

Singapore team for the 29th International Young Physicists' Tournament

The Singapore team was led by Dr Yeo Ye from the Department of Physics, National University of Singapore, Mrs Lim Siew Eng from Raffles Institution, Mr Leong Tze Kwang from the Ministry of Education, Mr Daniel Mark Keat Kay and Mr Pay Shieu Ming Daryl, coaches and ex-IYPT participants.

2 The team comprised Wittmann Goh Ghin Fong (team captain), Lim Jun Heng and Muzammil Arif Din S/O Abdul Jabbar from Raffles Institution and Lendermann Markus Paul Zhi-Guang and Li Kang Chen from NUS High School of Mathematics and Science.

3 Some student reflections on the competition are as follows:

Wittmann Goh Ghin Fong (Team Captain) Yr 5 / Raffles Institution	<p><i>Wittmann participated in the IYPT 2015. As the captain of the team, he ensured everyone played their roles well. He was able to bond the team even though they were opponents during the SYPT.</i></p> <p>“This IYPT has really been rewarding in terms of learning and personal growth. Sometimes, when faced with problem after problem, I just wanted to give up and be done with it. But I told myself, for myself and for the team, I must push on. I went in not with the intention to win, but to just do my best. Especially with this year's stiffer competition, when we got into the finals and emerged champions, I was quite happy about it.</p> <p>I think this year, something that struck out about the experience was that we were quite involved in each other's progress. Even though we didn't need to, we would ask each other about their problems and try to offer solutions to help each other. Such experiences allowed the team to bond and work so well together during the fights.”</p>
Lim Jun Heng Yr 5 / Raffles Institution	<p><i>Jun Heng participated in the IYPT 2015. His previous experience enabled him to provide valuable suggestions to the team in strategising for the ‘physics fights’.</i></p> <p>“While IYPT is a physics-based competition, I think my two years of participation has taught me much more than that. Definitely, IYPT has given me a chance to understand more complex physics concepts, some of which we may only learn in university. However, equally important is the presentation, argumentation and communication skills we learn from this debate-based competition, and the analytical and problem-solving skills that we can apply not only in other fields of science, but also in other areas of life. These two years of participating in the IYPT have been very challenging and consequently very meaningful.”</p>
Muzammil Arif Din S/O Abdul Jabbar Yr 5 / Raffles Institution	<p><i>Muzammil Arif demonstrated good teamwork and performed well during one of the ‘physics fights’ and helped the team to top the chart after a setback.</i></p> <p>“Through my participation in the International Young Physicists Tournament (IYPT), I have been able to learn, appreciate and understand the various aspects of Science, or specifically physics, research. Most importantly, I felt that research is about gaining new</p>

	<p>knowledge and through working on open-ended problems during the tournament, I was able to formulate hypotheses and design experiments to test the validity of these intuitions. Research is also built upon the work of others and depends greatly upon the sharing of knowledge and current research.</p> <p>However, one particular aspect of the IYPT which distinguishes it from other academic competitions and research programmes is the importance of team work and sacrifice. Although the nature of the competition requires that one person primarily works on each of the problems, at times, consulting each other on issues we faced was beneficial to the team as a whole.</p> <p>Moreover, decision-making and sacrifice was important whilst we were in the midst of the competition itself, as after the first few rounds of competition we discovered that the reception towards some of the problems was rather poor, and as a result decided not to present these problems if challenged, although technically this meant that the work that was put into this problem by a particular member would have been wasted.”</p>
Lendermann Markus Paul Zhi-Guang Yr 4 / NUS High School of Mathematics and Science	<p><i>Markus obtained a record high score as a reporter in the final fight, scoring a perfect 10/10 from five out of ten jurors.</i></p> <p>“Participating in the IYPT was an eye-opening experience as I got to interact with people from diverse cultures and regions in dynamic ‘Physics Fights’ that forced me to think on my feet and test the limits of my abilities, not just on stage but also when assisting my teammates from the side-lines. The preparation and build-up to the tournament was a period of high stress and tension, but with the help of my teammates we pulled through it together. With the dust having settled, I believe we are all extremely satisfied with the result.”</p>
Li Kang Chen Yr 4 / NUS High School of Mathematics and Science	<p><i>Although it was Kang Chen’s first IYPT, he performed excellently during the ‘physics fights’</i></p> <p>“I believe IYPT truly offers a rich and unique learning experience, as compared to other Physics-based competitions. From this tournament, not only do we learn about effective teamwork and decision making, we also gained a first-hand experience of the process of scientific research. Furthermore, we learnt how to present and discuss our work with others effectively. Lastly, this competition also provided us with valuable opportunities to interact with other like-minded individuals from across the globe who share the same passion in Physics, and has opened my eyes to the world of scientific research.”</p>