Chile's team: Life here is just like in Santiago

Life here is no different from the life in Santiago. This is the conclusion of the boys on the Chilean team after a three-day stay in Plovdiv. They knew nothing about Bulgaria before they came here, except the fact that John Atanasov is the inventor of the electronic digital computer. And, naturally, their leader is Bulgarian. It is Alexander Tchobanov who made it possible for Chile to have their own team and take part in IOI for 7 years now.

Rene Tapia, Jurgen Haysen and Francisco Hernandes go to a state school. They started preparing for the Olympiad as early as last year. Alexander looked for prospective Olympians and trained them on his own.

„They encounter with informatics came about as late as in their 10th class and therefore we cannot expect too high achievements of them. Despite the short time for training, I believe they will do well. It is my ambition to establish a school after the model of the Mathematical School in Bulgaria. Bulgaria is num-ber one among EU countries in terms of the number of students enrolled at the prestigious technology universities," explains Tchobanov. He was behind Chile's joining the Olympiad in 2002. His major job, however is not in education, but in electronic engineering. He has worked as a general manager for a company assembling Packard Bell computer systems.

A foundation is to make a replica of the first electronic digital computer by John Atanasov - ABC

A replica of the first electronic digital computer by John Atanasov - ABC is the first project to be implemented by the Mathematicians, Informaticians, and Cyberneticians Without Borders Foundation. The newly established organization has been registered in Chile by Alexander Tchobanov. The Bulgarian computer expert has been living there for 10 years now. The replica will be made after the computer at the University of Iowa where Atanasov invented it while working as a professor.

The major goal of this organization will be to support Latin American countries that have their established and well prepared teams, but financial reasons prevent them from taking part in IOI. The countries who wish to join the Foundation will be eligible for financing. Raising funds will mainly be focused on companies involved in the production of computer equipment and software.

Discussion