

## SCHEDULE

### contestants

8:30 FIRST CONTEST  
*Contest Hall*

17:30 FUN PARK

### leaders

8:30 GA MEETING 6  
*Restaurant*

15:00 Workshop on Competition  
Environments and Languages  
*GA Hall*

17:00 RESULTS  
*Translation Rooms*

19:30 Asian Pacific Olympiad  
in Informatics Meeting  
*GA Hall*

21:00 GA MEETING 7  
*GA Hall*

22:00 OYZO PARTY  
*BBQ Area*

### guests

9:30 Excursion to Nafplion

22:00 OYZO PARTY

## Final Contest: the day is here



Second big day today for the IOI contestants, as well as the day of final judgment, because the results of this contest will shape the list of scores and that of the medal winners. The closing ceremony on Friday afternoon will be their time of triumph after all their hard effort.

Yet, winners are not only those being awarded gold, silver or bronze medals but all the young people from all over the world taking part in this competition. What every contestant should bear in mind is that he or she tried much, for months even years to master and excel in Informatics. This is something that will pay-off in the years to come, as their know-how will be valuable whatever field they choose to follow in their professional life. Information & Communication Technologies have proved to be the common denominator of every field and topic and a real catalyst for scientific progress. As a matter of fact, many modern philosophers believe that ICT –in the way we know it today- will disappear in a few years' time, as it will be absorbed in every field of science. Of course, computers and networks will be there, helping us keep things rolling, but nobody will really notice their presence, in the same way that we don't take notice of electricity anymore, except when there is a power failure and "normal" life seems to stop dead for a few minutes or a few hours...

That's why your love for Informatics and whatever experience you are amassing now will be more and more valuable in the future, making you real life winners. you!

PS. Some of the contestants told us that the subjects of the second contest are usually more difficult than those of the first. Our inquiries showed that this is not true, as the degree of difficulty varies from one day to another. Sometimes the first day happens to be the "bad one" – on other times it is the second to be blamed. Just cross your fingers...

PS2. Don't forget that tomorrow is excursion time – the trip to the Saronic Gulf Isles and the bright sun (we hope) will make you feel much better, after all your efforts in the contests.

## Question of the day to...

**Prof. Vasilis Assimakopoulos,**  
Secretary for the Information Society



**What makes the International Olympiad in Informatics so special?**

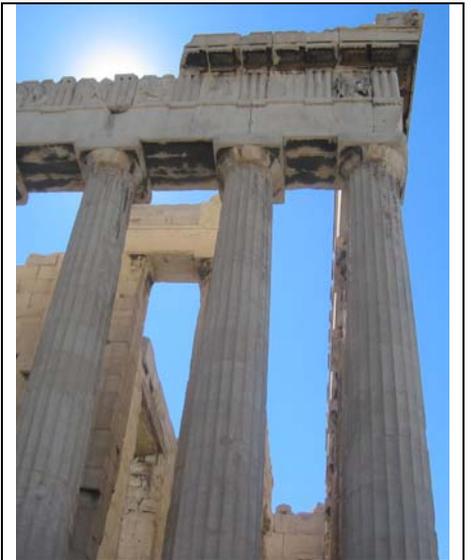
The IOI provides a perfect opportunity to attest the high level of intelligence that characterizes the new generation, the young citizens of Information Society, that move rapidly towards a society based on knowledge. IOI attracts national teams from all over the world that –through the utilization of modern technologies- demonstrate a true spirit of healthy competition, co-operation and teamwork in order to secure a much better future for all of us. This future could have no alternative cornerstone, than the actions taken in the framework of Information Society.

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL CONTESTANTS  
AND KEEP CALM !**

## Acropolis By Day



“Oh, yes, we liked it very much!”... That was the general reaction of most contestants on their return from Acropolis, yesterday noon. Cameras clicking away, volunteers and guides providing them with this and that piece of information about the world-famous monument and symbol of Athens, yesterday’s newsletter open in the pages describing the Parthenon and the way it was built almost 2500 years ago, more than 400 IOI people climbed on the “Holy Rock” (as Athenians use to call it) yesterday. The photos in this page are just a testimony of the first contact (for the majority of you) with Athens’ glorious past.



## PROFILES



### School Buildings Organization S.A.

School Buildings Organization S.A. (OSK) was established in 1962 with its primary aim to provide school building infrastructure. It has been involved with the design and construction of new school complexes in Greece but also moved beyond national boundaries, to build schools for Greek communities in Munich, Stuttgart, Kiev, London and elsewhere. OSK participated in the national effort to host the Athens 2004 Olympic Games by constructing the building “Media Village – SELETE”, which currently serves as the **IOI Village**, and will eventually house the headquarters of the Ministry of Education.

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# General Assembly

## where subjects are shaped

Of all the places in the venue of each and everyone of all IOIs, the meeting room of the General Assembly is surrounded by an aura of mystery – because it is there that the subjects of the contest are “being born”. The questions handed out to the contestants are being decided in this meeting room, before they are handed out to the leaders of the national teams for translation (more about that painstaking process you’ll find in the frame, next page).

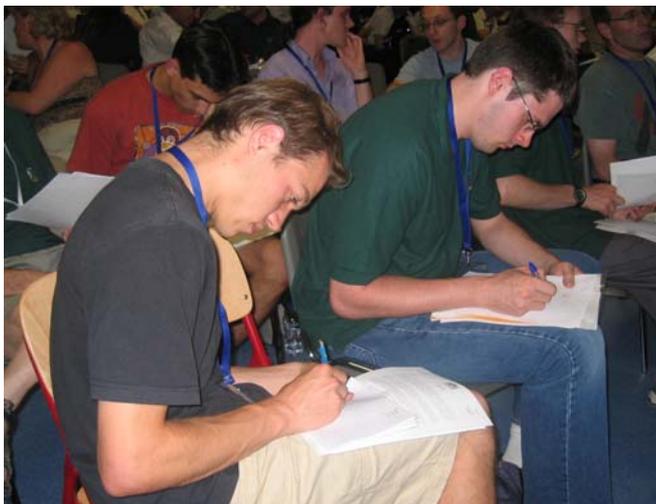
The decision on the final list of subjects is being taken in a true democratic way, as the heads of the national teams accept (or do not accept, in some rather rare cases) the proposals of the International Scientific Committee, headed by the president of the local Scientific Committee of the organizing country. The subjects (three for each of the two days) are part of a much larger “pool”, for which the preparation has started at least one year in advance.

The members of the International Scientific Committee consult each other frequently during

these months, yet the final shortlist is being decided a few months before the IOI – in the case of Athens, that was in June 2004.

The General Assembly is being held the previous day of each contest day to review the ISC proposals – their agreement is followed by the “fine tuning” (i.e. the final editing) of the question in order to be clear and easily understood by all the contestants. In case that there is an appeal for a subject (for example, in case that the same or a quite similar subject was used in an international or national competition, not a long ago). When the subjects are declared final, they are translated in dozens of different languages. From then on until the time of the contest, the heads of the national teams are separated from the contestants.

With the valuable help of volunteers, more than 20.000 copies are produced and sorted each time, in order to help each contestant focus on the questions asked, without worrying about the true meaning of the words. Every one of them gets his own closed envelop with the subject in his native language, as well as in English. And as you may have already noticed, the place each contestant is being allotted is different every day, in order to safeguard the integrity of the tests...



# Translation: a race against time



As soon as the subjects are finalized, they have to be translated in the native language of each contestant, so he can understand exactly what they ask him to do. This task is of Herculean proportions, because –as is the case with IOI 2004- the questions originally written in English have to be translated in the native language of the contestants from 78 countries that are gathered in Athens, which is not always English...

## (and sleepiness)

The translation is being carried out by the leaders and deputy leaders of the national teams, in absolute secrecy, in a special and well guarded room, where the contestants have no access to, for many hours – usually from 8 or 9 o' clock in the evening to 3 or 4 after midnight. All the translations are being deposited in a special archive, that the members of the General Assembly may access and check them –if they speak that language, of course.

## (and heat)

A mishap with the airconditioning system in translation room No. 7, caused a lot of sweat (but no blood or tears, thankfully).

We apologize for it and we promise it will not happen next time (in Poland of course)!!!

