a new Chair.

*§ 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,*
- d) the immediate past chair of the SC*