Sorena Sattari, Vice President of Islamic Republic of Iran for Science and Technology, spoke in the closing ceremony of IOI 2017. His speech is as follows:

Dear Contestants, team leaders and organizers of IOI, I hope you have enjoyed your visit to Iran. It has been a great honor for us to host you in our country.

Computer science and engineering has changed the face of our world, mostly for the better, by facilitating communication and exchange of ideas among individuals, and by crossing the boundaries between different cultures, businesses and scientific domains. Our young talents in Iran, have made a great progress, in computer science and information technology. We have many IT startups and companies in Iran, who are actively working in various fields of information technology such as: big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and internet of things. On the scientific part, our country has greatly progressed over the past decades, and it is now one of the most influential countries in the region.

We believe that the IOI community, is a central hub in discovering and educating young talent in the field of computer science and information technology. Our country’s education system, has benefited greatly from scientific Olympiads, and hosting IOI is our way of giving back to this community.

Many of you young IOI contestants, are at the dawn of your remarkable careers in science and technology. It is my wish that you use your talent, not only to advance science and technology but also to contribute to more peaceful tomorrow for the humankind.

I wish you all the best and hope that you leave Iran with pleasant memories.

What happened at the IOI2017 Closing Ceremony?

- The closing ceremony of the 29th International Olympiad in Informatics was held at the International Conference Center.
- The ceremony began with the introduction of each team. Upon introducing the Iranian and Japanese teams, the audience applauded enthusiastically. Iran hosted the contest, and Japan is going home with 3 gold medals.
- Dr. Mohammad Ghodsi, the father of Iranian National Olympiad in Informatics was praised for his service. He is a prominent Iranian professor in computer science. He lead the Iranian team for 18 years and has inspired many students in Informatics.
- A music band from south of Iran performed with live music.
- In the initial round of distribution of medals, 76 contestants were awarded with the Bronze medal.
- Next, a deaf music group, with beautiful customs performed in sign language.
- 54 contestants were awarded with the Silver medal.
- A 16 person Daf (Iranian frame drum) band performed.
- 25 contestants were awarded with the Gold Medals.
- Yuta Takaya, from Japan, who was placed first in IOI 2017, was awarded. He is a four time champion of the IOI. He has also recently placed first at the International Mathematics Olympiad. The contestants stood up and gave him a roaring round of applause.
- As IOI 2017 came to an official close, Iran passed the IOI flag to Japan, the new host for IOI 2018.
- Professor Krassimir Manev, President of the IOI, thanked Iran for its excellent hosting and wished Japan success in hosting the next year’s contest.
29th International Olympiad in Informatics
July 28 – August 4, 2017
Tehran, Iran
Seven reasons why you should visit Iran again

Ancient history
Since at least 200,000 years ago, prehistoric hominins lived in the Iranian plateau. Modern human has lived in Iran since at least 40,000 years ago. Prehistoric Iranians along with other mesopotamian cultures were among the first to domesticate wheat and establish civilization. Jiroft civilization, found in Kerman province, is among the oldest known civilizations. The “Burnt” City, associated with the Jiroft civilization, was built in 3200 BCE in east of Iran. If you are enthusiastic about ancient history, visit Hegmataneh, one the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Hamadan; Persepolis, the capital of the great Achaemenid Empire; Pasargad, the capital under Cyrus the Great (near Shiraz); or the ancient city of Shush in Khuzestan. You will experience the remarkable history of this land and be amazed by every corner of it.

Iran’s Beaches
The northern coast of Iran has great beaches on the Caspian Sea. In the south, there is Persian Gulf with many islands including Qeshm and Kish. These islands have warm climates. They host many recreational water activities.

Four-Seasons in every season
In Iran you can experience a wide range of climates. The moderate climate of the Sirjan forests, the cold and beautiful mountain cities, the warm southern coast and the world’s hottest deserts are a few example of the diverse geography of Iran.

Soaring Mountains
Damavand is the tallest mountain in the Middle East (5,609 meters). In addition to Damavand, Iran has 148 mountains with altitudes of over 4,000 meters. Iran’s moderate to difficult climbing trails, as well as its abundance of ski slopes, attract many tourists to its mountains.

Desert Starscape
Lut Desert and the great Salt Desert are amongst the most famous deserts in Iran. Record high temperatures of as high as 70.7 °C have been recorded at Lut desert. The beautiful deserts of Iran and their star filled skies welcome tourists every year. Other attractions of Iran’s deserts include sand dunes and Yardangs. Yardangs are sandy mountain formations in desert, made by wind corrosion.

Iran’s Forests
The north of Iran close to the Caspian sea, is covered with dense forests. These forests cover about 2 million hectares. 42 percent of Iran’s forest are located in the western part of the country, including the 6 million hectare Zagros forests. The southern forests of Iran on the beaches of the Persian Gulf, and the forests in the Central Iranian Range are also splendid. The beautiful forest trails and multitude of plant species make them spectacular places to visit.

Hospitable people
Iranians are famous for their hospitality. Go to any village in Iran, knock on their doors, and experience how well you’ll be welcomed and served. Traveling to Iran is inexpensive and most importantly a wonderful experience, and we hope to see you again soon!