

# Catalyzer 24/07

International Chemistry Olympiad, Zurich, Switzerland

24 July 2023  
Today's Weather



22°C

## Schedule

### Everyone

15:30 - 18:00 Closing  
Ceremony, Tonhalle

18:00 - 22:30 Farewell Dinner,  
Kongresshaus

## Happiness Barometer



Everyone

## Happy Birthday



**Alberto Ariosto**  
Team Guide

**Yhlas Jumayev**  
Turkmenistan, Student



## You Are all Winners

Medals have been awarded for outstanding achievement since ancient times. They are a symbol of honor and excellence in athletics, diplomacy and science. Many of the students will also soon receive a medal for their performance at the IChO. And who knows, maybe one day someone of them will receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry?

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is perhaps the most well-known chemistry medal. The medal of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences represents nature in the form of a goddess resembling Isis, emerging from the clouds and holding in her arms a cornucopia. The veil which covers her cold and austere face is held up by the Genius of Sci-

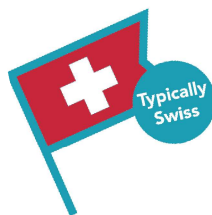


ence. The inscription on the medal reads: "Inventas vitam iuvat excoluisse per artes" and means literally: It is beneficial to have improved (human) life through discovered arts.

Whether at IChO you are aiming for a gold medal like Daniils from Latvia: "I hope for a gold medal because I already have bronze and silver, so it would be nice to get the last one and to have all three of them in my collection" or are happy with a certificate like Vivian from Switzerland: "I don't expect to get any medal or diploma, probably just a certificate for the participation. But, of course, I hope that we all from the Swiss team will get at least honorable mentions", the students all did a great job and we hope that they had an unforgettable time at the IChO 2023 in Switzerland! (If)

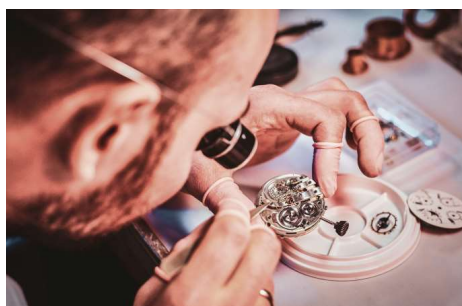
This is the last printed version of the IChO's 2023 Catalyzer. We would like to thank our readers for their daily support. The combination of print and online editions has helped us save over 20,000 sheets of paper!

# Swiss Watches



The Swiss watchmaking industry has a long and rich history, dating back to the 16th century. It initially developed in Geneva, but soon spread to other regions of Switzerland. By the middle of the 19th century, the Swiss watchmaking industry became the world's leading producer of

watches. However, the American watch industry's mass production of watch components led to a decline in Swiss exports. In the early 20th century, Swiss watchmakers innovated with new features and functions, but they missed the opportunity to capitalise on



the quartz watch revolution. The Swatch, an analogue high-quality quartz watch that was also affordable, saved the Swiss watch market in the 1980s, and the industry has since recovered. Today, the Swiss watchmaking industry is once again one of the most

prosperous economic sectors in Switzerland. The industry is known for its high-quality watches, and it is also a major producer of machine tools. (If)

# Marco Gerber



Have you ever wondered who the person behind this huge event is? Someone you might hardly see but in whose hands most of the strings are? Who must make thousands of small and bigger decisions every day? Who was crazy enough to say YES to take over the role as a General Manager of the Organising Committee?

Dear Marco, only 1 year and 3 months ago, you decided to come on board, take on this unique event

and the challenge to be the General Manager of the Organising Committee. It was admirable to see how quickly you got the overview and picked up the pace. Your passion and stamina in this project impresses everyone. Let's Find Solutions Together is not just a claim for you. You show us



every single day what it means to work as a team towards a common goal. And to make every IChO 2023 day a successful one. After the IBO 2013 in Bern and the IPhO 2016 in Zurich, you now add the IChO 2023 to your palmares. Thank you for encouraging everyone, for calming us down, for supporting us, for bearing us and finally,

thank you for sharing your vision. You deserve a gold medal for working tirelessly towards IChO 2023!

Your team

# Question of the Day:

Which of the following alloys will give white gold?

A. Au, Ag, Cu, Cd

B. Au, Cu, Ag

C. Au, Ni

D. Au, In



**Yesterday's solution:** A: zinc and copper can react in a redox reaction, as zinc is the stronger oxidizing agent.



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## Editorial Team:

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

# Yesterday in Pictures

