Competition

Competition in our „sport“ is very tough, admits Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Manev, member of the International Committee and Deputy Chair of the Host Organizing Committee of IOI. Experience has shown that contestants from some 10-15 countries compete for the 25 gold medals. The big players - China, Russia, and USA, can win 3 or even 4 gold medals each. For the next ten strongest players remain 1 or 2, i.e. for Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Thailand, Japan, Korea Ukraine, Belorussia, and others. We, Bulgarians, are usually among the first ten and win 3 or 4 medals. My expectations for this year are for each member of our first team to win a medal. If we manage to win two gold and two silver medals, this will be equivalent to our best performance so far. One gold medal and 3 silver medals or one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals will also be great and can get us into the first ten countries in the rankings. As tradition goes, the scores from the two competition days, as well as the final scores are kept in secret until the closing day. Contestants, however, on their own initiative, conduct their own research, exchange scores and usually a day in advance there are unofficial estimated rankings. Most often, they are 90 percent accurate

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The maximal number of points given for a complete solution to this problem was 100. Those students who scored 91 and more points were given the first prize. These were:

Teodor Tonchev (BG2), Markus Kuhn (FRG), Emanuil Todorov (BG1), Andrius Cepaitis (SU1), Igor Maly (CZ) and Daniel Szabo (H). Second prize was given to students who got between 80 and 90 points. These were: A. Altanov (BG1), I. Marinov (BG1), H. Schwetlick (GDR), U. Nielaender (GDR) and L. Novick (SU1). The third prize went to students who got points in the range 60-80. Two encouragement prizes were also awarded. One of them went to Alexei Kolybin (SU3) who was the youngest participant and the second was given to Anita Laloo (Zimbabwe) - the only girl among the participants.

The first eight places in the unofficial country (team) ranking is given by the next table:

No	Country/team	Team Leader	Score
1	Bulgaria (first team)	P. Azalov	275
2	Peoples Republic of China	W. Wu, Q. Ling (Deputy)	221
3	Federal Republic of Germany	P. Heyderhoff	215
4	Czechoslovakia	O. Demacek	209
5	German Democratic Republic	M. Fothe	207
6	Soviet Union	V. Kirjuchin	190
7	Bulgaria (second team)	K. Manev	188
8	Hungary (two students only!)	T. Toeroek L. Zsako (Deputy)	149

Many people contributed to the organization and conduction of the first IOI. The work of the International Jury was supported by the software system created by P. Azalov and V. Dimitrov. In the hands of I. Nenova and V. Dimitrov this system served perfectly all the information needs of IOI - starting with the registration of participants and ending with the ranking with respect to results obtained in the competition. Alexander Pokrovsky from UNESCO (Division of Science, Technical and Environmental Education) closely followed all stages of the organization and conduction of the first IOI. Comprehensive information about the first IOI could be found in [1].

The idea to organize in Bulgaria international competitions in informatics did not evolve „from nowhere“. The original impulse came from the deep traditions Bulgaria had in conducting different types of mathematical competitions. The first National Olympiad in Mathematics was organized in academic year 1949 - 1950. Bulgaria took part in the first International Mathematical Olympiad organized in Romania in 1959 and is among the few countries that have participated in all subsequent IMO's. Bulgaria also hosted the first International Olympiad in Mathematical Linguistics in 2003. A rather complete picture of the contemporary Bulgarian system of competitions is given in [2]. The general idea behind all activities related to competitions is to give chance to talented Bulgarian youngsters to exhibit and develop their talents in the fields of Informatics, Mathematics and Mathematical Linguistics.

1. *P. S. Kenderov and N. M. Maneva, International Olympiad in Informatics, Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians, 1989 (online version at http://www.math.bas.bg/talents/en/inf/International_Olimpiad_in_Informatics.pdf)*

2. *http://www.math.bas.bg/talents/ml.htm*

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