



12th
**Central-European
Olympiad in Informatics**
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Hungary



COMENIUS





NewsLetter

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Welcome to Hungary in 2005!

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Welcoming Address of the Central European Olympiad in Informatics

by Dr Bálint Magyar, Minister of Education
of the Republic of Hungary



Dear Students, Teachers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me welcome all the participants of the Central European Olympiad in Informatics in Sárospatak. I am happy that Hungary has taken again the opportunity to host this contest and to present itself to the participants from thirteen Euro-

pean countries. We are really proud to offer this historic venue and hope you will keep this Olympiad in your memory for a long time.

The idea of this event comes from the realization that competence in using and mastering the most advanced information technology is crucial to the strength of our economy and society. On the one hand, I think, this motivates people to become familiar with information technology since it will be of great importance in one's success in life. On the other hand, it is also a great challenge for all of us since we have to keep up with the increasing speed of development in this field of science.

Pupils from different parts of Europe are meeting for the 12th time to take part in contests, exchange experiences, and put further their personal development. They are discovering the possibilities of informatics and expanding their knowledge and their creativity. The great willingness and ability with which all the participants approach this challenge deserve our respect and recognition. The task is made even more difficult by the fact that the participants have

by Kálmán Kovács, Minister of Informatics and
Communications of the Republic of Hungary

I feel greatly honoured to welcome you, all the participants of the 12th Central European Olympiad in Informatics (CEOI 2005) held here, in Hungary. Between July 28th and August 4th, teams from thirteen countries will try their programming skills in Sárospatak, which has been considered an acropolis of Hungarian edu-

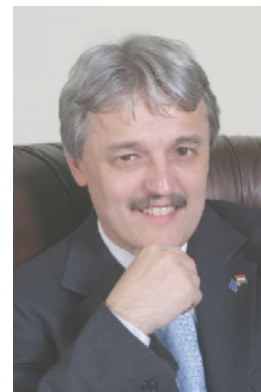
cation for nearly 500 years.

Just a few years have passed in the 21st century, but it seems obvious that this will be the century of information technology. Some decades after John von Neumann laid the theoretical bases of computer technology, we can now see the overwhelming speed with which computers invade our offices and homes. No less rapid is the rate at which information technology changes our economy and society. Knowledge, especially knowledge of information technology has become more important than ever before.

Victory in this century's economic and social competition will be secured by those countries that are capable of quickly and efficiently utilising the advantages of the sudden rapid evolution in technology, and modernise their economies on the basis of such knowledge.

On the other hand, the above holds true for the individual, as well, as the key to success is no longer origin or inherited wealth, but individual ability and knowledge acquired.

The Olympiad in Informatics is a great op-





to compete

Continuation of the letter by Bálint Magyar

not only with each other but with the steady growth of information technology as well.

Informatics, however, is not only factual knowledge but a common language that connects people, countries as well as continents. I therefore hope that all the participants will make new friends, despite the competition, and will be able to thoroughly enjoy these days in Sárospatak.

I wish you all success, and I hope that you will gain new personal and professional experiences while enjoying the hospitality of our country. Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all the organizers and coaches for their commitment.

Dr Bálint Magyar

Continuation of the letter by Kálmán Kovács

portunity for you to assess your programming skills in an international arena.

However, remember that this Olympiad is only a game and I am convinced that this competition will have more than just one or two winners; all the participants will win, since the knowledge and experience you acquire here will make you of value in the labour market of any country, which in turn will help you become successful in our globalizing world.

Keeping all the above in mind, I wish you all an enjoyable and good competition.

Kálmán Kovács

Letter of Welcome by Dr Gábor Jánosdeák



Dear Guests,

Welcome to Sárospatak (which is also called the Athens of the River Bodrog). It gives us great pleasure to host for this noble competition of students.

Sárospatak being an old school-town has always been open to everything that is new in the fields of education and science.

Our pride Árpád Vezér Grammar School and Students' Hostel, which that was founded twelve years ago soon became famous both in Hungary and abroad. Talent spotting, language teaching and computer studies are of high priority for the school.

Our fast world is full of challenges. Some types of science like Informatics are part of our everyday lives and the future generations would hardly succeed without them.

Who knows how many of the students who are only 'trying their wings' will become professionals in the field of Informatics. Life has taught us many times that a thing that only exists virtually today can become the reality of the future.

I wish that you all receive nice personal experiences here.

Dr Gábor Jánosdeák, Mayor of Sárospatak



Olympiads in Hungary

Hungary has a long tradition in organising scientific contests for secondary school students, in most school subjects including mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, history, foreign languages, or most recently, in informatics. Our students are active and successful participants of international student competitions from their very beginnings.

Most recently, we mentioned above, hence if we compare the world history of computer technology to the history of our national olympiad in informatics, the so called “Tihamér Nemes” National Contest, you will find it has a rather long history. Our first national informatics contest was held in 1985. Today, the contest is organised in three categories for primary and secondary school students in the age groups 10—14, 15—16 and 17—19, and in three rounds (firstly, at school, then on the regional, and finally on the national level). Annually, the total number of participants is about 5000 in the first round, and about 180 in the final.

Hungary hosted the 2nd and the 8th Central European Olympiad in Informatics (1995, Szeged, 11 countries, and 2001, Zalaegerszeg, 13 countries) and the 8th International Olympiad in Informatics (1996, Veszprém, 60 countries).

The Host City of CEOI 2005 Sárospatak



The formulation and development of the town was very much influenced by its natural environment. It lies at the meeting point of the mountains (Eperjes-Tokaj volcanic range) and the northern continuation of the Great Plane, on the river Bodrog, which separates but at the same time connects the various geographical regions.

According to the findings, the area has been continuously populated since the arrival of the Magyars into the Carpathian Basin.

In the middle of the 11th century King Andrew I made the town the centre of the royal forests since hunting in the area was his favourite pastime, and also because his wife Anastasia of Kiev liked spending her time here, near her home country.

The medieval town was a one street settlement. On the spindle-shaped square there stood the parish church which was later reconstructed and extended several times, and was transformed into a late-Gothic hall church. It has been restored in this style.

The castle with its defense structure is one of Hungary’s most valuable monuments, part of our national heritage. Between 1534 and 1537 were built a residential tower in late Renaissance style and a new wing to the castle.

