CEOI 2010 DAILY NEWSLETTER

Faculty of Science, Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice

Košice, Slovakia

13. July 2010

Schedule for 14th July

* 7:15—7:45 - Breakfast (hotel Akademia)
* 8:30 - First competition!
* 13:30 - Lunch (Faculty of Science, str. Jesenná 5)
* 14:30 - Results of Evaluation
* 15:00 - Free time
* 19:00 - Dinner (pub "U pažravca")
* 20:30 - Bowling

Quick Slovak lesson 2:

* I would like to order a ... - Chcel by som si objednať ...
* I am very tired, please don't shout. - Som veľmi unavený, prosím nekričte.
* There's a dead pixel on my screen. - Na mojej obrazovke je mŕtvy pixel.
* Your eyes are very beautiful. - Tvoje oči sú veľmi pekné.

Contestants started first day with formal and scientific lectures

Assoc. Prof.Gabriel Semanišin, PhD.

First day of contest fired off with official opening by the head of the Institute of Computer Science Assoc. Prof. Semanisin. He said some quick words about our faculty and tradition of studying computer science at our Institute. He also presented possibilities for scientific research. He stated that our Institute has many experiences with student's programming contests, such as Palma and OI. After his speech we gave him some questions concerning the contest:

What do you think about quality of this kind of competitions?

Since there was no competition yet, I can't tell anything about the quality of contestants, but all of the competitors were chosen in regional rounds, so they must be one of the best. Also I saw one of my former graduants on the last year's winners list, he was from Jagiellonian University and he was considered as one of the most experienced students.

The contest last for seven days, but only two days are reserved for the main competition. What is your opinion on this?

This competition shouldn't have got only technical, but also social and cultural aspects. Although the participants are very well developed in the field of computer science, they are in the phase of life, where they should learn new facts about foreign countries and people. Also several hours of programming contest can be pretty difficult in terms of psychical and physical condition, so it is necessary to have some time off to refresh themselves. I hope that at the end of the CEOI they will remember not only solving difficult problems and competing but also promote Slovakia and UPJS.

What advantages do you see in these kinds of competitions?

We organize a lot of events of this kind, even though most of the people doesn't have organizing CEOI in their scope of employment. We always want to create opportunities for self-starters who are talented in the field of informatics. It is also good experience for people who organize this event and I hope they will take advantage from it in the future.

prof. V. Geffert

After the opening speech, there was scientific lecture by prof. Geffert, who described Multiway in-place merging. Many of the listeners found the lecture very interesting, but also for many of them it was hard to understand. *"It was very interesting, because I haven't considered the problem of In-place merging. I didn't find the lecture difficult to understand, but the problem itself is pretty much complicated."* said Jan from Poland.

Weather forecast for 14th July:
Once again very hot with temperatures up to 34°C! Occasionally with quick refreshing storms.

For more photos and news visit CEOI 2010 facebook page.

Introducing... team Germany!

Germany arrived yesterday at Kosice aiport, so as it was our duty we give them our quick questionnaire.

German team with their leader Wolfgang Pohl and their guide Ivana.

How have you been preparing for the contest?

We had national choosing where we trained and we did a lot of online programming competitions at our own.

Do you have any special name for your team?

No. (but their teamleader said it is "Crazy Germans" :))

Is it your first time visiting Slovakia?

Yes.

Introducing... team Switzerland!

Guys from Switzeralnd were happily posing in front of the camera.

Simultaneously with Germany came the team from Switzerland.

How have you been preparing for the contest?

Most of us had a camp where we prepared for IOI, but not all of us were in that camp. And of course some separate preparations.

Do you have any special name for your team?

(after a while) Balmer Peak. (http://xkcd.com/323, editor's notice)

What is your favourite algorithm?

That would be Dijsktra's algorithm.

How did you enjoy today's sightseeing around Kosice?

I am not a big fan of history, but it was very interesting. Tourist guide had some interesting information, but it was too hot outside.

Sightseeing: Tour around the city Centre

After the lunch and quick rain (which wasn't in our forecast, but... we're not professional weather forecasters) there was a sightseeing prepared for the contestants. Local tourist guide Milan Kolcun and his colleague Eva have prepared some points of interest, that are essential to know for every tourist that visits Kosice. Although it was very hot today, the tour around the historical city Centre was refreshing change from the official opening in the morning. The trip started at the Scientific library, continued to the old Jewish part of Kosice, then the group moved near and into the St. Elizabeth's cathedral where they had cool air and shade from thick stone walls. After that the trip continued along the Main street and ended at the Monument of great plague. Then we asked some of the guys what do they think about the tour and the city. "*I liked the St. Eliza-beth's cathedral, because there was cold and sun didn't heat on our heads. But all of the trip was very interesting.*" said Filip from Czech republic. Guys from Switzerland, as you've may already read, weren't as much interested in history as in local girls. "*The girls are very beautiful here in Kosice.*" Well, we can only agree with that :). After the tour all of the teams had a free time to look around the city, go shopping for souvenirs or visit another historical places mentioned earlier in the speech of tourist guides. More photos from the event can be found on the CEOI's webpage or facebook page, so go check them out!