CEOI 2010 DAILY NEWSLETTER

Faculty of Science, Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice

Košice, Slovakia

14. July 2010

Schedule for 15th July

* 7:30 - Breakfast (hotel Akademia)

* 8:30 - Trip to High Tatras:
  - The easy one: Strbske and Popradske pleso
  - The not so easy one, but much more delightful: Tery Chalet (Teryho chata)

* 19:00 - Dinner (pub "U pažravca")

* 20:00 - Free time

Advanced Slovak lesson 1:

* Let's go for a beer. — Poďme na pivo.

* It's so hot today, my brain is sweating. — To je ale teplo, môj mozog sa potí.

* My keyboard has wrong layout! — Moja klávesnica má zle rozloženie kláves.

* This rice is undercooked. — Táto ryža je nedovarená.

* The last place is mine. — Posledné miesto je moje.

First round of the contest is over

RNDr. Michal Forisek, PhD.

Today the contestants had chance to test their skills in challenging tasks. Early in the morning, they were divided into groups and seated in front of the computers where they prepared their desktop environment. We didn't want to disturb them with our silly questions, so instead we talked to RNDr. Michal Forisek, PhD. who is the chairman of scientific committee.

You participate in and organize lot of similar events, what is your motivation to work with young talents?

Well, that's a hard one, but I enjoy it in the first place. I grew up in similar environment, because I was a contestant in many high-school program-ming competitions and when I came to the university I've started to get involved in organizing these events and it lasted out until today.

What are your experiences from these contests and what do you think about the quality of this year's contestants?

I've got many experiences from high-school programming contests, notice-ably from years 98-99 when I was finishing the school. And as for these contestants, CEOI is one of the most difficult competitions, because this is the region, where all of the countries have great programmers, they send here the best ones and therefore the difficulty of the problems must be adjusted to their level. I think it is even more difficult than IOI where are countries from all over the world.

Last year you've finished your PhD in theoretical computer science. What is it's connection to these contests?

It has more or less some connection with them, because I've been develop-ing methods of evaluation for these kinds of competitions.

Do you enjoy programming as a hobby or is it more like work or something you "must" do?

Well it's more like fun for me, because I am a lecturer in the first place, I don't code for living. But I would say it's not a hobby, because it is very important to have other outdoor activities. I like to go to the country-side and especially enjoy hiking, so I am very much looking forward to the trip to High Tatras.

Shortly after the first round everyone was discussing problem sets with their teammates. We've asked Klaas-Hendrik from Germany about the difficulty of tasks. "*It was very difficult, I was able to submit only solution and I don't think it is correct.*" he said.

Weather forecast for 15th July:

20 - 22 degrees on Strbske pleso, partly cloudy with occasional rain. In Kosice there may be some storm in the morning, but in the evening it should be over.

For more photos and news visit CEOI 2010 facebook page.

Introducing... teams Slovakia 1 and 2!

Since Slovakia has two teams, which are very well connected, we stormed them with our questions and they were very talkative.

How have you been preparing for the competition?

We had good meal but Tomi programmed until the late night, he didn't eat at all, just coded.

Do you have some tricks to mystify your opponents?

We'll flood them through the door eyelet. (Laugh) No, not really, because we don't have eyelets on our doors.

What is your favorite algorithm?

Fenwick tree. But that's a data structure, is it ok? We don't like algorithms! :)

What do you think of your opponents?

They play football really good.

What are your thoughts after the first round of competition?

Excellent! We gave headstart to our opponents, but Friday we'll catch them up. :)

Are you here to win, or will you stick to the good old "It's not important to win, but to participate."?

Yes we follow that proverb, but we want to win, because we were told that we can get big chocolate fountain.

Do you have any special name for your teams?

It is "Jahoda 47" and "Jahoda 42", but we are also known as one team "Jahodááá" (Jahoda is strawberry in English, editor's notice). Our team leader "Zemčo" has strawberry as a tattoo on his chest. And of course strawberries are awesome.

What sight from the yesterday's tour did you find the most beautiful?

Trams! (another one pointed out they are not historical monuments) Because it is national relic registered in UNESCO! :)

What do you want to say to your opponents?

Don't trust rident guys with sharpened scissors.

Incomplete Slovakian teams. We didn't have the time to photoshop other members.

Time for some physical exercise!

After the long day of sitting in front of the computer screen our IT contestants had a chance to loosen a little bit and play different sports in school's gym. Along with their guides they could do various exercises, starting with football and ending with chess. As the time passed the contestants were out of space in our little gym, so they've decided to play football outside. Other part was inside playing volleyball along with some adventurous ping-pong players, which were threatened by high-speed volleyball smashes :). There was one injury, but it was quickly handled by our staff. Sport is tough, injuries are a part of it and contestants are very well determined.

In the evening there was bowling challenge prepared for all of the participants. Everyone was enjoying it, some of them are very talented. We could see on their faces that they are counting all possible angles to hit a strike and win. :) For more information about this competition click here.