

Report of Inspection visit – Warsaw 28.5.19

A tour of accommodation took place on the morning of 28.5.19 followed by a meeting with representatives of the LOC. A range of topics were discussed in a frank and open manner.

1. Arrival Day

JB pointed out the need for a focal point for teams arriving at the airport(s) that was easily recognisable as relating to IYPT. Guides and transport must be provided that facilitate quick and efficient transfer to accommodation locations. After initially suggesting that there was still some discussion going on about private as opposed to public transport, it quickly became obvious that public transport was the preferred option. Warsaw provides buses, trams and trains. Participants can be provided with travel tickets that allow easy movement throughout the city. The train (e.g. S2) from the airport is every 30 minutes and takes approx. 20 minutes to get from the airport (Frederic Chopin) into the city. The intention is also to meet participants at Warsaw Modlin airport which is somewhat further from the city.

There will be a 'welcome meal' on the evening of the arrival day (6.7.19) and JB pointed out the early arrivals may need lunch as well.

2. Accommodation

JB was given a tour of the same dormitories that were visited in November 2018. Nothing much has changed. One dormitory block has approximately 12 double rooms with private bathrooms that would be used by team leaders. The question of what accommodation would be provided for team leaders who have paid the fee for single occupancy remains unanswered. Most teams would be in two connected rooms for three students each with a shared bathroom. JB pointed out the need to be sensitive to gender issues as well as not mixing team leaders (e.g. teachers) with students in shared bathrooms. A 3 person room may also be used to accommodate 2 team leaders.

The alternative dormitory block consists entirely of double rooms (or possibly singles) but with shared bathrooms. This is one bathroom per floor serving 25 rooms, which is just about adequate but not ideal. All those staying in dormitories will need to provide their own towels and toiletries.

Both dormitory blocks will have to accommodate an uncertain number of resident students who will be continuing their studies during the summer vacation. From the point of view of security, all rooms are lockable and students will have keys.

All rooms have Ethernet ports to facilitate Internet etc. and all students will have logon credentials. A (slower) wireless facility will also be provided.

Both dormitory blocks are no more than 10 minutes walking distance to the fight rooms and catering facilities.

Jurors, Team Leader Jurors, EC etc. will be in the MDM and Metropol hotels.

3. Catering

All catering will be carried out by an external catering company. All meals will be provided in a large marquee which can sit about 400 people at the same time. The location of the marquee will be adjacent to the fight room building and is currently used for car parking. The university has used this space for the same purpose for other conferences. Food will be served from multiple serveries to minimise queuing and delays. The same catering company will provide coffee and other refreshments throughout the tournament. The catering company will provide a catering manager for the duration of the tournament.

4. The First Day of the Tournament

Much discussion took place about the need for an adequate venue for the opening ceremony etc. JB suggested that neither of the potential venues could provide the necessary capacity (320 and 360 people) or

sufficient staging for the ceremonies. Another auditorium was located with a capacity of 420 and a decent stage. This was booked electronically during the meeting.

5. Dissemination of Information

JB suggested that all locations e.g. dormitories and hotels etc. should have dedicated noticeboards where information can be displayed. The LOC clearly favour doing this via their website. The latter looks very nice but will have to be updated regularly. JB asked about a brochure for the tournament, and after some resistance, it was agreed that it could be printed as well as provided as a pdf on the website. JB explained that the brochure is very useful during the fights to check problem wording, rules, timings and so on. An office will be provided with equipment as requested via the contract.

A simple schedule of the tournament does exist (in Polish so far) and is something like this:

Saturday 6th July – Arrival Day

Sunday 7th July – Opening ceremony, First Round

Monday 8th July – Round 2, half day excursion – Laboratory Tour or City Tour (optional!)

Tuesday 9th July – Rounds 3 and 4

Wednesday 10th July – Round 5 followed by some sort of disco or musical event

Thursday 11th July – Full day excursion to Copernicus Centre, river walk, old city etc.

Friday 12th July – Final and Closing Ceremony

Saturday 13th July – Departure day

Fine details, transport for excursions etc. remain a bit sketchy.

6. Fight Rooms

Fight rooms will be in the design building that we saw in November. JB raised the question of 4-team rooms and the twelfth room. Neither issue seemed to be a problem (room 12 in e.g. Electronics Faculty). Fight rooms would be staffed by volunteer fight assistants who are currently still being recruited. The LOC seemed a bit puzzled as to the function of fight assistants. JB explained. JB also explained the importance of preparing the fight rooms each day and making sure early access was possible.

7. The Final

As previously mentioned, The Final will take place in the same venue as the Opening Ceremony. JB asked about live streaming of the Final and the LOC responded positively. It should not be a problem, apparently.

JB 31.5.19