

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

Prize-giving Ceremony

The prize-giving ceremony for the 1975 Inter-school Mathematical Competition was held at Hwa Chong Junior College on September 3, 1975. Mr. Chan Kai Yau, Director of Education, gave an invited lecture entitled "The history of π " for the occasion. The President of the Singapore Mathematical Society, Dr.(Mrs.) Lam Lay Yong of the University of Singapore, gave away the prizes (cf. this *Medley*, Vol.3, No.2 (August 1975), for a list of the winners of the competition).

Colloquium Talks

During the period September to December, 1975, the *Society* held the following colloquium talks:

Dr. Leong Yu Kiang (University of Singapore) — The Parallel Postulate: Anatomy of a geometry (September 18)

Dr. Ta Huu Phuong (University of Singapore) — On binary quadratic programming (October 9)

Dr. Ling Kiong Doong (Nanyang University) — Note on conditional probability (November 27)

Dr. Shee Sze Chin (Nanyang University) — Tabular algorithms for the shortest path and the longest path (December 18)

Public Lecture and Lectures to Schools

The sixth public lecture of the *Society* entitled "Certainty within uncertainty", was given by Dr. Louis Chen Hsiao-Yun of the University of Singapore on October 22, 1975.

By request of the Science Society of Catholic Junior College, two lectures at the College were organized by the

Society. The first one was given on September 15, 1975 by Dr. Ng How Ngee of the University of Singapore. He spoke on "An elementary problem whose solution can lead to fame". Dr. Leong Yu Kiang of the University of Singapore gave the second talk on October 13, 1975. He spoke on "Non-Euclidean geometry from the Euclidean point of view".

Dr. Chong Chi Tat of the University of Singapore gave a talk at Hwa Chong Junior College on October 11, 1975. The talk was entitled "Gauss — the Prince of Mathematicians".

Adherence to the INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL UNION

The *Society* has adopted the resolution to apply to the International Mathematical Union (IMU) to be considered as the National Adhering Organization for the Republic of Singapore. The IMU is a world organization formed: (1) to promote international cooperation in mathematics; (2) to support and assist the International Congress of Mathematicians which is held once every four years in one of the IMU member countries; and (3) to encourage and support other international mathematical activities which contribute to the development of mathematical science in any of its aspects — pure, applied, or educational.

The Secretary of the IMU had previously indicated to the President of the Southeast Asian Mathematical Society (SEAMS) of IMU's support for SEAMS's mathematical activities in this region. It was also indicated that IMU's support would be greatly facilitated if some of the Southeast Asian countries became members of the IMU. It was therefore suggested that Singapore become a member of the IMU through the *Society*. A Special General Meeting was held on October 9, 1975, at which the above resolution was adopted.

Refreshers' Course on 'Topics in Modern Mathematics'

The *Society* will hold a refreshers' course on 'Topics in Modern Mathematics'. It is tentatively planned for mid-February, 1976. The course will be based on the G.C.E. Advanced Level Mathematics Syllabus B and the Further Mathematics Syllabus. The following topics will be covered:

- (a) Probability and Statistics;
- (b) Sets, Logic and their applications;
- (c) Algebra — including groups, vector spaces and matrices.

Lecture notes will be issued.

The course will be conducted by lecturers from Nanyang University and the University of Singapore. It will be given free of charge to members. Non-members can attend the course by paying the membership subscription fee of \$10. Additional information concerning the course may be obtained from Dr. Ng How Ngee, Department of Mathematics, University of Singapore.

MATHEMATICAL ACTIVITIES IN SINGAPORE

A seminar on The Art of Counting was held by Nanyang University on November 17-19, 1975. Sessions on contributed papers in the areas of Computing, Combinatorics, Operations Research and Statistics were organized. More than forty participants from universities in Singapore and Malaysia attended the seminar. The following is a list of contributed papers presented by members of the *Society*:

Chang Boon Chong: Constrained Bayesian price adjusted single sampling attribute plans,