

315 young talents at the start line

Three hundred and fifteen contestants have come to take part in the XXI International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) in Plovdiv. They will compete for the teams of 83 countries, announced Mr. Kircho Atanasov, Chair of the Host Organizing Committee. This event is held under the auspices of President Georgi Parvanov who will greet the participants at the Opening Ceremony tonight. Bulgaria hosts IOI for the second time, highlighted Mr. Atanasov. This is in recognition of its contribution in the preparation and initiation of the competition in 1989.

20 years ago, Bulgaria had sufficient human and administrative resources to set up a network for identifying and developing human talents, underlined Academician Petar Kenderov, Chair of the IOI General Assembly. Taking good care of gifted people is beneficial both to society and humanity. The Chief Expert in Informatics Ms Silvia Kantcheva elaborated on the system in place for selecting the contestants, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasimir Manev from the International Committee explained the contest regulations. The Olympians will solve tasks during two competition days. From the pool of 30 proposals made by experts



Bits and pieces

- The youngest participant in the Olympiad is 14-year-old Abdul Malik from Nigeria.
- The team of Trinidad and Tobago cancelled their involvement in the last minute for financial reasons. The Norwegian team will not show up, either - the team leaders reckoned the contestants are not prepared well enough.
- The team of Tadjikistan was still waiting for their visas in Moscow required to enter Bulgaria.
- A few months ago, postponing the Olympiad was also an option because of the prospects for a breakout of swine flu pandemic. All teams have been recommended to make arrangements for relevant vaccinations.

Today

- 9.00** - Training sessions for contestants in Hall 11 of International Fair Plovdiv
- 17.00** - President Georgi Parvanov meets the Bulgarian teams
- 18.00** - Opening of the XXI International Olympiad in Informatics at an official ceremony in Hall 7 of International Fair Plovdiv

and educationalists from all over the world, the Scientific Committee has shortlisted 12. The General Assembly - the „Parliament“ of the Olympiad - will decide exactly which 8 of them will be assigned to the contestants on 10 and 12 August. Unlike competitions in mathematics, where grading is implemented by a human Jury and a lot of time is dedicated to translation, the IOI scores will be ready about two hours after the end of the competition, after the relevant computer processing has finished.

The Koreans: We'll smash...

Continued from p. 3

The selection procedure covered government and private schools, because they do not have schools specializing in Mathematics or in Programmers.

We'll do extremely well, promised 16-year Levon from Armenia while filling in his Accommodation Form. He and his classmates trained for almost a year to prepare for the Olympiad. Similar determination was expressed by the team of Mongolia.

For most of the contestants

this is their first visit to Bulgaria and they were looking forward to unpacking and going sightseeing in the ancient city of Plovdiv. The guides, who are their age, have prepared the routes for each of the teams. The international participants will walk around the Old Town, stroll along the Rowing Canal, and will climb some of the hills. With the badges they wear, they will enjoy free rides on all public transport services in Plovdiv. Although the working language is English, more often than not, body language will come into play.

