

By William Ryan

# IPA Trip to Poland

**G**arda Student Maciej Makowski, a Garda student, IPA member and Polish National researched and organised a trip to Myslowice Poland flying there on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 07 and returning on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 07. His excellent organisational and language skills made him both a credit to the Irish Police and the Polish Community. The hospitality from the Polish Police College Staff Polish IPA was fantastic, making it a trip that all involved will never forget.

The trip was organised as a private event supported by the Garda College International Police Association and The Garda College Sports

and Social Club. Special thanks to IPA Travel for arranging flights and travel insurance. St. Paul's Garda Credit Union Ltd was a friend indeed it's support for this trip was greatly appreciated. William Ryan and Annette Connolly of the Student Probationer Staff accompanied the 11 students.

A framed copy of the photo of visiting Irish Staff and students was presented to the Polish Police College.



Buíochas Libh Ó: William Ryan, Dermot O'Connor, Barry Duffy Finn, Derek Robinson, Maciej Makowski, Danielle O'Connell, Jian Hai Cai, Justin McQuaid, Lisa O'Sullivan, Margaret Glynn, Martha Hughes, Maeve Loughlin, Annette Connolly

## EXPLORING POLAND – Garda Student Maciej Makowski

Service through friendship – the IPA motto is truly adequate to describe the recent trip to Poland from the Garda College. By the end of June a team of runners comprising of 11 phase I Student Gardai and 2 staff members from the Garda College headed over to Myslowice to take part in the 8<sup>th</sup> Cross Country Run, organised annually by the Polish section of the IPA.

We were greeted at the airport by Polish Border Guards and the IPA members. From the very start there was a friendly atmosphere and we felt very welcome. We stayed in the Police School in Katowice, where we had a chance to observe the training environment of our Polish counterparts and talk to instructors and senior officers. During the meeting with the Chief Commissar of the School we discussed differences and similarities between the Gardaí and Polish Police, we visited the shooting range and other training facilities. We observed that their training puts more emphasis on the physical aspect of the job and revolves around firearms a lot.

The hosts were very generous and we had ample opportunities to taste Polish food and drinks. We visited one of the oldest Polish brewery in Tychy, which has been operating since 1629. We spent a whole day visiting the most beautiful Polish city and former medieval capital – Krakow. It was not the end of sight seeing, as the next day we visited a splendid XIX century palace in Pszczyna and the local fair.

The weather was brilliant but the drawback was that we had to run in dry spell and extreme heat. Everyone did very well in the run and there was not a person who would not have won a prize. After the competition we all took part in the IPA members meeting, there were policemen



With the Polish Border Guards and IPA Welcoming party



Touring Krakow



After the run

and policewomen from Czech Republic, Slovakia and Latvia and the atmosphere was phenomenal. Every delegation sang a song from their country, we exchanged gifts and gadgets with everyone around.

The trip was very fruitful and we made many friends over there, we are hoping that our contacts with the Polish IPA will develop further. Everyone declared that next year we would all come back to Poland to take part in the 9<sup>th</sup> and hopefully we will be back in greater numbers.

**Garda Student Maciej Makowski**