



Minutes of the Business Session of the 39th IChO in Moscow

July 21st, 2007; 20.15 – 22.15

Chairman of the business session: Dr. Manfred Kerschbaumer,
chair Steering Committee.

63 delegations are present.

Dr. Kerschbaumer presents the agenda of the meeting:

- ♦ Election of new SC-members:
one from Europe, one from Asia, one from Pacific Rim
 - ♦ Level and length of competition – new syllabus:
Information about “Gabor’s” proposal
 - ♦ Level and length of competition – proposal to cut down the number of characters
 - ♦ IUPAC-support
 - ♦ Future Olympiads
 - ♦ Information about arbitration
- ♦ Election of new SC-members:

The following proposals are presented to the International Jury:

EUROPE:	Wesley Brown (Ireland)
	Kurt Nielsen (Denmark)
ASIA:	Duckwhan Lee (Korea)
PACIFIC RIM:	Mark Ellison (Australia)

As Duckwhan Lee and Mark Ellison are the only candidates from their respective regions, no election is necessary, they will be members of the SC for the next two years.

After short self presentations from the two European candidates, the jury elects Wesley Browne with 36 votes (Kurt Nielsen: 19 votes) as the third member of the SC from Europe.

Dr. Kerschbaumer thanks the parting member of SC, I-Yi Chang from Taiwan, Geoff Salem from Australia, and Paraic James from Ireland.

The members of the current SC are listed in appendix A.

♦ Level and length of competition – new syllabus:

Manfred Kerschbaumer reports from the SC-meeting in December 2006 where the SC stated that in all the years before the regulation concerning the allowed number of level 3 topics was violated. So it was the duty of the SC to try and change this abuse.

Andras Kotschy from Hungary presents the proposal by Gabor Magyarfalvi which changes the old syllabus in its basics. Instead of topics belonging to three different levels, the new syllabus contains a section “concepts and skills” and a section “factual knowledge”.

In both sections there is a list of concepts and skills or factual knowledge respectively which can be expected from the participants to be familiar with, and a list which must be covered in the preparatory problems.

A hard copy with the details of this proposal is distributed. The members of the International Jury are requested to give comments.

♦ Level and length of competition – proposal to cut down the number of characters

Manfred Kerschbaumer proposes to cut down the number of characters allowed in the theoretical and practical competition (25.000 each, § 13, 4 of the regulations) to 22.000. He also points out that a lower number of characters does not imply an easier set of tasks because a guiding explanation needing more words may be simpler for a student than a short task with even shorter questions.

The head mentor from Belgium (Sebastien Delfosse) proposes to decrease this number to 20.000 characters.

The jury decides to vote about both proposals with 38 votes in favour.

As a change of the allowed number of characters means a change in the regulations, a qualified majority (45 votes) is necessary. After some discussion voting was carried out:

In favour to cut down to 20.000 characters: 27 votes

In favour to cut down to 22.000 characters: 35 votes

As this is not a qualified majority the current regulation (25.000) will not be changed.

♦ IUPAC-support

Manfred Kerschbaumer reports about an offer from the president of IUPAC (Bryan O. Henry) in Korea to support the ICHO in some way. From December 2006 till June 2007, Dr. Kerschbaumer managed to negotiate an annual donation of US \$ 10.000 to help countries with financial troubles. A “Memorandum of Understanding” was established (appendix B) which shows the details of a possible support for the countries mentioned above.

♦ Future Olympiads (presentation from Hungary)

Andras Kotschy shows a detailed presentation about the 40th ICHO in Budapest. It will be held at the Eötvös Loránd University from July 12th to July 21st. Andras distributes the issue No. 1 of the Catalyster.

Yoshiyuki Sugahara presents some details about the 42nd ICHO in Tokio in 2010.

The then following host will be Turkey (2011) and USA (2012). John Kotz (USA) informs about the possible venue of the 44th ICHO: Boston or Chicago.

♦ Information about arbitration

Sasha Gladilin refers about the procedure of arbitration the next day. This time the sequence is not alphabetically but is decided by drawing lots.

Dr. Manfred Kerschbaumer

Chairman of SC

APPENDIX A:

STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ICHO

as constituted on July 22, 2007

Elected members:

Representatives of Europe:

Manfred Kerschbaumer (Austria), chairman; e-mail: mkersch@gmx.net
Alexander K. Gladilin (Russia); e-mail: gladilin@direct.ru
Wesley Browne(Ireland); e-mail: w.r.browne@rug.nl

Representative of the Americas

Carlos Castro-Acuna (Mexico); e-mail: castroacuna02@yahoo.com

Representatives of Asia and the Pacific Rim:

Marc Ellison (Australia); e-mail: u3903111@anu.edu.au
Duckwhan Lee (Korea); e-mail: duckhwan@sogang.ac.kr

Non-elected members:

Representatives of the organizers:

Valerie Lunin (Russia); e-mail: vlunin@kge.msu.ru
Andras Kotschy (Hungary); e-mail: kotschy@chem.elte.hu
Peter Wothers (United Kingdom); e-mail: pdw12@cam.ac.uk
Represantative from Japan

Experts:

Wolfgang Hampe (Germany); e-mail: hampe@t-online.de
Gabor Magyarfalvi (Hungary); e-mail: gmagyarf@chem.elte.hu
Kurt Nielsen (Denmark); e-mail: Kurt_B_Nielsen@post.tele.dk
Anton Sirota (Slovakia); e-mail: anton.sirota@stuba.sk

APPENDIX B:

Memorandum of Understanding
(IUPAC-support for the IChO)

- IUPAC will support the International Chemistry Olympiad by an annual donation of US\$ 10 000. This grant can be terminated by IUPAC after giving notice 12 months in advance of the next IChO.
- The president of IUPAC (or nominee) will be invited to the closing ceremony of the IChO to give a short (5 to 10 minutes) address and to take part in the gold medal presentations.
- The first financial support will be for the 40th IChO in Budapest (Hungary) 2008.
- The money will be transferred to an account of the annual host (2008: Hungary).
- Countries who wish to apply for support will make a written application (non-formal) to the chair of the Steering Committee (SC) of the IChO. The application must contain the amount of money needed, and a (detailed) description of the problems of raising money for the IChO in that particular country. Deadline for the application is November 30th.
- The chair of the Steering Committee will present all applications to the SC in its annual meeting at the beginning of December the year preceding the IChO in question.
- The SC will make decisions regarding the distribution of the money considering the following items: The money will be distributed to
 - countries which cannot afford the participation fee and therefore cannot participate in the IChO,
 - countries which can not travel with a team of four students,
 - countries which can not travel with two mentors.
- If the US\$ 10 000 support is not fully allocated for a particular IChO, the unused part of the donation will be transferred to the next host.
- The IChO will provide IUPAC with a summary report of the distributions made from the IUPAC grant.

Bryan R. Henry (Date)
President IUPAC

Manfred Kerschbaumer (Date)
Chairman of the Steering Committee
of the International Chemistry
Olympiad