

INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Moscow, December 7-10, 2006

Organizers

1. Valery Lunin – President of IChO-2007, Dean of MSU Chemistry Department;
vlunin@kge.msu.ru
2. Tatiana BeshanenkaBeshenenko– Ministry of Science and Education of Russia;
Beshenenko@mon.gov.ru
3. Viktor Shtepa – MSU Chemistry Department, Vice-Dean;
shtepa@service017.chem.msu.ru
4. Vadim Eremin (hereunder referred to as Vadim) – MSU Chemistry Department, Professor;
vadim@educ.chem.msu.ru
5. Alexander Gladilin – MSU Chemistry Department, Professor; gladilin@direct.ru
6. Anna Bacheva – MSU Chemistry Department, Associate Professor;
bacheva_anna@mail.ru
7. Elena Eremina – MSU Chemistry Department, Associate Professor;
eremina@inorg.chem.msu.ru

Participating members of the International Steering Committee

(further referred to as **ISC**)

1. Manfred Kerschbaumer (hereunder referred to as Manfred), Austria, representative of Europe, chairman;
mkersch@gmx.net
2. Alexander K. Gladilin (hereunder referred to as Sasha), Russia, representative of Europe;
gladilin@direct.ru
3. Carlos Castro-Acuna ((hereunder referred to as Carlos), Mexico, representative of the Americas;
castroacuna02@yahoo.com
4. Duckhwan Lee ((hereunder referred to as Duckhwan), Korea, organizer IChO-2006;
duckhwan@sogang.ac.kr
5. Valery Lunin (Russia), organizer IChO-2007; e-mail: vlunin@kge.msu.ru
6. Andras Kotschy (hereunder referred to as Andras), Hungary, organizer IChO-2008;
kotschy@chem.elte.hu
7. Peter Wothers (hereunder referred to as Peter), United Kingdom, organizer IChO-2009;
pdw12@cam.ac.uk
8. Wolfgang Hampe (hereunder referred to as Wolfgang), Germany, expert;
hampe@t-online.de
9. Kurt Nielsen (hereunder referred to as Kurt), Denmark, expert;
Kurt_B_Nielsen@post.tele.dk
10. Anton Sirota (hereunder referred to as Anton), Slovakia, expert;
anton.sirota@stuba.sk
11. Mark Ellison (hereunder referred to as Mark), Australia, substitution for Geoff Salem, representatives of Asia and the Pacific Rim;
u3903111@anu.edu.au

Members of the ISC not attending the Meeting

1. Geoff Salem (Australia), representatives of Asia and the Pacific Rim;
Geoff.Salem@anu.edu.au
2. I-Jy Chang (Taiwan), representatives of Asia and the Pacific Rim;
changijy@ntnu.edu.tw
3. Paraic James (Ireland), representative of Europe; e-mail: paraic.james@dcu.ie
4. Gabor Magyarfalvi (hereunder referred to as Gabor), Hungary, expert;
gmagyarf@chem.elte.hu

Program of the ISC Meeting

December 7, Thursday	
<i>Whole day</i>	Arrivals, meeting in airport, transfer to the hotel
<i>18.00 -20.00</i>	Dinner in “Moskva” (Restaurant in the Hotel)
<i>20.00 –</i>	Free time
December 8, Friday. Whole day in the hotel	
<i>8.00-9.00</i>	Breakfast
<i>9.00-11.00</i>	Session № 1 (all sessions in “Polyanka” room)
<i>11.00-11.15</i>	Coffee break (all coffee-breaks on Friday in “Passazh”)
<i>11.15-12.30</i>	Session № 1 (continuation)
<i>12.30-12.45</i>	Coffee break Lunch
<i>12.45-13.45</i>	Session № 1 (continuation)
<i>14.00-15.00</i>	Lunch in “Moskva” Restaurant Time for souvenir-hunting (optional)
<i>15.00-16.30</i>	Session № 2
<i>16.30-16.45</i>	Coffee break
<i>16.45-18.00</i>	Session № 2 (continuation)
<i>19.00</i>	Departure for the Dinner
<i>20.00 -22.00</i>	Dinner in “Korchma” (the the Ukrainian style restaurant)
<i>22.30</i>	Return to the hotel
December 9.12, Saturday	
<i>8.00-9.00</i>	Breakfast
<i>10.00</i>	Departure from the hotel
<i>10.30-13.30</i>	Excursion (The Red Square, Kremlin)
<i>13.30-14.00</i>	Transfer to MSU Chemistry Department
<i>14.00-15.00</i>	Lunch at MSU
<i>15.30–15.30</i>	Meeting with the Dean of Chemistry Department
<i>15.30-16.00</i>	Inspection of the venue of the Opening Ceremony
<i>16.15-16.45</i>	Inspection of the venue of the Closing Ceremony
<i>17.00-18.00</i>	Inspection of laboratories and auditoria
<i>18.00-19.00</i>	Coffer-break & informal discussion
<i>20.00-22.00</i>	Special Dinner in “Astakhov” (the Russian-style restaurant)
<i>23.00</i>	Return to the hotel
December 12, Sunday	
<i>8.00-9.00</i>	Breakfast
<i>9.00-11.00</i>	Session № 3 (final topics, approval of Minutes of the ISC Meeting)
<i>11.00-11.30</i>	Coffee break (Foyer 2)
<i>11.30-12.00</i>	Check-out
<i>12.00-</i>	Departures

Report from Business Sessions

Vadim opened the Meeting by greeting the members of ISC.

1. Current situation

- 1.1. Countries participating in IChO-2007: 68 countries.
- 1.2. The 2nd year observing countries – no.
- 1.3. The 1st year observing countries. Nigeria has submitted a formal application. It is approved.
- 1.4. ISC confirms that the deadline for an application from countries willing to enter IChOs is the 1st of December of the year preceding the IChO.

2. Reports

- 2.1.1. Report from the 39th ICHO Organizing Committee presented by Sasha

Dates: July 15 (Sun) – 24 (Tue), 2006

Venue: Moscow State University

Participants: Expected about 480 Participants from 68 countries

(approximately students 272 / Mentors 136 / Scientific observers 36 / Guests 36)

Observing countries: Nigeria

Host organization: Moscow St University, Chemistry Department

Preparations for 2007:

- Upload Preparatory Problems on Internet (January)
- Preliminary Registration (March)
- Online Registration (April – June)
- IChO (15-24th of July)
- Report to the International Steering Committee (December)

Venues:

- *Opening Ceremony* - Assembly Hall, Main Building of MSU
- *Practical examination* - 15 identically equipped labs at MSU Chemistry Department
- *Theoretical examination* - 3 main lecture halls at MSU Chemistry Department
- *Mentors&Observers&Guests location*
 - new ****hotel Holiday Inn Sokolniki. The Holiday Inn Moscow Sokolniki is a brand new - high value for money hotel, situated a few minutes drive (about 4 km) from the Moscow City Centre. The Sokolniki metro station only a 2 minutes walk. Located at only a 45 minutes drive from the Sheremetyevo International Airport and a one and half hour drive from the Domodedovo International Airport, the Holiday Inn Moscow Sokolniki is a smart choice for any business or leisure traveller.
- *Students&Guides location*
 - “Olympian” hotel. It was built in 1980 for the Moscow Olympic Games. It is located about 15 minutes away from the Moscow Ring Road and 5 min from Sheremetyevo II International Airport. The “Olympian” Hotel offers 221 rooms, three 120-seat banquet halls, 320 seats concert hall, and sport center (25-meter swimming pool, 2 saunas, sports hall, a gym, football field). Also “Olympian” Hotel offer billiards, ping-pong, and other recreational activities.
- *Closing Ceremony* - Congress Hall, New Academic Library, MSU.

Further considerations:

- Guides must be responsible for students and provide some observing.
- Hosts will provide guests with appropriate information on visa application procedure in due time. Tourist visa maybe an option.
- Guides must be available in case of emergency during competition rounds.
- Organizers will provide a variant of accommodation for early arrivals and late departures, these extra days being paid by guests.
- Russia will increase the fees for guests.
- Delegations must pay fees in advance or just on arrival, otherwise a country is not allowed to participate in the event. This phrase to be included in the country registration form.
- Manfred will get in touch and ask IUPAC to provide a support (participation fee) for some countries.

2.1.2. Report from the 39th ICHO Science Committee presented by Vadim

Staff: Permanent staff – 3 professors, 13 associate professors, postdocs and researchers

Preparatory problems:

- Work started in February, 2006. Five Science Committee meetings
- New in practical problems – computer simulation (numerical experiment)
- Problems will be put on a website in January 2007. Solutions will be on the website at the end of May. Printed version together with the detailed solutions will be sent by postal mail to mentors (2 copies for each country)
- In case of numerical experiment (by using a computer), the host will provide downloading of a package from IChO-2007 web-site to ensure equal opportunities for all students.

Chemistry:

- is in line with the IChO slogan “Chemistry – art, science, fun”
- reflects some modern trends in science
- stresses the interdisciplinary character of science
- gives numerous possibilities for students to reveal their creativity
- promotes achievements of Russian chemists

Competition problems:

- All level 3 questions are announced in preparatory problems
- The correspondence between competition and preparatory problems will be checked very thoroughly to avoid long disputes during Jury Meetings at IChO
- The ability of students to fulfill the exams within 5 hours is taken into account.

2.2. Korea-2006 report approved. The ISC points out excellent preparation of the Booklet.

2.3. Progress report from Andras (the 40th IChO)
July 12-21, 2008, Hungary, Budapest, Eotvoes University.
ISC Meeting – December 6-9, 2006, Budapest.

2.4. Progress report from Peter (the 41st IChO)
July 18-27, 2009, UK, Cambridge.

3. Questions for general discussion

3.1. Suggestions of ISC and Guidelines for organizers and mentors should be taken into account and followed.

Wolfgang: A sentence should be added to Guidelines for Organizers: “Marks from the authors should be given to mentors before the Arbitration”. Wolfgang will speak to Gabor on this matter.

3.2.1. Definition of the level 3 topic, division of the Syllabus into level 3 topics (as suggested by Manfred and Geoff).

Manfred: The number of fields was a compromise.

3.2.2. Analysis of appearance of level 3 topics at recent IChOs.

Sasha: Most hosts use nearly all level 3 topics (10 to 11) both in preparatory and competition tasks, though it is often difficult to attribute a particular problem to either level 2 or 3 because of clarifications (nobody knows what is sufficient).

3.2.3. Number of level 3 topics allowed in a Preparatory set.

3.2.4. Necessity for revision of the Syllabus

Current system does not fit to real state of things. Major problems are:

- Violation of rules of having not more than 3 problems of level 3 in competition set
- Poor state of Syllabus

Ways to improve the situation:

- Moscow organizers present a list in Preparatory problems set, where level 3 topics involved and their relationship to the problems will be revealed.
- All future hosts should know that a part of competition task (or even the whole task) may be skipped from the set in case it deals with level 3 topics, which have not been announced.

- Distribution of “homework” for revising the Syllabus:

Field 1-4	→ Mark + Peter	field 5	→ Anton
field 6	→ Wolfgang	field 7	→ Vadim
field 8	→ Gabor	field 9, 10	→ Andras
field 11	→ Sasha	field 12	→ Manfred

Deadline: March the 31st. Levels are to be given for consideration.

Gabor will combine the contributions.

ISC will continue discussion via Internet, and then distribute new edition of Syllabus among mentors in Moscow.

Peter suggested to add “Level 3*”, where the subject definitely belongs to level 3, but teaching takes only a very short time. Level 3* is not regarded as level 3 when counting the number of level 3 fields in the problem sets.

3.3. Competition tasks

3.3.1. Theoretical tasks (length, difficulty)

Carlos suggested to introduce a limit of 8 tasks. It is decided to leave it as it is now.

Wolfgang: Based on the analysis of the number of characters in the sets from recent IChOs, it is suggested to shorten the text significantly. Manfred points out that this should concern unnecessary parts only; cutting off may be dangerous. Future hosts should prepare sets (incl. Answer Sheets) below 25,000.

3.3.2. Practical tasks (number, length, difficulty)

Carlos suggested to introduce a limit of 2 tasks. It is decided to leave it as it is now.

Peter: Students should be given, read and sign safety sheets. Agreed to do it in Moscow.

3.3.3. Overtraining

No further discussion about that.

3.4. Processing of competition tasks during the Olympiad, grading and related activities

3.4.1. Discussions with the authors

Time between task distribution and consultation with authors should be at least 4 hours.

Moscow: July 18th – excursion till noon, distribution of exams just on return to the hotel.

3.4.2. Discussions at the Jury sessions

- 3.4.3. Marking and grading
- 3.4.4. Delivering copies of the students works
- 3.4.5. Delivering copies of the tasks of the exam (final English version and final variant of translated exam – one per country)

Items 3.4.2.-3.4.5. have been discussed.

- 3.4.6. Arbitration
At least 2 persons from Science Committee at each task (one speaking and the other manipulating with envelopes, fixing corrections, *etc.*)
2 persons of a delegation at the table at most (choice from 2 mentors and 2 scientific observer).

- 3.4.7. Computers
Russia will provide one lap-top and usb-sticks for each country. Every country is welcome to bring their own lap-tops. The software should be free of viruses.

- 3.4.8. Printers (net-printers or usb-sticks)
Russia will provide as many printers as possible.

- 3.4.9. Coordination of authors before the competition is of extreme importance.
Russia: Co-Chairmen of the Science Committee will not sit at any table and will look after the whole arbitration.

- 3.4.10. Excursions on days of hard work. Excursions are needed, still only short.

- 3.4.11. Countries with most difficult languages: one additional scientific observer to assist in translating.
No objection in principle. Equal rights for all countries. This will be announced in the invitation letter and brought to the 1st Jury Meeting in Moscow.
Translation can be started whenever a mentor wants. Official English version is distributed at 6 a.m.

3.5. Allocation of medals

- 3.5.1. Gaps in points between medal categories and medalists/non-medalists
Wolfgang distributed a list with cut off deltas from IChOs starting with 1990.
Stressed out: decision on Gold/Silver cut off influences further cut offs, *etc.*
Russia: Only crucial parts of the results will be shown as diagrams without any figures.

- 3.5.2. Honorable mentions
Carlos: Another 10 % of participants (best among non-medalists) Reason: those who were poor in all tasks but one got a mention, and those, who were very close to bronze medal and achieved reasonable results in a number of tasks got nothing. This regulation should replace the current one (par. 15, section 5).
ISC suggests a vote on the proposal at the 1st First Jury Meeting in Moscow.

- 3.6. Security issues at IChOs.
Since telecommunication facilities have being developed rapidly during the last decade, future hosts must pay as much attention to security issues as possible.

4. Miscellaneous

- 4.1. Development of rules for IChO presentation in the Internet.
The main IChO website is that of the current host. Website of IChO Information Center contains the latest edition of rules, history sketch, *etc.*
- 4.2. Mentors from different countries would like to be heard by International Jury.

Opportunity to present a brief comment during the Business Session will be announced at the 1st Jury Meeting. Anyone willing to speak approaches the Chair of ISC to put the name in the list.

4.3. What a host should do if someone from a country unexpectedly states that he/she is the new mentor for this country?

Decided: an individual solution if the problem comes up.

4.4. Multiple participation.

Carlos and mentors from Latin America suggest putting a limit of 2 times participation.

Decided to leave it as it is, since it happens pretty rare and does not alter the results.

4.5. Grouping of countries

4.5.1. Possibility of new grouping of participating countries according to languages, cultures, etc. in order to reveal representatives in ISC.

Proposed groups:

- Spanish&Portugeese speaking
- Traditional European
- English speaking
- Asian
- Russian speaking
- (Others)

Each Head Mentor will be asked to ascribe his country to one of the above groups until November 1, 2007. Detailed information will be given at the Business Session in Moscow.

4.5.2. Election of members of ISC members: a group of countries should elect its representative(s) by itself.

4.6. Participation fees in Moscow-07.

- Scientific observers: kept as it is
- Guests and possible extra scientific observers: increased (exact sum in the Invitation letter).