



**Steering Committee,
47th International Chemistry Olympiad
Baku, Azerbaijan
January 14 – 18, 2015**

Minutes (prepared by Fun Man Fung and Duckhwan Lee)

Members of Steering Committee

Elected Members(6):

Duckhwan Lee (Chair, Korea, 2012)
Petr Holzhauser (Czech, 2014)
FunMan Fung (Singapore, 2014)
Gabor Magyarfalvi (Hungary, 2012)
I-Jy Chang (Taiwan, 2011)
Carlos Castro-Acuna (Mexico, 2011)

Nguyen Tien Thao (Vietnam, 2014)
Igor Sedov (Russia, 2016) absent
Worawan Bhanthumnavin(Thailand, 2017)

Coopted Members(3):

Martin Putala (Slovakia)
Alexander Gladilin (Russia)
Igrar Nazarov (Azerbaijan)

Organizers(4 host countries):

Oktay Taghiyev, Azad Tagizadeh, and Lala Akhmedova(Secretary) (Azerbaijan, 2015)

Past Chair(1):

Peter Wothers (United Kingdom)

The Chair opened the Meeting with an appreciation of the hospitality of the host and introduced the Secretariat members of IChO-2015.

1. Reports from Organizer (Oktay Taghiyev, Lala Akhmedova)

- Lala gave a brief presentation for preparation on webpage, program, bank account, etc.

a. Participation

- **72 countries** (including Oman with USD 1,000 country fee) confirmed to participate.
 - * Other countries will be asked to respond no later than March 1 to be invited.
 - * The Chair is to inform Kuwait that they may not be automatically invited in the future if they do not attend this year (two consecutive absence).
- **Observing countries:** South Africa (2nd year), Philippines and Sri Lanka(1st year)
 - * Egypt will be asked to implement their plans for national Olympiad before they can be invited to observe IChO.
 - * No action at the moment is necessary for Nepal and Afghanistan until they submit the questionnaires.
- Meetings with observers and Macedonia mentors are to be arranged in July.
- The delegation of Macedonia should be recommended to have old mentor, Murat Durkaya, as scientific observer, if possible.

b. Program

- The Programs for Mentors and Students were revised as attached at the end of minutes.

- The translation room should be open as early as possible and it may be a good idea to give an informal pressure to finish translation as early as possible for the benefit of Organizers
- Happy Hours for Day 1, 3, and 5 is to be included in the Program.
- c. Venues and Accommodations
 - Practical and Theoretical Tests: Lomonosov Moscow State University Baku Branch [*All benches of the same dimension will be ready by July. No serious difficulties are expected except a concern on number of rest rooms.*]
 - Student Accommodation: Crescent Beach Hotel [No problems found from on-site check except the need of life-guards on beach.]
 - Mentor Accommodation (with briefing from Gabala hotels): JW. Marriot Hotel Absheron and Qafqaz Sport and Karvansaray Hotels, 230 km from Baku, for translation (July 21-24) [*Two Conference Halls in Sport and Karvansaray, and a Restaurant in Sport will be set up for translation and International Jury Meetings. The arrangements will be checked in person by Organizers and Sasha in April.*]
 - Opening and Closing Ceremonies: Heydar Aliyev Center [No serious problems are expected from on-site check.]
 - Grouping of mentors by languages may be important for translation, but not for bus rides.
 - A small program booklet to be carried in the name tag case is to be greatly appreciated.
- d. Scientific Committee: Vadim(theoretical) and Sasha(practical)
 - Vadim and Sasha presented deliberation on the Prep problems. [*English version of MS Excel should be used in Practical test.*]
 - The reading time(15 min) and lab goggles must be strictly enforced.
 - The Prep Problems will be posted on time.
- e. Entry to Azerbaijan:
 - All participants will get **Visa on arrival (Landing Visa)** at Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport. [*The Azeri Embassy should not be approached to get Visa.*]
 - The application form for Visa, provided through IChO-2015 homepage, with color photos should be ready along with the Official Documents issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan which will be provided through the Organizer.
 - The head mentor should provide the copy of passports and the data necessary to get the Official Documents **which may take at least 4 working days for processing.**
 - **The Official Document will be issued in groups, not in persons, for participants travelling together.** The head mentor must inform their travel plans to the Organizer before they request the Official Documents especially when they plan to travel in more than one group.
 - Those countries with no diplomatic relation with Azerbaijan must communicate with the Organizer in advance.
 - The head mentor is recommended to check directly with the airline for any possible difficulty in travelling.
- f. Others
 - A system for credit card payment through internet needs to be set up.
 - No alcohols will be served to students at any time.

2. Participation/Travel Supports

- a. Funds: Total USD 3,400

- Carry over from Hanoi: USD 1,400
- Japan: USD 2,000 [*Japanese Chemical Society promised to provide USD 2,000 per annum from 2011 to 2020.*]
- b. Supports: Total USD 2,600
 - USD 2,000 for participation fee for Country A
 - USD 600 for participation fee for Country B
 - The remaining of USD 800 will be kept by the Organizer for the future use to be decided by SC.

3. **Reports from Former Organizer** (Nguyen Tien Thao)

- Period: 20-29 July, 2014
- Venue: Hanoi University of Science with Hanoi National University of Education
- Sponsors: Petrovietnam Fertilizer and Chemicals, Petrovietnam Camau Fertilizer, Perkin Elmer, Royal Society of Chemistry, Chemical Society of Science
- Participation: 75 countries and 2 observing countries (South Africa, and Oman)
- 291 students, 145 mentors, 66 scientific observers, and 19 guests (total: 521)
- Organizer: 23 honorable members, 17 organizers, 18 assistants, 41 science committee, 13 secretariats, 26 technical staffs, 13 Catalyzer, **75 guides**
- Medal distribution: 28 Gold, 63 Silver, 92 Bronze, 10 Honorable Mentions
- Website: <http://icho2014.hus.edu>
- Participation Fee: USD 98,300
- Recommendations by SC: *remove, from online reports, the full detailed scores and personal e-mails. But full budget expenditures with funding from sponsors, will be useful to be included in printed Reports for reference guide for future/potential hosts.*

4. **Reports from Future Organizers**

2016: **Russia** (reported by Vadim on behalf of absent Igor)

- The President of Tatarstan and the Rector of the Kazan Federal University did give clear official approval for IChO-2016 to be held in Kazan when Igor presented the plan for International Jury in Hanoi. Russian Organizer needs to provide more detailed budget, resources request, and financial support to finalized IChO-2016 due to recent crises. There has been neither clear refusal nor clear approval by Kazan, despite e-mail from Igor Sedov
- Russian Organizers, with active support from Valery Lunin, will try to resolve the situation until March 1, starting by sending letter to President of Tatarstan.
- If necessary, we need to develop a contingency plan from early March.

2017: **Thailand** (Worawan)

- IChO-2017 will be held in part to commemorate the 60th birthday of HRH Princess Chulabhorn at the Salaya Campus of Mahidol University, 20 km west off Bangkok, with the Institute for Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology(IPST) in charge of budget and liaison with Government.
- Accommodation for students is confirmed at Sampran Riverside Hotel.

2018: **Czech/Slovakia** (Peter and Martin)

- Organizers try to get support from the Ministries and Rectors of the host Universities with the budget of estimated 1.5 million EUROS.
- The idea of inviting Ministers of Czech and Slovakia to the Opening/Closing Ceremonies of IChO-2015 were proposed to the Baku Organizer.

2019 and years after: not yet decided.

5. *Future of IChO*

a. **Communication with Steering Committee:**

- homepage: <https://www.ichosc.org/>
 - e-mail: sc@ichosc.org (for use by participating countries who want to talk to SC)
 - The google discussion group should remain and be managed by Chair.
- b. As decided in 2012, the participation fee for new countries starts from USD1,000 with USD100 annual increase up to USD2,000.
- c. As usual, future hosts can bring 2 extra scientific observers with no extra fee for 2 years prior to their hosting..
- d. The discussion on improving arbitration procedure is to be resolved in July with the streamlined proposals for pre-report(Gabor/Sasha) and 3rd Party Mediator(Peter).
- e. The discussion on adjustment of participation fee is *to be continued in July* SC meetings with the options of (a) restart from USD 1,000 for hosted countries and (b) raised the maximum. [*The actual data on projected increase in fee will be provided by Chair. It was pointed out that the participation fee is a significant income source for organizers.*]
- f. Future Organizers should invite key representatives to SC Meetings in January of the year of their Olympiad.
- g. Gabor is to update the Guidelines for Organizers to include the issues raised by Sasha on double punishment, acceptance of different solutions, subpoints, decision on grading schemes, and unacceptable behaviors of mentors
- h. A meeting is to be arranged for the head mentors of those countries that have not organized an Olympiad in the last 20 years to discuss and advise on their possibilities of hosting.

6. *Meeting with Rector Pashayeva, the President of the Organizing Committee of IChO-2015*

- Rector Pashayeva paid a visit to SC meeting in the afternoon of January 16 to have fruitful discussion for about 30 minutes.
- She pointed out repeatedly *the spirit of science for service to human concern, the fairness of competition, and the cultural interactions* as the three most important points to be emphasized through International Chemistry Olympiad and promised to provide full support and encouragements for the Organizers.
- She heard many suggestions and proposals from SC members for successful IChO-2015 in Baku.

The Chair closed the Meeting with remark that the SC is to be operated with full consensus of the SC members and with gratitude to hosts for their hospitality and hard work.

47th IChO Tentative Program for Mentors Baku, Azerbaijan, July 20-29

Date	Program	From
20.07	Arrival	
	Registration at MSU Baku Branch	
	Transfer to Marriott Hotel Absheron	
21.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Departure to Heydar Aliyev Centre	9:00
	Opening ceremony and grand reception	10:00
	Lunch party	12:00
	Transfer to MSU Baku Branch	13:00
	Lab inspection	14:00
	Transfer Gabala	15:00
	Consultation with authors	18:00
	Dinner	19:00
	1 st jury meeting	20:15
22.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Translation	9:00
	Lunch	13:00
	Translation	14:00
	Dinner	18:00
	Happy hours	20:00
23.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Excursion to City	9:00
	Transfer to Hotel	13:30
	Lunch	14:00
	Consultation with authors	15:00
	Dinner	18:00
	2 nd jury meeting	19:00
24.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Translation	9:00
	Lunch	13:00
	Translation	14:00
	Dinner	18:00

	Happy hours	20:00
25.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Excursion	9:00
	Lunch	13:00
	Transfer to Baku National Park	14:00
	Reunion Party / Dinner	18:30
	Arrival at Marriott Hotel Absheron	22:00
26.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Marking	9:00
	Lunch	12:00
	Excursion to Gobustan	13:00
	Transfer to Marriott Hotel Absheron	17:00
	Dinner	18:00
	3 rd jury meeting	19:00
27.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Arbitration	9:00
	Lunch	13:00
	Dinner	18:00
	Round-table meeting "Education Problems"	19:00
	4 th jury meeting	20:00
28.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Free time	9:00
	Lunch at Marriot Hotel Absheron	12:30
	Transfer to «Heydar Aliyev Centre	13:30
	Closing ceremony and Farewell Banquet	15:00
	Transfer to Marriott Hotel Absheron	23:00
29.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Departures	

47th IChO Tentative Program for Students Baku, Azerbaijan, July 20-29

Date	Program	From
20.07	Arrival	
	Registration at MSU Baku Branch	
	Transfer to Crescent Beach Hotel	
21.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Transfer to Heydar Aliyev Centre	9:30
	Opening ceremony and grand reception	11:00
	Lunch Party	13:00
	City sightseeing tour	14:30
	Transfer to Crescent Beach Hotel	17:30
	Dinner	19:00
	Disco Party	21:00
22.07	Breakfast	7:00
	Excursion to Old City of Baku	8:00
	Transfer to Hotel	11:00
	Lunch	12:00
	Transfer to MSU Baku Branch	Time to be specified
	Lab Safety instruction	15:00
	Dinner at Hotel	18:00
23.07	Breakfast	7:00
	Transfer MSU Baku Branch	8:00
	Practical test	9:00
	Lunch	14:30
	Transfer to Gobustan	15:30
	Transfer to Hotel	19:00
	Dinner	20:00
24.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Transfer to Mardakan Arboretum(Aqua Park)	9:00
	Lunch in "Shuvalan Park"	13:00
	Excursion to "Gala" in Mardakan Arboretum	15:30
	Transfer to Hotel	16:30
	Dinner	19:30
	Breakfast	7:00

25.07	Transfer to MSU Baku Branch	8:00
	Theoretical Test	9:00
	Lunch (why isn't it 14:30 as for Practical test?)	15:00
	Transfer to Baku National Park	16:00
	Reunion Party / Dinner	18:30
	Transfer to Hotel	22:00
26.07	Breakfast	9:00
	Transfer to "The Zoo"	10:30
	Lunch at "Tural"	14:00
	Transfer to Hotel	16:00
	Dinner	19:00
	Disco Party	21:00
27.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Transfer to Gusar ("Shah-Dagh" Recreation Centre)	9:00
	Lunch at Recreation Centre	14:00
	Transfer to Hotel	19:00
	Dinner	21:30
28.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Free time	9:00
	Lunch at Hotel	12:00
	Transfer Heydar Aliyev Centre	13:00
	Closing ceremony	15:00
	Farewell Banquet	18:00
	Transfer to «The Crescent Beach Hotel	23:00
29.07	Breakfast	8:00
	Departures	