



International Organizing Committee
Young Physicists' Tournament



EC meeting, **Minutes**

November 7th 2009, Vienna

1. IYPT 2010 Vienna, Austria

The financial situation is not completely clear yet, as many applications for funds are under consideration by different authorities (local governments and ministries, international cooperation with Slovakia, foundation including Bosch Stiftung). But as more applications are submitted and part of the funds is already confirmed, the funding of the IYPT should be secured. The fees for teams should not exceed 800 € per team. The fees should be paid by the end of May and shall be non-refundable.

The dates are confirmed to 9th till 16th of July, 2010. The IOC meeting shall be organized in cooperation with Slovak YPT in Bratislava or surroundings.

Specific discussion was opened about a planned activity of the LOC: discussion on the topic *Science and Religion*. EC expressed the opinion that it is the sole responsibility of LOC to select and prepare cultural activities during IYPT. EC would like to suggest organizing this activity parallel to other activities so that students are (according to the guidelines for participants) not directly expected to take part on this event.

A long discussion took place about the actual implementation. By some of the EC members concerns were expressed about the idea of having just one authority (cardinal of Vienna) and a moderator discussing with selected students/team leaders. EC would not like to interfere into the competences of LOC, but suggests taking all possible measures to guarantee a smooth course of the event and balanced presentation of different opinions.

2. IYPT 2011 Indonesia, Australia

Australia withdrew the offer to back-up the Indonesia organizing IYPT in 2011. Secretary General will ask Indonesia for a formal confirmation about their ability to organize the event and guarantee for the security of the participants till the end of November 2009. If the answer is not positive, EC will start the procedure of finding a new organizing country for IYPT 2011.

3. IYPT 2012 Australia, Czech Republic, other candidates?

Czech Republic presented basic information about the country and LOC. EC will ask for a more formal presentation of the tournament, including planned financial

resources, during the IYPT 2009 in Vienna. Australia will prepare a formal proposal till the same deadline, if interested. Other countries are invited to follow the same procedure. IOC will have to take an approval decision based on the proposal(s) presented.

A discussion started about the participation of teams from countries, which are not formally recognized generally (Taiwan, Macao). For the year 2010, EC suggested to the LOC to invite team from Taiwan as a competing team and an observer from Macao. IOC will have a discussion about the possible change of regulation – specifying the definition of *country* in the article II. As possibilities were the list of UN countries or the list of Olympic games member associations mentioned.

4. FP7 project for IYPT

TETRIS IYPT project was presented by Martin Plesch. The deadline of the project is mid January. Communication with partners will be done on a separate basis, but any IYPT members are strongly invited to take part. UK and Germany members of EC promised to try to organize a partner from their countries, as the project needs to be “politically” covered by big EU countries.

Till the end of November, every partner has to deliver an A4 page (TMF 12pt, single line spacing) about activities planned for the project and till 15th of December an A4 page about itself.

EC gives the approval to incorporate IYPT organization into the project with moderate direct funding and use the IYPT trademark in the project.

5. Finances of IYPT, report of the treasurer, usage of the funds

Report of the treasurer was presented for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. EC suggest the IOC to approve the reports. In the future, if funds are flowing through the IYPT organization, EC has to be informed about the detail of the sources, rules for usage of the sources and ways of selection procedure for supported entities (teams, observers, organizations etc.).

EC will ask IOC for approval to use part of the IYPT funds (about 800 € a year) for local costs of the EC meeting (accommodation and board) in the same way, as IOC members are treated during the IOC meetings.

6. Jurors in IYPT: selection, preparation

EC feels the continuing problem of the quality of jurors. The problem is not mainly with jurors giving to high or to low grades during the whole tournament or jurors making sometimes a mistake. Part of the problems is connected also with jurors having very small variance of the grades, e.g. giving a 7 almost always and coming to a 6/8 only in very exceptional cases. However, EC does not see an easy solution for this problem.

As partial measure, a statistics of all grades of all jurors during the IYPT tournament 2009 will be prepared by Georg Hofferek. A statistical analysis will be performed on these data by Martin Plesch and will be presented to the EC. We will seek for correlation between the statistical data and the “quality” of jurors in known cases.

Another measure is to prepare two meetings of jurors. One, voluntary, shall be planned for the arrival day mainly for new jurors. During this meeting, an extensive training of jurors, including of case studies etc. will be performed (for about 2 hours). Another meeting is planned for the morning/afternoon next day, before the first PF. This shall be obligatory for all jurors, but shall not last longer than app. 45 minutes, due to organizational purposes. Jurors not attending this meeting will not be allowed as IYPT jurors.

LOC will ask all jurors for a short CV by registration. Only fully qualified jurors (with a MSc. degree in physics or teaching physics) will be allowed. If a team cannot nominate a team leader in the position of a juror, the team may nominate only one team leader and the other place will be occupied by another, independent jury member from a different country, upon the decision of LOC.

During the IOC meeting, a discussion shall be held about the possibility to show also partial grades coming out of the scoring sheets (physics, presentation, discussion).

7. Chairpersons: selection, feedback – questionnaire

All teams, after each PF, will have the opportunity to evaluate the chairperson in three-four aspects of his/her work and give a general impression grade. These questionnaires will be collected by fight attendants and processed by LOC. EC and LOC will during and after the tournament evaluate the results and select the best chairpersons during the following PFs, as well as communicate the results to next years' LOC.

8. Possible adoption of changes in the regulations – increase of the number of rejected problems to 5

EC does not support the idea of increasing the number of un-penalized rejections to 5. However, EC suggests changing the procedure of PFs in the following way:

The first four PFs run as usual. In the fifth PF, teams from the first three, second three, third three etc. positions meet. In this PF, every team can choose a problem for presentation, as long as it was not presented by that team during the previous PFs. The same problem can not be presented in final, neither. The priority of selection is given by the position in scoring after four rounds.

Points from the fifth PF will be summed up with the points from the four initial PF as usual.

This procedure could lead to two basic things: firstly, all teams will have an opportunity to present their best solution, even if they do not reach the final.

Secondly, the neighboring teams from the scoring list after four rounds will meet and have the opportunity to fight against each other, discussing the solutions with other teams on the same/similar level. Especially in the first and second group the competition for the final and in the second and third group the competition for the silver medals will be more direct and more interesting for the students.

Such a change of regulation has to be discussed in the IOC and can be applied earliest on the IYPT 2011.

Prepared by Georg Hofferek and Martin Plesch

Approved by Martin Plesch