



THE OLYMPIAD IN BULGARIA is very well organized," affirms Vladimir Kiryuhin, leader of the Russian team. He has been an invariable participant in the contests since their first edition in 1989. "The technical equipment is very good, and the organization is perfect. Likewise, the facilities and accommodation are impeccable. I personally like Bulgarian cuisine very much - it both resembles the Russian one, and at the same time is somewhat more special. Even the weather is cooperative - look at the sun this morning," lyricises the veteran. After which he takes a close look on his students - boys of still tender age who have taken their computers seriously in hand. "There are all signs that this Olympiad will be a new step in the evolution of these competitions," believes Mr Kiryuhin. "Talented kids generally need serious professional work. You know - the evil finds its way, but the good must be encouraged," he makes an allusion to the Bible. "It makes sense for these young people to be supported, because they



All Russian schools are implementing a program for modernization now. The new image of education: computers and Internet, adequately qualified teachers and motivated children, is largely possible because of IT.

"There are wonderful prospects facing the new generation," says Marina Tsvetkova, in charge of the Centre for Russian Olympiads in Moscow. She is also on the managing team of the specialized publishing house for textbooks and education publications in Informatics. "When a kid enters the school in their first class, computers are already a standard, and not something they see for the first time. And for school leavers, the mastery of information technologies is a pass in life. In this aspect, Informatics has a great social effect," comments Mrs. Tsvetkova. "And this is true not only of Russia. Informatics is that subject in school that determines the choice of school. If there is Informatics, this means the school is evolving and is up-to-date. If you complete your education at such a school, you are bound to succeed!"

would improve the way of living of mankind. They should be given the right of passage so

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they prepare definitely for creativity in the field of high technologies. No country has the right to waste such capital."

"Ours this year is not to be underestimated," plays humble the leader of a team considered to be one of the favourites. "Two of the team members took part last year in the IOI in Cairo and won gold medals. The other two are novices, but are very good and have had some very good training, as well. Still, luck also comes into play in competitions; there are a number of factors that affect one's performance. Let's not forget they are kids after all."



The Chinese contestants seem to be the most likely medal winners