

Petya Doychinova, Secretary of the Municipality of Plovdiv:

Everyone will make memories of a lifetime



Atanasov will host a formal dinner on 13 August in the Paldin Restaurant.

- What about getting around?

- All contestants and guests have badges with their photos and the IOI logo. These badges, when shown to the ticket inspectors, will serve as a free ride pass on the Plovdiv public transport network. The Municipality has arranged with the transport companies not to require tickets from the badge holders.

- What mementos will the participants take back home to remind them of Plovdiv?

- There will be gifts and souvenirs for everyone. We did a survey with students from the Mathematical School in Plovdiv asking them what makes an interesting gift. We took into account their views in choosing the gifts. Most teenagers suggested a gift in cash and a web camera, while others put forward a camera, a laptop, an excursion, an MP3 player, a TV set, and school appliances.

- You were the Municipality representative who received the IOI flag last year in Cairo where the 20th edition took place.

- It was an honour for me. When I received the flag, I made a presentation of Bulgaria and Plovdiv to raise the awareness of the next host. I even played some Rodopi tunes and low-tuned bagpipes (*kaba gaidi*) which enchanted all people present in the hall. During the Closing Ceremony at the Antique Amphitheatre, Stundzhi & Elitsa will perform and we will hand over the flag to the next host from Canada. The Municipality has also made arrangements for the video recording of the most interesting moments during the days of the competition. I believe that we will help everyone make memories of a lifetime. I am happy that our guests will get a feeling of Plovdiv as a city with a millennial history.

- Mrs. Doychinova, what surprises has Plovdiv to offer the Olympians?

- In addition to making the arrangements for the performers at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the Municipality has taken good care of the entertainment for the participants, guests and observers at this highly reputable event. We have prepared tours of the Ancient Plovdiv Architectural and Historic Reserve with guides speaking Russian, English, German, French, and Spanish. The guests will visit the most remarkable houses and the museums in the Old Town. Especially appealing will be the trip to Starosel where they will visit the Thracian Cult Centre discovered by the Prof. Georgi Kitov, and then the adults will enjoy some wine tasting at the Starosel Winery. During the free days when there are no competitions, the youngsters will have fun at the Aqua Park and at the "Lauta" Karting Track. On Monday and Wednesday evenings, we have organized discos in the garden of the Hotel Novotel Plovdiv where the participants will meet informally and socialize. For the VIP-guests and for the Organizing Committee, Mayor Slavcho

“What a surprise to learn in November of 1991 that an international Olympiad in computer problem solving had been taking place in Europe for three years and that the United States had never participated! I became aware of the competition the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI)

from a colleague in South Africa. Later I learned that the idea for the IOI had grown out of the 24th session of the General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris in October, 1987. UNESCO had also been the driving force behind the International Olympiads in Mathematics and the Natural Sciences.

My friend gave me the e-mail address of Dr. Peter

Heyderhoff, who was the managing director of IOI'92, so I sent off a request for more information. Peter was delighted to see that the U.S. might be interested in participating, and he quickly e-mailed the information I requested.:

I was especially happy that two of the U.S. team members had won a gold medal on our first try.