

HK students triumph at 32nd International Olympiad in Informatics

A team of Hong Kong students has brought home one gold and two bronze medals against contestants from 87 countries or regions from all over the world at the 32nd International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2020). The contest is the most recognised worldwide computer science competition aimed at secondary students under 20 years of age.

The three students who won at the IOI 2020 (stats.ioinformatics.org/results/2020) are as follows:

Gold Medal: Harris Leung (Diocesan Boys' School)

Bronze Medal: Wai Ka-hei (Pui Ching Middle School)

Yeung Man-tsung (Pui Ching Middle School)

Of them, Harris Leung scored 592.62 out of 600 and ranked third overall, which is the highest rank a Hong Kong student has achieved in this competition.

The Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, today (September 24) congratulated the team on their outstanding performance. "It is very encouraging to see the remarkable achievements of the Hong Kong team in IOI, which is one of the International Science Olympiads under UNESCO and is aimed at promoting coding education that helps nurture students' computational thinking and problem-solving skills," he said.

"I also wish to extend my gratitude to the school sector which has partnered with the Education Bureau (EDB) to make extra efforts in the past few years to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education in Hong Kong, not only through the curriculum and lessons, but also various learning events outside the classroom, such as project works and competitions. These can provide valuable opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills to solve problems and nurture their creativity, enrich their learning experience, as well as broaden their horizons."

The 32nd IOI was held online last week (September 13 – 19) due to the need to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Each country or region could enter a team of four students to compete for the awards in this year's competition. Each student was given a range of problems and tasks during the competition week to demonstrate their problem-solving skills and programming techniques by designing and writing computer programmes.

The EDB and the Hong Kong Association for Computer Education have jointly organised the Hong Kong Olympiad in Informatics (HKOI) since 1997. Outstanding winners from HKOI are selected as Hong Kong representatives every year to enter the IOI. They are required to attend training programmes to better prepare for the competition. Past contestants of the IOI also share their experiences with the team members.