

# A Friend and Guide for Every Team



## 29<sup>th</sup> International Olympiad in Informatics

July 28 – August 4, 2017 Tehran, Iran

No. 7 - Thursday, August 3, 2017



Islamic Republic of Iran  
Ministry of Education



Shahid Rajaee  
Teacher Training University



Young Scholars Club



Sharif University of  
Technology



## Be Proud of Yourselves



The 29th International Olympiad in Informatics, after a week of contests and activities, will come to an end today, and finalists will receive their medals.

Hamid Reza Azemati, executive director and spokesperson for IOI2017, said, "Making it into this competition for the contestants has been a big and important accomplishment. Therefore, everyone here, regardless of the outcome, should be proud of themselves."

He continued, "A significant feature of this year's IOI was the product of efforts from our colleagues in Iran. As contestants were solving the tasks, their points were being calculated and posted online, in real time, for the world to see." He added, "The results that have been announced is the team score, based on the sum total of each member. The official results and medals will be announced and presented this afternoon at the closing ceremony. According to the rules, the top 23 contestants of this

Olympiad, will receive the gold medal. However, about half of the students will be receiving gold, silver and bronze medals."

Although the results haven't been officially announced, Azemati said, "What is certain is that the Japanese team members, with three gold medals, received the most points in this contest. And it based on the unofficial results after them is China, Russia and Iran."

Regarding the organizing that took place for IOI 2017, he said, "In 2013, Iran's request to host IOI 2017 was accepted and the preparations began thereafter. As of last year, the Ministry of Education of Iran, on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, agreed to take responsibility for organizing the IOI 2017. Along with the Ministry, Shahid Rajaee Teacher Training University, Young Scholars Club and Sharif University of Technology also took part in the organizing."

He continued, "We surveyed team member on the organization of the event, and they were satisfied."

He said, "85 teams from 84 countries had announced they were prepared to attend the IOI 2017. However, two teams from Egypt and the Dominican Republic were not able to make it to the Olympiad."

"On the technical level we were fully prepared and the two days of the contest went over successfully," Azemati said. He continued, "Regarding the scientific content, the tasks were diligently prepared and approved by the leaders."

He said, "In this round of IOI, we tried to familiarize contestants with Iranian culture and hope they convey the Iranian people's message of peace and friendship to the rest of the world. Furthermore, we hope our guests have enjoyed the recreational activities we organized for them over the course of this week."

In his message to the contestants of the IOI 2017, Azemati said, "I hope you continue your hard work and strive to help further science and knowledge and improve the lives of human kind."





# A Friend and Guide for Every Team



Iran believed it was its responsibility to ensure the team members were provided with the best services. Therefore, in order to avoid any problems for the teams and to allow them to have greater focus on the contest, a guide was provided for each team. Not only were the guides carefully selected, but they were also given intensive training.

Dr. Saeed Olyaei, Chair of the IOI 2017 Guide Committee, was responsible for planning, guiding, and facilitating the responsibilities

of this department. He said, "September of the last year, we began to define the general and distinct characteristics we wanted in our guides." He continued, "We also began organizing our schedule for inviting, interviewing and training our guides."

He added, "We launched a website to register those interested in becoming guides. However, most importantly, the training content and schedule were available during registration. The syllabus covered language skills, idioms, topics in psychology, familiarity with the Olympiad, and the requirements and responsibilities of the guides."

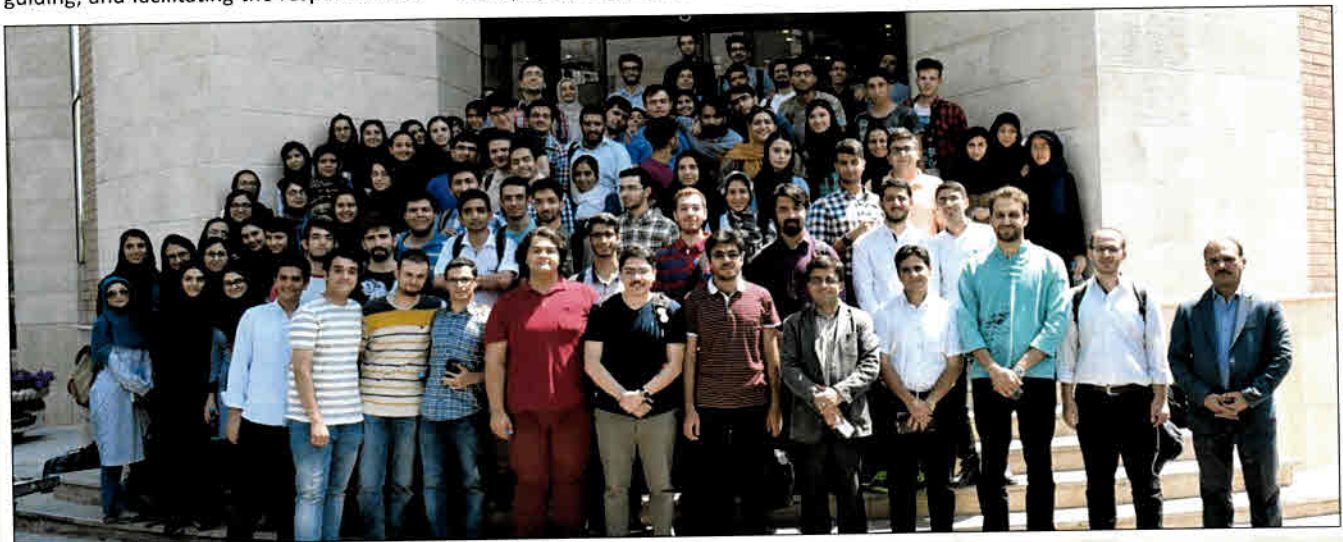
Olyaei continued, "We sent an invitation for guides to 65 universities and research centers. We had 5 judging teams reviewing the candidates. Based solely on the written resumes, 240 candidates were selected in the first stage. In the second stage, the selection was based on an in-person interview. The Judges interviewed the candidates based on foreign language, behavioral Psychology and the Olympiad. 120 individuals were selected.

The Chair of the IOI 2017 Guide Committee, explained, "An intensive four-day course was organized for the guides. In this course, they were trained in language and idioms, public relations and behavioral standards, security, stress coping skills, behavior identification, timely decision making and nutrition and medical issues."

He added, "From the total guides, 84 individuals were designated as Guides, 9 as Super Guides and 16 as Support Guides."

Dr. Olyaei said, "We wanted to be confident that the guides would do an excellent job, so we simulated the event a week before IOI 2017. Within 5 days, we simulated the opening ceremony, the tour routes and they became familiarized with the Evin and Azadi hotels. Finally, since the 28th of July, on a 24 hour basis, our guides have stood alongside our international teams."

The Chair of the IOI 2017 Guide Committee, concluded, "We hope we have succeeded in providing excellent guides to our beloved guests in Iran."



## Iran at a Glance: Hamadan

Hamadan is believed to be among the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It is possible that it was occupied by the Assyrians in 1100 BCE. The Ancient Greek historian, Herodotus, states that it was the capital of the Medes, around 700 BCE.

Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization lists 207 sites of historical and cultural significance in the city of Hamadan.

However, one of the main monuments of this city is the Ganj Nameh, a inscription carved into a mountain side in two sections. The one on the left was ordered by Darius the Great (521-485 BC) and the one on the right by Xerxes the Great (485-65 BC). Also in Hamadan are the shrines of Avicenna,



who is regarded as one of the most significant thinkers and writers of the Islamic Golden Age, and Baba Taher, the 11th century Iranian poet. During the summer, the weather in Hamadan is

mild, and pleasant. This may be why it was the summer capital and residence of the Parthian rulers and the location for the Sassanids' summer palaces after that.



# Close-Up



## The Sun Shines Bright in Tehran

The contestants put in their last efforts and now the second day of the contest is behind us. The IOI 2017 contest was held on Sunday and Tuesday. Each of those days, the contestants were given five hours to solve three tasks.

The tasks were reviewed many times before this event. As a result, they were short, clear and of course with the complexity required for an international Olympiad.

As the host of the contest, Iran has tried to provide a comfortable and stress-free stay for the participants. In addition, a variety of entertaining activities were planned to give contestants energy and excitement.

Once the contest was over, we spoke with the various teams. One of these teams was from the Netherlands. The four team members and their



leader were gathered together, going over the contest.

Robert Koprnikov, Arend Mellendijk, Reijer van Harten and Ernest Van Wijland were members of the Netherlands team.

"We didn't do as well as we thought, but we did our best," they said.

On the organization of the event, they said, "This event was well organized. We love how incandescent the sun is in Tehran. The Netherlands is a lot cooler than here these days. Before coming here we didn't know much about Iran. We would like to come visit this country in the future."

Two members of the French team, Etienne Rossignol and Arthur Léonard were also discussing the contest. Rossignol said it was difficult, and Leonard pointed out that a few technical problems that occurred during the contest were quickly dealt with by an excellent technical staff. They both agreed the hotel and food has been excellent.





# TODAY'S SCHEDULE THURSDAY AUGUST 3

Time	Contestants	Leaders	Visitors
05:30 – 09:00	Breakfast	Darband (Optional) & Breakfast	
09:00 – 10:00	Transfer	GA Meeting 7: Voting Session	Transfer
10:00 – 12:00	Sa’dabad Palace		Carpet Museum & Contemporary Art Museums
12:00 – 13:00	Transfer		Transfer
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch (Evin Hotel)	Lunch (Azadi Hotel)	
14:30 – 15:30	Free Time		
15:30 – 16:30	Transfer		
16:30 – 17:00	Entering the Closing Ceremony Hall (International Convention Center)		
17:00 – 19:00	Closing Ceremony		
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner Party		
21:00 – 22:00	Transfer		

## Places to Visit: Thursday

### Carpet Museum

The Carpet Museum of Iran includes a variety of Persian carpets from all over Iran, dating from the 16th century to present. However, according to past investigations, the art of carpet-weaving in Iran is at least 3500 years old. Because of the natural fibers that have historically been used, what remains from the early ages as evidence of carpet-weaving are only pieces of these ancient rugs.

Carpet Museum was established in Iran in 1978. The founders began with a limited number of Persian carpets and kilims in order to revive and develop the art of carpet-weaving in the country. They also intended to provide resources to research the historical background and evolution of this art. The Museum currently holds 7000 books in its library.

The Carpet Museum of Iran, with its beautiful architecture and facade resembles a carpet-weaving loom. The ground floor gallery is a permanent and the upper is a temporary exhibition of carpets, kilims, and carpet designs.



### Sa'dabad Complex



The Sa'dabad Complex is a 300-hectare complex built by the Qajar and Pahlavi monarchs. The complex includes more than 180 hectares of natural forest, roads, qanats, galleries, and museums.

The following sites are among the many to explore in the complex:

- The Mellat Palace Museum (White Palace) was used for ceremonial and official affairs, and was also used as a summer residence of Mohammad Reza Shah and Farah.
- Fine Arts Museum was the royal court and now features works by well-known contemporary Iranian painters.
- Green Palace Museum, is one of the most beautiful palaces in Iran; it belonged to a wealthy land owner before it was bought by Reza Shah.
- Master MirEmad Calligraphy Museum was the residence of the Pahlavi's children; it now houses selected works from famous calligraphers of Iran's Islamic period.
- Royal Costume Museum was the residence of Reza Shah's daughter and features a mixture of Iranian and European architectural style.
- Master Behzad Museum, contains precious paintings by the artist whose thoughts and works led to a fundamental change in Iranian contemporary art.

### Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, also known as TMOCA, is among the largest art museums in Iran. It was inaugurated in 1977.

TMOCA's permanent collection includes over 4,000 unique works from Iran and the world. The museum has the most valuable collections of modern Western masterpieces outside Europe and North America. Furthermore, TMOCA includes a rare collection of works by leading contemporary Iranian artists; it also has a revolving program of exhibitions by local artists.

Most of the museum area is located underground with a circular walkway that spirals downwards and galleries branching outwards. Kamran Tabatabai Diba was the architect of the museum. In his design, he integrated modern style and traditional Iranian Architecture.

Western sculptures by artists such as Ernst, Giacometti, Magritte and Moore can be found in the museum's gardens; and you can also enjoy a cup of coffee in the museum's coffee shop.

