

# **Chemistry Olympiad – Mere Competition or Educational Tool?**



**Petr Holzhauser**

**Department of Inorganic chemistry**

**Department of Education and Human Sciences**

**ICT Prague**

**August, 1968**



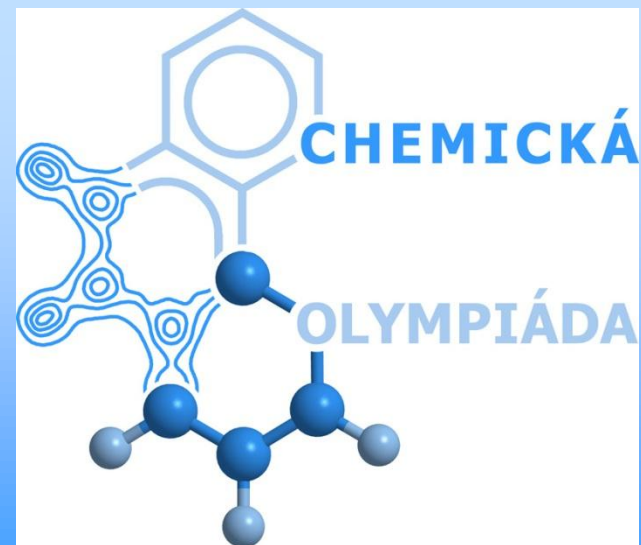
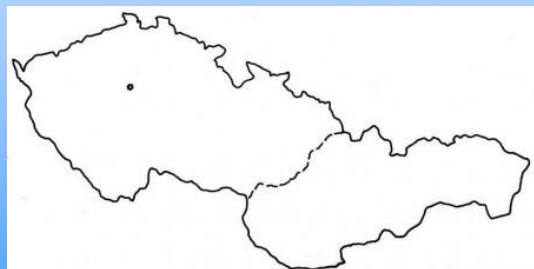
# ChO – beginnings

## Chemistry Olympiad – new competition

- started in 1964
- not all regions
- **2014** – celebration of **50th National Chemistry olympiad**

## International Chemistry Olympiad

- 1968, Czechoslovakia, Prague



# History of IChO

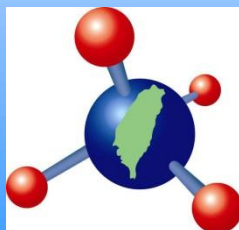
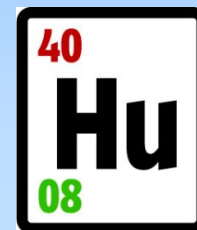
## 1<sup>st</sup> IChO – 1968, former Czechoslovakia

- extension of Czechoslovak state competition
- only 4 years after origination of ChO! (49<sup>th</sup> ChO vs. 45<sup>th</sup> IChO)
- 3 participating countries: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland
- consecutive spreading, political fear and limitations

## 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> IChO – 1977, 1985 Bratislava

## 44<sup>th</sup> IChO – 2012, Washington, USA

- prestigious event
- **283 students, nearly 80 countries**



# IChO – preparatory tasks

- ranging topics for coming IChO
- for the first time in 1972
- beginnings – school level tasks, industrial chemistry

## Difficulty

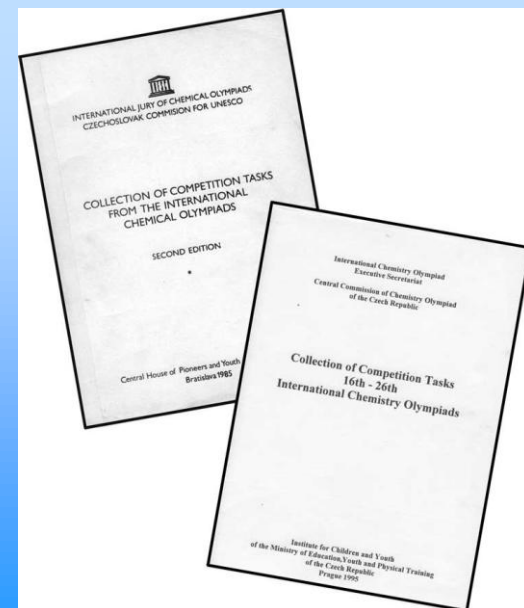
- 2008 Hungary – "**Restructuralized Syllabus**" proposal
- topics 1 – basic, 2 – advanced, 3 – over advanced

## Today's preparatory tasks

- 27 theoretical + 6 practical = 75 pages of text
- translation and distribution to students
- typical topics

## Collections of preparatory tasks

- 1980 Prague-Bratislava – first 10 years
- 1985 Bratislava – first 15 years
- 1996 Prague – 16<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> year



# Preparatory workshops

- **IChO regulations** – maximum of 2 weeks of systematic training

## 1<sup>st</sup> – theoretical

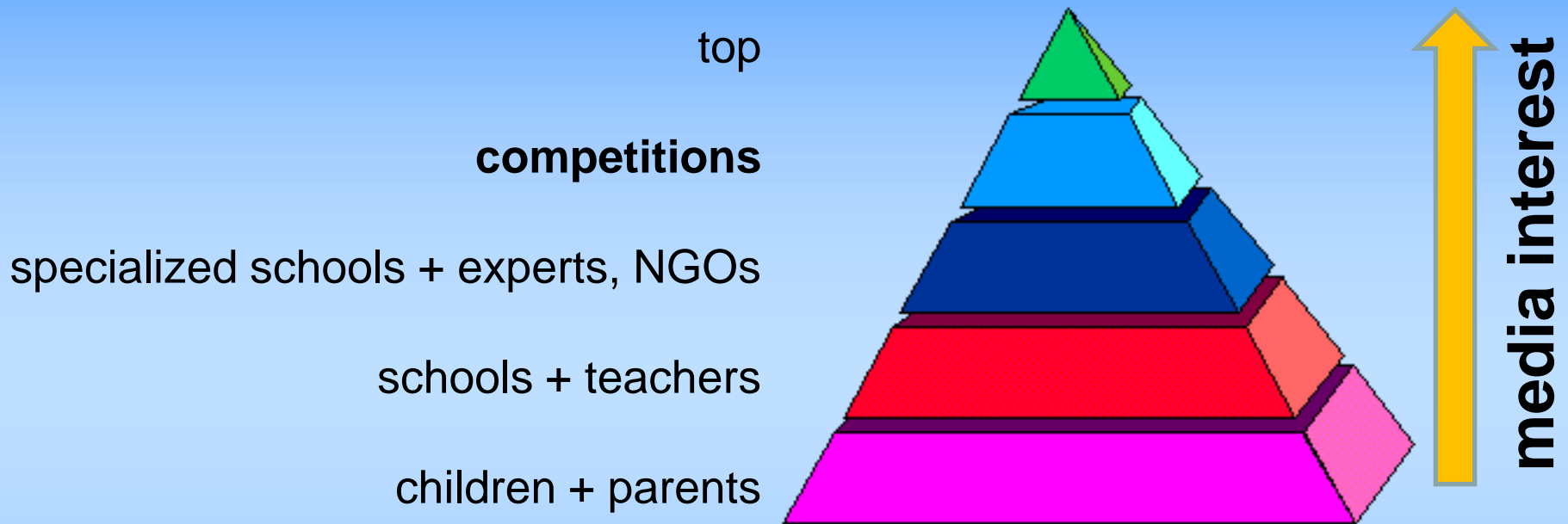
- systematic theoretical training, **16 students**
- from 2004 Conference center of ICT Prague
- one week event
- 8 best students continue

## 2<sup>nd</sup> – theoretical

- systematic practical training, **8 students**
- from 1998 Faculty of Natural Sciences, Charles University, Prague
- one week event
- 4 best students ⇒ **Czech national team**



# Pyramide



## Important points

- efficient lift for gifted students
- existence of **community** in the floor

# Summer camp – Běstvina

- 60 chemists and 60 biologists from ChO and BiO
- two-week event at summer campbase
- key for **origination and evolution of community**



# Summer camp – Běstvína



# Summer camp – Běstvína



# Summer camp – Běstvina



# IChO – results

## Medals

- gold ~ 10 % participants
- silver ~ 20 % participants
- bronz ~ 30 % participants
- Honourable Mention ~ 10 % participants

## 44. IChO, Washington, USA

- 1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronz medal

## Independent Czech Republic (since 1993)

- 12 gold medals
- 25 silver medals
- 27 bronz medals



## Future IChO

- 45. year Russia
- 46. year Viet-nam
- 47. year Spain





**Thank for your attention.**