

# Singapore Mathematical Society

## Annual Report

### 1997

#### I Membership

Membership in the various categories at the end of 1997 is shown below.

The figures in parentheses represent the corresponding figures for 1996:

Honorary	:	9	(7)
Life	:	50	(52)
Ordinary	:	195	(193)
Institution	:	59	(55)
Junior	:	324	(313)

#### II Officials

*The officials of the Society for 1997 were:*

<i>President</i>	:	Prof Koh Khee Meng
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	:	Mr Hang Kim Hoo Prof Lee Seng Luan Dr Leong Yu Kiang
<i>Hon Secretary</i>	:	Dr Ling San
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	:	Dr Zhu ChengBo
<i>Editor</i>	:	Dr Cheng Kai Nah
<i>Asst Secretary</i>	:	Dr Peter Pang Yu Hin
<i>Asst Editors</i>	:	Dr Lum Kai Hing Dr Spario Soon Yu Tiong
<i>Committee</i>	:	Dr Leung Ka Hin
<i>Members</i>	:	Dr Rosalind Phang Lay Ping Dr Tay Lai Ling Mdm Teo Soh Wah

#### III Activities

##### (a) Publications

Two issues (Volume 24, Numbers 1 and 2) of the Mathematical Medley and a book, entitled *Singapore Secondary School Mathematical Olympiad 1995—96*, edited by K H Hang, K H Leung and P Y H Pang, were published.

##### (b) Lectures and Workshops

###### (i) Lectures

The following lectures were given during the year:

Date & Venue	Speaker	Title
1/2/97 Ngee Ann Poly	Ling San NUS	Cryptography
14/3/97 Anderson JC	Chan Onn NUS	Get That Education!
29/3/97 Pei Hwa Pres Pr School	Hang Kim Hoo SMS	Habits of Life-long Independent Learning
5/4/97 Princess Elizabeth Pr School	Hang Kim Hoo SMS	Mathematics Workshop for Parents
26/4/97 Mathemagic Teachers' Convention Singapore Science Centre	Ling San NUS	Coding and Decoding
3/5/97 Park View Pr School	Hang Kim Hoo SMS	How to Help Children in Mathematics
19/5/97 NUS	W K Hayman Imperial College, UK	Waring's Problem for Analytic Functions
29/5/97 SCGS	Chan Onn NUS	Coding & Cryptology
11/7/97 Gifted Edun Programme	Chan Onn NUS	An Afternoon Meander Through Numbers
15/7/97 Nanyang Girls' High School	Koh Khee Meng NUS	How Prime are the Primes?
25/8/97 Greenridge Sec School	Victor Tan NUS	How to Count Faster?
27/8/97 Greenridge Sec School	Koh Khee Meng NUS	Stories about Prime Numbers
11/10/97 Pei Hwa Pres Pr School	Hang Kim Hoo & Spario Soon, NUS	Creativity in Mathematics
28/10/97 Dunman Sec School	Toh Kim Chuan NUS	Fun with Mathematics

## (ii) Mathematics Workshop

The following two workshops were organized:

1. Under the auspices of the Society, a workshop on the TI graphics calculator was conducted by TI consultants at NUS on 18 Jun 97. The workshop received overwhelming support from teachers. In the end, after almost 40 teachers were turned away, 54 teachers packed the workshop venue.

2. A two-hour workshop on "Mathematics and the Internet", organized jointly with BP Singapore Pte Ltd and the Faculty of Science, NUS, took place at NUS on 1 December 1997 (1—3 pm). The workshop was conducted by Mrs Toni Beardon from the School of Education, University of Cambridge, UK, and was attended by about 160 secondary school and JC teachers.

## (c) SMS Mathematical Competitions

The SMS conducted three mathematical competitions in 1997. They were:

1. Singapore Mathematical Olympiad on 21 Jun 1997;
2. Singapore Secondary School Mathematical Olympiad (Junior Section) on July 97; and
3. Singapore Secondary School Mathematical Olympiad (Senior Section) on 12 July 97.

The Competition Subcommittee consisted of

Dr Leung Ka Hin (Chairman),  
Dr Chew Tuan Seng (Vice-Chairman),  
Dr To Wing Keung (Vice-Chairman),  
Dr Ma Siu Lun (Vice-Chairman),  
Dr Chua Seng Kee,  
Dr Feng Qi,  
Mr Hang Kim Hoo,  
Dr Kwek Keng Huat,  
Dr Lam Tao Kai,  
Dr Teo Chung Peow,  
Dr Yang Yue and Mr Yap Von Bing.

A grant of \$3000 was provided by the Lee Foundation for prizes for the above competitions. Springer-Verlag Singapore Pte Ltd also sponsored some prizes.

The prize-giving ceremony was held on 13 Sep 97 at Lecture Theatre 25, Faculty of Science, NUS. Prof Chong Chi Tat, Deputy Vice Chancellor of National University of Singapore, gave away the prizes. The results of the three competitions are attached as appendices.

## (d) International Mathematical Competitions

### (i) 38th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)

Singapore participated in the **38th International Mathematical Olympiad** in Mar del Plata, Argentina from 18 July to 31 July 1997.

The Singapore team consisted of:

*Dr Roger Poh Kheng Siong* (Team Leader),  
*Mr Shaw Swee Tat* (Deputy Leader)  
and the following six students:

*Thevendran Senkodan* (Raffles Junior College),  
*Jeffrey Pang Chin How* (Hwa Chong Junior College),  
*Lim Yee Fun* (Victoria Junior College),  
*Yeo Keng Hee* (Hwa Chong Junior College),  
*Huah Cheng Jiann* (Victoria Junior College) and  
*Lin Shaowei* (Raffles Institution).

Thevendran Senkodan, Jeffrey Pang Chin How, Huah Cheng Jiann and Lin Shaowei were awarded Bronze medals. Lim Yee Fun was awarded an Honourable Mention. In an unofficial ranking by total team score, the Singapore team ranked 41st among the 82 participating teams.

The Singapore International Mathematical Olympiad Committee 1997 consisted of:

Dr Tay Tiong Seng (Chairman),  
Dr Chua Seng Kiat (Deputy Chairman),  
Dr Chan Onn, Mrs Chang Swee Tong,  
Assoc Prof Chen Chuan Chong,  
Dr Chua Seng Kee, Mr Gui Eng Hock,  
Mr Hang Kim Hoo, Ms Kan Sou Tin,  
Prof Koh Khee Meng, Dr Lang Mong Lung,  
Dr Leung Ho-Hon Denny, Dr Leung Ka Hin,  
Mr Ng Wei Min, Ms Ong Bee Suan,  
Dr Poh Kheng Siong Roger, Dr Qu Ruibin,  
Mr Shaw Swee Tat, Dr Sun Yeneng,  
Mr Tai Thiam Hoo, Dr Tay Yong Chiang,  
Mdm Tham Mun See and Dr Wong Yan Loi.

## (ii) Asian Pacific Mathematical Olympiad 1997

The 1997 Asian Pacific Mathematical Olympiad (1997) was organised by Mexico, with representatives from Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Singapore was represented by Dr Tay Tiong Seng.

The APMO test was conducted separately in the participating countries and was held in March 1997 for the Singapore contestants. The following are the results:

Thevendran Senkodan (Gold),  
Jeffrey Pang Chin How (Silver),  
Yeo Keng Hee (Silver),  
Herman Chow (Bronze),  
Lin Shaowei (Bronze),  
Daniel Tan Kwang Pang (Bronze),  
Soh Chong Kian (Bronze),  
Huah Cheng Jiann (Honourable Mention).

## (e) Enrichment Programmes in Mathematics

The SMS Enrichment Programme for secondary students was held during 2 – 4 June 97 at NUS. Altogether 129 students from 11 secondary schools took part. The topics covered in the programme were Combinatorial Games, Fractals, Improve Your Luck, Logical Puzzles, and Mathematical Football. Twenty instructors, all mathematicians from NUS, were involved (Chan Onn, Chan Yiu Man, Cheng Kai Nah, Choi Kwok Pui, Chua Seng Kiat, Gan Fah Fatt, Lam Tao Kai, Lang Mong Lung, Denny Leung Ho Hon, Lim Chong Hai, Bonaventure Loo, Lawrence Ma, Ng Kok Onn, Tan Ban Pin, Tan Hwee Huat, Tan Kok Choon, Tan Ser Peow, To Wing Keung, You Yuching, Zhu Chengbo).

In addition, the SMS conducted enrichment programmes organized by the following schools: CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School, Tanglin Secondary School, River Valley High School, Buona Vista Secondary School, Catholic High School, Greenridge Secondary School and CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School.

Altogether, in 1997, the SMS conducted 8 enrichment programmes for a total of 362 pupils from 17 secondary schools.

## IV. 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 1997 was awarded to Mr Tan Yew Meng, 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 1997 was awarded to Miss Alya Binte Osman, 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).

## V. Finance

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

## VI. Acknowledgements

The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the Lee Foundation for its financial support; to the Southeast Asian Mathematical Society for donating the SEAMS prize for the Singapore Secondary School Mathematical Olympiad; to Springer-Verlag Singapore Pte Ltd for sponsoring some prizes for the mathematical competitions; and to the Department of Mathematics of the National University of Singapore for its support and cooperation.

In connection with the Excellence for Singapore Award won by Prof Louis Chen, the Singapore Totalisator Board made a donation of \$5,000 to the Society in the name of Prof Louis Chen. The Society thanks Prof Louis Chen and the Singapore Totalisator Board for the donation.

**Ling San**  
*Honorary Secretary*  
31 December 1997