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Mathematical
Society

Annual Report 1999

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I Membership

Membership in the various categories at the end of 1999 is shown below. The figures in parentheses represent the corresponding figures for 1998:

Honorary	:	9	(9)
Life	:	51	(51)
Ordinary	:	237	(224)
Institution	:	77	(73)
Junior	:	311	(305)
TOTAL	:	685	(662)

II Officials

The officials of the Society for 1999 were:

President	:	Prof Lee Seng Luan
Vice-Presidents	:	Prof Chow Shui-Nee Mr Hang Kim Hoo A/P Tan Eng Chye
Hon Secretary	:	Dr Peter Pang Yu Hin
Hon Treasurer	:	Dr Zhao Gongyun
Editor	:	Dr Cheng Kai Nah
Asst Secretary	:	Dr Tan Kok Choon
Asst Editors	:	A/P Leung Ka Hin A/P Fred Leung Pui Fai
Committee Members	:	Dr Ang Keng Cheng Ms Tay Lai Ling Dr Teo Kok Ming Mdm Teo Soh Wah

III Logo

With approval by the Registry of Societies, the Society adopted its official logo. The logo can be viewed at the Society's website <http://www.math.nus.edu.sg/~sms>. A write-up on the logo is enclosed with this report.

IV Reciprocity with American Mathematical Society

The Society established reciprocity agreement with the American Mathematical Society (AMS). Members of the Society can now join the AMS as reciprocal members with reduced dues.

V Activities

(a) Publications

Three issues (Volume 25, Number 2, and Volume 26, Numbers 1 & 2) of the *Mathematical Medley* were published. The book *Singapore Secondary School Mathematical Olympiads 1997–1998* was also published.

(b) Lectures, Workshops and Conferences

(i) Lectures (see also (c) Distinguished Visitor Programme)

Dr Cheng Kai Nah (NUS) lectured on “A Theorem from Pythagoras to Fermat” at CHIJ St Nicholas Girls’ School (Secondary) on 5/5/99 and 26/5/99.

Professor Koh Khee Meng (NUS) lectured on “Prime Numbers and Their Applications” at Anglican High School (10/3/99) and Nanyang Girls’ High School (11/5/99), and on “Recursion: A Way to Count” at Yishun Junior College (15/10/99).

(ii) Workshops

The 8-month workshop series on “Problem-Solving and Mathematics Projects” for secondary school and JC teachers which started last year continued into the first quarter of this year.

A series of workshops for teachers and parents focussing on “Teaching Primary Mathematical Thinking Through Problem Solving” has been conducted by Mr Hang Kim Hoo (MOE) at NUS and various primary schools:

Nanyang Primary School (6/2/99),
 South Zone Primary Schools (20/2/99),
 Yuneng Primary Schools (27/2/99),
 Marymount Convent (6/3/99),
 Maha Bodhi School (27/3/99),
 Pei Hwa Presbyterian Primary School (27/3/99),
 NUS (8/5/99),
 Park View Primary School (8/5/99).

In conjunction with the Distinguished Visitor Programme, a workshop on “Betting Strategies in Probabilistic Games” was held on 10 July 1999 at NUS. It was attended by about 50 secondary school and JC teachers.

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A workshop on "Mathematics Projects" for secondary school and JC teachers was held during 6–9/9/99 at NUS.

(iii) *Conferences*

The Society received and approved NUS undergraduate student Ng Bee San's request for partial support to attend an international conference organized by the International Linear Algebra Society held in July 1999 in Barcelona, Spain.

The Society sponsored and took part in the organization of the following two international conferences: (i) International Conference on Fundamental Sciences: Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (Singapore, March 2000), and (ii) Asian Mathematical Conference (Manila, October 2000). In particular, Society members Lee Seng Luan, Tan Eng Chye, Peter Pang and Tan Kok Choon served on the Local Organizing Committee of (i), while Koh Khee Meng and Lee Seng Luan sat on the Steering Committee and the Scientific Committee, respectively, of (ii).

The Society also sponsored the Asian Logic Conference (Taiwan, June 1999).

(c) **Distinguished Visitor Programme**

The Society's 1999 Distinguished Visitor, Professor Jennifer Chayes from Microsoft Research and UCLA, visited Singapore in July 1999 and gave 1 public lecture as well as 1 research seminar at NUS on the topic of "Order in Large Systems with Applications in Computer Science". In conjunction with Professor Chayes' visit, a workshop (see (b) above) on "Betting Strategies in Probabilistic Games" was held on 10 July.

(d) **SMS Mathematical Competitions**

The SMS conducted the following mathematical competitions in June and July of 1999: (i) the Singapore Mathematical Olympiad, and (ii) the Singapore Secondary School Mathematical Olympiad (Junior and Senior Sections). A total of more than 7000 participants from about 110 schools and SINDA took part in these competitions. The Prize Presentation Ceremony was held on 2 October at NUS. The Guest-of-Honour was RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence. Altogether 52 team prizes and 66 individual prizes were given out. The event received good media coverage and Admiral Teo's speech at the Prize

Presentation Ceremony was published in the Vol. 26, No. 2 issue of the *Mathematical Medley*. The results of the competitions are attached.

(e) International Mathematical Competitions

(i) 40th International Mathematical Olympiad

Singapore participated in the 40th International Mathematical Olympiad in Bucharest, Romania, in July 1999. The Singapore team consisted of Dr Wong Yan Loi (NUS, Team Leader), Mr Toh Tin Lam (St Andrew's JC, Deputy Leader) and the following six students: Lin Shaowei (Raffles JC), Daniel Hue Yousi (Raffles JC), Lim Yin (Victoria JC), Soh Chong Kian (Raffles JC), Kwa Chin Lum (Raffles JC) and Lu Shangyi (Raffles JC).

Lin Shaowei, Daniel Hue Yousi, Lim Yin and Soh Chong Kian received Bronze awards. In an unofficial ranking by total team score, the Singapore team ranked 36th among 81 participating teams.

The Singapore International Mathematical Olympiad Committee 1999 consisted of Tay Tiong Seng (Chairman), Wong Yan Loi (Deputy Chairman), Chan Onn, Chen Chuan Chong, Chua Seng Kee, Chua Seng Kiat, Hsi Han Yin, Koh Khee Meng, Lang Mong Lung, Lee Mun Yew, Denny Leung Ho Hon, Leung Ka Hin, Roger Poh Kheng Siong, Soh Cheow Kian, Tai Thiam Hoo, Tay Yong Chiang, Teo Wah Liang, Toh Tin Lam.

(ii) Asian Pacific Mathematical Olympiad 1999

The Asian Pacific Mathematical Olympiad was held in March 1999, and the results are as follows: Gold: He Ruimin (RJC); Silver: Christopher Tan Junyuan (RJC); Bronze: Lim Yin (VJC), Tay Kah Keng (RI), Kwa Chin Lum (RJC).

(f) Enrichment Programmes in Mathematics

(i) For Secondary Students

In June 1999, the Society conducted an Enrichment Programme for secondary students at NUS. Altogether 38 students from 9 secondary schools took part.

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(ii) *For Primary Students*

From September to December 1999, the Society conducted 31 sessions of the Primary Mathematics Olympiad Programme (PMOP) at NUS and 11 primary schools (Zhonghua, Montfort, Haig Girls', Henry Park, St Hilda's, Junyuan, Catholic High, Holy Innocents, Yishun, Red Swastica, Maha Bodhi). Altogether 722 students from 51 primary schools took part.

(g) Others

- (i) During the Mathematical Olympiads Prize Presentation Ceremony, SMS President Prof Lee Seng Luan announced that the Society would be launching the Singapore Mathematics Project Festival and the Foo Kean Pew Memorial Prize in 2001. Details are enclosed.
- (ii) By an earlier agreement between the Society and SEAMS and the University of Philippines to strengthen ties through more joint activities, A/P Ling San from NUS represented the Society in a visit to the University of Philippines where he gave a series of lectures on number theory.
- (iii) At the request of the Singapore National Academy of Science (SNAS), the Society contributed a sum of \$1000 to the Ang Kok Peng Memorial Fund. The Society also contributed a sum of \$2000 to the Mathematics Endowment Fund of Temasek Polytechnic. This would fund a book prize for best student in Mathematics in the School of Engineering of the Polytechnic for 10 years. The Society also sponsored the NUS Mathematics Society a sum of \$800 towards expenses for their activities.

VI SMS Prizes in Mathematics for NUS and NTU

The SMS instituted prizes in Mathematics for students in NUS and NTU with effect from 1995. For NUS, the Singapore Mathematical Society Gold Medal and Book Prize 1999 was awarded to Mr Lee Tuck Koon, a student in Mathematics with First Class Honours and best overall performance in Mathematics in his undergraduate studies. For NTU, the Singapore Mathematical Society Book Prize 1999 was awarded to Miss Wai Wee Lian, the best student in the academic subject Mathematics in the Final Examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts/Science with Diploma in Education/Diploma in Education (Physical Education).

VII Finance

This is dealt with in the Treasurer's report. The Society wishes to record its thanks to the Honorary Auditor, Dr Zhu Chengbo, for scrutinising the accounts.

VIII Acknowledgements

The Committee wishes to express its thanks to Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean for being the Guest-of-Honour at the Mathematical Olympiads Prize Presentation Ceremony and for allowing his speech to be published in the *Mathematical Medley*; to the Lee Foundation and the Ministry of Education for their financial support; to the Southeast Asian Mathematical Society for donating the SEAMS prize for the Singapore Secondary School Mathematical Olympiad; to Texas Instruments Singapore and Springer-Verlag Singapore Pte Ltd for sponsoring some prizes for the mathematical olympiads; to the following schools for their assistance in the organization of the mathematical olympiads: Anderson Sec Sch, Ang Mo Kio Sec Sch, Anglo-Chinese Sch (Independent), Buona Vista Sec Sch, Catholic High Sch, CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' Sch (Sec), Fuchun Sec Sch, Hwa Chong JC, Manjusri, Ngee Ann Sec Sch, River Valley High Sch, St Joseph's Institution, Swiss Cottage Sec Sch, Xinmin Sec Sch; and to the Department of Mathematics and the Mathematics Society of the National University of Singapore, as well as members and friends for their support and cooperation.

Peter Y H Pang
Honorary Secretary

February 2000

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