

NEWSLETTER

August 15th, 2006

Today's reminders

- Please remember not to bring anything to the exam. You will be given everything you need right there.
- No electronic devices will be admitted (calculators, jumpdrives, cell phones, cameras, etc).
- Remember you have one hour to ask any questions related to the way the exam is written, which will be faxed to your leaders at their respective hotels.
- *Leisure: Don't forget we'll go to the beach tomorrow, so sign up with your guides for the activities you want to participate, today.*

Today's schedule:

6:45-8:00

Breakfast

8:15-8:30

Bus boarding at HI, HY

8:45-9:00

Entrance to lab

9:00- 13:35

Competition / GA Meeting

14:15-16:15

Lunch at CC SXXI

16:30-17:00

Bus boarding at CC parking lot

17:00-19:00

Free time / Activities at the common room / Inscription to beach activities/ Shuttles downtown

19:00-21:00

Dinner

21:00-23:00

Free time / Activities at contestants common room / Shuttles downtown / GA Meeting

Competition starts today

After these two days of preparations, first day of competitions starts today.

We hope you had a really good night's sleep and are ready for the task.

The leaders spent a long while working on the exam so it is as clear as possible, avoiding any future problems and not leaving anything lost in translation.

Good luck to all of you!!



Perseverance and optimism to its best

After a 76 hours trip, the Kazakhstan team finally made it to the IOI, just 8 hours before the first exam.

They had "slept" at the airports, they came to Mexico and were sent back to Houston, TX in a very emotionally distressing trip. The worst part was that they weren't sure if they were ever going to make it to the IOI.

But finally, after more than 100 hours of great staff work on both countries, a lot of phone calls, emails and adrenaline, they were able to make it just in time.



They feel very happy for this. They are really tired and almost fainting, but they hope that with a good night sleep they will be ready for the exam.

They will have to learn the development environment from scratch during the competition and will be a little sleepy, but they are optimistic and thankful to finally be here.

Relax after the Exam

Carnavalito with music

- 18:00-19:00
- 21:00-22:00

Tour around the city

- 17:30- 19:30

Bowling

- 21:00

Note: All the expenses at the bowling center have to be covered at your own expense (about \$10 USD)

Take the shuttles on the street between The HY and HI. Sign up with your guide. Seats are limited.

We are very happy you guys made it! We wish you very good luck and hope you enjoy!

A bit of folklore



The term jarana, understood as alboroto (great din), refers to the principal dance in Mexico's Yucatan state. A veritable illustration of the fusion of old and new world culture, the jarana attracts and enchants viewers with the cadence and elegance of its steps, the joyous beat of its music and the solemn mien of the dancers who tap out the rhythm of the music with their feet. The music, always a tremendous din, is typically provided by a jarana orchestra comprised of two clarinets, two trombones, kettledrums and güiro. Mostly regional, the music also mixes in European lyrics and melodies.

Though there is no special costume required to dance the jarana, women usually wear the typical yucatecan huipil. Others wear the gala terno.

White shoes and a delicately hand-knitted Santa María shawl complete the dancer's costume. Traditionally men dress a typical mestizo garb of pants made of duck cloth and a silk or linen guayabera (white shirt).

One of the most spread traditional celebrations in Yucatan is the Vaqueria, a feast in which jarana is danced by graceful couples.

It has its origin at the colonial time and it was celebrated in the occasion of marking the cattle of the properties - from it comes its name there. Vaqueria, like almost all the traditional yucatecan celebrations, is a combination of the religious cult brought by the Spaniards and the beliefs of the Mayan town.

Mexican drinks



Horchata is a refreshing cold drink made of rice or rice flour, water, almonds, cinnamon, and sugar.

The Horchata drink is said to be very helpful for stomach aches, hangovers and when you are sick.



Jamaica is a very popular drink in Mexico, which is made from calyces of the roselle plant (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*). It is prepared by steeping the calyces in boiling water, straining the mixture, pressing the calyces (to squeeze all the juice out), adding sugar, and stirring. The drink is served chilled and it is particularly good for people who have a tendency toward water retention: it is a mild and completely natural diuretic.

You can have Horchata and Jamaica drinks at the Hotels.

Spice it up



There are over 140 different types of chile. In the states of the Yucatan Peninsula the chile habanero, the hottest chile known to mankind, is widely used both in table and cooking salsas not only for its heat but for its unique, unmistakable flavor. Other ingredients that may be present in Mexican salsas are onion, garlic, cilantro (fresh coriander leaves), lime juice and vinegar, as well as salt and other spices such as black pepper, cumin, cinnamon and clove.



Remedies for eating a pepper that is too hot for you:

- Drink milk, rinsing the mouth with it while swallowing, ice cream or yogurt. Eat rice or bread which will absorb the capsaicin.

- Drink tomato juice or eat a fresh lime or lemon (the acid will counteract the alkalinity of the capsaicin).

- **Do not drink water.** Capsaicin which is an oil will not mix with water but instead will distribute to more parts of the mouth.

How to say it

Having communication problems? Here are some common expressions in Spanish that may be useful for you.

Hello - **Hola**

Please - **Por favor**

Thank you - **Gracias**

How are you? - **¿Cómo estás?**

How much is it? - **¿Cuánto cuesta?**

Good bye - **Adiós**

Do you speak English? - **¿Habla inglés?**

You're very pretty - **Eres muy bonita**

Can I give you a flower? - **¿Te puedo dar una flor?**

NEWSLETTER

Hats from all countries

The opening ceremony was a beautiful display of color, culture and sombreros (aka: hats). However some hats made quite an impression on the audience.

Some wore traditional hats, like the teams from Estonia and Kirgistan.



are merry people and they like to joke and be happy about life.

Other hats weren't so traditional, but they stood for a message. Such were hats like the ones the Denmark team wore, which was a replica of the one worn on the 1968 Olympic games to root for their team.

The hat Finland wore clearly stated where they came from, Santa Claus's



Mexican sombreros were missing but expect to see a lot of them at the Mexican Party.

home. One that made quite an impression was the hat the Irish team wore, a leprechaun like green hat (with a beard and all), to make clear that they

They'll also be very happy to see this because as one of their leaders told us, they had never made it into the IOI newspaper.

The Young and The Wise

Talent is always a very admirable thing. No matter how old you are, it is something that always strikes people's attention.

However, aren't we surprised to find talent in very young people?

Such is the case of Henadzi Karatkevich from Belarus, who is only 12 years old.

If Henadzi gets good results in this IOI, expect to be seeing him for at least 7 IOIs more!



Today's birthdays (Aug, 15th)

"Las Mañanitas" for:

- Pablo Gaona, Argentina,
- Zeljko Grbic, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
 - Preslav Le, Bulgaria
- Krzysztof Diks, International Committee

Girls in action

The IOI is not an event where many girls participate.

This year again, we have very few female contestants.

So far we've met Phitchaya Phothilimthana from Thailand, Adela Maznikar from Fyr of Macedonia and Emina Bukva from Bosnia.

These clever girls have different expectations for this event.



Adela Maznikar

Adela is 18 years old, she likes to play the piano and sing and hopes to give the best of her at this event.

Emina is 18 years old, she likes a lot to dance, speaks several languages and she'd like to have fun and go clubbing.

Phitchaya is a 17 year-old girl who likes to sing and paint, and expects to have a lot of fun.



Emina Bukva



Phithaya Phothilimthana

Practice Session Interviews

The practice session took place yesterday at the lab in SXXI

Charlie, from Ireland comments that his team has had a few problems, but they still expect to do well at the competition. "We are confident" – He says. "Merida is a very nice city, we think it's pretty, very different from Ireland. What we like most about here is the weather, it's nice for a change". "The first time our country participated in this event was 1993, in Argentina, it's been 13 years in the IOI and I remember that that was the last time the time when the IOI was hosted by a country in which Spanish is the main language.

Eljakim from the Netherlands told us that his team really loves Mexico, that they feel very welcome to our country and that he enjoys knowing Mexican people because "they always have a smile on their face".

He also told us that they expect to have a wonderful time and to find good tasks at the exam and that they are confident they can win some medals.

Margot Philipps from New Zealand tells us that this is the first year they are competing at the IOI and that they just want to see what it's like and get a score. She told us that it took them 56 hrs to get here because they had some troubles with immigration, but that they finally got here and they are happy for it.



Working hard so everything is perfect

Attending to transparency and equality, fundamental values of every competition, on August 14 at 17:00 hrs, a meeting in which the leaders, deputy leaders and the IOI's scientific committee got together to check and correct the redaction of the three problems that will be solved by the contestants on the first day of competition, took place.

Each one of the problems will have a total value of 100 points, giving a total of 300 points on game for each of the 298 contestants of 75 countries registered on this 18th International Olympiad in Informatics 2006.



Lionel Hartman, forever in IOI's heart

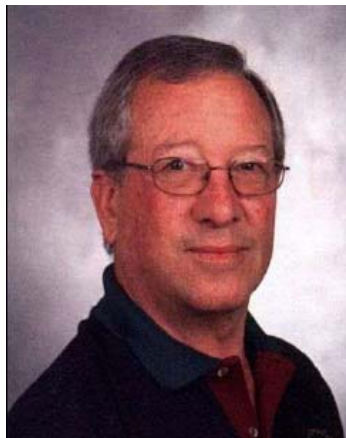
Last February Lionel Hartman, someone very dear to the IOI family, passed away in Cape Town.

He dedicated his efforts during many years of his life to improve and bring more people together through the IOI.

As Mr. Zide Du, president of IOI, expressed during the Opening Ceremony, "In the IOI family, Lionel played an important role and is a significant person. He had been dedicating himself to the IOI for more than 10 years, he made outstanding contributions to the IOI.

In 1997 he organized the IOI in South Africa, where Nelson Mandela gave an inspirational speech.

He also contributed with improvements to the IOI and encouraged different countries to take part of it.



Lionel was kind to everybody, he loved to answer all questions from fresh countries and all participants and help them.

He had extraordinary warmth of personality and beauty of character, he left very deep impression upon all who met him. As the result, he had most friends in the IOI community."

He will stay in our hearts forever. May he rest in peace.