



**IOI 2018 JAPAN**  
TSUKUBA, IBARAKI

**30<sup>th</sup>** International Olympiad in Informatics 2018  
September 1 - 8, 2018 Tsukuba, Ibaraki

**Vol.2** Sunday, September 2, 2018

On Sunday morning the Main Hall of the Tsukuba International Congress Center was packed with an enthusiastic and excited audience - several hundred Olympiad contestants representing 87 countries with their leaders, VIPs and officials, volunteers, and representatives from the many sponsoring and supporting organizations, (numbering more than 60 this year). After a dynamic and futuristic video roll to set the tone of the event - in a word "euphoric" - the audience was greeted by the on-screen CG character IA, the event's virtual Ambassador, and her sister ONE (pronounced Oh-nei). The two are so-called Virtual Artists - existing only in the digital world. IA then gave a 'live' performance of the official theme song for IOI 2018, "Euphoria". After the ecstatic applause subsided, IOI President Greg Lee took the podium to open the Olympiad. He was impressed by the hi-tech entertainers just witnessed and invited leaders "to learn to sing and dance like IA within this week". Besides wishing contestants a great contest, he urged everyone to make new friends. "This contest is only for 1 week but friendships last forever". Next, Japan Chair for IOI 2018, Mr. Furukawa welcomed all "the highly talented" contestants to this 30th Olympiad "the first to be held in Japan". He reminded everyone that "IT is key to ensure future progress in society" requesting the young and gifted Olympians to "lead the next generation information society". Governor Oigawa of Ibaraki Prefecture then welcomed everyone to Ibaraki and the most prominent science city in

Japan. He invited all "to expand your network and, after the event, utilize your talent and skills to overcome difficulties such as world climate change". Tsukuba Mayor Igarashi expressed both the honor that he felt to host IOI, and its significance to Tsukuba's mission. "I believe we are here to contribute to humankind through science and technology". He also emphasized the need for a sustainable world driven by youngsters like IOI's contestants "In history, change and innovation are always brought by the younger generation", he said. "Let's make the world a better place together". President Nagata of the University of Tsukuba, referencing his university's international student body, stressed the need to understand cultural diversity so as to better solve global issues, in particular "health and welfare, social security, and environmental sustainability." Lastly, Mr. Hayashi, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, re-enforcing the previous comments, also urged everyone to "transcend the walls of language and culture to forge long-term friendships."

All 87 country teams, seated around the hall, were then introduced, each group waving to camera excitedly when their country name was called, their varied personalities apparent on the huge video screen. Some were a little shy and nervous, others the very opposite. Some cheered, some hugged, some took a bow - but all applauded vigorously. Several teams had created their own T-shirts, some wore impressive uniforms. Many flags were waved while Croatia and Mexico sported some

dramatic hats. Japan, presented at the end, received a huge round of applause. All this showed that, while we celebrate our cultural uniqueness, we are part of a collective unity - a warm hearted illustration of the words from IA's song "we are standing in the same world, and heading for the same future". After a welcome video, edited by students from Tsukuba University, the ceremony closed with an energetic musical dance by girls from Meikei High School.

## IOI 2018's Virtual Ambassador:

IA is a Japanese virtual artist, a humanoid persona voiced by a singing synthesizer built upon real-life voice samples. IA was 'born' in 2012 and appears at live concerts as an animated projection. In the last 2 years she has made a world tour of 12 cities.

**IA Special Message:** To all the participants coming from the 87 countries. This is IA, the Ambassador of this competition sending you this message of support! Do your best and good luck! I also hope that you can go back to your country with a nice memory of Japan through the many people you met here! Again: good luck and do your best!



# Sunday's Schedule September 2, 2018

Time	Contestants	Leaders	Guest
06:10~	Transfer By Bus (KEK → NITS)		
06:30-08:30	Breakfast 6:30-8:00	Breakfast 7:00-9:00	Breakfast 7:00- (Each Hotel)
08:30-09:00	Transfer by Bus		
09:00-09:30	Cloak	Transfer on foot	
09:30-10:00	Entering the Opening Ceremony Hall		
10:00-11:30	Opening Ceremony (Main Convention Hall)		
11:30-12:00	(Leave the hall)		
12:00-13:00	Lunch Box (Multi-Purpose-Hall and Conference Room101.102)	Lunch Box (Main Convention Hall)	Lunch Box (Main Convention Hall)
13:00-13:30		GA Meeting 1: Competition Rules (Convention Hall 300)	
13:30-14:00	Entering Contest Hall		
14:00-16:00	Practice Session		
16:00-17:30	Free Time	GA Meeting 2: Discussing Practice Session	Departure from TICC@13:30 Guest Excursion Mt. Tsukuba (Transfer by Bus)
17:30-18:00	Leaders-Contestants Discussion		
18:00-19:30	Dinner 18:00-19:30	Dinner 18:00-19:30 (Multi-Purpose-Hall and Conference Room101.102)	
19:30~	Entering Contest Hall	GA Meeting 3: Task Selection and Translation	Free Time

TICC : Tsukuba International Congress Center TSUKUBA CAPIO NITS Excursion

## Why Japan Loves Informatics and IOI:

IOI 2018 Chair Kazuo Furukawa sat down with the newsletter team to reflect on the significance of hosting IOI. Here are some excerpts from his comments.

While Japan was known as an information giant, it had never hosted an IOI. But this had to change - it became more important to give young people dreams to follow and for Japan to activate its future development. This is why Japan wanted to host IOI originally. Back then Mr. Furukawa thought his job would end after the invitation and bidding stage, but he was pleased to have been asked to Chair the organizing committee.

He referred to the need to compete with the now highly America-centric IT world of "GAFA" platformers (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon), all strong on added-value. Yet they were once only small start-up companies. In Japan by comparison, the IT community has always been run by the major corporations, which has hampered its start-ups. Japan has also not been blessed with an education system that nurtures genius, whereas to compete successfully, Japan must develop its brightest young talent.

While recognizing that it was a great achievement for a top-ranking Japanese contestant to win first place at IOI 2017 in Iran, Chair Furukawa noted that it should not be seen as a one-off 'end' because Japan intends to constantly produce excellent talent. To do this it is important that the education system be focused beyond average students and seek to expand its top talent. He expressed the hope that, with the help of media generated by IOI 2018, a movement towards this goal will be started and one that will grow.

Clearly there will be a lot more pressure for the Japan team this year but Chair Furukawa hopes they will enjoy it while doing their best at the same time. And, of course, he wishes the same for all contestants.

### Today's Guest

Chair of the Host  
Organizing Committee:  
Kazuo Furukawa



## Places to Visit

### Tsukuba Shrine:

Today the IOI guests visited Tsukuba Shrine and its mountain. This Shinto shrine, attached to the sacred Mount Tsukuba, boasts 3000 years of history and was founded in the 7th century. The mountain's characteristic two-peaked form supposedly represent Izanagi and Izanami, the god and goddess whose union gave birth to Japan itself. There are shrines on both the eastern and western peaks and the main Tsukuba Shrine is at the foot of the southern face. The shrine reputedly grants divine favor on men and women wanting to marry, so visitors come to receive a blessing which will help them find a soulmate. The shrine sells fortunes, amulets, and wishing stones to help the process.



Guest Excursion

### Tsukuba Science City:

Tsukuba is situated in the southwestern part of Ibaraki Prefecture in the Kanto Region of Japan, just north of Tokyo. Tsukuba is known as an educational and science city with its own university, over 300 research institutions and the official headquarters of Japan's space research program. None of this, however, existed until a few decades ago. Before a 1963 urban development project the Tsukuba area was mainly a flat landscape of farmland and paddy fields. To the north of the city rises Mount Tsukuba, 877m (2,877 ft) which is often paired with Mount Fuji for its great beauty, and to the east is Lake Kasumigaura - Japan's second largest lake. Both are within the boundaries of the Suigo-Tsukuba Quasi-National Park.

