



Dear Readers, Contestants, Leaders and Guests of the 31st International Olympiad in Informatics!

It is with immense pleasure that I greet you on the pages of this daily newsletter – welcome to Baku and Azerbaijan!

Hosting an event of such significance as IOI is a sign of our country's deep care for and interest in development of its human potential as well as that of other countries since this International Olympiad brings together the future of the IT and computer science. We are happy that ADA University is one of the champions and main organizers of this important event.

Established in 2006 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan as Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, our University served to fill in the need of preparing specialists for diplomatic careers. Our programs had quickly expanded and in 2014, renamed to ADA University, we started to train professionals in other fields.

The School of Information Technologies and Engineering was founded in 2013 with a goal to contribute to the development of non-oil sector and knowledge economy through training highly skilled IT professionals, engineers, and programmers. Our vision is to become a center of excellence in education and a hub of scientific research and discovery of global caliber in the region, and we have already made significant progress in this direction: alumni of the IT and Engineering School are employed by leading companies such as Oracle, Microsoft, and Google to name just a few. Our IT and Engineering School has also been involved in the implementation of numerous events, both local and international. It is worth mentioning that local Republic Olympiad in Informatics had been held at our University earlier this year.

I am confident that the Knowledge Fair organized on our University's campus will be one of the most memorable events within the Olympiad. Since its establishment, ADA University has attracted international students from all over the world who chose us for their semester abroad or full-time studies pursuing degrees in various fields. We will be happy to open our doors to the contestants of the IOI 2019 and see them among our students in the future.

Once again, welcome to Baku! I am sure that you will enjoy your time in Baku and the memories made during this summer will stay with you for a while.



Ambassador Prof. Hafiz Pashayev

Founding Rector of ADA University

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Honorary Co-Chair of the IOI 2019 Azerbaijan Host Organizing Committee

IOI 2019 Logo

The logo of IOI 2019 is inspired by the coat of arms of the city of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan with symbolic three flames and wavy stripes that represent the Caspian Sea. Two towers refer to the walled old city of Baku, which was included into the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List. The logo uses colors of the national flag of Azerbaijan – the blue is a tribute to Turkic heritage, the red symbolizes democracy, progress and modernity, the green shows respect to Islamic tradition. The author of the original idea is Ambassador Prof. Hafiz Pashayev, Honorary Co-Chair of the IOI 2019 Azerbaijan Host Organizing Committee.



IOI Community Settles in

4 AUGUST 2019 IS THE ARRIVAL DAY FOR THE IOI 2019 CONTESTANTS, LEADERS AND GUESTS (THOUGH SOME OF THEM DID ARRIVE EARLIER).



A total of 607 people came to Baku to participate in the 31st International Olympiad in Informatics.

335 of them are the contestants whose home for the next seven days will be the Athletes' Village (AVL). IOI Team Leaders and Guests will stay at the Boulevard Hotel.

Intended originally as a residential area, AVL served as the so-called Olympic Village during the 1st ever European Games held in Baku in 2015 and later as accommodation of athletes within the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games. Just a week ago, young European athletes between the ages of 14 and 18 stayed at the AVL while participating in the Baku 2019 Summer European Youth Olympic Festival on 21-27 July 2019.



And now the Athletes' Village will turn into a home away from home for the IOI contestants.



The contestants were warmly greeted by the IOI volunteers who helped them register, settle into the rooms and have rest after the journey to Baku (very tiring for some of the participants). The AVL has been equipped with board and table games, simulators, and other equipment to ensure comfortable (and fun!) stay of the youngsters.

The AVL is conveniently located right next the National Gymnastics Arena, the main contest venue.

Did You Know?



Azerbaijani language is the primary and official language of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani language is very similar to modern Turkish – the two languages are mutually intelligible, which means that Azerbaijani and Turkish people understand each other quite well without any special effort – we even call each other “one nation, two states.”

Let's learn some Azerbaijani while you are in Baku. Here are some useful words and phrases:

Hello – Salam [salam]

Good morning – Sabahınız xeyir! [sabahiniz xeyir]

Bye – Hələlik [hələlik]

I am sorry – Üzr istəyirəm [uzr istəyirəm]

Thank You – Sağ ol [sagh ol] or Təşəkkür edirəm [təshəkur edirəm]

Thank you very much – Çox sağ ol [chok sag ol]

Welcome – Xoş gəlmisiniz! [khosh gəlmisiniz]

Good luck! – Uğurlar! [ughurlar]

How are you? – Necəsən? [nejəsən]

Zero – sıfır [sifir]

One – bir [bir]

Two – iki [iki]

Three – üç [uch]

Four – dörd [dærd]

Five – beş [besh]

Six – altı [alti]

Seven – yeddi [yeddi]

Eight – səkkiz [səkkiz]

Nine – doqquz [dogguz]

Ten – on [on]

Baku City Tour

Ateshgah Fire Temple

Ateshgah, literally the "Fire Temple", well-known all over the world, is located 30 km from the center of Baku in the suburb of Surakhany. This territory is known for a unique natural phenomenon as burning natural gas outlets (underground gas coming onto surface contacts oxygen and burns). From times immemorial this was the holy place of Zoroastrians – fire worshippers. According to Persian inscriptions, the temple was used as a Hindu, Sikh, and Zoroastrian place of worship. "Atesh" is the Persian word for fire. In its present state the temple was constructed in the 17-18th centuries.



Words of Wisdom

**In your pursuit of knowledge
Strive for perfection.
Good pack-saddle making is
Better than being a bad hat-maker**

in Azerbaijani language
(Nizami wrote in Persian)
Bir elm öyrənmək istədikdə sən
Çalış ki, hər şeyi kamil biləsən
Kamil bir pələnci olsa da insan
Yaxşıdır yarımçıq papaqçılıqdan.

Nizami Ganjavi (1141–1209), a 12th-century poet who is considered the greatest romantic epic poet in Azerbaijani literature. He is famous for his "Khamse" ("Five Poems") – a collection of five works, which include "Makhzan al-Asrar" ("The Treasure of Secrets"), "Khosrow and Shirin", "Layli and Majnun", "Eskandar Nameh" ("The Book of Alexander the Great"), and "Haft Paykar" ("The Seven Beauties").

In this passage from "Leili and Majnun," which Lord George Gordon Byron called "the Romeo and Juliet of the East, Nizami addresses his son Muhammad, encouraging him to pursue knowledge and try to excel in whatever he chooses to do.

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Mon

Day 2

Schedule

NGA: National Gymnastics Arena
AVL: Athletes' Village
BVH: Boulevard Hotel

BCC: Baku Convention Center
HAC: Heydar Aliyev Center
Excursion

Time	Contestants	Leaders	Guests
07:00-08:30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
08:30-09:00	Walk to NGA	GA Meeting 1: Competition Rules (Taghiyev Room 1)	
09:00-09:30	Entering Contest Hall		Transfer to Ateshgah Fire Temple
09:30-10:00	Practice Session	Transfer to NGA	Guided tour of Ateshgah Fire Temple
10:00-10:30		Entering Contest Hall	
10:30-11:30		Leaders-Contestants Discussion	Transfer to BVH
11:30-12:00	Leaders-Contestants Discussion (continued)	Transfer to BVH	Free Time
12:00-12:30	Walk to AVL	Transfer to BVH	
12:30-13:00	Free Time	GA Meeting 2: Discussing Practice Session (Taghiyev Room 1)	
13:00-13:30	Lunch		
13:30-14:30		Lunch (Taghiyev Room 2)	
14:30-15:00	Transfer to BCC	Transfer to BCC	
15:00-16:00	Entering the Auditorium		
16:00-18:00	Opening Ceremony		
18:00-18:30	Leaders-Contestants Discussion (soft drinks)		Free Time / soft drinks
18:30-19:00	Transfer to AVL	Transfer to BVH	
19:00-20:00	Dinner	Dinner (Taghiyev Room 2)	Dinner
20:00-20:30		GA Meeting 3: Task Selection and Translation (Taghiyev Room 1) (2+ hours)	
20:30-22:00	Activity Time		Free Time



Photo of the Day

Visit to the Highland Park

IOI Community visited the Highland Park that offers the best views of the Baku city.