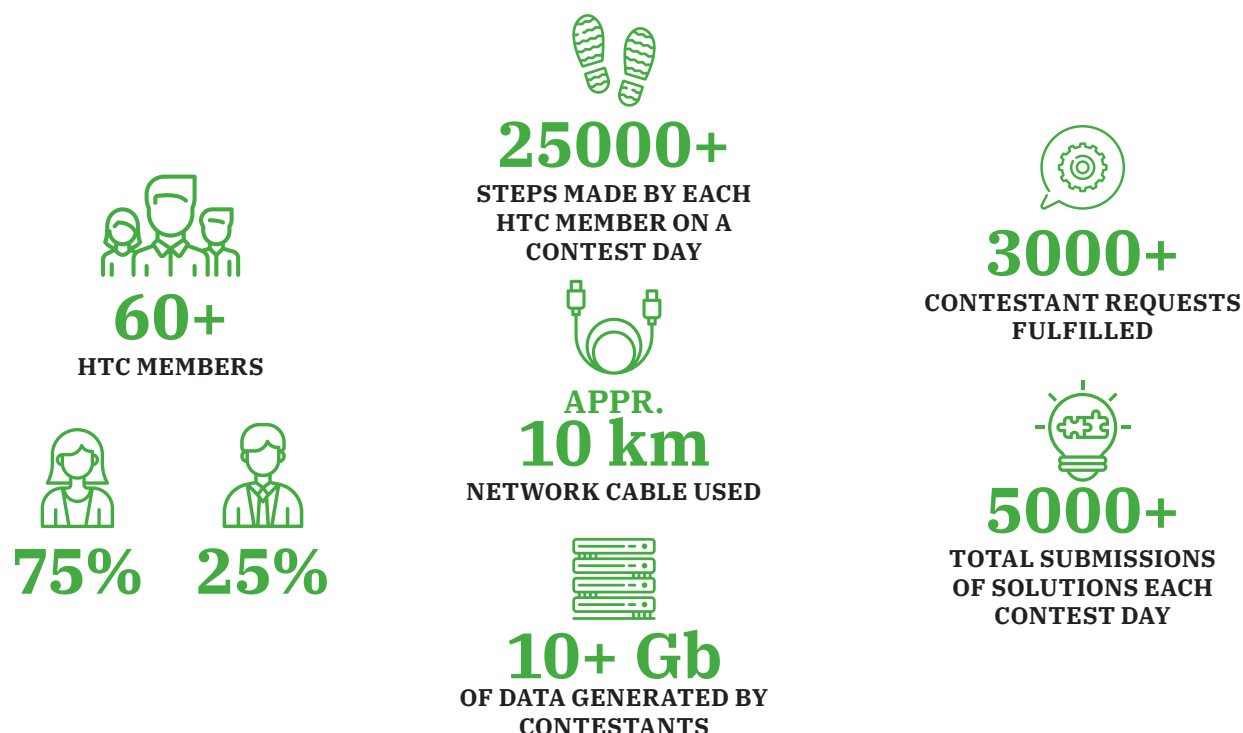




Technically speaking...

In this issue we talked with the members of the HTC – Host Technical Committee – and learned about their work during IOI 2019. First, let's look at some numbers:



Jamaladdin Hasanov,
HTC Chair, Assistant
Professor of the School of
IT and Engineering at ADA
University

Hosting IOI is like a marathon. While working on the technical procedures we thought about the next hosts – Singapore and Egypt – trying to demonstrate all processes and procedures in full so they could benefit, learn about the do's and don'ts, things to consider, and other details instrumental in successful implementation of the Olympiad.

The organization of the Olympiad starts 5-6 months prior to the event and a wide range of matters, both organizational and technical, need to be considered. It all starts with the selection of the venue which needs to meet specific requirements in terms of lighting, space, acoustic param-

eters, technical infrastructure, internet coverage, cabling and many others. Parallel to this, an implementation plan needs to be put in place: this plan specifies all technical activities, order of their delivery and, most importantly, the agent of delivery. Who is going to do it? Are there enough resources to do it on our own? Or should the work be outsourced? As you see, there are a lot of important details to keep in mind.

Students and alumni of ADA University, all of them HTC members, talk about being part of the IOI 2019.



Azada Yusifzade

3rd year student majoring in Information Technologies, School of IT and Engineering

My involvement with IOI started earlier this year when I served as a volunteer during the National Olympiads in Informatics held at our University. This experience allowed me to learn the processes and procedures which are of

great help to me now during the International Olympiad.

I am very happy to be part of IOI 2019. My goal is to continue my career in project management and this experience is extremely useful. Thanks to my involvement in IOI 2019, one of the biggest events in the field of technology in Azerbaijan, I discovered what is important while organizing large-scale events, details to consider, things to take into account and learn other valuable skills.

At IOI 2019 I am an HTC Team Leader and as such I supervise a team of 16 people. Our primary goal was to organize the process of registration of all items of contestants including keyboards and even mascots they want to have next to them for good luck. Once registered, all approved items are put on the tables of the contestants. One might think that this process is very simple and even

routine. At IOI I learned how important some things could be for their owners: some of the things contestants bring with themselves are the ones they had had for years, things they cherish and are attached to.

Once the registration process was over, my team and I moved to the Contest Hall as observers – here we attended to contestants' needs, addressed their questions and concerns, and performed other tasks.

Participation in IOI 2019 showed me that the IT field is rapidly developing in Azerbaijan and that our IT specialists are making important contributions to its development. I feel very proud to be part of the HTC team during one of the least problematic (from a technical point of view) IOIs.



Leyla Aghazada

3rd year student majoring in Computer Science, School of IT and Engineering

While being a volunteer for the semifinals and finals within the National Olympiad in Informatics, I fully realized the significance of the IOI for Azerbaijan. I did extensive research about the previous IOIs held in other countries and felt fully prepared to join it

as the member of the Host Technical Committee. You can tell the members of the HTC by the blue T-shirts we wear – they even call us “people in blue T-shirts” around here.

There are several teams within the HTC and the one I am part of is in charge of food and beverage. Our specific goal is to address contestants' request about food, beverages, health and other issues submitted through a special tool. I still remember how nervous everyone on our team was on the very first day of the contest. Though we did know how the process worked in theory and were trained to deliver our duties, we would still get very nervous right before the start of the competition thinking about how we would address request coming from 300+ contestants all at once. If you ask how we managed it, I would say teamwork. Teamwork is very important – only thanks

to it we were able to process and deliver all requests without delays and any challenges. Now I am convinced that no task is too complicated for a team to overcome.

Being a member of the HTC is both a privilege and a big responsibility. What I enjoy the most about this experience is working shoulder-to-shoulder with my University professors: I am so used to seeing them in the classroom that it was strange at first to observe them in a different capacity. This experience led me to a conclusion that learning does not just happen within the walls of an educational establishment – it happens outside it too, especially the practical application of what we learn in the classroom.





Sevinj Jafarli

Alumna of ADA University, BS in Information Technology and Systems Engineering

Joining a large international event as IOI is not only an invaluable experience that taught me

many skills. I also joined IOI 2019 because I believe that this Olympiad will have a long-lasting positive impact in terms of promoting participation in Olympiads and contests among school students. Not having heard about the IOI being a school student myself, I do not want any of the young people to be deprived of information about this life-changing opportunity. I do believe that after IOI 2019 a lot more youngsters still in school will show interest in programming.

As part of the team working on technical issues, I was involved in writing various scripts aimed at optimization of processes on laptops of 300+ contestants. While doing this, I was using technologies I never used before, so this

experience contributed to my development as a specialist.

During this week, I worked with so many talented professionals! I especially appreciated an opportunity of working as a team with people I only knew as my instructors – this allowed me to discover them as personalities. Being part of a bigger team and working hand-in-hand for the achievement of a common goal is what made this experience particularly special for me.



Ziyaddin Sadigov

Alumnus of ADA University, BS in Computer Science

My main motivation in joining the IOI 2019 as the member of the HTC was a desire to use the pro-

fessional skills, knowledge and experience I have accumulated over the years in quality delivery of technical tasks of the Olympiad.

As a member of the HTC my specific role consisted of developing the so-called Request Fulfillment Tool from scratch. This electronic tool significantly eased and sped up the process of addressing requests from contestants concerning food, beverage, paper, using bathrooms, and others. Apart from my main task, I also assisted my fellow team members in delivering the requests because there were just so many of them.

Thanks to this Olympiad I met people with extensive experience in my field of work. Participation

in meetings of the HTC, discussing and solving various issues, going back to the contest hall after the meetings to implement offered solutions in a professional way – all these made me love the work I do even more.

My task as an HTC member did not just end with the development of the Request Fulfillment Tool. Updating the tool on local contest server using Docker technology after each new feature and bug fix taught me important practical skills about DevOps.

I want to thank everyone involved in the organization of the IOI 2019, one of the most prestigious Olympiads in the world. Together we can do it – power is in unity!

**Progress is
not possible
without
freedom of
thought**

in Azerbaijani language:
Fikir azadlığı olmadan tərəqqi mümkün ola bilməz.

Mirza Fatali Akhundov (1812 – 1878)

was an Azerbaijani author, philosopher, and a playwright. Called the "Molière of the Orient", Mirza Fatali Akhundov was the founder of Azerbaijani modern literary criticism. Azerbaijan National Library is named after Akhundov.



Did You Know?



Azerbaijan's currency is Manat. The word manat comes from the Russian word "moneta" and means coin which, in its turn, comes from Latin Moneta. Each banknote is dedicated to a specific topic and features various national elements.

1 manat is dedicated to culture: the bill has graphic images of three national musical instruments – tar, kamancha and daf.

Dedicated to literature, **5 manat** bill (among other images) has

an excerpt from the national anthem.

10 manat bill is dedicated to history: one could see the Old Baku, Maiden Tower and Icherisheher on the banknote's front side.

20 manat's dedication is to Garabagh. The banknote features several symbols of power (sword, shield, and helmet) and the famous flower endemic to the region known as Khari-bulbul in Azerbaijani (*Ophrys caucasica*), a sign of peace.

50 manat banknote is about education and future with symbols of progress represented by steps, strength and light represented by sun, and science represented by elements from Mathematics and Chemistry.

100 manat bill is dedicated to economy and development: it features architectural symbols from ancient times to present days on its front side. The back side has images referring to Azerbaijan's integration into Europe.



ADA University, one of the leading universities in Azerbaijan, was established in 2006 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan as Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA). ADA was transformed into a university by the decree of the President in 2014. Its founding rector is Ambassador Professor Hafiz Pashayev, who is a Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and a former Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States.

ADA University offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in its four schools:

- School of Public and International Affairs
- School of Business
- School of Education
- School of Information Technologies and Engineering

The mission of ADA University is to cultivate highly intellectual solution-providers who are closely collaborating, efficiently communicating members of the global community, possessing ethics and a sense of citizenship.

Photo of the Day



The #IOI2019 Committees' bus with the IOI President at the wheel #InTheSafeHands (photo and caption by: Eduard Kalinichenko, IC Member, Latvia)