Inspection of the premises for IYPT 2023 Pakistan

25.11.2022

KUM = Koshar University Murree

The 36th IYPT is planned to be hosted in Pakistan in Murree.

The transport from Islamabad Airport to Murree takes roughly 1 h 40 mins with a minibus. There is a multiline highway starting from Islamabad. The quality of the road throughout the whole ride is very good except for a construction site along the way, which can cause significant delays, but works might be finished by July next year. After about an hour the road gets curvy since Murree is located in the mountains. (For people who get sick during car rides we suggest taking proper medications beforehand and bringing a collection of disposable bags in case of emergencies. Especially in summer, it could get very uncomfortable with the heat.





Picture description: Murree

1) Murree art council

Potential place for the opening ceremony and finals Capacity $\approx 300+$ people









26.11.2022

2) Resource Center - KUM Admin/Academic Block

Potential jury meeting place

Potential accommodation (capacity ≈ 30 people)

There is also a kitchen which can serve food in the garden















3) Jhika Gali Campus - KUM campus

The PFs could happen here

Lunches could be served outside at lunchtime (probably in tents)

The quality of the premisses, especially of the toilets is slightly below the expected standard for IYPT.

Building 1

In total 8 classrooms:

2 same rooms on the ground floor

2 computer rooms on 1st floor

2 other rooms on 2nd floor

No air conditioning or fans

Hygiene: 2 run down Indian toilets per floor (may be renovated to European style ones)















Building 2

2 rooms on the ground floor (potential office in one of them)

3 rooms on 1st floor

No air conditioning or fans. It would be ideal to have at least a fan there

Hygiene: very similar toilets, but outside, could not be inspected







4) Lawrence College

Potential students' accommodation. Suggested by the EC as a potential place for Physics fights as well. 3 departments within the college (from little to college kids) - each department has 4 buildings for accommodation

There should be internet connection within the whole area of the college

Beautiful surroundings

Four auditoria available (ideal for PFs)

Huge auditorium (300+ ideal for finals and openings - closings)

Dining hall - capacity ≈300

Multiple classrooms for 25 students (too small for *PFs) (*PF = Physics fight)

4 common rooms with a capacity of 60 people (ideal for PFs)

Dormitories: 4 - 8 beds per room - enough rooms available to limit the number of students per room to 4.

Other special accommodation - flats for teachers (wasn't shown to us - probably unavailable)

Peake cottage - junior teachers' flats - 4 cottages

Multipurpose room and entertainment for teachers (3 of them)



5) Punjab house - KUM campus

(mainly used by the Department of Tourism, Hospitality and Hotel Management of KUM) Potential accommodation for 28 people (7 rooms 2+2 people sharing one bathroom and toilet) Great cook available.







6) Hotel Cecil to be - not opened yet (Queen Elizabeth stayed there)

Doesn't have a website yet, under construction Few suites









7) Hotel one - allegedly 3* hotel

40 rooms in total
Capacity ≈ 14 twin rooms with extra beds, the rest are couple rooms
Potential accommodation for jurors











8) Faletti's Grand Hotel - the most luxurious one

Potential accommodation for jurors

Capacity of 70 rooms in total in various price categories - some of them with indian toilets Some of the rooms are very large with 4-5 beds, but too luxurious for students.









9) Khattak Lodge Murree - the one we stayed in

Potential accommodation for jurors - capacity 120 beds - space for breakfast is rather limited









Google maps link:

https://tinyurl.com/yf9uc8ex

NOTES:

- The weather in July is rainy, there is a monsoon season. The schedule of the excursions may be adjusted to weather conditions.
- The cleanliness level in Pakistan is a bit lower than in Europe. The organizers were kindly asked to take special attention to this aspect.
- In general, in many places we visited they rather have Indian toilets than European ones.
- In Pakistan they drive the car on the left side be careful.
- They pay with Pakistani rupees (exchange rate: 1 euro ≈ 230 Pakistani rupees)

Next day

Inspection of trip possibilities 27.11.2022

1) Suggestions for a half-day trip:

i. Kashmir point

Roughly 50 minute drive from Murree.

Two cable cars (with marvellous views) take you up to a height of roughly 2300 m. On the top, there is a possibility to take a walk (or horse ride - paid) to the Kashmir point.







ii. Amusement park

Located very close to the Kashmir point.

Attractions like a water slide, racing cars, a Ferris wheel or archery can be experienced by the participants.

2) Suggestions for a whole day trip:

Islamabad

F9 park (Fatima Jinnah park) - Huge park near the vice-chancellor's house

Rose and Jasmine Garden

Centaurus Mall - visited

Faisal mosque - visited

Governmental buildings - one can't go inside (probably not that interesting for student)

Potential IOC meeting place in Islamabad: Comstech

Dam

Other activities may be included









Other:

There is a 3-hour hike possibility a bit further away from Murree (roughly 1-hour ride).

CONCLUSION:

We inspected different premises considered by the organizers. Some of them were better, some slightly below the expected standard. Based on what we have seen, we can confirm that the LOC is fully capable of organizing a tournament of a required quality, but an inspection visit after finalizing the exact plans during May or early June shall be inevitable.

All the places we have visited seemed very safe, including while walking alone during the night in the streets of Murree. The campus places are closed and guarded by national police and security guards. No other security forces are extensively visible except around the airport in Islamabad.

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