

Team leaders on IOI 2016

Dorsaf Benna, Tunisia

We came to your city two days prior to the competition and managed to go sightseeing, even did some skating in a mall. Kazan is more beautiful in reality than on the Internet. We were most of all surprised by the friendly Kazanites who always offered to help. The idea to hold Sabantui at the Universiade Village is great.



Marina Tsvetkova, Russia

When a question arose where to hold IOI 2016, Kazan was the first to put itself forward, and for that I thank the city. This territory is the most open to international projects. Tatarstan is not afraid of innovation in education, technology, or science. The Republic of Tatarstan has a great human potential.



Georgio Audrito, Italy

It's not easy to be a team leader. The most complicated is probably preparation for the competition. The first round tasks were complex but interesting. Many contestants simply couldn't manage, so now we have dozens of people with the same scores. I hope the next round will fix this situation. But for now let's just relax and have a pillow-fight!



Pedro Manuel Taveras Nunez, Dominican Republic

Kazan is widely known as a centre of sports. I was pleased to visit Sabantui, and participated in the games; sawing a log was my favourite!



Sargazy Kalmurzayev, Kazakhstan (deputy team leader)

The tasks this year are complex and interesting. I think the following rounds will be even more difficult. Such is our team's habit – we only hope for the worst! That's why we need rest. During today's Sabantui I partook in half of the events, including twice in fishing, but to no avail. You usually want to stretch your muscles after sitting in front a computer. Our team is fond of sports; I play tennis. So we are kind of busting the myth about nerdy programmers.



Afrouz Jabalameh, Iran (deputy team leader)

We don't have a holiday like Sabantui in Iran. Kurds living in the north have something like it though. I partook in all the games with pleasure. My favorite was the pillow-fight on a log. By the way, Tatar music reminds of Iranian. Also, your volunteers are great, they know so much about Iran!



Alexander Ismatov, Tajikistan

We have a holiday like yours – Navruz. I thought that Sabantui would be somewhat more modest in scale, but the students and I are elated! Bawursaq^s* are also very tasty! Such events are needed for the participants to get rid of the tension; no other Olympiads had that. The most complicated for a team leader is to keep his charges in the right frame of mind.



*traditional Tatar sweet dish – fried dough balls with sugar

Mowaffaq Hanande, Jordan

Sabantui is a very interesting holiday for youngsters and for old people like me (laughs). I participated in an event where you have to smash a pot while blindfolded. I didn't succeed, but it was fun. I am very impressed by the Universiade Village and Kazan University. You can feel that the government takes care of young people, gives them opportunities to show their talents, and provides a good studying and living environment.



Excursion

Olympiad participants visited the town of Bolgar, where they were able to see such sights as the Bolgar Museum, the White Mosque and the largest Koran in the world. They also stopped over at the Bread Museum and tried some of Tatar cuisine's most choice foods.



Kazan tours continue

For many, Monday is the beginning of the working week, but for those at the XXVIII International Olympiad in Informatics, it signalled a break.

Contestants and everyone else at the Olympiad used their downtime with a purpose: they were taken on a bus tour of some of Kazan's sports facilities, as well as on a walk along the waterfront from the Farmers' Palace to the Kazan National Cultural Centre.

During the tour, guests were told about the various international competitions to have been held in Kazan, such as the XXVII Summer

Universiade in 2013 and the XVI FINA Aquatics Championship in 2015. Kazan will of course play host to several matches in the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Kazan is considered to be the sports capital of Russia: the city is home to sports clubs competing in the top divisions of their respective disciplines and often highly decorated. Guests heard about AK Bars hockey club, Rubin Kazan football club, Uniks basketball club and other successful Kazan-based teams. In terms of public access to sport, guests were told all about the Tennis Academy, Badminton Centre, Wrestling Palace and Kazan-Arena football stadium, as well as a wealth of other sporting facilities.

The bus tour ended beside the Farmers' Palace, at which point guests were taken on a rather long walk along the Kremlin waterfront.

The day's exploring left guests delighted. "Everything's great here!" enthused Nigerian contestant Tanitoluwa Adebayo. "Great sport, and you can play it in modern, beautiful buildings which have everything you need. And the waterfront was lovely – so clean and beautiful! The bicycle-taxis – those are for locals and tourists, yeah? Wonderful – you can ride and relax at the same time."



Sabantui as seen by our contestants

IOI competitors were treated to a pleasant surprise – on 14 August they could witness Sabantui, the traditional Tatar harvest festival. The holiday is held once a year in summer in Tatarstan and some other regions. Our guests reacted in different ways to this closer look at Tatar culture.



Liran Markin, Israel: "We have such holidays in our country where we put on national costumes and hold different contests. This holiday seemed more colourful to me, and I saw a mixture of Russian and Tatar culture. The most memorable competition was the one where you submerge your head into water and have to get an apple with your teeth. Now I have an apple" (shows the apple).

Stefanie Zbinden, Switzerland: "Sabantui reminded me of our national holiday in Switzerland called Chilbi".

Pascal Sommer, Switzerland: "Sabantui? I think this word means lots of sunlight and something bright and unusual".

Georgy Skhirtladze, Georgia: "I don't know yet what's going on here, but I already like it! We have a similar holiday, it's held in autumn and is dedicated to the grape harvest".





General Assembly meeting takes place

Today, 15 August, the General Assembly (GA) was attended by 81 team leaders, 73 deputy team leaders, 3 HSC members, 12 IC members, 7 ISC members and 8 ITC members. The main function of the GA is to decide on issues not provided for in the official regulations and decide on proposals made by the IC, as well as approve the budget for the forthcoming year. The team leader of every participant country has the right to vote at the GA.

Tradition

A sound mind in a sound body

Tatarstan's inhabitants are known for their active lifestyles and love for their traditional sports.



Some sports are native to both Russia and Tatarstan, such as weightlifting, sack-races and climbing a pole to reach a prize at the top. Women also had their own competitions, for example



Wrestling is also held in high esteem by Russians and Tatars alike: the former preferring fist-fighting similar to boxing, while the latter practiced *kuresh*, where the object is to throw your opponent using the belt around their waist.



Russians also enjoyed *gorodki*, a sort of cross between skittles and horseshoes where the



pins are arranged in various shapes and must be knocked down by throwing a bat at them, and *lapta*, a game very similar to baseball. Tatars meanwhile had something akin to pillow-fighting, where both contestants sit on a high log and attempt to disseat each other with sacks of hay, and "Smash the bag", where participants must split open a bag on the floor with a long stick while blindfolded. This of course is just a taster – both places boast a wealth of traditional sports and games which help develop strength, agility and daring.

Some useful phrases

ENGLISH	RUSSIAN	TATAR	ENGLISH	RUSSIAN	TATAR
SPORT	спорт [sport]	спорт [sport]	SKIING	лыжи [lyzhi]	чаңгы [tʃaŋgɨ]
GAMES	игры [[lɪgry]	уен [ujin]	SKATES	коньки [kon'ki]	тимераяк [timerajak]
WRESTLING	спортивная борьба	көрәш [keræʃ]	HOCKEY	хоккей [khokkey]	хоккей [khokkey]
WINTER SPORTS IN RUSSIA	зимние виды спорта в России [zimniye vidy sporta v Rossii]	Россияда кышкы спорт төрләре [rossijædæ kiʃki sport terläre]	TOBOGGAN	санный спорт [sannyu sport]	чана спорты [tʃana sporty]
			HEALTH	здоровье [zdorov'ye]	сәләмәтлек [sælæmæt- lek]

Kazan University: our greatest discoveries



1893, 1914. Chemist **Flavian Flavitsky** (1848-1917) creates both the hydrate and the chemical theory of solutions. He founded a school of inorganic chemistry and invented a "pocket laboratory" for fieldwork.



1944. **Yevgeny Zavoisky** (1907-1976) discovers electron paramagnetic resonance, now successfully utilised in fundamental and applied research in a wide range of scientific fields.



1952. **Semyon Altshuller** (1911-1983) discovers the hyperfine structure of paramagnetic resonance spectra, and in 1952 sets forth the theoretical prediction of acoustic resonance, with it creating a new branch of physics: quantum acoustics.

WEATHER FORECAST

16 August, Tuesday

Day ☀️ +23 C / 73.4 F Night 🌙 +14 C / 57.2 F