

Director's Report
2009 ACM-ICPC Regionals – Asia Amritapuri Site

Another ACM-ICPC Regional at Asia Amritapuri Site concluded successfully, with team Oasis from Sogang University, South Korea, securing First Place (7/10 problems solved) and team CounterGambit from the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, India, securing Second Place with 6/10 correct solutions. Our problem setters were taken from experts who have proven their mettle in venues like TopCoder.

The events started in September, with 302 teams participating in an online round. Out of these, 56 teams came onsite on Oct. 31, from 5 countries. Increasing participation to 300 teams was one of our goals this year, and we were able to achieve it.

As the sponsor, IBM sent Sudar Oli, head of University Relations, to Amritapuri. Sudar was pleased at our expanding contest, and we too were happy to have him there to meet the contestants and give away the prizes.

Since we are in a remote village in South India, contestants have to travel long distances to come to Amritapuri, and we like to give them a good time. The state of Kerala, where Amritapuri is located, is well-known for its beaches, mountains and many tourist attractions. This year we took them on a short trip to a nearby beach, slightly spoiled by the unseasonal heavy rainfall. Then the day after the contest, we took them all to Palaruvi waterfalls for a day trip, where they could enjoy the scenic beauty of Kerala. We also gave them a taste of Kerala food with a banquet dinner and of Kerala culture with a performance of dances.

We decided also to have a green theme this year, and almost entirely avoided plastic. The backpack we gave away was denim, the pens were bamboo, and plates were made of leaves or washable metal.

Our goals next year are to increase participation, and expand to one or two more sites so that more teams can come onsite.

I would like to thank IBM, ACM, and ICPC Worldwide management for making this fun and memorable event possible.