



Your words, your thoughts...

Here are the most interesting answers from your questionnaires. Read, laugh and think...

Giah Hung Lee, Malaysia. I would like to visit London and to go to the match at Wimbledon. It is my dream.

Aminatul Munirah Kasim, Malaysia. Unity, education are the most important problems of the world. I want to take part in improving of the world's education because I feel it is the way of solving all the problems.

Zamirbek Akimbekov, Kyrgyzstan. I really like football and history. I have been a fan of Spartak Moscow FC (Russian football team) for 8 years.

Argurola Lavi, Greece. Solving problems offers you the ability to be an active member of the society and I want to be an active member of the society. One of the problems of my country is unemployment and I don't think I am able to help.

Karolis Leonavicius, Lithuania. I began to study chemistry thanks to pyrotechnic textbooks. The events like the Olympiad teach tolerance. I would like to visit Novosibirsk (the city of Russia) because it's probably the most peaceful place I know.

Pablo Gustavo Levrant, Argentina. I understood that chemistry was interesting for me when I felt that I was able to produce chemical reactions and interpret properties. It was a very nice surprise for me to know that famous

people such as Markovnikov were the members of MSU. It makes me think that MSU is one of the most important places of chemistry research in the world.

Shaina Khan, Pakistan. In my opinion, poverty is the most urgent problem because poverty is the root of many evils. I want to help in solving healthcare problems in my country. Perhaps, I will join an agency or organisation providing free healthcare facilities.

Boris Fackovich, Slovakia. The Olympiad helps to work under stress and manage the stress. We aren't allowed to see Lenin.

Krzysztof Kosinski, Poland. Three years ago my chemistry teacher allowed me to carry out arbitrary experiments during the class. I tried to figure out how to make black powder and this got me hooked. I would like to see AN – 225 "Mriya" (the biggest airplane in the world).

Sabyrbek Zheentaev, Kyrgyzstan. The main problem of the world is coldness of people.

Joaquin Grassi, Uruguay. I would like to go to Chernobyl because of the disaster that was there.

In yesterday's number, on the third page we've made an awful mistake. We have written that Portugal is Spanish-speaking country. Of course, it is Portuguese-speaking country. Please, take our official apologize. *Maria Nefedieva*

Lessons in Russian

Friend – друг [drug]
Friendship – дружба [druzhba]
Victory – победа [pobeda]
Game – игра [igra]
Kiss – поцелуй [potseluj]

Flowers - цветы [tsveti:]
Weather – погода [pogoda]
Sun – солнце [sontse]
Moon – луна [luna]
Rain – дождь [dozhd]

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Tomorrow program Monday July 23th

7.00 – 9.00 Breakfast, Olympiets
9.00 – 12.00 Free time
12.00 – 12.30 Lunch, Olympiets
12.40 – Buses depart to the Closing Ceremony
15.00 – 17.00 Closing Ceremony
17.00 – 18.30 Walk-around MSU Campus
18.30 – Buses depart to the Farewell Banquet
19.00 – 23.00 Farewell Banquet, Russian Academy of Sciences
23.00 Transfer to Olympiets

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Catalyzer



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Matryoshka

Is it easy to paint matryoshka?

Lucie, Switzerland. No, not really. You have to paint exactly and look that the color is everywhere the same. That's a very good idea to make such an event.

Hubert, Austria. The way I'm doing it is quite easy but if you want to make it really perfect it is rather difficult.

Max, Switzerland. It needs a lot of patience to paint these matryoshkas. I'm not so patient, but I like to do it.

Ivana, Croatia. I like it a lot. I like drawing anytime. It is difficult to draw matroshka but I actually like it because it is difficult. And when I will finish it I'm going to be very happy.

About Russian symbol – matryoshka

Miha, Slovenia. It is something that represents Russian life. It is very important symbol.

Ivana, Croatia. It is excellent. I like it and it is nice that a big one contains the little one, the little one and the little one... There can be fifty pieces and even more and that is really cool.

Christian Olvin, Netherlands. It is a first time I see a matryoshka and the first time I paint it. It is very interesting for me. I have painted a lot before with markers, but it is really hard to paint matryoshka.

About the trip to Sergiev Posad and the greatest



impressions

Ian, Croatia. Today it was really interesting. I like painting matryoshkas the most, because we could express yourself. Sergiev Posad I found absolutely amazing because of the monastery and the nature.

Ivan, Croatia. I enjoy trip to Serfiev Posad very much, I enjoy painting babushkas (matryoshkas – edit.), the monastery is absolutely wonderful. I'm really-really impressed. The churches are also very beautiful and interesting. And I like local food very much.

Ivana, Croatia. I like restaurant very much. It was decorated nicely. It is really Russian. Waitresses in the national dresses are really nice. I like it.

Lucie, Switzerland. It was quite interesting to see. Monastery is very amazing. It is different religion and it is always interesting.

About souvenirs that they have bought

In the end of the trip students had free time and all of them rushed to buy souvenirs. The most popular souvenir was, of course, matryoshka. Also they bought a lot of wood whistles. A Greece team was very interesting in fur winter hats, they were trying it on very long time and finally bought it. Is it very interesting whether they will have a chance to wear hat in their country? But may be they purchased because they wanted to come back in Moscow again and saw a real Russian winter!

Katya Davydova

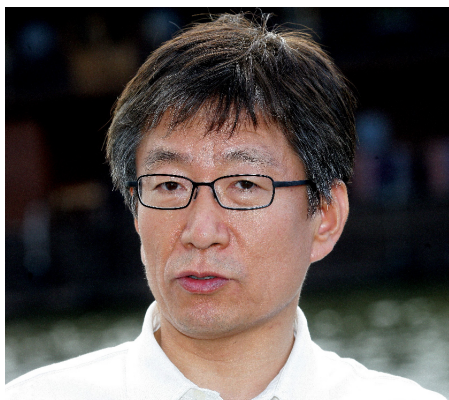


A few words from mentors



Maurice Cosandey,
Mentor, Switzerland

It's the twentieth time I'm taking part in this Olympiad. It is one of the best organized conferences in response to the schedule: we always have enough time for everything. It is remarkably scheduled - even if we don't have more time than we need, we always have enough. The most difficult was the translation day. The level of the tasks is too high, from my viewpoint.



Jung Hag Park
Head mentor, Korea Republic

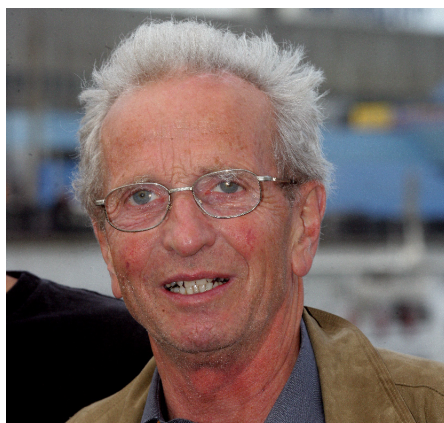
Hopefully we'll get four gold medals and will show the better results than last year (3 gold and one silver)! This year we had very good tasks – practical and theoretical – may be a little bit difficult for students. But we were training our students very hard during two weeks, selecting four best students from 5000 participants of National Olympiad. Here - in Moscow – they are a little bit tired after a long distance, but they are cheerful and enjoy this competition!



Kurt B. Nielsen
Head mentor, Denmark

I hope we'll get some medals, but I'm not sure - the level of chemistry in my country is not very high. It was a very long competition – lots of theoretical questions: 60 questions for only 5 hours! Lots of things to do in practice.. But it was a straight fight. Very good students have taken part. And on Monday we will see who is the best this year. But this competition is not only for medals. You also meet new people, new friends, get together, learn new things about chemistry.

And I really like Moscow. I was here in 1996 for IChO and in December last year as a Member of Steering Committee. I am a fan of old town: Kremlin, Diamond Room – I find them wonderful! Nice hotel, nice food, everything is good!



German Wolfgang Hample
Mentor, Germany

I see some problems with the tasks: they were very long and ambitious. It's too difficult to solve such number of theoretical problems in such short time (5 minutes per question). Practical tasks seem to be OK. No one can give you the answer who the winner is – Monday will.



Moris S. Eisen
Mentor, Israel

It's a wonderful opportunity for me and for kids learning chemistry to be among the best kids in the world. The practical part was a little more difficult than theoretical. We had no time to give them our experience. And I like Moscow, I like Sergiev Posad with beautiful monastery that we have seen today.



Darko Dolenc
Head Mentor, Slovenia

Everything was organized OK. The level of tasks is very high. Our students didn't do practical tasks well - it required other skills than our students have. But the main goal is to get together. We know each other very well for a long time, we meet our friends, and we see new countries, new cities. This year we are in Moscow. I like this city - 10 years ago it was a dark, now it is alive!

Maria Kokhanova,
Maria Nefedieva

Relax!



Use your brain

The hedgehog and an apple

Question. Probably, you remember a picture from the first children's books on which the hedgehog bearing apple on the needles is drawn. And here is the question – why does the hedgehog need an apple? Why does it bear it?

Answer. The hedgehog with an apple is not an imagination of the artist. It is the fact noticed in nature. Usually this question is answered in that way: the hedgehog bears an apple to a hole to eat and make preparations for winter. But then there are other questions: how does it remove this apple? What for does it need preparation for winter if it runs into hibernation? And the main thing - the hedgehog is a predator, apples are not its meal. So what for does the hedgehog bear an apple on needles? The answer to this question was found by biologists from the Moscow State University many years ago. The apple for the hedgehog is all the same that soap for us. Organic acids and liquid products of rotting of an apple that smell sharply, expel from a leather of the hedgehog different parasites, ticks for example. In fact the hedgehog cannot lick itself, as cat can.

