

Time, date: 15:00 UTC 29 December 2020

Platform: Zoom conference call

Present Execom members:

Sebastian Fava - President

Nikolay Lysenko

Alberto Rolandi

Nikolai Avdeev

Matheus Pessoa

Present IOC representatives:

1 Lorenzo Perisse - France

2 Evgenii Glushkov - Switzerland, IPT Vice-president

3 Manuel Morgado - Venezuela

4 Michael Schmiedeberg - Germany

5 Christos Andrikopoulos - Greece

6 Matheus Pessôa - Canada

7 Anastasiia Vasylichenkova - UK

8 Nicoletta Mauri - Italy

9 Åke Andersson - Sweden

10 Aeysha Khalique - Pakistan

11 Vladimir Vanovskiy - Russian IOC, secretary Execom

12 Piotr Podlaski - Poland (+Magdalena Kuich)

13 Camila Diaz - Colombia

14 Suwendu Barik - India

(tot: 20)

Vladimir Vanovskiy: I am here as a substitute for Stanislav Vinogradov, he is finishing his duties with the curriculum and exams for students. Since new year vacation for Russian students lasts till the 10th of January, we decided to hold Russian IPT in early February.

Sebastian Fava: Are we recording the meeting?

Evgenii Glushkov: Recording has just started.

Sebastian Fava: We have countries here. (counts representatives)

Manuel Morgado: I would like to ask about organising local IPT. What main points do we have to cover?

Sebastian Fava: (Briefly tells about the main organising issues and about the French experience with two role play) We have at least two new members of IOC: Manuel Morgado & Aeysha Khalique. Please, could you introduce yourself?

Manuel Morgado, Aeysha Khalique: (short introduction from Venezuela and Pakistan)

Sebastian Fava: I hope with this online conference platforms we will have more possibilities to make virtual in-person video/verbal meetings.

Sebastian Fava: The first issue I'd like to address is the teams' situation, specifically their attraction to the IPT movement. The two main problems here are to capture new students to participate and to provide experiments for problems in the lab. Last year we had 10 teams. Actually, it was not too bad. Now we are expecting a similar number, maybe a bit more teams.

Vladimir Vanovski: As a secretary that keeps track of registering emails, I think that we can expect around 15 teams, because all people and universities more or less got used to the situation.

Sebastian Fava: There is an idea, that teams might be separated onto with and without lab access ones. Usually, we eliminate inequality in possible marks by the jury instructions.

Manuel Morgado: Is it fine to limit preparation time? Say, 2 days a week in a lab?

Sebastian Fava: no-no-no, it is absolutely not cool to restrict time spent on problem-solving. It is vice-versa, much appreciated.

Alberto Rolandi: Maybe we can allocate, say, 2 points out of 10 for assessing the quality of preparation?

Vladimir Vanovski: no, it is also rather a bad thing, because we never force the jury to put specific points for specific actions.

Nikolai Avdeev: Please, keep the spending limits and time limits away from the Tournament!!! There are more than enough bureaucracy around it.

Vladimir Vanovski: This year we were choosing such problems that can be investigated and be provided with an experiment even with the use of home equipment. But it is important to mention that theoretical problems and, consequently, solutions are not the key point this year as usual.

Sebastian Fava: Thank you, Vladimir. Also, we would like to emphasize that in the IPT Jury never did and will not mark lower if the solution is based on cheap equipment.

Sebastian Fava: Our next topic is LOC from Poland and updates from them.

Magdalena Kuich: Covid19 cases in Poland fluctuate a lot, though vaccination will start only at the beginning of the year, so now we cannot gather people and even plan or promise something for at least until autumn.

Sebastian Fava: Yes, a lot of countries cannot be present at the tournament offline even if the host can organize it because of the quarantine and home country restrictions. In general, we are planning the IPT in June, surely online. The goal now is to improve the format. Possible ways:

- 1 Change the platform (Zoom, Discord, Gather, Wonder, Gmeet, MStears)
- 2 Organize talks between students, jury at the coffee-breaks.

Åke Andersson: (introducing the <https://www.wonder.me> for chatting)

Nikolai Avdeev: I think that, as I said earlier this year, the online format should be preserved even for future editions to spread the idea of the IPT. It would be great to combine offline and online tournaments, when unqualified teams can still present their work virtually. While the main battle happens traditionally offline.

Manuel Morgado: (raises the issue regarding time separation)

Sebastian Fava: There are two main downsides of such a combination: organisational issue - we do not have enough manpower to deal with it, and also timing problem - teams will have a lot of prior knowledge before the tournament, but after the tournament, this could be boring.

Evgenii Glushkov: Another essential thing is that we need to obligate teams with some small fee for an online format to keep IPT sustainable. And also attract sponsors for this edition.

Vladimir Vanovskiy: I think that organizing in this year should be on the shoulders of both IOC Execom and LOC, as well as funding.

Christos Andrikopoulos: We chatted at the previous IPT about a subscription model for the engaged people. Or maybe an online shop for goodies. The general idea is to collect money for the event and spread the idea.

Sebastian Fava: These points will be definitely raised after last negotiations with EPS and registering nonprofit organisation. Also, have in mind that international delivery costs a lot so it can push away some customers...

Nikolai Avdeev: Can it be solved with a local delivery?

Evgenii Glushkov: Perhaps not due to unknown logistics in some countries and quality issues.

Nikolay Lysenko: Another point to improve the quality of the online IPT. Actually, it can help in both ways. Recently I have participated in two local scientific tournaments which were held in Discord. Firstly, it is very stable and convenient for tournament-like video calls, where you as a jury can watch 2 screen-share at a time. And I could follow the reporter's and opponent's presentations at the same time. Plus Discord has text chats separate from video chats, so it can be used as a supplement. Isn't it an improvement? The main text and voice channel of a server can cope with up to 100 users, so chatting can be rather hot. The only limitation it has is 25 people at the same time with video. But for PF it is ok. Final PF can be held in Zoom for convenient youtube streaming.

Manuel Morgado: Can these restrictions be solved with a paid subscription?

Nikolay Lysenko: no, paid version increases the video quality and gives some chatting perks.

Nikolai Avdeev: I am strongly against Discord, because I and my friend had big problems with it during the conference. She lost the connection, so her mic was turned off. After that, she felt much more nervous. Also since it is a gaming-oriented platform it is resource consuming.

Evgenii Glushkov: let us move on.

Magdalena Kuich: We are keen to organise virtual excursions, lab visits, and even games. We can provide help for physics fights.

Sebastian Fava: What a relief to hear such a piece of nice news from you! Yeah, we need to think about lab showings virtually...

Evgenii Glushkov: Here we should think about adding more days to the online IPT.

Vladimir Vanovskiy: Actually almost every university is interested in showing off its capabilities and equipment in labs - this helps to attract students.

Sebastian Fava: Sure! More days have to be added. 3-4 days I think is optimal. But we do not know whether students can present every day or not.

Nikolay Lysenko: I think they can, if we publish the schedule in advance. And I wanted to add a word about the reviewer role. When I was participating in a tournament online I never felt it was too long or boring, moreover, I found it more reliable in terms of grading.

Sebastian Fava: So what about the dates?

Aeysha Khalique: early July would be perfect.

Vladimir Vanovskiy: July, right after the session period, is rather ok.

Alberto Rolandi: for Swiss team July is ok.

Nicoletta Mauri: we have a session in August, so ok.

Sebastian Fava: ok, great, the voting sheet will be sent out. Does anyone have an idea of organising lab tours or city tours?

Aeysha Khalique: it is good, we will think about some proposals.

Vladimir Vanovskiy: back to the number of days. The IPT needs to be extended at least up to 4-5 physics fights. 3 is not enough to qualify finalists.

Sebastian Fava: Sure, but not 5-days online event. It is unbearable. Ok, any other questions, suggestions? No? Then, thank you all, see you soon! MX-mas and a healthy NY!
Bye!

Text chat:

Matheus Pessôa: Just a crazy idea: instead of even having a competition, wouldn't it be interesting if we all join to solve the problems? Like forming a big collab, and then try to publish solutions.

Evgenii Glushkov: Nice idea, Matheus! I guess we still like the spirit of the competition though

Matheus Pessôa: Since we have so many students, we could gather different countries/lab accesses in each problem, make them work together. That's true, it's nice to compete too

Anastasiia Vasylichenkova: good plan! if it doesn't have entry criteria anymore, we can just join our efforts ourselves

Christos Andrikopoulos: Matheus' idea would provide a great opportunity both to socialize and to work productively towards a great goal. It would also enforce the idea that the IPT is an educational process that creates results to unanswered questions, not just a fight, rather a scientific process materialized.

Evgenii Glushkov: Totally agree!

Suwendu Barik: I think my country will participate in something like a big collaboration with other teams. It fits perfectly with the current onus of keeping the essence of the event.

Evgenii Glushkov: To keep both aspects I would add the 2nd part after the tournament where we bring together people from different countries working on the same problems, so that in 2-3 months they present and publish a common improved solution

Vladimir Vanovskiy: I liked it too but probably it's too idealistic and the motivation of the students here will be too general. The idea of Eugene is good, especially if the students will publish after that an article

Anastasiia Vasylichenkova: regarding the Rev role, whatever is our impression of the entertainment level from the organisation point of view, the heard quite a few feedback from the participants that they are not happy to not having a Rev, they feel the game less fair