

Minutes: IB meeting 28/7/18, 9:30am

1. Results were presented. 396 students, 277 (69.9%) prizes awarded. 42 Gold, 69 Silver, 99 Bronze, 67 Honourable mention. Absolute winner: China, S5. Approved unanimously by the IB. Academic chair (Manuel Feidhos) thanks the IB delegates for their work, and thanks the President for his 10 years of service and his help with this Olympiad. Universal acclaim.

2. Andrzej Kotlicki spoke on behalf of the Appeal Committee to congratulate the graders and the Academic Committee for their excellent work making a smooth Olympiad. Universal acclaim from the IB.

3. After a vote which was a combination of electronic and counting hands, the number of present board members was set at 130.

4. The president spoke about future Olympiads, presenting a graph showing the statistics of the number of participating countries for the recent years. Also presented was a list of the future Organising countries for the Olympiad. The host for 2021 was announced as Belarus.

Anatoli Slabadaniuk spoke on behalf of the Organising committee and declared that there is state support for the Olympiad and hence a confirmation that it will go ahead. All countries are invited to Belarus in 2021.

5. Eli Raz invited to speak on behalf of Israel, the host of IPhO 2019. Eli thanks Portugal for its hosting this year. Eli introduced four members of the local and academic committees for the 2019 IPhOs, representing the University and the Ministry of Education. The Olympiad will be between 7 July and 15 July, 2019. The opening ceremony will be Sunday evening, with theory discussion starting on the Monday morning. An additional night's accommodation will be provided on the Saturday night for delegations who cannot arrive before 3pm on the Sunday due to flight schedules. All nations, regardless of diplomatic relationships, are invited to the Olympiad, with no exceptions. If a nation does not want a visa or stamp in a passport, then this should be possible - will try to convince authorities to give a different paper for the visa also. Gift bags include a USB stick with a short clip about Israel. This may help to convince parents that Israel is safe for their children to visit. The logo is based on quasicrystal diffraction patterns, for which an Israeli received the Nobel prize in 2011. Delegations were asked to fill in a form for Israel.

6. Proposals for changing the statutes and regulations were presented.

a) First proposal: To change the regulations to section 2 with the intent that the IPhO secretariat be members of the local organising committee for future IPhOs in an advisory function. Presented by the President. Paper comment from Japan: feel that this undermines their autonomy and costs money, and that the loc should be trusted to organise the Olympiad. President considers that an advisory capacity does not undermine the authority or autonomy of the loc, and that trust goes both ways; the committees and the secretariat should both trust each other, and that the entire Olympiad is based on trust. President also states that the monetary cost is not large in the budget of an Olympiad. Leader from Japan: Japan will host in 2022, and that motivation will be reduced due to a feeling that autonomy will be undermined, and to have to pay for this is also not the right thing to do. Japan is opposed to this proposal. Suggests that if the host country wishes, then they could invite the IPhO secretariat in any case, and that the proposal should hence be amended. Suggestion that the proposal be modified to replace "should be" by "can be", and add "if needed", which would return the power to the host country. Israel: to ask for advice is already possible. Some of the hosts have been involved in this business for many years and hence have seen many different ideas and ways to run an Olympiad. It does not seem nice that the Secretariat would force the hosts to have their input, and does not engender trust. President: considers that the perspective is different, and that there is no forcing: it is merely a proposal and it is up to the International Board to make the decision. Georgia: if there is a crisis, we expect the IPhO secretariat to be crisis managers, and if we have such expectations, then they should have the rights to participate in the organisation also, or the expectations are unreasonable. Canada: it is best to hope for the best and plan for the worst. The role of the President and Secretary would not have to do anything in the case where the organisers are experienced. Some organisers, though, would need support because they have not this experience. Strong support for this and note that current President will not even be there - not a personal matter. Formal note: cannot amend a proposal, must be voted upon as it is. Egypt: there have been lots of lists of what went well and what didn't, over the past long time; as a country who has not hosted, would feel more confident if there were Secretariat members on the LOC. Suggest that debate is closed. Time to vote.

Electronic vote conducted. Regulation change: >50% (65) to pass. 72 in favour, 44 against, 2 abstentions. 72 > 59 (65), so the regulation change CARRIED.

b) Proposal to change the regulations to section 2, that requires that the organisers invite the President to attend the venue one month before the Olympiad to inspect all facilities and the competition problems. Saudi Arabia: there is nothing in the previous proposal that forces the secretariat to be physically invited. This

proposal does. Not really necessary with experienced hosts but might be needed sometimes. The President does not necessary have to come if there is no need, but should have the opportunity to come if there is a need felt. This gives enough time to change tack if needed. No further comments and so we now vote. Electronic vote conducted. Regulation change: >50% (65) to pass. 72 in favour, 58 against, 4 abstentions. (134?) 72>65 so regulation change CARRIED.

c) Proposal to change the regulations and the statutes to remove the requirements for the host countries to prepare the text in any language other than English. Electronic vote conducted. Statute change: >66.6% (87) to pass. 105 in favour, 39 against, 7 abstentions. Proposal CARRIED. (151 in total...)

d) Proposal to change the regulations to section 5 with the intent that cuts to questions should be able to be suggested for reasons not just wrong or poor physics, but also when nothing from the syllabus sections 2 or 3 is tested, and when there is not a simple, clear explanation possible for some new physics needed in the questions. Canada: this is very dangerous proposal for the future organisers as it will restrict ability of organisers to find novel problems and/or incorporate new physics into the Olympiad. Saudi Arabia: students know that they have the syllabus, and if they go through this, they should be able to solve the problems. If they can be required to read other physics, then this is not fair on students. 12000 character limit is the definition of whether it can be sufficiently concise. Singapore: there were many suggestions to cut based on its length this year, and it seems that this proposal is too restrictive because considering the length is an important part of whether to cut the problems or not. Russia: strongly opposes because it is too subjective. Israel: we already cut things that aren't in the syllabus. What is a new physical concept? What we usually want is to measure creativity, not just knowledge, and this suggestion could actually restrict that by forcing students only into familiar contexts. Electronic vote conducted. Regulation change: >50% needed to pass. 48 in favour, 100 against, 5 abstentions (153). Proposal is REJECTED.

Quorum query from Slovenia. Quorum change to 153. (To pass: 108 statutes, 77 regulations)

e) Proposal to change the regulations to section seven, with the intent to compel the organisers to invite the Secretariat plus a group of five experienced IB members, at the organisers' expense, to the next Olympiad a day in advance to discuss the problems in advance, sworn to secrecy. Intent is to shorten the discussions. Israel: process of the discussion of the problem is part of the Olympiad, and that there are other logistical changes that could be made to shorten the time. There should be enough time during the IB discussion that we don't need to have a select group who have seen the problems before time. It is not good for the spirit of the Olympiad. Austria: in the past, there has been a lot of movement to shorten the discussion. Everyone has the chance to see whether it is okay for their own students - no-one else can do this. The current system is much better than it has been in the past, not in favour of this proposal. Saudi Arabia: one hour is not enough to read the text and check the problem as leaders are not better than students, who need five hours. 99% of resources often used on 1% of problem. If there are 5 leaders pre-processing the questions it might remove the need to discuss a number of possible proposals in advance. UK: can see the point of the proposal, but we are all equal, and everyone has an opinion that could be heard. Hard to select five people who would normally make lots of comments and then give them an additional chance to make comments beforehand. Against the spirit of the enterprise although some practical advantages. Would the questions really be 'fixed' even if looked at the day before? Still would take a long time to discuss. Electronic vote conducted. Regulations, so need 77 to pass. 28 accept, 107 against, 11 abstentions; proposal is REJECTED.

f) Proposal to add a section to the regulations to formulate proposals in a form which can be voted upon with justification. Suggestion that proposals should be sent in early, and that there is a formal role for feedback from the Advisory Board, which can help the proponent to refine the proposal and hence to help people to formulate the proposals and give time to make them good. Electronic vote conducted. Regulations, so need 77 to pass. 110 in favour, 20 against, 6 abstentions. Proposal is therefore CARRIED.

7. Presidential Election. Candidates have been presented to the IB at a previous meeting, and so voting proceeds with no further discussion.
Electronic vote conducted. First two will pass to second round. The two candidates passing to the second round are: Rajdeep Rawat, and Vitaly Shevchenko.

Robin: 15

Rajdeep: 64

Jaan: 17

Vitaly: 25

Matt: 24

Abstention: 1

Second round results:

Rajdeep: 105

Vitaly: 44

Abstention: 2

Rajdeep Rawat is elected President of the IPhO for the term 2019 - 2023 inclusive! Congratulations to Rajdeep from the entire International Board.

8. Invitation to EuPhO: Slava Kashcheyevs invites all countries to attend the third European Physics Olympiad from 31 May to 4 June 2019 in Riga, Latvia.

9. Helmuth Mayr: involved with the IPhO from ages 37 to 73. Established the national Olympiad in Austria, and has given long service since 1982 to the IPhO including a year as Secretary. Helmuth acknowledged by the International Board.

10. The outgoing President spoke of his own involvement in the Olympiad, from 1982. Note that the Olympiad started to grow enormously throughout the 90s. Organised the Olympiad in the Netherlands. Elected president in 2008, and again in 2013. Considers that it is good not to stay too long in the one position, and to hand over the position to others before it is too long. Presidency has been an honour and has allowed a lot of help to be given. IB acknowledged for all its support.
President was acknowledged by the IB with a standing ovation for his work over the years.

11. The new President, Prof. Rajdeep Singh Rawat, thanked Hans Jordens for his work and leadership. He noted that this is a serious responsibility and challenge. Prof. Rawat has been involved since 2002 with the training of the Singaporean team. First was at an International Olympiad in 2005 in Salamanca, and enjoyed seeing the work of the students. Since then has trained students in experimental techniques for two weeks every year. Reiterated that there are a number of plans in place already, but we can benefit from some more structures. Expressed that we should have some more working together of the international community that can help to guide every country to help organise the Olympiad. The IB is congratulated for its hard work not just over the last 8 days but also over the past year and best wishes given.

12. Meeting declared closed at 11:33 am.