

Nowy Sącz, POLAND 2005
The 17-th International
Olympiad in Informatics

Issue 2, Friday, August 19th

NEWSLETTER

of the 17th International Olympiad in Informatics, Poland 2005

Happened on this day

- 1856:** Gail Borden from New York patented his process for *condensed milk*
1888: the first beauty contest in the world took place in Belgium, with a 18-year old winner
1960: the first live animals returned from Space. These were two dogs on board Sputnik 5

(Almost) everyone is here

Please put your seats in the upright position, fasten your seatbelts and we are off! Once the participants have arrived, the quiet place starts bursting with life.



We won't let you starve

The first more or less complete teams to arrive

were those of Croatia, Sri Lanka and Hungary. We were surprised to see the Hungarians at the 8am breakfast, since they arrived at the Nowy Sącz railway station in the middle of the night — at 3am! ‘A bit later in fact, since there was a delay’ — says Gyula Horváth, the leader — ‘but we slept on the train. It was the only direct one from Budapest. Fortunately, it is not too far.’

The computers in the competition rooms must have been so excited that the contestants were approaching, that they overloaded the power network. After a short repair the power was restored. Please, try not to scare the computers again during the contest days.

OPENING DAY

CONTESTANTS

7.30 - 9.00	breakfast
9.15 - 11.45	practice session
12.00 - 13.30	lunch
15.15 - 18.00	opening events
20.00 - 21.00	dinner

LEADERS

7.30 - 9.00	breakfast
9.15 - 11.45	practice session
12.00 - 13.15	lunch
13.15 - 14.00	GA Meeting 1
15.15 - 18.00	opening events
18.30 - 19.45	dinner
20.00 -	GA Meeting 2, translations

GUESTS

7.30 - 9.00	breakfast
9.15 - 11.45	Nowy Sącz tour
12.00 - 13.30	lunch
15.15 - 18.00	opening events
18.30 - 19.45	dinner

WWW — Sport

When	Where	What
13.30-14.30	Campus, next to building G	Badminton Ringo
20.30-22.00	Dormitories at John Paul II Street - basement	Table tennis
	Campus, next to building G	Balloons - games

WEATHER FORECAST

Heavy clouds all day long

morning		13°C / 55°F
afternoon		15°C / 59°F
evening		16°C / 61°F

Buses: There will be a regular bus service operating between the WSB Campus and the most important locations in the town. The buses are free. The daily timetable will be available at every reception desk.



The Chinese Taipei team has just arrived

Some teams have already spent a few days in Poland. ‘We have been in Cracow for 2 days’ — say the contestants from The Republic of Korea. ‘We had a visit to Wawel (The Royal Castle), Jagiellonian University. We travelled in a horse carriage around the Old Town. It was fun and we liked the place a lot.’ ‘I have already learned a few words in Korean’ — adds the guide.

The real rush began after 4pm, when many teams from the whole world arrived from Cracow. The Chinese Taipei team members did not seem to look tired, although they had a long distance to go, with a change in Paris. Neither did the Mexicans, whose journey to Nowy Sącz lasted 25 hours, most of it spent on planes. We met them at the dormitories waiting for their luggage. Has it been lost, or accidentally flew to Australia? No, it simply did not fit in the bus luggage compartment and was on its way from Cracow on another bus. Ufff...

Some sports activities were already under way. There were first football and basketball games played. The IOI seems to be warming up.

On-site preparations

For a vast majority of our readers the Olympiad began with their yesterday arrivals. The immediate preparations however, began over two weeks ago with the arrival of the computers and other equipment — you may consider gathering almost 400 machines in one place quite challenging. It was also quite problematic to assure that the contestants’ workstations are all identical. An extra power supply line had to be led to the gym, to provide sufficient amounts of energy for the 150 computers planned to be located there. Once the hundreds of desks, chairs, screens, keyboards, mice,



The more, the merrier — team problem solving

and main units found their right place and the peripherals were

connected, a network had to be set up (it would be really cool to have everyone submit the solutions on floppy discs, preferably 5,25”, but somehow we gave up on this). The hundreds of meters of cable were neatly placed, attached to numerous switches and off we go!

Cutting the grass, cleaning the rooms, adjusting local facilities to the IOI needs was no less important. Big thanks to all the **local staff** who worked hard to ensure that the site welcomes you in a pleasant way.

A large group of organizers responsible for conducting the event (over 50 people) arrived over a week ago, when the basic preparations were almost complete. These people recruit from various groups: students, university teachers, technical staff, office staff, sponsors’

Who is who

students of Warsaw University:



Tomasz Malesiński

Technical Group

Participant of previous IOI’s



Marek Żylak

Technical Group



Anna Niewiarowska

Newsletter Editor

representatives and many others (you will be coming across them all the time). It has been their job to put the event in full motion and make it look as it does now.

And there was still a lot to do. Our **technical team**, with Krzysztof Ciebiera as the head, had to detect malfunctioning equipment, configure the network and the contestants' workstations, set up the servers and the contest environment (none of these turned out to be especially easy) and have it all thoroughly tested. With the help of the room-keepers (who will supervise the contest in each room) they made sure that any ways of cheating or hacking the contest system are disabled, so don't even try.

Another group, the **host scientific committee** supervised by Marcin Kubica, was responsible for the tasks-related issues. They processed the task proposals, together with the key solutions and verified the test cases (in other words, they made sure that your incorrect programs score no points and that the time limits are as strict as possible).



The guides at a briefing

Do not forget that a lot of planning is necessary to successfully conduct an event on such a scale. It was the task of several people in the **organizing team**, led by Tadeusz Kuran. They made sure that you are picked up from the airport, and that you are provided accommodation. It was also their task to have your badges prepared and distributed, and to assign the workstations to contestants. If it hadn't been for their logistical skills, we would have all got lost in multiple matters very quickly.



Backpack preparations are going on

It was also pretty time-consuming to furnish 700 sets of gadgets into as many backpacks. Believe it or not, almost all the stuff you received arrived in a not-so-large van, certainly not looking big enough to fit them all. Once unpacked and filled with cups, T-shirts, caps, brochures, ball-pens etc. filled two large rooms. The heap of emptied cardboard boxes was quite impressive, too.

Last but definitely not least **the guides** had their first meeting and a training session on a rainy morning of August 16th.

So far so good. Hopefully all the behind-the-scene actions will keep on going smoothly.



The big bosses at a secret meeting

IOI 2005 dress code

-  **Contestants**
-  **Leaders, observers, adjuncts to the teams**
-  **Visitors**
-  **Guides**
-  **Technical staff**
-   **Organizers**

ENTERTAINMENT

Personality test

Are you good with computers?

1. You begin each morning with:

- a) #include <stdio.h>
- b) program P;
- c) #!/bin/bash

2. You spend in front of the computer:

- a) 24 hours a day
- b) 1440 minutes a day
- c) 86400 seconds a day

3. Your favourite pop signer is:

- a) Xmms
- b) Winamp
- c) Mplayer

4. How big is the Universe?

- a) 800 x 600
- b) 1024 x 768
- c) 80 x 25

5. What is the best way to accelerate a computer?

- a) overclocking
- b) buying a new one
- c) 9,8 m/s²

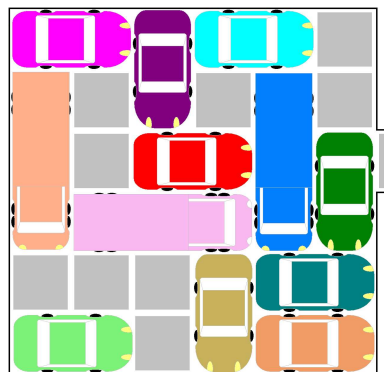
Logic puzzle: Hats

A king lives in a castle with 30 servants. The king is an evil person and he decided to kill some of his servants. He announced that the next day all of them would be gathered in the yard. The king will place them in a row, one after another, and then he will put each of them a hat on their head. Each hat can be either black or white. The servants will not see their own hats, but they will see the hats of all standing in front of them (that is the first one in the row will see no hat, the second will see the first one's hat, ..., the 30th will see 29 hats). Then each person will have to guess the color of their own hat. Those who guess correctly will be saved. The others will be killed. Each person can only say one word: 'black' or 'white' (which will be heard by everyone else) and they must not communicate in any other way.

Now the servants have time to discuss this 'game' with each other and find a strategy (that also includes deciding the order in which to speak) that will grant survival of as many of them as possible. Help them.

Rush hour

Here is another Rush hour puzzle for you. We hope that you did well with the first, easy one. This one is more complicated.



Today's puzzle comes from
www.igoweb.org/~wms/rushHour

Happy birthday to: *Stéphane Caron* from *France* on his 17th birthday, *Mohammad Mahini* from *Iran* on his 18th birthday and *Emir Habul* from *Bosnia and Herzegovina* on his 19th birthday.

Profile: ComArch

ComArch is an international software house and systems integrator that provides innovative IT solutions to Telecommunications, Finance and Banking, Services Sector and to Public Administration covering billing, ERP systems, IT security, CRM and sales support, electronic communication and business intelligence. ComArch also offers outsourcing and consulting services. Since its inception ten years ago, ComArch as a knowledge-oriented company has blossomed into a multinational network of offices employing over 1000 seasoned IT specialist in the States, Middle East and Europe.

ComArch is known for employing winners and finalists of Olympiad in Informatics and ACM Collegiate Programming Contest, especially in the Research & Development departments, providing the opportunity to invent new software applications and products.

ComArch is the technology partner of IOI'2005.

More information: www.comarch.com

Glossary

program — a magic spell cast over a computer allowing it to turn one's input into error messages

algorithm — a brief recipe how to do something that omits all the key implementation issues and special cases

IOI — Intensive Overload of Intranet

Polish your Polish

morning - **rano**
breakfast - **śniadanie**
afternoon - **popołudnie**
lunch - **obiad**
evening - **wieczór**
dinner (supper) - **kolacja**