

General Rules and Regulations of the OIC Robotics Challenge

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE OIC ROBOTICS CHALLENGE.

The idea of holding science and technology competitions/Olympiads was a part of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 and was further reinforced at the 4th Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM) in 2018, where COMSTECH was entrusted with the responsibility to coordinate such events. This idea has also been accepted as an activity in the OIC STI Agenda Workplan adopted at the 1st Steering Committee Meeting of OIC institutions held on 18-19th March, 2019. The proposed Robotics Challenge is the first step in this direction.

COMSTECH while exploring different avenues for realizing this initiative has been deeply encouraged by the very cooperative response of the Government of Uzbekistan and their experience in this field viz, organizing a multi-country Robotics competition. The Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Uzbekistan Youth Union organized the First International Robotics Challenge (IRC) in Uzbekistan, in the frame of INNOWEEK in October 2018. In the former event, five OIC countries participated in the Robotics Challenge. A total of 150 participants were shortlisted for the event, in which there were 70 participants from outside Uzbekistan (other OIC Member States).

Keeping in mind Uzbekistan's successful organization of the regional Robotics competition, COMSTECH has suggested to broaden the scope of the Robotics Challenge to make it an OIC event. For this year, (2019) Uzbekistan has shown willingness to host the first competition as the OIC Robotics Challenge, Uzbekistan within the framework of International Robotics Challenge (IRC) in Tashkent. The OIC Robotics Challenge would be restricted for the 17-23 age category while the IRC-Tashkent also includes a competition for younger ages.

The IRC-Tashkent is going to be held from 27-31 of October 2019 in the territory of Uzexpocentre. The address of the venue is as follows: 107 Amir Temur Avenue, Tashkent 100084, Uzbekistan

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF HOLDING THE CHALLENGE

The OIC Robotics Challenge will be organized to foster interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and to popularize the field of robotics among the youth of OIC Member States, stimulating their interest in the sphere of innovation, and in high-tech areas of technology, robotics, and artificial intelligence.

OIC Robotics Challenge will bring a unique platform for young people, who are eager and ready to share experience and professional skills with other participants, and to meet new people with identical interests in science, technology and engineering. This will help in development of innovative technologies and entrepreneurship based on intellectual labor of the youth from OIC

Member States. Popularization of scientific and technical creativity through such events will foster innovation and indigenization of technology among the OIC Member States.

3. ORGANIZING AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

The organizing committee includes representatives of the following institutions:

- Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan – the host organization.
- The Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC – COMSTECH.
- “Uzbekistan Robotics Federation” LLC

The members of the technical committee are selected by the Organizing Committee. They represent the core of the judging panel. Technical committee is the core judging panel and the panel can be further expanded by following representatives:

- Specialists from or chosen by the Ministry of Innovative Development
- Specialists from or chosen by COMSTECH
- International team mentors
- Specialists with judging experience of the previous IRC Tashkent 2018.

Technical committee is also responsible for providing full information and explanation, in case there are questions related with competition regulations. The committee reserves the right to make ANY changes in competition regulations at least two weeks before the start of the competitions, provided that those changes do not give superiority to any of the participating teams.

4. PARTICIPANTS

The OIC Robotics Challenge is a team event. A team willing to participate in the OIC Robotics Challenge should have no more than three members. Moreover, each team is strongly recommended to have a team mentor (an adult, representing team’s sending institution/country). A team mentor will be responsible for the team’s wellbeing throughout the competition in Tashkent, also during travels. In the case of team selection, priority will be given to teams with mentors.

OIC Robotics challenge puts strict requirements to the age of participants. Each team member must have a date of birth between November 1st of 1996 to October 1st of 2002 (included). Teams with members with dates of birth outside of the specified time period will not be selected to participate. A team mentor must be an adult, and there are no specific age requirements for him/her.

5. REGISTRATION AND APPLICATION

Any team willing to take part in the OIC Robotics Challenge must register and apply through online application form. The online application form asks teams only for personal information, intended categories to participate and their background in robotics.

The application period starts on 22 July 2019 and finishes on 15 September 2019. Late applications will not be considered.

Selection will be based on information provided in the application form, as well as supporting diversity in the competition, i.e. the Selection Committee will ensure that as many nationalities as possible will be presented in the event. Successful teams will be contacted by email or a phone call. They will be required to provide official documents (passport copies, birth certificate copies, photos, etc.) for organizational purposes.

Teams are responsible for providing authentic and clear information while registering. Failure in providing information in such quality may result in rejection of team's participation in the event.

6. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The host of the event – The Government of Uzbekistan covers local transportation expenses (to and from Tashkent International Airport, Central Railway Station – Northern, hotel and event venue), maximum of 5 hotel nights and catering during competition days.

Teams will be responsible for their own travel expenses from their home country to Tashkent.

Limited financial assistance for travel expenses of 50 participants – 25 teams, is available by COMSTECH through the funds of Islamic Development Bank. In the case of a third participant or a team mentor, a team must finance their travel themselves, even if they receive financial assistance from COMSTECH.

7. CATEGORIES

There are two categories in the OIC Robotics Challenge:

7.1. Robo Sumo

To participate in the “Robo Sumo” competition, participants need to prepare **an autonomous robot** that is capable of pushing the enemy robot most effectively out of the circle, outlining the ring - beyond the black line of the ring.

Complete regulation of the competition is available at: <http://comstech.org/oicrobotics.aspx#links>

7.2. Robo Football

To participate in the “Robo Football” competition, participants need to prepare **at least two distance controlled robots**, capable of scoring as many goals as possible at the gate of the opposing team.

Complete regulation of the competition is available at: <http://comstech.org/oicrobotics.aspx#links>

Teams can participate in both of the categories if they wish. They are required to indicate their willingness to participate in both categories in the online application form.

IT MUST BE NOTED that organizers neither cover the expenses spent to build robots, nor provide spare parts, laptops and operating systems to teams. Teams are responsible to securely bring their robots and their spare parts to Tashkent.

8. PROGRAM (DRAFT)

Date	Activity	Description	Allocated place
October 27	Arrivals Day	Teams are met by volunteers and sent to hotels	Tashkent International Airport, Central Railway Station, hotels
October 28	Practice and Qualifiers	Teams will have a chance to see the arena and test their robots. In case of too many teams, qualifiers stages could be held on this day	UZEXPOCENTRE
October 29	Robo Sumo Competition	Robo Sumo competitions are held on this day	UZEXPOCENTRE
October 30	Robo Football Competition	Robo Football competitions and Closing ceremony are held on this day.	UZEXPOCENTRE
October 31	Departures Day	Teams leave for their home country.	Tashkent International Airport, Central Railway Station, hotels

This is a tentative Program schedule. The detailed version of the Program will be ready 2 weeks before the start of the event. Dates are subject to change.