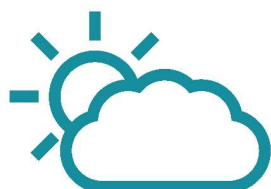


Catalyzer 18/07

International Chemistry Olympiad, Zurich, Switzerland

18 July 2023

Today's Weather



27°C

Schedule

Students

09:00 - 13:30 & 15:15 - 17:15

Discover ETH and Zurich

Finding Solutions Fair

18:00 - 18:45 & 19:30 - 20:15

Lab Safety, ETH Zentrum

Mentors and observers

08:00 - 20:00 Translation

Practical Exam, Crowne Plaza

Finding Solutions Barometer



Students



Partners & organisers

Happy Birthday



Miloš Selaković

Team Guide

Kristi Koitla

Estonia, Mentor

Nattapong Paiboonvorachat

Thailand, Head Mentor



It's All About Togetherness!

What a day: the very first IChO in Switzerland was ceremoniously opened yesterday. The teams from 89 countries gathered in the hall of the hotel Spigarten in Zurich for the opening ceremony.

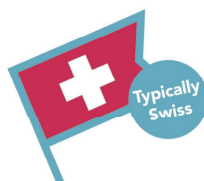
Günther Dissertori, Rector of ETH Zurich and President of IChO 2023, warmly welcomed all participants and pointed out how valuable and important an event like the IChO is: "The IChO is not just a competition, it is a celebration of knowledge, discovery and the beginning and continuation of friendships. We stand here today, ready to witness the passion of these young chemists with their talents and their dedication. Let us embark on this extraordinary journey together, united by the common language of science and inspired by the possibilities that lie before us for future solutions."

Helma Wennemers, Professor at the ETH Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosci-

ences, led the opening ceremony and was actively supported by Jane Mumford, a comedian for whom chemistry is now no longer a foreign word! Besides speeches by Silvia Studinger, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, Gábor Magyarfalvi, International Steering Committee IChO and Wendelin Stark, Head Scientific Committee IChO and professor at ETH, each country was introduced with country-specific symbols. The teams were enthusiastic and together with the two Swiss participants Sabine Neuhäus and Alex Martinetti they recited the Olympic IChO oath, which focuses on fair play, inclusion and equality. Overall, the opening was a great success as it was the start of an exciting and eventful IChO period. (al)



Swiss Army Knife



The Swiss Army knife is a versatile multi-tool that originated in Switzerland. It is known for its compact size and multiple functions, making it a popular tool for various tasks. The original Swiss Army knife was developed by

Karl Elsener in 1891 and was intended for use by the Swiss army. It featured a blade, a screwdriver, a can opener and a punch. Over the years, the Swiss Army knife, today manufac-

tured by Victorinox, has evolved and now comes in various models with different tools and functionalities. (al)



Vladimir Prelog - the King of Chemistry



Vladimir Prelog was a Croatian-Swiss chemist who lived from 1906 to 1998. He received his diploma in chemical engineering from the Czech Technical University in 1928. In the midst of World War II, he came to Switzerland to teach at ETH Zurich.



At ETH, he worked on the Cinchona alkaloids, especially quinine. His synthesis of the diamond-like hydrocarbon adamantane brought him international recognition. He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1975 for his research into the stereochemistry of organic molecules and reactions, i.e. the relationship between the structure of a chemical and its reactivity. Vladimir Prelog is the best proof that you are never too young to be a real scientist: he published his first scientific paper at the age of 16 in the renowned journal "Chemiker-Zeitung". (Marie A. Perrin)

Yesterday in Pictures



Question of the Day:

Which biopolymer can be found in the exoskeleton of shrimps, lobsters and insects?

- A. Cellulose B. Chitin C. Keratin D. Lignin

Yesterday's solution: D: There are three stereoisomeric forms of tartaric acid. The first is dextro-tartaric acid, found in grapes and several other fruits. The second is levo-tartaric acid. The third is a meso form.



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