

Hong Kong Physics Olympiad

Introduction

The Hong Kong Physics Olympiad (HKPhO)

The Education Bureau (EDB), the Physical Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology have jointly organised the HKPhO since 2003 with a view to promoting Physics education in Hong Kong and providing an enhancement platform for students with high potential in Physics. Aiming to nurture and develop the potential and talents of exceptionally gifted students, the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE) was set up in 2008 and will now take over these enrichment programmes and all related formally organised by Support Measures for the Exceptionally Gifted Students of EDB.

The sixth HKPhO was completed in May 2008. 825 students from 120 secondary schools participated in the event. The competition comprised of a three-hour written test with multiple-choice and open-ended questions in bilingual versions. 129 students received awards in this competition.

To enhance students' knowledge of Physics and further their understanding and preparation for HKPhO, Hong Kong Physics Olympiad Committee specially organised "HKPhO Pre-Olympiad Workshops" in October and November 2008 in HKUST.

Apart from the HKPhO Competition, HKAGE will provide follow-on Physics enhancement programmes for the high-achieving contestants and professional development activities for their teachers. F.5 winners of the sixth HKPhO have received a five-month university standard Physics Enhancement Programme starting from July 2008. In order to strengthen students' ability and techniques in conducting Physics experiment, 'Fundamental Physics Experimental Training Scheme' is launched in 2008 for the first time. Five students with outstanding performance in the follow-on training sessions will be selected to represent Hong Kong to take part in the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO). Besides, trainers of the Physics enhancement programmes have developed the "*Physics Enhancement Programme – Student Self-learning Booklet*". The booklet has been uploaded onto the HKAGE website for reference.

The International Physics Olympiad (IPhO)

The IPhO is a renowned international Physics competition for secondary school students. It was first held in Warsaw, Poland in 1967. The IPhO, an annual Physics competition hosted by different organising countries, is held in recognition of the growing significance of physics in all fields of science and technology. It also aims at enhancing the international exchange of teaching of physics. Each participating country/region may send a team of five students for

the competition in which the brilliant students are challenged not only by theoretical problems, but also experimental ones.

The EDB sent a delegate of five to participate for the first time in the 35th IPhO held in South Korea in 2004. The Hong Kong team won one gold, one silver, one bronze medal, an honourable mention and the “President’s Award” at the competition. Hong Kong team has been performing well; we have won 3 gold, 6 silver, 12 bronze and 3 honourable mentions in five years.