

Singapore Mathematical Society

Annual Report

2003

I Membership

Membership in the various categories at the end of 2003 is shown below. The figures in parentheses represent the corresponding figures for 2002:

Honorary	:	9	(9)
Life	:	43	(49)
Ordinary	:	155	(184)
Institution	:	82	(82)
Junior	:	74	(91)
TOTAL	:	363	(415)

II Officials

The officials of the Society for 2003 were:

President	:	A/P Tan Eng Chye
Vice-Presidents	:	Mr. Hang Kim Hoo A/P Lim-Teo Suat Khoh A/P Peter Pang Yu Hin
Hon Secretary	:	Dr. Tang Wee Kee
Hon Treasurer	:	A/P. Chua Seng Kee
Editor	:	Dr. Wong Yan Loi
Asst Secretary	:	A/P Helmer Aslaksen
Asst Editors	:	Dr. Victor Tan Dr. Teo Kok Ming
Committee Members	:	Mr. Ang Mia Lee Mrs. Lim Kian Huat Mr. Chia Yew Loon Mr. Tan Soon Yong

III Activities

(a) **Publications** Two issues (Volume 30, Numbers 1 & 2) of the *Mathematical Medley* were published.

(b) **Lectures, Workshops and Conferences** (see also (c) Distinguished Visitor Programme)

(i) **Lectures** The Society organized the following talks and lectures in 2003.

- (1) "Understanding and Thinking in Mathematics" by Mr. Hang Kim Hoo at Park View Primary School on 23 Jan 2003.
- (2) "Symmetry in Art and Architecture" by A/P Helmer Aslaksen on 22 Feb 2003.
- (3) "New Ideas about the End of Time" by A/P Brett McInnes on 2 Aug 2003.
- (4) "The Search for Randomness" by Professor Persi Diaconis on 19 Aug 2003. Jointly organized with the Institute for Mathematical Sciences, NUS and Department of Mathematics, NUS.
- (5) "Mathematical Modelling of Parasitic Diseases" by Professor Andrew Barbour at Victoria Junior College on 21 Aug 2003. Jointly organized with the Institute for Mathematical Sciences, NUS and Department of Mathematics, NUS.
- (6) "When does the Sun rise in Singapore and what is "wrong" with the Singapore flag?" by A/P Helmer Aslaksen at the Singapore Mathematical Society Annual Prize Presentation Ceremony 2003, The Chinese High School, 20 September 2003.

- (7) "Teaching Mathematical Thinking - Connection & Integration", a talk for Primary School and Secondary School Mathematics Teachers from North 6 Cluster Schools by Mr. Hang Kim Hoo on 4 October 2003.
- (8) "Doing Mathematics Projects" by Mr. Hang Kim Hoo at Nanyang Girls' High School on 8 Nov 2003.
- (9) "What's Math got to do with it? Mathematics at the frontiers of sciences and technology" by Professor Tony Chan on 15 Dec 2003. Jointly organized with the Institute for Mathematical Sciences, NUS and Department of Mathematics, NUS.
- (10) "Mathematics in the real world and the fake world" by Professor Stanley Osher on 18 Dec 2003. Jointly organized with the Institute for Mathematical Sciences, NUS and Department of Mathematics, NUS.

(ii) Workshops

A two-day workshop on "Maths Makes the World Go 'Round" was conducted by A/P Peter Pang on 15 Feb 2003 and 1 March 2003. Jointly organized with The Association of Mathematics Educators.

(c) Distinguished Visitor Programme

The Distinguished Visitor Programme for 2003 was scheduled to take place in September 2003. However, owing to the SARS outbreak, it was postponed to February 2004.

The Singapore Mathematical Society, in collaboration with the US National Committee for Mathematics, hosted Professor Jack Cowan from the University of Chicago as its 2004 Distinguished Visitor. Other collaborating organizations were the Association of Mathematics Educators, the Department of Mathematics and the Institute for Mathematical Sciences, National University of Singapore.

During his visit, Professor Cowan delivered a public lecture entitled "Some Mathematical Aspects of Large Scale Brain Activity". He also conducted a workshop for teachers and gave a more specialized lecture at the NUS Mathematics Department.

(d) SMS Mathematical Competitions

The SMS conducted the following mathematical competitions from June to July 2003: (i) the Singapore Mathematical Olympiad (Junior, Senior and Open Sections), and (ii) the Singapore Secondary School Mathematical Competition (Junior and Senior Sections). In spite of SARS, 7475 students from 126 secondary schools and junior colleges took part in the SMO in June and July. This was only a marginal decline from last year's record-high total of 7,564 students. The Prize Presentation Ceremony was held on 20 September 2003 at The Chinese High School. The Guest of Honour was Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Acting Minister for Education. The results of the competitions are attached.

The Mathematical Competition Subcommittee 2003 consisted of A/P Helmer Aslaksen (Chairman), Dr Victor Tan (coordinator for the Junior Section), A/P Tan Eng Chye, Mr Ng Wee Seng, A/P Yang Yue, Mr David Chia, A/P To Wing Keung (coordinator for the Senior Section), Mr Hang Kim Hoo, A/P Chua Seng Kee, Mr Ng Kah Loon, Dr Tay Eng Guan, Dr Roger Poh (coordinator for the Open Section), A/P Tay Tiong Seng, Dr Wong Yan Loi, A/P Denny Leung, and Dr Teo Kok Ming.

(e) International Mathematical Competition

44th International Mathematical Olympiad

The 44th International Mathematical Olympiad was held in Tokyo, Japan from 7 to 19 July 2003. A total of 457 contestants from 82 countries or regions participated in this IMO. The Singapore National Team to the 44th International Mathematical Olympiad consisted of the following: Dr. Wong Yan Loi (National University of Singapore, Team Leader), Mr. Chia Meng Hwee, David (Pioneer Junior College,

Deputy Leader), Mr. Lu Shang Yi (National University of Singapore, Observer), Chong Kai Fong, Ernest (Raffles Junior College), Kueh Ju Lui, Andre (The Chinese High School), Sia Jia Min, Charmaine (Raffles Girls' School (Secondary)), Tay Jingyi, Kenneth (Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)), Tay Wei En, Joel (Raffles Junior College), and Teo Wei Hao (National Junior College). Tay Wei En and Sia Jia Min received Bronze medals, Chong Kai Fong, Tay Jingyi and Teo Wei Hao received Honorable Mention. Unofficially, the team ranked 36.

The Singapore International mathematical Olympiad Committee 2003 consists of Tay Tiong Seng (Chairman), Wong Yan Loi (Deputy Chairman), Tan Hwee Chiat June, David Chia, David Chan, Chua Seng Kee, Chua Seng Kiat, Lang Mong Long, Leung Ho-Hon, Denny, Leung Ka Hin, and Poh Kheng Siong, Roger.

(f) Singapore Mathematics Project Festival

The Singapore Mathematics Project Festival 2003 was held on 21 March 2003 at River Valley High School. Five teams each from the Junior and Senior Sections were invited to make presentations and be interviewed by a panel of judges. The judges for the Festival were Assoc Prof Chua Seng Kee (NUS), Dr Lee Tuo Yeong (NIE) and Dr Toh Tin Lam (NIE) for the Senior Section; Assoc Prof Helmer Aslaksen (NUS), Assoc Prof Denny Leung (NUS) and Miss Tan Ke-Xin (Temasek JC) for the Junior Section. The results of the Festival are attached.

(g) Enrichment Programmes in Mathematics

From February to December 2003, the Society conducted the Primary Mathematics Olympiad Programme (PMOP) for 7 groups of students at NUS and 4 primary schools (Pei Hwa Presbyterian, Jurong West, Yuhua, South View). Altogether 310 students from 25 primary schools took part. The Enrichment Programme for secondary school students remains active.

IV SMS Prizes in Mathematics

The Singapore Mathematical Society Gold Medal and Book Prize 2003 at NUS was awarded to Pang Chin How Jeffrey, a student in Mathematics with First Class Honours and best overall performance in Mathematics in his undergraduate studies. The Singapore Mathematical Society Book Prize at NIE was awarded to Mdm Goh Hoon Juan and Miss Chew Siao Chean, the students with best overall scores in mathematics who graduated with a Bachelor of Science with Diploma in Education. The Singapore Mathematical Society Book Prize for Engineering Mathematics at Temasek Polytechnic was awarded to Ms Liao Xiao Jiao, the graduating Temasek Polytechnic Engineering School student with the best average score for Engineering Mathematics 1, 2 and 3.

V Finance

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

VI Acknowledgements

The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the Lee Foundation, the Ministry of Education, and Singapore National Academy of Sciences for their financial support; to the Southeast Asian Mathematical Society for donating the SEAMS prize for the Singapore Mathematical Olympiad; to the 94 secondary schools that hosted the SMS Mathematical Competitions; to River Valley High School for their assistance in the organization of the Singapore Mathematics Project Festival; to the Chinese High School for their assistance in the organization of the Prize Presentation Ceremony; 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.

Tang Wee Kee
Honorary Secretary

February 2004