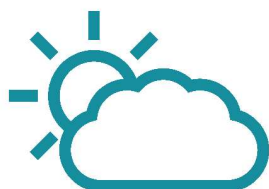


# Catalyzer 16/07

International Chemistry Olympiad, Zurich, Switzerland

16 July 2023

Today's Weather



26°C

## Schedule

### Students

17:00–22:00 Registration and hand-in of electronic devices, Aja Hotel

### Mentors and observers

All day Registration, Crowne Plaza

## Excitement Barometer

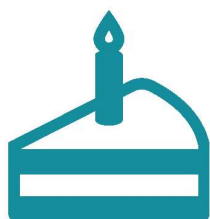


Delegations



Guides

## Happy Birthday



**Shakti Corthay**  
Film Crew

**Milica Kosovic-Perutovic**  
Montenegro, Mentor

**Piotr Olbrys**  
Poland, Student



## Super Guides

ICHO would not be possible without our guides. They are the first point of contact for students and mentors. They know (almost) everything and are on duty around the clock.

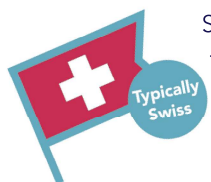
The guides greet “their” delegations on arrival, take them to the Opening Ceremony and to every other activity on the packed IChO agenda. They make sure that students and mentors are on time, get their lunch and dinner and take the right bus or tram. But they also know where Zurich is particularly exciting and where you can relax should you want a quiet minute. The guides have an extremely busy schedule from the arrival of the delegations to the farewell at the airport. They immerse themselves in the cultural world of “their” delegation and get to know many young and interesting people. Their task is more than exciting and when you talk to former guides, you only hear positive things:

“Being an IChO student guide was one of the best times of my life. You get to meet new and exciting people, learn a lot about unknown countries and - as a highlight - make new friends. When IChO is over, tears often flow, but wonderful memories remain.”

Many guides know the IChO from their own participation. Now they give something back and learn how important it is to be part of a team. The guides are the ambassadors for bringing this event to life. Let us thank and applaud all these superheroes who are ready to help at any time! (al/ Asira Lele)



# Swiss Chocolate - What else?



Swiss chocolate is world famous. It has a rich history and gained a reputation for being some of the best chocolate in the world. The production combines modern techniques with traditional methods. Many Swiss chocolatiers still follow time-honored recipes and artisanal processes, ensuring the preservation of their chocolate-making heritage. Not only is Switzerland the country with the highest consumption of chocolate per capita with the average person consuming approximately 8.8 kg of chocolate every year, Switzerland is also one of the world's biggest chocolate producers with more than 200'000 tonnes of chocolate produced in 2019. *Marie A. Perrin*



## Greetings from Petra Ménová

Last year, Petra Ménová was elected chair of the IChO Steering Committee. Her journey from competing as a participant in 2004 and 2005 to becoming a mentor and now head of the Steering Committee is definitely one worth following.

The IChO changed Petra's life forever. It was the break-

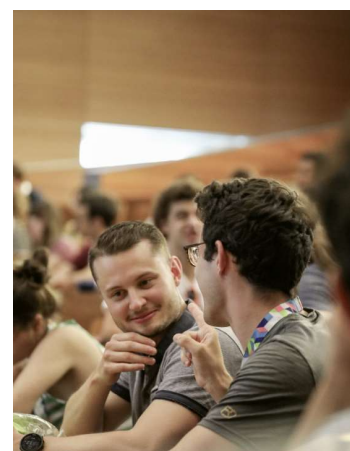
ing moment when she decided not to do only chemistry as science but also chemical education and stay in the IChO community. Ten years later, as a mentor, she made many new friends. As chair of the IChO Steering Committee Petra can now pay back a little of what it gave to her - passion for chemistry, lifelong friendships and the possibility to travel and meet similarly passionate people. Petra is expecting a baby and therefore won't be able to come to Zurich, but you can look

forward to meeting her in person again in 2024 in Saudi Arabia.



## Yesterday in pictures

(by Luca Ferrari)



## Swiss Water: Enjoy it!

Swiss water is known for its exceptional quality, and this extends to the drinking fountains that are found throughout Switzerland. The participants of IChO got a drinking bottle of Swiss quality brand SIGG. But what to do with it? Just fill it with tap water or with water from one of the 1'200 drinking fountains in Zurich!

Zurich's tap water is amongst the best quality tap water in

the world. This is not a matter of chance but a matter of hard work. Zurich Water Supply counts about 300 employees who manage the collection, filtering and distribution of the drinking water. The city sources its water primarily from Lake Zurich and, to a lesser extent, from the Glatt and Sihl rivers. Through pipes it reaches one of the treatment plants. In the first step, the water is mixed with ozone. This kills all the bacteria and other organisms. Then it goes through a sand filter and, afterwards, through a filter of activated carbon. As the mineral content of the lake

water is very low, it is mixed with ground and spring water. This gives it a nice fresh taste. So, the next time you're looking for a refreshing drink, consider the benefits of Swiss water. (al)



## Question of the Day:

Which metal is the most reactive metal of the periodic table?

- A. Lithium    B. Francium    C. Sodium    D. Uranium



You're currently reading the short version of the daily Catalyzer. Find more articles **online.**

Find more photos and videos **online.**

### Editorial Team:

Andrea Leu (al), Chiara Brändli (cb), Lea Hasler (lh), Lena Frölich (lf), Saulé Akavickytė (sa) (volunteer)  
Pictures: various sources