

In July 2019, Paris lives at the pace of chemistry!

Do you know that IUPAC 2019 isn't the only international chemistry event to take place in Paris in July 2019? France also hosts the 51st International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) from July 21st to July 30th!

International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT) 2019, IUPAC 2019, IChO 2019: three reasons, if needed, for the French ministry of education and youth to declare this school year "The year of chemistry, from primary school to university" which gathered hundreds of events, contests, exhibitions, shows, lectures, meetings... everywhere in France from September 2018 to September 2019.

The IChO is an annual contest for the world's most talented chemistry students at secondary school level, under twenty years old. Nations from all around the world send a team of four students who are tested on their chemistry knowledge and skills in an individual five-hour laboratory practical exam and an individual five-hour written theoretical exam.

The idea of the International Chemistry Olympiad was developed in the former Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the first edition took place in Prague in June 1968 with only three participants: the organizing country, Poland and Hungary. The event has been held every year since then, with the exception of 1971, and the number of countries involved has steadily increased.

The purpose of the competition is to promote friendship and cooperation among the students,

closer contacts among the young scientific workers, and exchange of pedagogical and scientific experience, as stated in the first regulations of the IChO.

Each participating country must organize a national selection process to determine four students who will attend the IChO. Countries who wish to participate in the IChO must send observers to two consecutive Olympiads before their students can attend the contest.

Paris hosted the 22nd IChO for the first time 29 years ago, in 1990. There were already 28 countries competing then... but it was nothing compared to the 51st edition, for which we expect 318 students and 280 mentors from 80 participating

countries from all over the world and six observing countries: Bangladesh, Egypt, Mali, Oman, Sri Lanka, Trinidad, and Tobago!

This event is organized by the French ministry of Education and Youth, with the logistic part managed by the "Ligue de l'enseignement", and supported by many partners and sponsors like the French Society of Chemistry. As it was the case in 1990, the practical and the theoretical exams will take place in ENCPB-lycée Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, huge scientific high school in the heart of Paris. However, it also requires the very precious help of numerous volunteers: to accompany the students, to manage and mark their paper, to write the problems, to prepare the labs... In total, more than two hundred volunteers help us making the 51st IChO in Paris definitely unforgettable!

The participants will go home with lots of memories and gifts, including objects created especially for the occasion. The work of Antoine Lavoisier, the French creator of modern chemistry, served indeed as a support for the creation of art objects inspired by the collection of the Museum of Arts and Crafts (MAM, Paris) gathering 500 objects that belonged

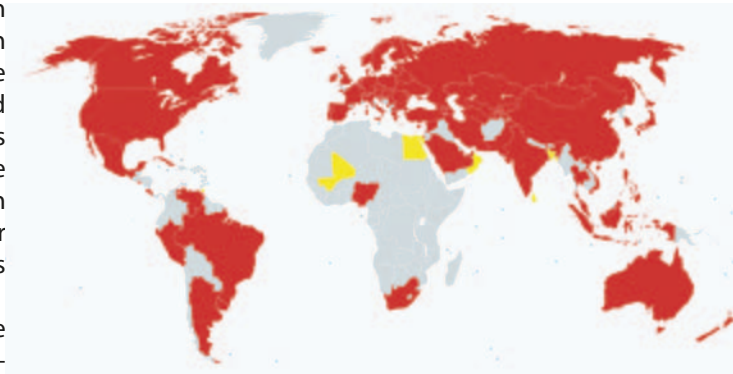
to Lavoisier. Supported by the professional organization representing the chemical companies, France Chimie Ile-de-France, the "**Lavoisier challenge**" brought together students from four art and design schools who freely inspired pieces from this collection to create objects. The four projects selected by a jury of professionals (designers, chemists, education) were produced in series to be offered to participants of the 2019 IChO.

The next IChO will be held in Turkey (52nd IChO, 2020) and Japan (53rd IChO, 2021).

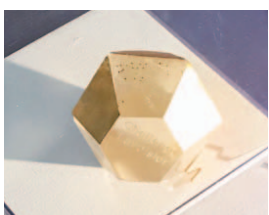
• <https://icho2019.paris/en>



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Map of the participating countries (in red) and observing countries (in yellow).



Some of the projects of the "Lavoisier challenge" exhibited last May at the "Palais de la découverte", museum of science in Paris. © France Chimie Ile-de-France.