

# The Morning Star

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Poland 2023

# Welcome!

- The Opening Ceremony
- Polish Superheroes
- Nicolaus Copernicus

**Schedule of 16th International Olympiad  
on Astronomy and Astrophysics, Poland**

**Day 3 → 12th August 2023 Saturday**

**Students**

07.30—09.00	Breakfast
09.00—12.00	Free time and group activities at the hotel
12.00—13.00	Lunch
13.30	Meeting point in the parking lot
13.45—14.45	Transfer to the ICC
15.00—16.30	Group competition
16.30—16.50	Transfer to the Planetarium
17.00—18.15	Planetarium visit
18.30—19.15	Transfer to the hotel
19.30—20.45	Dinner

**Team Leaders**

08.00—09.00	Breakfast
09.00—13.30	IBM. Theory Round
13.30—14.30	Lunch
14.30—19.30	IBM. Theory Round
19.30—20.30	Dinner
20.30	Translations and printing



**The Weather forecast**

Saturday, Aug 12th 2023

Wind

**S**  
**10-15 km/h**

Lowest temperature (morning)

**10-13C / 53,5-55F**

Highest temperature (afternoon)

**24-26C / 75-78F**

Sunrise 05:28

Sunset 20:11



**The Opening Ceremony**



# The Opening Ceremony

**„Follow in the footsteps of Nicolaus Copernicus - break the usual patterns to get to the truth” – said Jakub Chełstowski – the Marshall of the Silesian Voivodeship to the participants of the of 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics during the opening ceremony – “Remember this place as the one where you reached for the stars. I wish you good luck.” – said Marshall Chełstowski.**

The event took place at the International Congress Centre in Katowice.

Over 250 participants of 16th IOAA and their leaders as well as the local authorities and partners of the Olympiad took part in the ceremony. It started at 11:00 am with the concert of the Silesian Philharmonic. The beginning couldn't be different than Richard's Strauss's "Also sprach Zarathustra" – score well known from the opening scenes of Stanley Kubrick's 2001: "A Space Odyssey". Then the Philharmonics played two musical pieces from "The Planets" composed by Gustav Holst, and finally they gave great performance of "Dance of Celestial Spheres". This masterpiece was composed by Adam Wesołowski – the director of the Silesian Philharmonic to celebrate 550th anniversary of birth of Nicolaus Copernicus.

Then the official part of the ceremony started. Jeff Shiffman and Jarosław Juszkiewicz – the hosts of the ceremony welcomed all official guests as well as the participants of the Olympiad.

Natasha Dragovic – the Secretary General of the IOAA addressed to the participants: "Take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet people from all over the world who share the same passion for astronomy and astrophysics with you".

"When I listened to the concert today" – said Marcin Krupa, PhD – the Mayor of Katowice – "I realized that the music is like the Cosmos. 8 simple sounds presented in countless different configurations can create the whole universe of unique elements. Don't stop asking questions to seek the truth about the Universe".

Kazimierz Karolczak the Chairman of the Management Board of GZM said that he's proud that the Silesian metropolis consists of "41 stars" – cities that form the Metropolis and they "are shining on the Silesian sky".

Director of the Department of General Education and Curriculum at the Ministry of Education and Science – Artur Górecki wished the participants to "follow the path of seeking truth and wisdom".

Secretary General of the Copernicus Academy – Professor, Ph.D. Krzysztof Górski wrote a special letter to the participants: "I sincerely hope that during the Olympiad and in future scien-



tific work, you will use your skills and experience to expand the boundaries of human cognition and unravel the mysteries of science."

Stefan Janta – the Director of the Silesian Planetarium said that he deeply believes that "today we can host some future Nobel Prize Winners here. I wish you this with all my heart".

Zuzanna Piasecka – The President of „Empiria i Wiedza” Foundation addressed to the participants a simple message "Use your knowledge like rocket fuel. You will be stars of the science in the future".

After the official part of the ceremony was finished, the officials left the stage to make the room for all the teams, so they had a chance to present themselves. They also had the opportunity to show their flags, wave to the other teams or to make a selfie, two...or three.

Finally the Director of The Silesian Planetarium Stefan Janta said the phrase everybody waited for: "I declare 16th Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics open"

Just after the ceremony, the participants had to handle their electronic communication devices to the organizers. During the Olympiad they will not be able to use the Internet.

# Academy of Superheroes

For the next ten issues of "The Morning Star" we will present famous Polish scientists who have changed the world. "Academy of Superheroes" is a project invited and developed by famous Polish science popularizer dr Tomasz Rożek. It includes card game and free book that can be downloaded from this site:

<https://akademiasuperbohaterow.pl/en/free-ebook/>

As Tomek says: „Superheros are not just protagonists from fairy tales. They truly exist! Let’s meet them.



## Academy of Superheroes

# Nicolaus Copernicus (1473 – 1543)

Nicolaus Copernicus was born in 1473 in Toruń. When young Nicolaus was only ten years old, his father died. At that time, such families would usually fall into poverty. This case was different because his mother's brother, Lukasz Watzenrode, later bishop of Warmia, took care of them. Thanks to his money and contacts, Nicolaus continued his education and went to university in Cracow.

At the famous Academy of Cracow, Nicolaus first encountered Ptolemy's theory called geocentrism. Young Nicolaus learned to construct tables and astronomical instruments. This knowledge proved to be very useful in the future. After studying in Krakow, he went to Italy where he studied law and medicine.

Upon his return to Poland, Nicolaus Copernicus was responsible for a great deal of administrative work. Then he decided settle in Frombork, where he took over the organizational responsibilities. He was a host of the cathedral - today, we would call him an administrator. He also wrote a scientific dissertation about money.

Despite so many duties, Copernicus found time to study astronomy and refine his hypothesis on the movement of planets in the Solar System. To make accurate observations, he bought a tower located within the walls of the fortress and hand-made the necessary instruments. The quadrant allowed him to measure the height of the Sun above the horizon, the triquetrum indicated the distance of the Moon from the Earth, while the armillary sphere determined the position of the Silver Globe and planets.

It was a good time for scientists in Poland to write their works, including such a revolutionary concept as the one proclaiming that the Sun is stationary and the Earth and other planets revolve around it. Copernicus supported his ideas with mathematical calculations and observations. His work was a genuine revolution and shattered the established order. His book *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* was published in 1543 when Copernicus was already very seriously ill as a result of a stroke.

Nicolaus Copernicus joined the group of the most eminent and, if we may say so, the most famous scientists in history. He was able to think critically and observe the sky in a manner independent from the well-grounded schemes. I wonder where astronomy would be today if it was not for him?

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