

**Minutes of the Meetings of the International Board during  
the 39th International Physics Olympiad in Hanoi (Vietnam)  
July 20-29, 2008**

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**1. The following 82 countries were present at the 39th International Olympiad:**

*Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile (\*), China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macau, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, The Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (\*\*), Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria (\*), Taiwan (Chinese Taipei), Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam.*

(\*) - new countries invited by the Organizing Committee to the Olympiad this year,  
(\*\*) - invited by the Organizing Committee as a guest team.

**2. The results of marking the papers marked by the organisers were presented.**

The best score (44.6 points) was achieved by **Longzhi Tan** from **China** (Absolute winner of the 39th IPhO). The following limits for awarding the medals and the honourable mentions were established according to the Statutes:

Gold Medal	33 points
Silver Medal	26 points
Bronze Medal	21 points
Honourable Mention	14 points

According to the limits 46 Gold Medals, 47 Silver Medals, 78 Bronze Medals and 87 Honourable Mentions were awarded. The list of the scores of the winners and the students awarded with honourable mentions were distributed among all the delegations.

**3. In addition to the regular prizes the following special prizes were awarded:**

- *for the best score (Absolute winner)*  
**Longzhi Tan (China)**
- *for the best score in the theoretical part of the competition:*  
**Longzhi Tan (China)**

- *for the best score in the experimental part of the competition:*  
**Yi-Shu Wei (Taiwan)**
- *for the best score among female participants:*  
**Andrada Ianus (Romania)**
- *Gorzowski? Prize  
(for the best participant among the countries that joined first in the IPhO in 2008):*  
**Efrain Alfonso Perez Argandona (Chile)**
- *for the best Vietnamese competitor:*  
**Huynh Minh Toan**

4. At the beginning of the first meeting of the International Board the President of the IPhOs informed the audience that the Indonesian leader Dr. **Rachmat Widodo Adi** had passed away on 13th April 2008. She read the words of memory written by Professor **Yohanes Surya**. After this the International Board commemorated Dr. Rachmat Widodo Adi with a *Minute of Silence*.

5. During the discussion of the third theoretical problem a subcommittee consisting of Dr. **Jaan Kalda** (Estonia), Dr. **Florence Robine** (France), and Dr. **Matthew Verdon** (Australia), was formed. Together with the members of the Academic Committee they prepared an improved version of the text by taking into account the remarks expressed during the preliminary discussion.

6. At the beginning of the second meeting of the International Board Dr. **Jose Luis Moran Lopez**, President of the Organizing Committee IPhO-40, Mexico, told the audience about the state of preparations of the next Olympiad. After this the three presidential candidates Prof. **Helmuth Mayr** (Austria), Dr. **Hans Jordens** (The Netherlands), and Prof. **Jan Mostowski** (Poland), presented themselves and their ideas about the future of the IPhOs followed by a short discussion.

7. At the third meeting of the International Board the presidential election was carried out according to a secret ballot. Dr. **Hans Jordens** (The Netherlands) was elected new president.

8. During the grading of the students' solutions the local graders consulted the following four leaders designated to this work by the International Board: Dr. **Andrzej Kotlicki** (Canada), Dr. **Juan Leon** (Spain), Dr. **Leong Chuan Kwek** (Singapore), and Dr. **Mohammad Sepehry Rad** (Iran), about some problems concerning the interpretation of the criteria etc.

9. The International Board had been presented three proposals to change the Statutes or Regulations. (The texts of the proposals had been disseminated to all leaders more than three months in advance). The first proposal to change § 10 of the Statutes presented by Prof. **Helmuth Mayr** (Secretary) concerned the determination of the number of members voting. The second proposal formulated by Dr. **Jaan Kalda** (Estonia), Prof. **Helmuth Mayr** (Secretary), and Dr. **Gunnar Friege** (Germany) referred to the awarding system used at the Olympiads. The third proposal presented by Prof. **Maija Ahtee** (President) and Prof. **Helmuth Mayr** (Secretary) concerned the rules for the election of the secretary. All these proposals were accepted with small corrections.

10. The Vietnamese delegates handed out printed materials about the IPhO-2008 to all delegations.

11. At the end of the Olympiad, acting on behalf of the organizers of the next International Physics Olympiad, Dr. **Jose Luis Moran Lopez**, announced that the 40th International Physics Olympiad will be organized in Merida, Mexico on July 11th – 19th 2009 and cordially invited all the participating countries to attend the competition.

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Prof. Phan Hong Khoi	Prof. Nguyen The Khoi	Prof. Maija Ahtee
Deputy Chairman of the Organizing Committee	Deputy Chairman of the Academic Committee	Acting president of the IPhOs
		Prof. Helmuth Mayr
		Acting secretary of the IPhOs

Hanoi, August 2008