

Looking Back on IBO2009

IBO2009 started on July 12 at Tsukuba City with the arrival of participants from 56 different countries and regions. The following day, the Opening Ceremony and the Welcome Party were held, with the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino.

Although tired from the long journey, contestants were all able to recover and sit the exams, thanks to the dedicated work of staff and team guides. The jury sessions were well organized, without causing too much stress for the jury.

The excursions and Tsukuba Night were blessed with good weather, and provided opportunities for everyone to see a little of what Japan is really like. Many participants commented that they enjoyed Japanese culture and nature.

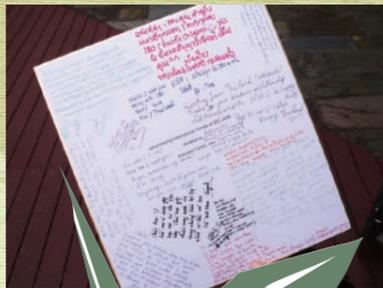
IBO2009 concluded on July 18 with another full day of



activities and events. The results were announced and the medalists were congratulated. Participants exchanged presents and email addresses with friends they could only have

made their farewells.

Looking back on IBO2009, one of the contestants summed it up best when she commented, "I'm very lucky to have been able to participate and to come to Japan".



from Japan...

to Korea



the fair competitions and cultural exchanges with their welcome friends and unknown colleagues.

IBO 2010 will be a more enjoyable festival than a competition. For all participants, cultural experiences on Korea, visits to the historic places and to the industrial complexes, and looking around the marshland to be protected for the mankind, which is an evidence of a healthy ecosystem will be provided.

The IBO 2010 Organizing Committee wholeheartedly invites all of you to the IBO 2010 in Korea.

Come and enjoy sparkling Korea!

Prof. Kil-Jae Lee, Ph.D.
Chairman, IBO 2010 Organizing Committee



▲ Gyeongju Historical District

Welcome Address from the IBO 2010

As you may know, the 21st International Biology Olympiad will be held from July 11 to 18, 2010, in Changwon City, Korea.

I know well the true meaning of the IBO, which makes biology-loving students of the world build international relationships through



かわらばん Kawaraban

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And the Winners Are...

As students, jury, team guides, and others involved with IBO gathered at the Congress Center, the elegant movement of Japanese traditional dancers marked the beginning of the Closing Ceremony.

This was followed by speeches from Dr. Hiroo Imura (IBO2009 Organizing Committee Chairperson), Ms. Seiko Noda (Minister of Special Mission Related to Science and Technology Policy and Food Safety), Dr. Humio Isoda (Director of the Research Promotion Bureau at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, Japan), Dr. Koichi Kitazawa (Chairperson of Japan Science and Technology Agency), and Dr. Poonpipope Kasemsap (Chairman of IBO Coordinators). Dr. Kasemsap stressed that IBO2009 has progressed unusually smoothly, despite so little time for preparation. He expressed appreciation to the organizers, and to the founders and chairman of IBO, and reminded the students about the importance of memories. All the speakers indicated that they expect the young scientists of IBO2009 will do well in

their futures.

After the speeches, a short movie brought back memories of the past six days. Snapshots of special events, exams, and scenes of daily life filled the hall, sometimes prompting laughter. This was just a ten-minute trip through IBO2009, but it was densely packed, reminding everyone what a great event it has been.

Next was the most awaited part of the program—the award announcement and medal presentation. A total of 66 bronze medalists, 46 silver medalists, and 23 gold medalists were introduced one by one. Loud applause and cheers rose up to congratulate them as they were called onto the stage to receive their medals and certificates. Many were colorfully dressed in their traditional clothing. Some medal-winners responded with victory gestures. The loudest congratulations went to the gold medalists and the top three contestants: Wei Han Tan winning third place, Jonathan James Liang winning second place, and Yangzi Dong winning first place.



Amidst the excitement, Dr. Tom Soukup, Head of IBO Coordinators, praised the Japanese organizers for preparing this large event in such a short time. This was followed by the handing over of the IBO cup to the next host country, Korea. The Chairman of IBO2010 Organizing Committee, Dr. Kil-Jae Lee, expressed his strong enthusiasm to make the next IBO a successful and authentically

Korean-flavored contest. With the conclusion of the ceremony, the contestants flooded the stage to take photos, just as they did after the Opening Ceremony. However, the tone of voice, smiles, and tears were different from the scene six days ago. That difference is what they have earned and won at IBO2009.

Study the Past for the Future

Dr. Makoto Asashima gave a special seminar at the International Congress Center before the Closing Ceremony yesterday. By introducing the significant progress of science in human history, from past to present, he demonstrated the importance of studying the past and learning from it for the future. In particular he explained how it is necessary to persist with research over a long period, citing the example of Barbara McClintock who contributed to the discovery of transposons.

He then went on to give an outline of his own research using activin to induce cell differentiation. The audience

seemed impressed when he showed a movie of a beating heart cell, and a picture of a frog in which he had induced extra heart tissue to grow.

In conclusion, he sent a message to future scientists to "learn from nature", and "challenge with passion". He added that nature is our teacher and cited the words of Dr. Louis Agassiz—"Study nature, not books". He also said "Don't chase fashionable studies". He believes that good scientists have "passion with persistence". He said persistent research will lead mankind to great achievement.



Cloudy



Weather & Clothes

High 31°C
Low 24°C
Humidity 84%
Chance of rain 24%

Today's Schedule

Students Schedule

7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast
6:30 - 13:00 Departure for Airport

Jury & Observers Schedule

7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast
6:30 - 13:00 Departure for Airport

Answer to yesterday's quiz: B

On the topic of longevity, the oldest living organisms known are bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*) at Inyo National Forest, California. The oldest of them have been alive for a little less than 5,000 years!!

Students' Community of IBO (SCIBO) Team-J

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<http://ibo2009.org/>

Till We Meet Again

It became the place for all participants of IBO2009 to share their joy and triumph! After the Closing Ceremony, students, jury, team guides and guests moved to the entrance hall of Tsukuba International Congress Center to attend the Farewell Party. The results of IBO2009 had been announced in the Closing Ceremony and students seemed to be fully released from all the tension of the past six days. They enjoyed a buffet-style dinner with friendly smiles, talking with their teammates and new friends. Some medalists, however, were less interested in the party, and were excitedly chatting with their jury members in the Main Hall, where the Closing Ceremony had been held. Many cheerful photos were

taken, and most of the medalists phoned or emailed their family and teachers about their results. Of course, some contestants did not receive medals, but they were not resentful in any way, and congratulated the medalists from the bottom of their hearts. Like Dr. Kasemsap said at the Opening Ceremony, they won the most valuable prize—friends.

There were other people who celebrated the results with students and jury members. The team guides who had been with the contestants for six days also jumped with joy as the names of the medalists were announced. Some of them were almost in

tears to see all the members of their team on the stage. Many were thanked by their students and jury as well, and asked to join in photos. They seemed satisfied to accomplish their missions, and enjoyed being able to relax with their friends again for the first time in a week.

With good food and great friends, the cheerful mood of the Farewell Party continued until it was time for the participants to take their joy and exhilaration to the Dance Party.

Dance! Dance! Dance!

Yet another event awaited the participants and student volunteers after the Farewell Party—this time it was the Dance Party!

Relaxed students wearing big smiles filled the conference room, which had hosted the jury sessions. The room had been dramatically transformed into a dance floor with colored lights mixing in the darkness, creating a fantastic mood. Students danced joyfully with the rhythm of the music, forgetting all their difficulties of the past few days. One medalist even laughed saying "What am I doing!?" All dancers enjoyed their rediscovered freedom.

Last night, students from different

countries dancing together showed that there are no borders in dance, nor in biology. The place was filled with excitement, and paper cranes hanging from their necks fluttered in the air.



This is one of the most famous pictures of "Thirty-six Views of Mt. Fuji", made by Katsushika Hokusai. In this picture, a phenomenon known as "Red Fuji" is shown. In clear weather, Mt. Fuji sometimes changes to a red color for a few minutes while the sun rises. It's so rare that people who see it are said to have good luck.

Dr. Kasemsap ▲

Background picture: "Gaifu-Kaisei" by Katsushika Hokusai

Deutschland ▶

with Ms. Japan

Wow!!!

Congratulations Ryota!

Present from Team Japan

No.3 Wei Han Tan ▶

No.2 Jonathan James Liang

NO.1 Yangzi Dong

Dance in Line

▼Dance!

The Colors Are the Same.

▼Dr. Isoda

▶Dr. Kitazawa

sleepy...

▲Team Azerbaijan

Heroes & Heroines

•Gold Medal•23

- Yangzi Dong
- Jonathan James Liang
- Wei Han Tan
- Thomas Brereton
- Siyang Hao
- Ryota Otsuki
- Joseph Edward Harvey
- Yu-Chi Kuo
- I-Chun Lee
- Zhengda Li
- Seungsoo Kim
- Chenyu Zhang
- Georgy A. Nosov
- Chengxiang Yuan
- Rong Huang
- Jonathan Samuel Gootenberg

Woo Jin Jeon

- Nantanuj Vutthikraivit
- David Pai Huang
- James Nicolas Woodmansey
- Anugerah Erlaut
- Arya Haj Mirzaian
- Vidhi Hathi

•Silver Medal•46

- VirapatKieuvongngam
- Irfan Haris
- Edwin Lindsay Pynegar
- Fateme Kashani
- Michael Mikat
- Mel Chen
- Dave Hartig
- Anton Alexandrovich Kavaleuski
- Jelle Zijlstra
- Ruei-Je Chang
- Atsuhito Nakayama
- Geoffrey Vincent Hoggins
- Soo Jin Kim
- Jatuporn Wanichanont
- Ayako Yanaka
- Na Ye Choi

Alexey A. Agapov

- Clinton Jia Wang
- Jan Krieghoff
- Mai Yamakawa
- Qi Yan Ang
- Inji Chang
- Phun-Phai Somkearti
- Khurshedi Davronzod
- Sarah Gales
- Mark Gimbutas
- Chetan Srinath
- Justas Lavisius
- Ilija Kats
- Andrei Yurjevich Sukhareuski
- Julius Juodakis
- Erik Olof Johannes Wannerberg
- Po- Fan Wu

Nguyen Thi Thuy Trang

- Arad Iranmehr
- Tomasz Jakub Klaus
- Linus Meier
- Nina Turk
- Enes Karabacak
- Elbert Wijaya
- Sebastian Vishnopolska
- Milda Jakutaviciute
- Martin Michel
- Larisa A. Akulkina
- Francis Samuel Duffy
- Kotryna Vaidziulyte
- Amit Gupta
- Uku-Laur Tali
- Claudia Simonett
- Justus Mutanen
- Sophia Louise Frenzt
- Delyan Tsvetanov Georgiev

•Bronze Medal•68

- Jana Faltynkova
- Natalia Siarheeuna Bukhtarevich
- Nina Turk
- Enes Karabacak
- Elbert Wijaya
- Sebastian Vishnopolska
- Milda Jakutaviciute
- Martin Michel
- Larisa A. Akulkina
- Francis Samuel Duffy
- Kotryna Vaidziulyte
- Amit Gupta
- Uku-Laur Tali
- Claudia Simonett
- Justus Mutanen
- Sophia Louise Frenzt
- Delyan Tsvetanov Georgiev

Juris Kibilds

- Lukasz Truskowski
- Marine Leve
- Osman Aykan Kargin
- Leonie Van Steijn
- Geoffrey James Osgood
- Daniel Patrocinio Zen
- Alvaro Lafuente Romero
- Vida Set
- Mikko Johannes Tiusanen
- Zigmunds Orlovskis
- Philip Will
- Le Thuy Duong
- Alime Gokce Kocaarslan
- Aaron Ramirez
- Sameera Erandaka Ariyaratna
- Max Biggs
- Marcel Kuckelkorn

Mathis Funk

- Mahym Mansoor
- Fan Zhu
- Lassi Ilmari Helanti
- Sebastian Haelg
- Dzmitry Sergeevich Kuzmin
- Veronika Nogellova
- Michal Piotr Banacki
- Gianmarco Messa
- Nguyen Thi Nhu Quynh
- Roxanne Angelika Lau
- Michele Candrina
- Artem Komissarov
- Hilola Hakimova
- Lena Margareta Kallsten
- Samuel Genzor
- Rustam Esanov
- Pier Luigi Susini

Jaakko Tapani Hyypia

- Anastasiya Kravets'
- Dehiwala Pathirannehelage Udari Tankana Samarasinghe
- Duong Thu Huong
- Piers Martin Murphy
- Lorenzo Pallini
- Yahia Al-Jebari
- Nejc Umek
- Azam Kozizoda
- Aaron Joseph Hakim
- Tayyaba Maqbool Malik
- Miguel Angel Ramos
- Azad Alizada
- Samuel Vandewaeter
- Sukru Sogut