

August 14th, 2006

Today's reminders

- Get your hats ready for the opening ceremony!
- Did you get your picture taken? If not, please go to the registration office as soon as possible.

Today's schedule:

7:30-8:30

Breakfast at Hotel Restaurants

8:45-9:00

Bus Boarding at HY, HI, Transportation to SXXI

9:15-11:45

Practice Session

12:00-13:30

Opening Ceremony at SXXI

13:30-15:45

Lunch at SXXI

16:00-16:20

Balloon Launching Ceremony at SXXI parking lot

16:20-16:35

Bus Boarding at SXXI Parking Lot, transportation to Hotels

17:00-19:00

Free time / Activities at Contestants Common Room / Shuttles to downtown / **GA Meeting**

7:30-8:30

Dinner at Hotel Restaurants

8:45-9:00 Free time

Getting ready for the competition

Today is a very important day because most competitors will meet for the first time at the competition room for the practice session.

Still some competitors are on their way due mostly to the recent restrictions in airlines worldwide.

To the closure of this edition: Syria, Trinidad, United Arab, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Luxemburg, Moldova, Lithuania, Algeria, Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Colombia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Chile, France, India and Switzerland were delayed.

We hope they get on time early tomorrow.

After the practice session, we will have the Opening Ceremony in the same building.

As a special way to meet the other countries, Juan Francisco has been doing picture sessions with all the delegations, so that their picture can be shown on the big screens and the competitors get to know each other before the competition starts.

Also the flags of your country will be shown together

with a small introduction to your national anthem.

If you brought a hat representative of your country, please bring it to the opening ceremony, so that you can stand up and wear it when your country is introduced.



Convention Center "Siglo XXI"

The practice session and competition will be held at the Convention Center "Siglo XXI" (pronounced "Siglo Veintiuno") which will be abbreviated for this publication as SXXI.

We will be mostly using the "Chichen-Itzá" room.

Convention Center is about 15 to 20 minutes away by car or bus, so you need to get into the shuttles in order to get there. It's not near by walking distance.

Buses will be departing tomorrow for the Practice Session at 9 am. Please be there by 8:45 am so you don't miss the bus, because there will be no late departures.

For the guests, Carnivalito buses will be taking tours to downtown, and to the CC SXXI at 11:30 am.



Opening Ceremony

We will have the presence of the Yucatán Governor at the opening ceremony. We will also have folkloric mexican dances.

During the lunch there will be a Mexican trio. Hope you all enjoy it!

IOI 2006 Logo

The IOI 2006 logo has a lot of Mayan elements. Including the game ball, the Chac Mol (where some human sacrifices were done),

The Kukulcan Column and the Mayan numbers. You will meet Chac Mol and the rest of the stuff on Friday when you go to Chichen Itzá.

THE IOI 2006 LOGO

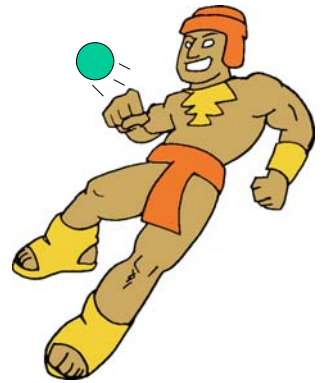
Ulama ring used in the mayan ball game



Kukulcan Column as the Entrance at the warrior's Temple in Chichen Itza

Chac Mol as the one that is in The front entrance at the warrior's temple in Chichen Itza.

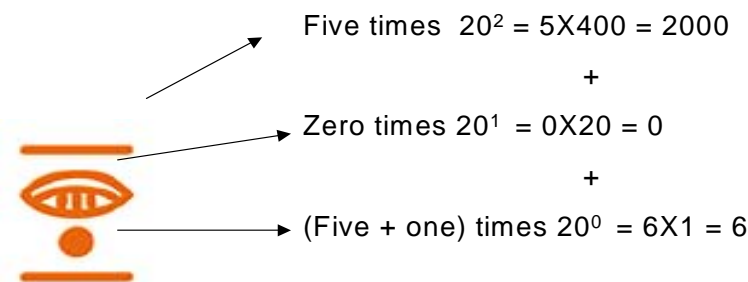
Elements found in the IOI 2006 LOGO



Did you know that

Game Ball winners in the time of the Chac-Mol, were sacrificed as an offer to the gods? Not the losers but the winners! And it was an honor. Weird, huh?

2006 in Mayan



this means that; $6 + 0 + 2000 = 2006$

This is the 2006 in Mayan numbers

The Maya's numbering system is based in 20.

Get your picture taken

Juan Francisco is preparing a flash presentation with the pictures of all the competitors and a small fragment of the national anthem.



If you haven't taken your picture yet, please do so at the registration room during breakfast (otherwise it will be too late)

Also please check that your national anthem is correct. If you don't want to be in the flash presentation, please also tell Juan Francisco to be removed from it.

Are you feeling a little stressed?



Don't worry! Right at the Holiday Inn Hotel we have something that might chill you out, our very own game room.

The game room's full of wonderful distractions and it is also a perfect place to make new friends.

The game room has something for every taste. You can play from football to ping pong to cards or board games.

It doesn't matter at which hotel you're staying, everyone's welcome to come in and play.

Are you feeling a little stressed?
Tired? Confused? Overwhelmed?
Homesick? Lonely?

Right here you can also find something we all know you



Balero: The nose breaker



This is barely our second day at the IOI and some people already learned how to play with our traditional balero (although you may also call it nose breaker).

This toy is made of wood and the main objective is to be able to catch the big mass right in top of the stick after throwing it.

Some contestants have already gotten the hang of it.

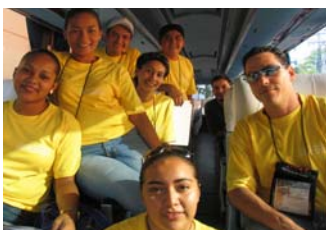
Keep trying and let's see who gets it by the end of the week. You may even defeat some Mexican people who, just like me, haven't been able to do it even if they have tried for years.

GA Meetings started



Leaders and deputy leaders got together to approve the contest rules and confirm the IOI 2005 Minutes at the Yucatán Room 3 and 4 at the Fiesta Americana Hotel

Meet your guides



Your guides are ready to help you in any thing you need. Please ask them for help to get around the city, to ask for a special meal, to learn about Mexican culture, and to anything you may need during the IOI.

First interactions with México

We asked some contestants a little bit about their teams and their first impressions on the IOI this year.

Azerbaijan

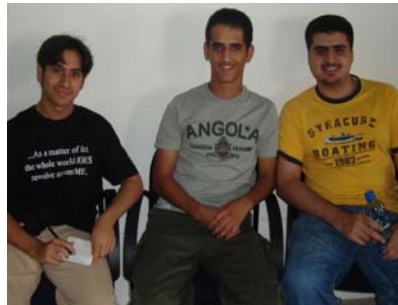
“Azerbaijan has participated since 1994. We have good expectations for this. We’ve been preparing for the contest all year long. We had problems with visas and stuff in the airport, and we are also tired so maybe that’s going to affect the results, but we’ll see. About Mexico, well we’ve seen only Merida and we think it’s a very nice city. There’s like silence in the street but we heard lots of birds in the morning... and it’s really hot” (Aykhan Allyev, Akshin Salimov, Afgan Abbasov).



Israel

“This is our 11th year at the IOI, our country has been participating since 1996. Our expectations are to win three gold and one silver. This is our first time in Mexico. Is a nice place”.

Kuwait



“This is the 17th time our country participates in this event. We are three contestants and we hope to win a medal. Our country hasn’t won one yet. Is our first time here in Mexico, for the first impression I would say is a nice country with nice people. We like the weather, not too cold, not too hot” (Majid ALQabandi, Abdulaziz ALOtaibi, Jafar Abdulrasoul).

Tips of the day

If you want to visit anywhere in Merida, be sure to bring your guide with you and if you’re planning to take a bus don’t forget to ask the driver where it’s heading. You might find yourself lost somewhere in Merida.

Also, try to always have a water bottle with you (especially if you’re not used to this kind of weather) avoiding dehydration will make everyone’s stay a lot easier



The Indonesian team tried some Mexican food at the Mall and they like it!!!!

IOI Souvenirs

Don’t forget to check out the souvenirs available at the registration room in Fiesta Americana Hotel. Pick your favorite color and take some home before they are gone!



Prices

- T-shirt: \$9 USD (99 pesos)
- T-shirt long sleeve: \$20 USD (110 pesos)
- Polo shirt: \$12 USD (130 pesos)
- Back pack: \$20 USD (220 pesos)
- White Cap: \$7 USD (77 pesos)
- IOI paliacate: \$5 USD (55 pesos)
- Mexican paliacate: \$2 USD (22 pesos)