



International Organizing Committee
Young Physicists' Tournament



EC meeting
Minutes

November 10th – 11th 2012, Taipei, Taiwan

Present: Alan Allinson, President; Martin Plesch, Secretary General; Ilya Martchenko, Treasurer, Georg Hofferek, elected member; Chia Chih-Ta, LOC 2013 head; John Balcombe, LOC 2014 head
Absent: ChuanTong Li, elected member; Helmut Ruf, LOC 2012 head

1. IYPT 2013: visit to premises, meeting with organizers, information by LOC

EC guided by LOC members visited the premises of IYPT 2013 on NTNU in Taipei, Gongguan campus). Rooms for students are four bed rooms; each team shall have two rooms. Rooms for meeting of teams shall be organized, as visiting of team member of different genders in their rooms will not be allowed.

Leaders and jurors will stay in a hotel; leaders can choose to stay with teams in the dorms. IOC meeting will be organized in Dong Hwa university.

Logo of the competition was presented. The preliminary dates will be between 20th of July till 2nd of August 2013.

Possibly the event will be held in I-Shou university, the decision will be done latest during early December.

Preregistration deadline by the end of February, payment deadline by the end of May, change of team members by the end of June.

Registration fee will be 1000,- € per team, per observer and per visitor.

2. Contracts between EC and LOC about organization of respective IYPTs

AA will draft a contract before Christmas 2012. GH suggested to collect registration fees and pay the LOC. The suggestion of centralizing the registration process was heavily discussed and agreed, including the centralized payment. This should be agreed by the IOC, too.

Possibility of payment to LOC in parts was discussed and let for further discussion within IOC without a closed opinion of EC in this respect. AA suggested that the payment shall be made after a visit of one of the EC members about a month before the tournament, this was agreed by the EC.

3. Statutes update – report about current status

IM and MP will discuss the current status. Statutes are translated. And application shall be prepared and submitted as soon as possible.

4. IMO recognition procedure

a. Missing data from some countries

No further countries have provided signed applications including attachment. MP will provide AA details of the applications and the list of countries that provided all signed documents.

b. Form of recognition letters and way of distribution

AA prepared a form. Letters will be signed by AA and send a scanned copy to all IMO representatives and bring the originals to IYPT. All original documents are stored with MP, scanned copies will be provided to EC.

5. Brochure for sponsors, costs for design and printing

Corrections on minor issues in the brochure have been made. Positions of persons shall be mentioned together with their contact. IBAN number shall be included into the brochure. HR and Rudi Lehn remarked via email, that they have the opinion that 50.000-€ / a year is too much for an worldwide sponsor.

Costs of design of 400,- € were agreed per e-mail and already paid. The costs of printing of 1000 copies are about 500,- €. Postage shall be covered up to the amount of 200,- €.

6. Fundraising for IYPT

Except the initiative towards sponsors, an initiative shall be started towards former participants etc. (friends, supporters ...). For small donations, Paypal account might be opened.

Subsection www.iypt.org/sponsors will be prepared, with the brochure, promotional video(s) etc.

7. New countries to IYPT, capacity limit of IYPT

Several new countries have applied to participate in the future. It is possible that within a few years the number of participating countries could raise up to 40 countries. We have to make clear to all future LOCs that they have to be prepared to accommodate as many as 40 teams. The capacity limit mainly consists of financial limitations.

8. Problem selection

a. Report by the committee about working procedure

IM delivered the report about the working procedure of the committee.

b. Discussion about possible changes in procedure

MP suggested to have a specific opponent for problems from shortlist that appear as potentially troublesome, IM supported that idea.

c. Countries not submitting problems

16 countries submitted less than 3 problems via IOC members, 13 countries did not submit any problem via their IOC member and 11 countries did not submit any problems at all during the last call for problems in spring 2012. MP suggested that countries not submitting relevant problems will not be allowed to nominate an independent jury member for the relevant IYPT. EC agreed that if the situation does not change in the next year, this measure can take effect in the future. Deadline for the submission for 2013/2014 is the end of February 2013.

d. Recognition of authors

Authors shall be recognized en block with the set of all problems.

9. Jurors in IYPT:

a. Jury creation software – data to be taken into account

Use of the software presented by MP was agreed, the constants from optimization function has to be tuned. A possible criterion of not having two jurors with large bias of different signs was suggested and possibly will be implemented. No jury member shall be in a group of four teams too often.

b. Grading sheets

A document for teams shall be prepared (AA, till Christmas) that explains what a perfect presentation, opposition and review shall consist of. This might be a part of a “welcome pack” documentation distributed to all registered students (including all guidelines).

c. Minimal requirements for jurors

Current requirements shall not be changed.

d. Preparation of jurors, local jurors without experience

MP will prepare a welcome pack for jurors by the end of January, should include a link to a video of a fight, IYPT archive, IYPT journal. Examples of valid and invalid questions shall be attached. Mandatory minimum study shall be specified. All jurors are obliged to take part on the preparatory meeting for jurors.

LOC will implement a system of evaluation of jurors (selecting the best jurors) according to the EC decision from 2010.

e. Possible radical change in system of juries (smaller juries with consensus outcome)

Suggestion of a major change of jury system was presented by GH and supported by MP. Several possible drawbacks were presented by JB and AA. ChChT suggested a specialization of jurors for specific problems. JB suggested a short discussion phase

among jury members, or a phase where jurors would be allowed to express their opinion or point out major mistakes in the report.

EC is encouraging the jurors to formulate their questions to reporter, opponent and reviewer in such a way that the questions would implicitly flag major mistakes, misconceptions and inconsistencies that the juror believes are present.

10. Changes in regulations

a. Free selection of a problem in one of the rounds

EC agrees with this initiative for the last round. GH will prepare the suggested change of regulations.

b. Possible additional round with free selectable problem

EC supports to bring this idea for IOC discussion. GH will prepare the suggested change of regulations.

c. Power pairing schemes

AA presented a suggestion of a scheme where for three rounds teams will compete within three distinct groups. After that, three new groups would be formed from the top, middle and bottom teams according the points gained during the first three rounds. Final results still will be prepared as a sum of all points gained by the teams from the tournament, so all teams shall have equal chances to reach the final. However in the last two rounds teams would meet other teams better matching their quality and thus allowing for better fights for all of the teams.

Such scheme would be a good intermediate step towards schemes needed in the case IYPT would face a significant growth of the number of participating teams in the future.

EC supports this idea; MP will prepare the schemes for this change of regulations.

11. Rules of procedure for IOC meetings

GH presented suggested rules of procedure. Clearer agenda has to be prepared, divided into three parts. One part is a selection of well-defined points like selection of problems or report of auditors. Second part is a group of concrete suggestion for actions to be taken (e.g. changes of regulations), including a well-defined wording etc. Last part is a collection of new ideas with a strict regulation of time. Each point of agenda has to be assigned a specific time. Minimum time for the IOC meeting has to be assigned for the IOC meeting in the schedule, 8 – 9 hours net.

GH shall prepare a document and distribute to the EC by the end of February.

MP will restructure the agenda for next IOC meeting with adding time for each every point.

12. IYPT archive, IYPT journal, IYPT book

IYPT Journal

Report on the progress was presented by the editor in chief. Each issue will consist of invited papers and solutions by students. Most demanding work is the review process of contributed manuscripts. A place for editorial comments will be reserved on the end of each contributed solution.

Plan is to have at least one issue per year.

IM pointed out several corrections that need to be done.

Discussion was held about what kind of articles shall be invited into the invitational part of the journal.

Journal will have an ISSN number assigned.

Deadlines for specific issues shall be publicized.

IYPT Archive

All submitted materials are downloadable there, including solutions of different teams, without any review or check. Normally slides and media material are uploaded.

IYPT Book

EC suggest appreciating the Journal/Magazine as the platform to publish reviewed solutions of problems.

13. Newtoon presentation

GH presented the new Newtoon software. Clock is also part of the system.

GH presented an idea about including registration process into the software solution. This faces an issue of location-specific questions on participants etc., which have to be settled down, but an idea for a solution already exists.

EC agreed that registration, scoring, and the respective software should become a "central" responsibility if IYPT in the future.

14. EC appointed functions

EC sees no problem to appoint specific functions to persons outside the EC, like software development for IYPT, website and media coverage, archive etc.

EC would appreciate if Tim could maintain blog on iypt.org.

15. Any other business

Promotional video

An about 7 minutes long documentary video from IYPT 2012 is available on the iypt.org webpage.

Bank account

IM will open an account in Eurozone ASAP.

E-mail

E-mails in the form name.surname@iypt.org were formed for EC members.

Corporate identity

IM offers high-res bitmap and vector versions of the classical IYPT logo (version June 1990) and will clarify authorship and legal status. The IYPT shall recognize the logo as official classical logo. After this, it shall be always used in connection with IYPT.

Cloud storage

A dropbox account shall be opened for EC.

More often meetings of EC

GH suggested virtual meetings, MP a short EC meeting at the start of IYPT tournament.

Prepared by Martin Plesch

Amended and approved by Alan Allinson

In Bratislava, 14th November 2012