

## Asia-Pacific Informatics Olympiad

Following an initial meeting in 2004, delegates from the South Asian / Western Pacific region met during IOI 2006 and drew up concrete plans for a new regional IOI-like competition. The competition is called the **Asia-Pacific Informatics Olympiad (APIO)** and will be held every year, beginning in 2007.

The initial plans for the APIO are outlined below. Delegates will meet again in Croatia at IOI 2007, where they can look back on the first competition and decide what worked, what did not work, and how the contest should be changed for future years.

### Regional Delegations

The following sixteen delegations will be invited to participate in the 2007 contest:

Australia, Bangladesh, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

### Contest Format

The contest is a one-day Internet contest, with teams competing from within their home countries. The contest will run for five hours, and will be held on one of the first two Saturdays of May each year.

- Each delegation must run one or more *official contest sites*. All students must sit the contest at an official contest site.
- Each contest site must choose a fixed starting time for the contest. Different delegations may start the contest at different times, and different sites from within the same delegation may also start the contest at different times (e.g., one time for an eastern site and another time for a western site).
- Each contest site must be fully supervised, so that it is clear that students adhere to the contest rules.
- Each delegation may enter any number of students, up to a limit of 100. However, only the top six competitors from each delegation will form the official team (see the *Results* section below).

Students are eligible for this contest if and only if they are eligible for the IOI in the same year.

### Contest Host

Although the contest is online, there will be a *host delegation* each year driving the contest to ensure it is both logistically and scientifically successful. The host will rotate from year to year. The responsibilities of the host include:

- Sending invitations and collecting registrations;

- Coordinating task setting and selection (see below);
- Running the contest website;
- Collecting and judging submissions, and coordinating appeals.

The timeline for registrations is as follows. Delegations must indicate to the host *how many students* they are entering at least three months before the competition. They should indicate to the host the *names of the students* at least one month before the competition.

The first two hosts have been decided: Australia will host for 2007, and Thailand will host for 2008. Future hosts will be decided each year at the IOI.

### **Task Selection**

The task setting and selection is done in such a way that everybody has input (and thus everybody shares the burden). The schedule for task setting is as follows; all communications are over e-mail.

- 4 months before: The host issues a call for tasks. This call is to the wider community, not just the region (e.g., the IOI-GA list should be asked). Tasks should be of approximately IOI difficulty, but with more forgiving test data.
- 10 weeks before: Task submissions are due. Each delegation in the region should attempt to submit at least one task (though more is better). Each task should include test data.
- 10–6 weeks before: The host goes through submissions and makes a shortlist of around 10 tasks.
- 6–4 weeks before: The shortlisted tasks are mailed to the leaders from each delegation in the region; together they vote on a final three tasks, plus two backup tasks.
- 4–2 weeks before: Together the leaders edit and refine the official tasks into their final form.
- 2–1 weeks before: Leaders translate tasks into their native languages and submit translations to the host.
- 1 week before: All translations are made available to all leaders; task setting is now complete.

Tasks that were submitted but never used will be kept secret, and will be returned to their submitters for use elsewhere.

### **Results**

After judging is complete, the top six competitors from each delegation will form that delegation's *official team*. These official teams will form the official score table, and will be used for deciding upon awards.

Awards will be in the form of certificates, labelled Gold, Silver, Bronze and Participation. The guidelines for awarding Gold, Silver and Bronze will be the same as for IOI. The host will provide the certificates, and will bring them to the IOI that year for distribution to other delegate leaders.