

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 2015 International Geography Olympiad, established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Russian Federation, I am pleased to invite your country to send a team to the 12th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo), which will be held in Russia during 11 – 17 August 2015, under the auspices of the International Geography Union (IGU) Olympiad Task Force.

The venue of the Olympiad will be “Computeria”, a youth recreation and educational center in Tver oblast, in Central Russia, 200 km from Moscow (www.computeria.ru). Transfer from main Moscow airports to this site will be provided to all teams for free. Organizers believe that participants of the Olympiad will enjoy being placed in the middle of Central Russia and will be fascinated by the beauty of its natural and cultural landscapes. Closing ceremony and awarding of Olympiad winners will take place on 17 August 2015 at the Lomonosov Moscow State University, where IGU Moscow Regional Conference will be opened on the very same day.

We hope that the Olympiad will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate geographical knowledge and skills of the best students representing your country, to reward the most prominent young geographers of the world, and promote professional and personal relations within worldwide geographical community.

The iGeo competition program consists of three main tests: a written response test, a fieldwork exercise, and a multimedia test. The official language of iGeo is English. All tasks and related materials are written in English, and students must write their answers in English. Students not educated in English get extra time to answer in long tests, may use bilingual dictionaries and are provided with translations of key terms used in the tasks in their country’s official language. For more information about the tests, please see the Guidelines for Tests at www.geoolympiad.org.

Each team will include four secondary school students between 16 and 19 years old (inclusive) on 30 June 2015. Students must be selected through a national geography competition. They will be accompanied by two adult team leaders who are involved in geographical education in their country, and who can write and speak English. One of the team leaders must be fluent enough in English and experienced in evaluation of assignments to mark students’ written answers to the tests. For more details, please see the Statutes at www.geoolympiad.org.

Countries are responsible for their own travel, visas and insurance. In addition, a contribution of 285 Euro per person (for each student and team leader) is payable as a contribution to local expenses. The deadline for the fee payment is 20 May 2015. The payment should be done through the iGeo-2015 website at www.igeo2015.com, or via bank transfer.

As well, as the tests, the Olympiad program includes poster presentations and a cultural function. Details of these will be sent to participating countries.

During the Olympiad we will offer excursions to historical places and natural features of Tver oblast, including source of Volga river, as well as a city tour of Moscow.

After the Olympiad, an optional 6-day post-iGeo fieldtrip to Novgorod and Saint-Petersburg may be arranged, if enough countries are interested. More information on the post-iGeo fieldtrip will be available on our website later.

If you need a formal written invitation to the 12th International Geography Olympiad, please email us the name, position and address (postal or email address or fax) of the person to whom this letter should be sent.

Countries applying for the Olympiad should send the attached **application form** to the official email address of the 2015 Olympiad Organizing Committee: igeo2015russia@gmail.com. Alternatively, send it to the fax number or postal address shown below for the 2015 Committee.

The deadline for submission of the application form is 15 January 2015. Countries which participated in the 2013 or 2014 Olympiads will automatically be accepted. Decision on acceptance of other teams will be taken and announced by 20 February 2015.

Queries about the 2015 iGeo should be emailed to igeo2015russia@gmail.com. If you have general queries about iGeo, for instance about eligibility, those should go to the Task Force Co-Chair, Ms. Kathryn Berg, at kathberg1@gmail.com. For more details on the International Geography Olympiad please also refer to the iGeo official website at www.geoolympiad.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to the iGeo in Russia in 2015.



Dr. Alexey Naumov

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