

# 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. The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE) was set up in 2008 with an aim to strengthen the nurturing of and support to exceptionally gifted students. Since 2008, The HKAGE has become one of the organizers of the HKPhO.

The ninth HKPhO was completed in May 2011. The HKPhO comprised of a three-hour written test with multiple-choice and open-ended questions in bilingual versions.

Apart from the HKPhO, HKAGE will provide follow-on physics enhancement programmes with duration of around a year for the high-achieving contestants. 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 contest 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 35<sup>th</sup> 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 8 golds, 11 silvers, 17 bronzes and 3 honourable mentions in eight years.