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Catalyzer

44th International Chemistry Olympiad United States of America

July 17, 2011

Welcome to the 44th IChO! We look forward to your arrival in the USA.



On behalf of President Obama and myself, I send greetings to participants in the 43rd International Chemistry Olympiad, being held this year in Ankara, Turkey.

To the Olympians themselves, who have come from scores of nations around the world, I commend you for your pursuit of one of the most exciting and valuable disciplines in science. Chemistry is the science that turns phys-

ics into biology. It is the science that transforms raw materials into commercial products such as fuels, pharmaceuticals, and building materials, and in doing so powers our economy in countless ways. And it is the science that illuminates how all that grows or is built gets decomposed and recycled, forever giving life a fresh chance to make the most of our world's limited resources.

To your parents, teachers, and other supporters, I send my good wishes as well. Thanks to your patience and generosity, the students competing in Ankara are well along the path to becoming leaders in a field crucial to humanity's ability to meet the grand challenges of the 21st century, including the growing need for fresh drinking water and healthy food; environmentally sustainable energy sources; and new medical treatments and cures.

I encourage everyone associated with this year's Olympiad to continue your efforts to harness the magnificent potential of chemistry and to make our world a more sustainable and healthy place for all. And I look forward to seeing many of you in July 2012, when the United States will be hosting the 44th International Chemistry Olympiad. Best wishes and good luck to you all!

Sincerely,

John P. Holdren, Director
Executive Office of the President
Office of Science and Technology Policy



As president of the 44th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), I am delighted that the 2012 competitions will be held in Washington, DC. The International Chemistry Olympiad is uniquely positioned for celebrating the beauty and cornucopia of chemistry with the best young minds. By intellectually bonding with fellow students from all over the world, they form networks for the future.

Chemistry remains at the very center of scientific endeavor with fundamental contributions in the physical and life sciences. It is fitting that the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, oversees this significant event in a special year — The International Year of Chemistry.

I welcome all of you to the United States and look forward to seeing you in 2012.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ahmed H. Zewail
1999 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
President, 44th IChO, 2012
Linus Pauling Professor of Chemistry
California Institute of Technology



About the United States of America



"I have no other view than to promote the public good, and am unambitious of honors not founded in the approbation of my Country."

—George Washington, 1st American President

"The American, by nature, is optimistic. He is experimental, an inventor and a builder who builds best when called upon to build greatly."

—John F. Kennedy, 35th American President

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

—Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights Advocate

U.S. Geography/Culture: From the cool and remote coastline of Maine to world-class cities like New York and Los Angeles that never sleep, from the wide prairies of America's heartland states, to the towering peaks of the Rocky Mountains, the United States is one of the world's most geographically diverse nations.

Likewise, as the product of more than 500 hundred years of large-scale immigration with more than 308 million people, the U.S. is one of the

world's most ethnically diverse and multi-cultural nations. Founded July 4, 1776, the U.S. is comprised of 50 states and a federal district, Washington, DC.

Visitors to the U.S. are often surprised by the distance between metro centers, favorite historic sites, and popular attractions as the nation spans 3.79 million square miles (9.83 million square kilometers). Forty-eight contiguous states extend across the width of the North American continent from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean; Mexico lies to the south, with Canada to the north. The 49th state, Alaska, is north and west



Top: The Statue of Liberty in New York City, New York. **Above:** Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs, Colorado

of Canada; the archipelago of islands that make up the 50th state, Hawaii, lie 2,500 miles (4,023 kilometers) off the coast of California near the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Climate: Summers vary considerably in the U.S., but late July in Washington, DC, is reliably hot and humid. Expect average temperatures around 88° F (31° C) and bring light clothing. Buildings are generally well air-conditioned, so a light sweater may be handy.

The Space Needle in Seattle Washington

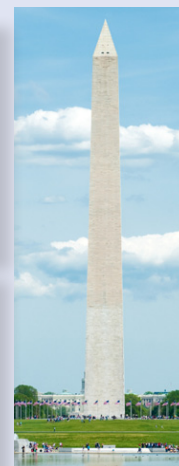
About Washington, DC

The District of Columbia, which is commonly referred to as Washington, "the District," or simply, DC., is the capital of the United States. In addition to being the headquarters for the U.S. government, Washington is home to many of the nation's most famous monuments and museums, including the extensive and varied holdings, known as the Smithsonian, which include: The National Air and Space Museum, the American History Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of Natural History, and the National Gallery of Art, among others. The greater Washington area hosts 174 foreign embassies as well as headquarters of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and many other institutions, universities, lobbying groups, and professional societies.



The American Chemical Society (ACS)

has its headquarters in Washington, with additional offices in Columbus, Ohio. ACS is a nonprofit organization chartered by the U.S. Congress. With more than 163,000 members, ACS is the world's largest scientific society and a global leader in providing access to chemistry-related research



through multiple databases, peer-reviewed journals, and scientific conferences.

A sponsor of the 44th IChO and a key source of professional support, advice, and scholarships and mentoring opportunities for young chemists, ACS welcomes you to Washington!

About the



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

The University of Maryland, College Park, the venue for the theoretical and practical examination, is a major public research university located on 1,250 acres of rolling land on the Baltimore-Washington, DC. corridor.

Founded in 1856, the University of Maryland educates the most talented students from Maryland and beyond. It ranked 12th among all public U.S. universities and 36th worldwide in a recent international survey and was named one of the top 18 “green universities” in the country. UM’s faculty and alumni include



ODK fountain and McKeldin Library



Photos left to right: ACS Hach Building, Smithsonian Castle, White House, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center Science Exhibit



Rub a turtle for luck! Testudo, a Diamondback turtle, is the official mascot for the University of Maryland, and statues of the lucky turtle can be found at three locations: Comcast Center, Cole Student Activities Building, and Byrd Stadium. Rubbing his nose before an exam is one of UM's most enduring traditions, going strong since 1933! Students have also been known to leave the ter-rapin offerings of many kinds: food, soda, poems, candy, coins, even computer disks!

six Nobel laureates: of particular note, Herbert Hauptman who received his Ph.D. in mathematics from UM and won the 1985 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.



In the fall of 2010, 37,595 students were enrolled at UM, 26,876 of which were undergraduate students, including: 74% from Maryland, 17% from other U.S. states and territories, and 9% from other countries. UM embraces diversity and takes advantage of its proximity to Washington, DC., to educate tomorrow's leaders and address global challenges.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is part of the College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences. The College offers every student a high-quality, innovative and cross-disciplinary educational experience. The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry integrates the Biological Sciences with the Physical Sciences and Engineering in research and teaching. As the principal home for biophysics and biochemistry on campus, the department is the link to biology and bioengineering.



The M circle on campus



Exterior of Jeong H. Kim Engineering & Applied Sciences



Aerial view of University of Maryland campus

Tentative Schedule

Date	Students	Mentors, Observers
July 21 Sat	Whole day	Arrivals and Registration
July 22 Sun	morning	Opening Ceremony
	afternoon	Recreation/Excursion
July 23 Mon	night	Free Time
	1st Jury Meeting	
July 24 Tue	Whole day	Excursion
July 25 Wed	morning	Safety Instruction / Practical Exam
	afternoon	Excursion
July 26 Thu	night	Free time
	2nd Jury Meeting	
July 27 Fri	Whole day	Excursion
July 28 Sat	morning	Theoretical Exam
	afternoon	Excursion
July 29 Sun	night	Reunion Party
	Score Marking	
July 30 Mon	morning	Recreation/Excursion
	afternoon	Excursion
July 31 Tue	night	3rd Jury Meeting
	Arbitration	
August 1 Wed	morning	Excursion
	afternoon	Arbitration
August 2 Thu	night	4th Jury Meeting
	Free Time	
August 3 Fri	morning	Free Time
	afternoon	Free Time
August 4 Sat	night	Closing Ceremony
	Banquet – Farewell Party	
August 5 Sun	Whole day	Departures



Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area Airports

Washington Reagan International
Washington Dulles International
Thurgood Marshall Baltimore International



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See you Soon!