

Caucasus Mathematical Olympiad

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On 13–18 March 2017, Maykop (Republic of Adyghea, Russian Federation) hosted the Second Caucasus Mathematical Olympiad (an International Olympiad for secondary school students).

The first Olympiad was held in the 2015–16 academic year at the “Sirius” Educational Centre (Sochi, Russia), with students participating from 15 regions of Southern Russia.

It was only in 2017 that the Caucasus Mathematical Olympiad accomplished its original intention, bringing together school students and representatives of various regions of Southern Russia and becoming international. From 15 southern regions of Russia and countries of the South Caucasus: Armenia, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia, 110 students took part in the Olympiad.

The creators of the Olympiad set the humanistic objective of contributing to the formation of a unified cultural and educational space, which would unite regions of Southern Russia, the Caucasus and countries from the Black Sea region, and strengthening ties between school students keen on mathematics from these regions. One of the main goals of the Olympiad is to prepare students for the final stages of the National Olympiads in the participating countries.

The Coordination Council oversaw the development of the Olympiad and its preparation. The Coordination Council of the Olympiad included Daud Mamiy, initiator of the Olympiad, Nazar Agahanov, member of the Coordination Council of the International Mathematical Olympiad, and Nikolai Andreev, Head of the Laboratory of Popularization and Promotion of Mathematics of the Steklov Mathematical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In 2017, the members of the central committee of the Russian Mathematical Olympiad responsible for subject-specific methods of teaching formed the Problem Selection Committee of the Olympiad. Pavel Kozhevnikov served as the Chairman of the Problem Selection Committee. Kozhevnikov himself was a Gold Medallist of the International Mathematical Olympiad in 1992 (currently he is at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Laboratory of Popularization and Promotion of Mathematics of the Steklov Mathematical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences).

The Jury of the Caucasus Mathematical Olympiad consisted of members of the Jury of the Russian Mathematical Olympiad, who were previous winners of Russian and International Olympiads.

The Olympiad was held in two age groups: Junior League for students of Grades 8–9 and Senior League for students of Grades 10–11 (last two years of high school). The Coordination Council invited the winners of the regional and final rounds of the national Mathematical Olympiads of the participating countries to enter the

competition. The Olympiad was held over two rounds in which the participants were asked to solve four problems.

The organisers tried to create an atmosphere that realised the intent of the Olympiad; the entire programme aimed to create a friendly and creative atmosphere. The organisers provided consultants who discussed and reviewed the problems of the previous rounds with the delegations from any regions where the level of mathematical training is not high enough.

In the evenings, volunteers from Maykop schools and students of Adyghe State University organised guitar and music concerts. Without doubt, the Olympiad participants and the members of the jury enjoyed the informal gatherings, where they talked about the problems, their preparation for Olympiads and anything else that was of interest.

The programme of the Olympiad was also designed to introduce the guests of Adyghea to the local history, culture and traditions. The contestants visited the National Museum of the Republic of Adyghea and the Northern Caucasus branch of the State Museum of Oriental Art, travelled to the foothills of the Western Caucasus, attended lectures on the history and culture of a local ethnic group called Circassians and became familiar with Circassian cuisine. Every night, dancers from the Dance Ensemble “Nart” of Adyghe State University taught everybody who was interested how to dance Caucasian dances.

The members of the Coordination Council were very involved during the Olympiad, attending numerous meetings with teachers of mathematics, university students and schoolchildren from almost all districts of the Republic of Adyghea. Schoolteachers gathered at roundtables to discuss problems of student training for Olympiads. Teachers also attended lectures on how to engage students in mathematics, while young mathematics enthusiasts had the chance to attend lectures on popular mathematics that were taking place in all districts of the Republic of Adyghea for three days.

The Olympiad events were updated on its website (<http://cmo.adygmth.ru/en>) and on the social network “VKontakte” (<https://vk.com/cmo.adygmth>). Volunteer students of Adyghe State University formed the press centre for the Olympiad and uploaded more than 1000 photos (<http://cmo.adygmth.ru/node/31>) of the most interesting moments of the Olympiad, as well as short videos and dozens of posts.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympiad were very impressive and reflected the diversity of the cultures of people living in the Caucasus. It is not a coincidence that the closing ceremony ended with a song “Our Caucasus”, beautifully performed by the soloists of the Adyghe State University musical theatre “Art Rhyton”. The Olympiad closing ceremony was held in the Main Hall of the State Philharmonic of Adyghea.

