



CATALYZER

Journal of the 35th International Chemistry Olympiad

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Editorial

While scientific Committee and mentors are busy with the assessment and arbitration procedure, students enjoy a morning walk on the sacred rock of Acropolis above the picturesque alleys of Plaka. *Ce la vie!*

In this issue, Assist. Prof. Panayiota Moutevelis-Minakakis on behalf of the scientific Committee, keeps the interest on the theoretical tasks by explaining the philosophy behind the selection of the organic chemistry questions.

Moreover, Mr Shinji Shimizu honors our newsletter by granting a mini interview. Mr Shinji Shimizu is a journalist, who came to our country to cover the 35th IChO, on behalf of Seikyo Shimbun, a big Japanese newspaper. This is why his opinion is of great importance.

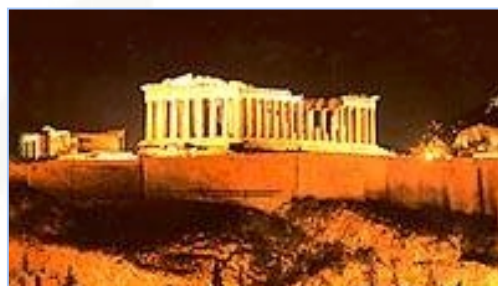
Finally, a page full of photos is dedicated to all our friends, who did not have the opportunity to enjoy their pictures in the previous issues.

ΓΝΩΘΙ ΣΑΥΤΟΝ

To know yourself

This proverb was graven at the pronaos of Apollo's temple at Delphi. It is said that these words belong to Thallis the Militian or Hilon the Lacedemonian two of the seven wise men of Ancient Greece.

**“Just a perfect day...”
(exams are over!)**



Some more comments from a member of the Scientific Committee

Our major goal, as far as the organic chemistry tasks are concerned, was to give students the opportunity to answer the questions using creativity and imagination.

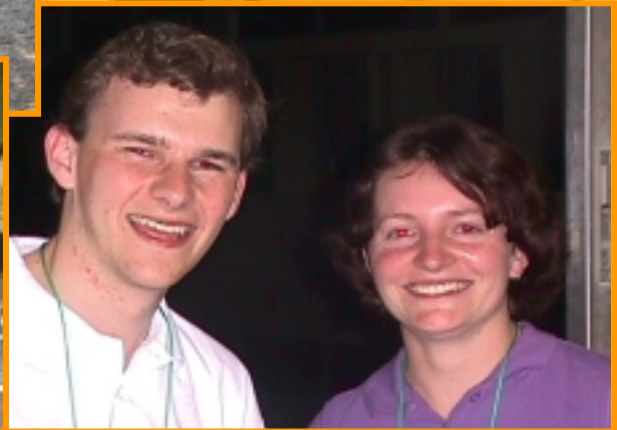
It is for this reason that we preferred questions on stereochemistry, which require students to imagine molecules in space.

This is, after all, the quintessence of organic chemistry.

Students should not use rote learning, but they should use critical thinking.

**Panayiota Moutevelis-Minakakis
Assist. Professor, Department of Chemistry, NKUA**

PHOTO ALBUM



FROM A REPORTER'S POINT OF VIEW



Shinji Shimizu
Overseas correspondent for Europe
of *Seikyo Shimbun* (Tokyo)

Please tell us the purpose of your presence in our country.

I am a Japanese journalist, overseas correspondent for Europe of one of the biggest Japanese newspapers. The 35th IChO Organising Committee kindly gave me the opportunity to take some photos and interviews, covering this event, because the IChO is not well known to the Japanese people. It is the first time that Japan takes part in this competition and the Japanese general public is very interested in the Olympiad. The Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Mr Petros Efthymiou, encouraged the Japanese representative students after the Opening Ceremony. So, I am very happy that for the first time Japanese students, who are very capable and responsible for the future of Japan, have this splendid opportunity to be here in Greece together with such excellent students from all over the world. This is what I want to transmit to Japanese journalists to be published in a couple of days.

Would you like to tell us a few words for the whole organisation of the 35th IChO?

First of all, it is very well organised in terms of hospitality. Greek guides, who are warm-hearted

and very kind gave me in details the atmosphere of friendship and trust among the students in the camp. Students are very happy to be here and you are very friendly welcoming all of them. This opportunity should be continued next year and even one hundred years more. Mr Efthymiou reported to us that this is the best opportunity for students to create world peace and mutual understanding in the future. I appreciated publishing the photo of the Japanese delegation.

Why didn't Japan participate earlier?

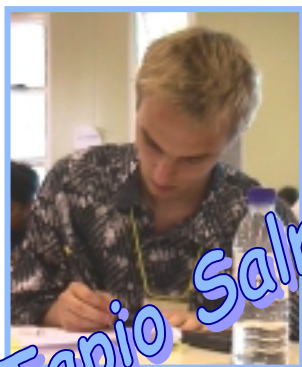
There is high competition to enter the University. The high school has to limit the quantity of knowledge needed for the Entrance Examinations. Students enroll in the University in April, so they do not have the time to prepare themselves for the Olympiad. It is really a challenge for the Japanese students, because they have to do two things: preparation for the University exams and at the same time for the Olympiad.

Do you think a gold medal is possible for Japan?

I don't know, because the Asian countries, Taiwan, China, Korea, are so excellent. The Japanese people respect their capacity and also this is really a start for the Japanese students.

We would like to hear your opinion about "Catalyzer", since we are not professionals.

On the contrary, I really want to learn from you. There are two things in general: Does what I want to write coincides to what people really feel? This combination of feelings, being united between the person who writes and the person who is interviewed. Heart-to-heart communication makes the article alive and maybe the photos do the same. But it is sometimes very difficult to write what people really want to read. But we should have a philosophy very firm and a clear point of view and sometimes to encourage people to make some very positive comments for themselves, but finally it depends on ourselves. In this sense this "Catalyzer", in terms of the alive atmosphere you are transmitting, is very good and the photos are also vivid. I am very impressed!



Tapio Salminen



Henry Bittig

Happy Birthday!

Students

Program of the day

Mentors

8:00-9:00 Breakfast at SC

9:00 Coaches depart for return to Athens

10:30-12:30 Visit to Acropolis

12:30 Return to President Hotel for check-in

13:30 Lunch

15:00-20:00 Free afternoon

20:00-21:00 Dinner at Hotel

8:00-9:00 Breakfast at Hotel

9:00-12:00 1st session of Arbitration
Mezzo: President Hotel

9:00 Free time to explore the Acropolis (including lunch in Plaka) for 2nd and 3rd Arbitration

12:00 1st group of Arbitration free time (including lunch in Plaka)

14:00-16:00 2nd session of Arbitration
Mezzo: President Hotel

16:00-19:00 3rd session of Arbitration
Mezzo: President Hotel

20:00-21:00 Dinner at Hotel

21:00-23:00 3rd Jury Meeting:
Allocation of Medals

Quiz

N I C H O L A S is a common name in many countries. Eighteen elements are "hidden" in it. Can you find them?

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