# Chairman of the International Committee

**W**hat a difference a year makes. Last year at this time, all the responsibility for hosting the IOI was upon our shoulders. This year, I am kayaking in Lake Michigan without a care in the world. Hosting an IOI is something you only want do once in a lifetime. But Greece is doing it a second time. The third IOI in 1991 was held in Athens. So either Spyros has lost his mind or the Greeks love to host Olympic events. Notice there are a lot of Olympiads in Athens this year. The International Mathematics Olympiad, July 6-18, the 2004 Olympics, August 13-30, and now IOI 2004, September 11-18. So I guess the answer is -- the Greeks love to host Olympic competitions.

I like going to Olympic competitions - especially the IOI. So I am looking forward to IOI 2004 and seeing you all once again.

This time, I'll be real relaxed.

As promised, I have posted the most recent minutes of the IC and GA meetings along with the upcoming agendas for the meetings in Athens. They are available at www.ioinformatics.org/minutes/ Read them over before coming to IOI 2004. Your feedback is always welcomed and encouraged.

See you soon.

*Don Piele*

## From the desk of the Executive Director

**T**his communication is planned to reach you before IOI2004 and the contents will therefore be focussed on this highlight of the year.

I want to look back on the year and take stock of where we are in IOI. The year since IOI in Wisconsin has been a fascinating and exciting one and I am confident that we will see some of the energies of the last few years beginning to bear fruit this year.

On the development front, we have seen a great deal of interest in the activities of IOI. No less than twelve countries have been corresponding with us to find out how they can participate in IOI. Communication has taken place on a regular basis and it would appear that at least five of these potential participants (Bangladesh, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Syria) will be attending for the first time either as observers or with a team. Another seven countries (Costa Rica, Lebanon, Lichtenstein, Panama, Phillipines, Sudan and Peru) are hard at work to participate in IOI 2005. This is a most heartening development and reflects a growing understanding and appreciation of the relevance of IOI. The other positive outcome is that in the medium to longer term, the level of competition at IOI will continue growing.

Another positive development (refer separate article) is the establishment of a small group who have volunteered to provide a translation facility of most of the documents required by members of General Assembly. At this stage translations are being made into five languages, but I am sure that will grow in future. This service will mean that it is going to be easier for some members of General Assembly, to take part in the discussions.

A negative note which also provides a challenge is the absence of contributions to this Newsletter from Individuals, Team leaders and organisers of Regional Olympiads. IOI News is yours to use and so much that is happening in various parts of the world is not being shared. So if I may make one wish for the year ahead, it is that I receive so much news that I cannot fit it all into one IOI News.

I look forward to meeting all of you in Athens. To those who cannot make it - best wishes. We will miss you.

Regards,
*Lionel Hartmann - Executive Director of IOI*

## IOI NEWS - VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

Up to now you have been receiving the IOI News using a database which has been built up since IOI2000. In future the IOI News will be mailed using the official IOI database. If you wish to continue receiving the IOI News please go to: http://olympiads.win.tue.nl/ioi/mailists.html which provides an overview of all the IOI-related mailing lists. The links on that page lead to more detailed info pages for each individual list. That infopage contains documented fields/buttons to subscribe to that particular mailing list and register your contact details.

# Development of IOI

At IOI 2003, I quite spontaneously decided to be a candidate for IC membership. Thanks again to the GA for electing me. Hopefully, in the end you will find that I deserved at least a small portion of the confidence that you showed in me.

Now, being deeply involved in the operations and development of IOI, I find that there is room for improvement of many things. Following requests from several people, I suggested the need for translation of GA documents, so that GA members could have the opportunity of receiving Agendas, Minutes, Proposals etc. in their native language. Thanks to all the volunteers who agreed to serve as translators. Moreover, you will receive those documents some time before IOI, so that there is more time to prepare for GA meetings.

But this is only a first step and a quite specific issue. Arising out of the March IC meeting in Athens, and from discussions with several people, a list of tasks and projects has come up that, in my opinion, should be pursued by the IOI community. The following is a list of suggestions which was compiled from other people's and my own ideas. Some of those issues are already "in the works". I fully support all of them and hence asked the IC to put this list on the agenda of its meetings during IOI 2004. As I said, not everything on this list is new. However, the proposal is that the IOI community decide how to spend funds generated from registration fees, on the following

items, if necessary. Since this is your money, I would like you to consider these suggestions carefully and invite you to discuss them with the IC in the GA meetings of IOI 2004.

It is suggested that the IOI community should:
1. Improve and professionalize IOI operations by:
   - Implementing a system for maintenance of country contacts.
   - Implementing the official publication of IOI documents on www.ioinformatics.org.
   - Think about getting organized within some international and well-accepted organisation (e.g., IFIP).

2. Improve IOI competition by:
   - Supporting the development of one or more contest software systems into system(s) that can be provided to the IOI community and which are documented and can be easily maintained by people other other than the developers.
   - Supporting the development of other software systems that are used by the community (e.g. the FreePascal compiler).
   - Supporting scientific events (workshops) that deal with informatics contests and are meant to generate and discuss new ideas concerning contest tasks and the corresponding evaluation procedures. Accept ideas from outside the community.

3. Improve the reputation of IOI by:
   - Regulating the difficulty level of IOI tasks to an appropriate level.
   - Motivating companies or non-profit institutions to sponsor prizes within IOI instead of funding their own contests.

Wolfgang Pohl
IC Member

## REGISTRATION FEES

Just a reminder that a Registration fee is levied on all participating countries and is payable on or before arrival at IOI2004. The Organising Committee have made the following arrangements in this regard:

Each participating country is required to pay a Euro 250 ($300) registration fee. These fees are due by September 11, 2004 -- the arrival day at IOI 2004. All payments must be in Euros or US dollars (cash) or Visa / Master Card.

If you want to pay ahead of time, we have arranged for payment by Bank Transfer. Be warned that the bank charges for the transfer of funds, so you will need to pay this transfer fee at your end so that it is not deduced from the registration fee. Here is what you must do. Notify your bank you want to make a bank transfer of funds to:

NAME OF REGISTRY: SYSTEM MEDIA ART
NAME OF BANK: EUROBANK
INTERNATIONAL BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER:
GR 9 0 0 2 6 0 0 1 2 0 0 0 0 3 9 0 2 0 0 3 4 0 3 8 5
REASON FOR THE TRANSFER: IOI 2004 REGISTRATION

Your receipt will be the paperwork signed at the bank. Bring it along just in case we don't have a record of receiving the payment.

N.B. As in the past, countries may apply for a waiver of all or part of this fee. Please submit a written motivation to the Chairman of IC, Don Piele at piele@uwp.edu.

## IOI Needs you!

Every year at IOI the members of General Assembly are asked to elect a member to serve on the International Committee. This is a three year term of office and ensures that your needs as members are addressed. It is an exciting opportunity to serve IOI. If you feel you can and would like to make a contribution - make yourself available as a candidate. All prospective candidates will be asked to address General Assembly for 3 minutes before voting takes place.

In exactly the same way, the International Scientific Committee looks for individuals with a strong Technical background and wide experience in IOI to come forward as potential candidates

## IOI documents in other languages

If it is easier for you to read the Agendas, Minutes of the General Assembly meetings and other documents in a language other than English, this is for you!!!

A team of volunteers are translating these documents into Spanish, French, Indonesian and Bulgarian.

You will find these documents at www.ioinformatics.org/minutes

## Do you have a story to tell?

A ndrew Morris (abmorris@worldonline.co.za) has been hard at work for a number of months to compile a publication on the history of IOI, but he has been battling to get interesting stories and photographs to include. This is an appeal to any of you who have anything you feel will be of interest to others, to please send the information to Andrew. There must be many interesting stories from some of the earlier IOI's. It would also be very interesting to hear what has happened to previous contestants at IOI. Surely some must be Doctors. Lawyers, Managing Directors of companies, fathers or mothers of future IOI contestants etc. etc.

We also want to hear about some of the funny things that have happened at IOI. This includes activities outside the competition. If you have any items of interest that Andrew can use (posters, banners, photographs)and which cannot be E-mailed to him, they can be brought to IOI2004 and handed to the Executive Director of IOI. All items will be returned. Please help us by digging through your files and giving us the benefit of your experiences.

## Future IOI contestant

Tiina Aalto, former team leader from Finland and well known to many of us, with her newly born son Santeri. We will watch the IOI results in a few years time to see if Santeri captures a Gold medal for Finland.

# Athens here we come

The Organisers of IOI 2004 are eagerly looking forward to your arrival for IOI 2004. Arrangements for this Olympiad have gone well and you are assured of a very special and memorable event. Not only will you be able to enjoy the competition between the brightest young people in the field of programming in the world, but the historic attractions of Greece and Athens in particular are there to enchant you.

So if you are still thinking about attending, now is the time to contact the organisers (www.ioi2004.org), book your seats and get your documentation sorted out.