

## Mourn the Loss of Lionel Hartmann

Zide Du, the President of IOI

March 2nd, 2006

Mr. Lionel Hartmann, the former Executive Director of the IOI, an intimate friend of all the people of IOI community, passed away on February 24 of 2006 in Cape Town, on behalf of International Committee and all members of General Assembly of the IOI, I'd like to express my deepest grief to his death. I'd also like to transfer sincere condolence and sympathy from my wife and daughter.

I knew him on IOI97 in Cape Town, that was the first time for me to participate in the IOI and IC meeting. I learnt that it was Lionel who requested President Nelson Mandela to give the message to the IOI: "Young people are very close to my heart. Our investment in them is our investment in the future." That was just the start for the IOI host countries' presidents to send the congratulation messages. Under the leadership of Lionel, IOI97 got almost all money from the market, that was a very successful case in organizing the IOI mainly by marketing, he set a good example for the all IOI successors. This was the first lesson of IOI I learnt.

After IOI97, Lionel had been pursuing the reformation of the IOI. In 2000, he proposed GA to set a position of Executive Director and to practise IOI registration fee systems, his proposals got passed. That was an important milestone in IOI development. On the IC meeting in Beijing, he was elected as the first term of ED, and continued his second term in 2003. On IOI2005, the GA decided to set the position of president, he thought that would be another turning point to develop the IOI, because the responsibilities for IOI will clearly be taken by the president, and the corresponding power will also be authorized to this position. As the ED, he was looking forward to cooperating with the new elected president and pushing the IOI forward together.

In additional to the IOI, he was also eager to the regional Olympiads, he went to Egypt, to India and other places, to encourage the students in undeveloped countries to participated in the IOI and to learn computer science.

After IOI2005, he went to the hospital for the regular health checking, but he was found he got very serious tumour, he was not allowed to travel any more. This news shocked me and other IC colleagues, we all expected him to come back to the IOI family again. I had been planning to go to Cape Town to see him, we emailed to each other and I phoned him from time to time. He told me that he hoped me live with them when I went to South Africa, so as to be convenient to discuss the IOI and its future. He also told me that he had many new ideas to exchange with me.

Because of the IOI workshop in Germany, I postponed my agenda to Cape Town and

I asked Lionel to fax me a new invitation letter for getting visa. I received his last fax dated Jan 22nd 2006, inviting me to pay a visit to him from February 16-26, however, unfortunately, my visa to South Africa was not ready yet, he left us... .. I regret for missing the time to meet him.

In IOI family, Lionel played an important role and is a significant person. He had been dedicating himself to the IOI in past more than ten years, he made outstanding contributions to the IOI. Lionel was kind to everybody, he loved to answer all questions from fresh countries and all participants and help them. He had extraordinary warmth of personality and beauty of character, he left very deep impression upon all who met him. As the result, he had most friends in the IOI community.

In past several days, all IOI colleagues mourned over his death with deep sorrow, yearned for all he did in his life for the IOI, for the people, and for this world. We all will miss him extremely. He will live in our hearts forever.

May you rest in peace, Lionel, my friend!