



Issue 7

25th July 2008

IMO NEWS were
Miguel De Benito
Javier Fresán
David Garcés
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Thank you for your attention and support!
We hope you have enjoyed IMO NEWS.
Don't forget the rest of full-colour issues.

IMO in numbers and languages

- 537 contestants from 99 countries
- Problems stated in **52** different languages
- 3305 tests digitized using UNED-valija virtual.
- **17405** printed sheets of paper (5,26 per student)
- First day: 8745.
- Second day: 8660.
- Longest test: **39** sheets.
- Mean digitization time: **160** min.
- 7 questions
- Wednesday: mean reply time, 15 min.
- **92** questions
- Thursday: mean reply time, 90 min.

All this was possible thanks to UNED.

Maths for the future



Suddenly, when the dream was in its best moment, we were forced to get up: it was already Monday 21st, last day of this 49th edition of the International Mathematical Olympiad. Time to say goodbye and come back home flying with almost all the world airlines. The free morning offered the last chance to buy souvenirs, visit that monument in Madrid you always wanted to see (Santiago Bernabeú?) or just to have a last bath in the swimming pool. Until half past five the contestants had time to choose their best clothes.

At half past six, they were dropped by the buses in the campus of the University "Carlos III", in the surroundings of Madrid, the place where the closing ceremony took place. At eight o'clock the show began, and the most successful students received their medals from the hands of Spanish authorities, including the Minister of Education and Social Policies and the Prince of Asturias, who surprised the audience quoting words by the French mathematician Alexander Grothendieck.





The warmest clappings were for the local medalists, the Peruvian contestant Fernando Manrique Montáñez, who achieved the only gold medal for a Spanish speaking country, and especially for the three perfect scores.

Afterwards, the Olympic flag was passed to the German delegation, who invited all the assistants to the 50th IMO, which will be held in Bremen and Bremerhafen from July 10th to July 22nd. Then, the speeches followed, and we could realize that Jozsef Pelikan, president of the IMO Exective Comitee, had been an attentive reader of our section *Talk to her*, where he learned a really good Spanish. The idea that

the participants are the future of their countries was shared by some of the speakers.

To close the official program, students, leaders, observers, deputies, organizers, guides, senior guides, invigilators, volunteers (and 2½ journalists, for once we were not working...) enjoyed the traditional farewell dinner, which everybody was looking forward after the picnics. That was the last time all people related to the IMO met, and there were hugs, kisses, lots of photos and even some tears.

The awarding of the golden microphone to the leader with the most remarkable interventions during



the jury meetings went to the Dutch leader, who thanked the recognition. Finally, the sudden apparition of the “tuna”, a traditional musical group made up of Spanish male university students, was the perfect closing of the closing ceremony, since many of the participants started dancing and singing around the tables of the patio.





Faces from the IMO



Guides and Senior guides



Volunteers



Coordinators



Organizers



Letters to the editor

Hi Miguel, Javier, David and Roberto, how are you?

A warm HELLO from down under - Australia!

Many thanks for your daily report on the wonderful and excited activities of the IMO international teams. Every night, I stayed late in order to read your updated reports and search the latest Images. When I first saw the Aussie team (of course, I saw my son and his friends) at the airport, I nearly jumped up - quietly, because that was already in the middle of the night here in Sydney.

Thank you for all the detailed information, comments and most importantly, the beautiful photos. I love to see all those young and energetic smiling faces shining happily under the Spanish sun. What a lovely weather for them to visit your beautiful country! I love your grand buildings and am delighted to read the brief history of the places. You are all marvellous reporters! Are you still studying? By the way, I look forward to seeing your handsome faces in the news as well.

Indeed, I am very grateful for your country and people for caring for all the overseas students. Thank you for keeping them busy! Thank you for your kind arrangement so that all the participants enjoy the whole journey and make friends. I am sure that when my son comes home, we will share with joy all his stories and his remarkable memories. What a beautiful life experience!

When there is time, I do hope that my son can spend all his money to buy as many souvenirs as he can. We, families, schools, neighbours and friends are longing to see the pretty things he brings back from your lovely country.

*Thank you again and all the best to you, your country and the IMO committee.
with kind regards,*

Margaret

IMO experience



Spain is different, and we are Spanish. Diego, Juanjo, Arnau, Gabi, David and Moisés; the last days you have been the soul of the Spanish IMO team. I want to thank the organization to give me the opportunity and the pleasure to meet you all. I will never forget the opening ceremony with Diego, the table football and ping-pong matches in Ahuja. See you soon, Juanmi.

Juan Miguel Ribera (Spain guide)

Dear IMO NEWS,

I am your faithful anonymous reader. Thank you for your newspaper (especially) for the pink one! Unfortunately I haven't got my own copy.

Thank you! Your sincerely,

Anonymous Reader

P.S.

Just in case you will post this letter to IMO NEWS, want to say, that tall guy with long hair from Poland is very nice! =)

IMO aRt



*"Cocacola, Fanta, Sprite compression"
Albert Herencsar*