

IOI President

Arturo Cepeda was elected at IOI 2008 as *IOI President*, for a term of three years.

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Welcome to the IOI

It is a great honor to welcome you to the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) official web site, in it you will find all kinds of materials collected about IOIs since 1989. Please use this visit to our webpage to improve your skills, enhance your spirit, get better knowledge and superior Informatics capabilities.

The **International Olympiad in Informatics** is an annual international informatics competition for individual contestants from various invited countries, accompanied by social and cultural programmes. In the scope of the IOI the concept **Informatics** means the domain that is also known as computer science, computing science and information technology, but not the domain known as computer engineering.

The original idea of initiating the IOI was proposed to the 24th general conference of UNESCO by the Bulgarian delegate Professor Sendov in October 1987. UNESCO initiated and sponsored the first IOI, which was held in Pravetz, Bulgaria in 1989.

The main objectives to be accomplished by the IOI are:

- To discover, encourage, bring together, challenge, and give recognition to young people who are exceptionally talented in the field of informatics;
- To foster friendly international relationships among computer scientists and informatics educators.
- To bring the discipline of informatics to the attention of young people;
- To promote the organization of informatics competitions for students at schools for secondary education;
- To encourage countries to organize a future IOI in their country.

Each participating Country is represented by a **National Delegation**; all members of a National Delegation represent one Country. A National Delegation is headed by a Delegation Leader, includes a team of one to four Contestants and, if there is more than one Contestant, a Deputy Leader is allowed.

A Contestant is a student who was enrolled at a school for secondary education, in the Country they are representing, during the period September to December in the year before the IOI and is not older than twenty years on the 1st of July of the year of IOI.

It is firmly recommended that Contestants should have participated in a local, regional or national informatics competition in their Country as a pre-selection for the IOI, and that they belong to the winners of that competition.

Every year there is a **Host Country** which is responsible for the organization of the IOI that year, they are approved 4 years in advance and at this moment there will be **Bulgaria 2009, Canada 2010, Thailand 2011 and Italy 2012**. We hope you will be able to join us at those competitions.

If you belong to a Country that is not among the participants of the IOI, your Country has the right to attend the IOI as an Invited Observer. An Invited Observer is a representative of a Country that has not previously participated at the IOI and is bringing no contestants. New countries interested in participating at the IOI should contact the Executive Director.

In the IOI organization there are: **The Scientific Committee (SC)** of IOI is a temporary committee, which is appointed by the Host Country and is composed of experts in informatics and / or informatics education; **The IOI Scientific Committee (ISC)** is a long-term standing committee, which works with the SC of each Host Country to ensure continuity and quality control for IOI competitions. These two committees are in charge of the tasks, evaluation systems and quality of the competition. They own the experience of the last 20 IOIs and keep the IOI in harmony with the trends, Scientific Knowledge and advances of the Computer Science and Information Technologies. We are proud to have such bodies to support the IOI.

Every year during the IOI there is a short-term committee known as The **General Assembly (GA)** which is composed of the Delegation Leaders and the Deputy Leaders of all Participating Countries. The GA is the owner of the IOI and it is helped to run it by the **International Committee (IC)** which is a long-term standing committee. It consists of eleven voting members, all from different Participating Countries, plus a non-voting Executive Director.

To be an IOI Medalist Gold, Silver or Bronze will open the doors to get into the most prestigious industries and universities of the world, related with the Computer Science and Information Technologies.

***“Goals are like dreams, No one will follow,
if you don’t know where are you going”***

**Arturo Cepeda
President of the IOI**