

THE STRAITS TIMES

Singapore wins International Young Physicists' Tournament for seventh straight year



(From left) Dr Koh Teck Seng from Nanyang Technological University's School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences; Mr Sze Guan Kheng from Raffles Institution (RI); RI student Max Tan Wei Han; RI student Matthew Yar Kwok Jway; NUS High School of Mathematics and Science student Tan Jun Wei; RI student Wen Qinghao; RI student Samuel Foo Enze; Mr Zhang Yansheng, coach for the International Young Physicists' Tournament (IYPT) team; Ms Nur Zuhailah Hanafi from the Ministry of Education; and Associate Professor Paul Lee Choon Keat from Natural Sciences and Science Education in the National Institute of Education, after the grand final of the International Young Physicists Tournament at the University of Warsaw on July 12. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



Jolene Ang

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SINGAPORE - Students from the Republic have figured out the formula for winning the International Young Physicists Tournament, bagging their seventh straight title in a competition that had them take on students from 33 other countries or territories.

The five-student team - comprising four from Raffles Institution and one from NUS High School of Mathematics and Science - emerged champions at the 32nd iteration of the event held in Warsaw, Poland, from July 6 to 13.

The tournament is organised around "physics fights" that mimic discussions at research conferences, where participants present their research and provide feedback on other teams' work.

Students from the Republic also did well in the International Olympiads for the Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics.

At the 50th International Physics Olympiad held in Tel Aviv, Israel, from July 7 to 15, Singapore bagged two gold medals, two silver medals and one bronze medal to place joint eighth in a field of 78 countries or territories. Students had to conduct experiments on the thermal and electrical properties of different metals, among other things.

Meanwhile, in Szeged, Hungary, another team from Singapore garnered three gold medals and one silver medal in the 30th International Biology Olympiad from July 14 to 21, placing joint fourth in a field of 72 countries or territories. Students performed a range of tasks, including dissecting and examining chicken parts.

Over in Paris, France, Singapore secured two gold and two silver medals at the 51st International Chemistry Olympiad from July 21 to 30, placing 14th out of 80 countries or territories. Tasks included the chemical analysis of wine constituents using methods such as redox titration and spectroscopy.



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At the 60th International Mathematical Olympiad held in Bath, Britain, from July 11 to 22, Singapore won two gold medals and four silver medals. Students tackled challenges in the areas of algebra, geometry, combinatorics, and number theory. Singapore placed eighth among 112 countries or territories.

And at the 31st International Olympiad in Informatics held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from Aug 4 to 11, Singapore clinched one gold, silver and bronze each to place joint 15th in a field of 87 countries or territories. During the competition, students had to solve computational problems which tested their ability to design and implement efficient algorithms and data structures.

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The Education Ministry said that participation in these international competitions was a joint effort between the ministry and several institutions and organisations.

They are: the Singapore Mathematical Society; Singapore Institute of Biology; Institute of Physics Singapore; DSO National Laboratories; Singapore National Institute of Chemistry; Geography Teachers' Association of Singapore; National University of Singapore; and the National Institute of Education in Nanyang Technological University.

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