

Nº0

Saturday, July 4



PHYSICS IN ACTION

WELCOME TO COLOMBIA

BUCARAMANGA, "CITY OF PARKS"



Host City: Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia.

HELLO, brilliant minds!

It is an absolute privilege to be your host here in the heart of the Colombian Andes. I can tell you one thing for certain: the atmosphere in Bucaramanga right now is more electric than a high-voltage capacitor. To the delegates of the 91 nations gathered here: you haven't just traveled across borders; you've traveled to the epicenter of global intellectual synergy.

Here is the first edition of your official newsletter.
91 Nations, One Constant:

Excellence This year, we are witnessing a historic turnout. From the bustling tech hubs of Asia to the historic academies of Europe and the rising stars of Africa and the Americas, the diversity is staggering.

- **Participating Nations:** 91
- **Competitors:** 420+ Student Physicists
- **Leaders & Observers:** 230+ Global Experts
- **Spotlight:** Santander, Nature's Own Laboratory

While you're here to solve equations, don't forget to observe the physics of the land around you.

Santander is a land of extremes:

Chicamocha Canyon:

A masterclass in geological forces and potential energy. It's one of the deepest canyons in the world—don't forget to look down!



The "City of Parks"

Bucaramanga boasts over 70 parks. It's the perfect environment for a "thought experiment" under the shade of a Carbonero tree.

The Culinary Challenge:

Have you tried the "Hormigas Culonas" (Big-bottomed ants)? Think of it as a protein-rich experiment in local biodiversity.



EVENT SCHEDULE

DAY - 1

JULY 5TH: OPENING CEREMONY

STUDENTS

08:00 - 09:00: Transfer to Neomundo Convention Center

09:30 - 12:30: Opening Ceremony

12:30 - 13:00: Transfer to assigned hotels

13:00 - 14:00: Lunch

14:00 - 19:00: Free time

19:00 - 21:00: Dinner

21:00 - 23:00: Free time

LEADERS

07:00 - 08:30: Breakfast

08:30 - 09:00: Walk to Neomundo (Convention Center)

09:30 - 12:30: Opening Ceremony

12:30 - 13:00: Walk to hotel

13:00 - 14:00: Lunch

14:00 - 19:00: Discussion Session (International Board)

19:00 - 21:00: Dinner

21:00 - 23:00: Discussion Session

OBSERVERS

07:00 - 08:30: Breakfast

08:30 - 09:00: Walk to Neomundo (Convention Center)

09:30 - 12:30: Opening Ceremony

12:30 - 13:00: Walk to hotel

13:00 - 14:00: Lunch

14:00 - 19:00: Discussion Session (International Board)

19:00 - 21:00: Dinner

21:00 - 23:00: Free Time

23:00 - 00:00: Transfer to Dann Carlton hotel

PHYSICS ON THIS DAY

The physics in your pocket:

Deciphering the science behind colombian banknotes

Welcome to Colombia, future pioneers of physics! As you prepare for the rigorous challenges of IPhO 2026 in Bucaramanga, take a look at the local currency. Colombia's banknotes are not just legal tender; they are a hidden tribute to the fundamental laws of the universe, scientific exploration, and complex systems.



When you hold the 20,000 COP note, you are holding the legacy of Julio Garavito Armero (1865–1920). Long before modern computational clusters, this brilliant engineer mastered celestial mechanics, calculating complex lunar orbital perturbations with astonishing mathematical precision. His impact was so profound that the International

Astronomical Union named a cluster of craters on the far side of the Moon the "Garavito Crater" in his honor.



Look closer at the other notes, and you will find an celebration of ecological and complex systems. The 100,000 COP note features the majestic Wax Palms, a masterclass in biological engineering, fluid dynamics, and structural mechanics to withstand high-altitude winds.



The 50,000 COP note explores the rich biodiversity of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, an isolated mountain range acting as a unique thermodynamic and ecological microclimate.



Furthermore, the 10,000 COP note honors anthropologist Virginia Gutiérrez, who brought scientific rigor and systemic fieldwork methodology to the study of social structures in Colombia. Even the security features on these bills rely on cutting-edge optics, using color-shifting inks and structural light refraction to prevent counterfeiting.

As you compete this week at Neomundo, remember that physics is woven into the very fabric of this country. Let Colombia's scientific landscape inspire every equation you write!

As you handle the local currency this week at Neomundo, remember that the fundamental laws of physics you are calculating are the exact same universal constants that placed a Colombian scientist on the Moon. May the analytical spirit of our historical engineers inspire every tensor, vector, and equation you write.

More information:

<https://www.banrep.gov.co/es/billetes-monedas>

SYMBOLS OF COLOMBIA

Colombia is a country of extraordinary natural, cultural, and human richness. Its remarkable biodiversity, the warmth of its people, and the diversity of its landscapes make it a truly unique destination. The following symbols reflect the nation's identity, history, and values—an invitation for all delegations to discover the spirit of Colombia during the 56th International Physics Olympiad.



The Colombian Flag

The yellow, blue, and red colors represent the country's wealth, the two oceans that surround it, and the courage of its people. It is one of Colombia's most recognizable national symbols.



The National Anthem

Colombia's National Anthem is one of the country's national symbols, reflecting its history, independence, and the pride shared by all Colombians.



The Orchid

The *Cattleya trianae* is Colombia's national flower. With more than 4,000 orchid species, Colombia is home to the greatest orchid diversity on Earth.

The Andean Condor

The Andean Condor is Colombia's national bird and symbolizes freedom, strength, and the majesty of the Andes.

A Megadiverse Country

Colombia is one of the world's most biodiverse countries, home to nearly 10% of Earth's biodiversity. It is the only South American country with coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

Colombian Coffee

World-renowned for its quality, Colombian coffee is part of the country's cultural identity and the livelihood of millions of families.



COLOMBIA BY THE NUMBERS

- **Area:** 1,141,748 km²
- **Population:** Over 53 million people
- **Coastlines:** Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea
- **Biodiversity:** One of the most biodiverse countries on Earth
- **Bird Species:** More than 1,900 (the highest number in the world)
- **World-famous for:** Coffee and emeralds
- **Climate:** No four seasons—diverse climates all year round
- **Mountain Range:** Three branches of the Andes cross the country
- **Official Language:** Spanish
- **Currency:** Colombian Peso (COP)

THIS IS **BUCARAMANGA!**

Discover Bucaramanga, now at the heart of IPhO 2026, welcoming a journey where science, culture, and global connections come together.

HISTORY

Santander has been associated with determination and an independent spirit, shaped by a history closely linked to Colombia's path toward freedom. Over the centuries, this region has built a strong identity and resilient character that continue to define its people today.

Now, Bucaramanga, known as “La Ciudad Bonita” (The Beautiful City), holds the resilient spirit from its origins that trace back to 1622 when Real de Minas de Bucaramanga was established. Unlike many colonial cities, Bucaramanga was not formally founded but gradually grew over time, leading to its designation as the capital of Santander in 1886.

Today, Bucaramanga continues to grow as a center for education, innovation, and development in Colombia. Blending tradition with progress, the city reflects the same determination and identity that have defined its journey through time.

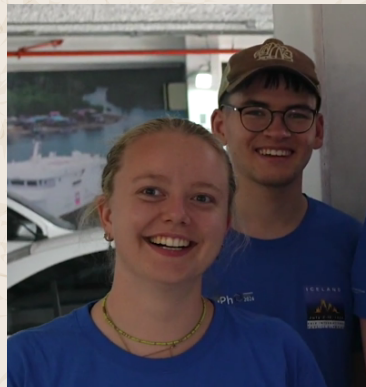
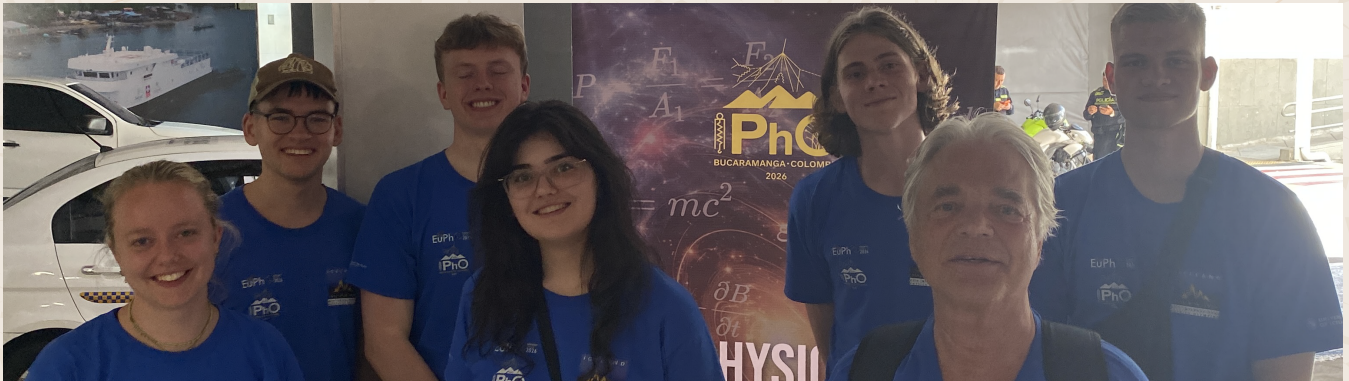
DID YOU KNOW...?

July 4, 2012: The Higgs Boson Changes Physics Forever

On July 4, 2012, scientists at CERN announced the discovery of the Higgs boson, a particle that helps explain why fundamental particles have mass. This landmark achievement confirmed a key prediction of the Standard Model of particle physics and marked one of the greatest scientific breakthroughs of the 21st century.

PHOTO GALLERY

Arrival of delegations in Bucaramanga



SPONSORS

ORGANIZER



Chancellor Mary Falk de Losada

DIAMOND SPONSORS



ASTEROMORPH



PARTNERS



OlympiXX

