

香港資優教育學院 The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

Press Release

Hong Kong Student Wins Third Gold Medal in International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)

A team of secondary students sent by the EDB to participate in the 51st International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) has obtained excellent results with 1 gold, two silver and three bronze medals. And one of the team members, Ching Tak Wing, a student at Queen's College, has won his third gold medal in as many attempts. He obtained gold medals for two consecutive years in the IMOs last year and this year. This January, he won the championship at the China Mathematical Olympiad which was the third gold medal within one year.

Members of the HK Team for the 51st IMO received training over a 9-month period under the **Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education** (HKAGE) programme for gifted learners, working with the IMO HK Committee. Students were selected after intense competition through 2009 and financial support was given by EDB.

The IMO this year was held between 5 and 14 July in Astana, Kazakhstan. The HK Team ranked 20 among the 97 contestants. China obtained the highest scores, and Russia and United States were the 1st and 2nd runners-up.

Dr Stephen Tommis, the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education said "The whole of the Academy is so pleased for these students and their performance in a tough and challenging competition amongst some of the world's most able mathematicians. To come away with a medal is reward in itself; to come away with several, including two silver and a gold, is a great achievement and one of which Hong Kong can be proud".



(Left to Right) Associate Director, The HKAGE: Mr Abraham Tang; Team Leader: Mr Alaban, Cesar-Jose C. Jr.; Team Members: Tam Ka Yu, Yip Hok Pan, Hung Ka Kin, Ching Tak Wing, Chung Ping Ngai, Yu Tak Hei; Team Leader: Mr Lee Chun Yue

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**UNIQUE DISTINCTION FOR HONG KONG STUDENT in
International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)**

Tai Wai Ming, a student member of the Hong Kong Team for IMO 2008 submitted his mathematical problem to the IMO Committee and it was selected for use in the IMO this year. **Professor Shum Kar Ping**, the Chairman of the IMO Hong Kong Committee (IMOHKC) indicated that *“it was the first time ever for the IMO to accept questions from a local student and it is an honour for him”*.

Professor Li Kin Yin, a member of the IMOHKC said *“the IMO usually accepts problems drafted by university academics, college students or IMO gold medalists, so it was rare for the committee to take a secondary student’s problem”*.

Professor Shum recalled that a problem was accepted from somebody outside of the IMO committee was in 1989 when a professor from the National University of the Philippines was honoured in a similar way.

Dr Stephen Tommis, the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education praised the student for his “outstanding and rare achievement” Tai Wai Ming modestly expressed that “I am surprised my problem is accepted by the IMO Committee this year... I would like contribute to the society by using my talents in Math”.



(2nd from Right) Tai Wai Ming

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IMO aims at enhancing international contacts in the field of math education and providing more exposure to the international arena for students with high potential in math. The excellent performance of the HK Team is the fruitful result of the cooperation between the EDB, HKAGE and IMO HK Committee in nurturing math talent.

The HKAGE will continue to organize various challenging activities to nurture math talents and the EDB will continue to provide financial support to the HK Team to allow it to compete in international math competitions. The Fung Hon Chu Gifted Education Centre has provided additional scholarships of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 for local students who obtain gold, silver and bronze medals respectively in the IMO.

The leaders and observer of the HK Team were professor, instructor and officer from the University of Hong Kong, IMO HK Committee and EDB.

For details about the olympiad, please refer to the websites of the HKAGE (<http://www.hkage.org.hk>) and EDB (<http://www.gifted.hkedcity.net>) or contact Mr Abraham Tang, Associate Director of the HKAGE at 36983496.

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The HKAGE
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