

1996 iGeo – The Hague, The Netherlands

Participation: 5 teams



Results

Medals

1. Steven Pattheeuws – Belgium
2. Boris Volaric – Slovenia
3. Krzysztof Rosenkiewicz – Poland

Team Ranking (By Score)

1. Poland
2. Slovenia
3. Belgium



Chair Report

This collection of materials of the first International Geography Competition (recently called International Geography Olympiad) is the result of an adventure: an expedition into unknown territory. The idea for this expedition came from colleagues in and around the Commission on Geographical Education of the International Geographical Union. The 28th Geographical Congress of IGU in The Hague, Netherlands, in August 1996 seemed a good moment to carry out this international educational endeavour.

If one does something that has not been done before, it is hard to estimate the workload and the difficulties that lie ahead. Nevertheless, we readily found geographers in education, the commercial sector and in government willing to join or assist us in this experiment. Colleagues from Belgium, Poland, Germany and Slovenia were willing to join us in developing a format for

an international olympiad in Geography. Each and every one contributed to the success of the first International Geography Competition, in spite of the inevitable surprises and difficulties that we encountered during the exploration and mapping out of this new frontier.

We were not unprepared when we embarked on this journey. We drew on the experiences of the national olympiads in geography in the Netherlands and in Poland. We also looked at the organisation and procedures of international olympiads for other school subjects, especially for Informatics, Biology and Chemistry, to see how they fared. This enabled us to chart out a save course for our expedition.

During the evaluation meeting at the end of IGC'96 we concluded that an international geography olympiad for secondary education is feasible. We advised the IGU to continue the project on a bi annual basis. The simultaneous organisation of the IGC and the IGU Congress has turned out to be a good formula. We believe that the IGC can make a valuable contribution to the international discussion about the geography curriculum in secondary education and in teacher training. These aspects need to be explored and developed more.

So, more expeditions are needed in the future to further explore the new found land. We hope that the results of this project provide a solid basis for others to build on in the years to come. The organisers of IGC'96 wish them all the success in the world.

Henk Ankoné

Chairperson of the Organising Committee of ICC'96