

International (World) Year of Physics 2005

A Summary of Activities: The Physical Society of Hong Kong

The Physical Society of Hong Kong has organized a series of events in 2005 to celebrate the International Year of Physics 2005. In Hong Kong, a majority of secondary school students study physics and physics is still among the most popular subjects in the university entrance examination. With this in mind, we aimed to bring to these secondary school students and teachers the contributions of Einstein to physics and the excitements in selected areas in the frontiers of physics.

A. Monthly Lecture Series

The Physical Society of Hong Kong, in collaborations with the Hong Kong Science Museum and all the physics and physics-related departments in universities in Hong Kong, has organized a year-round lecture series for secondary school students and teachers. The lectures attracted nearly 3200 participants in twelve weekends. The first four lectures covered the contributions of Einstein to physics. The other lectures covered frontier topics for which researches are being done in Hong Kong. These topics include quantum cryptography, astrophysics and cosmology, nano-science and technology, and bio-materials. Surveys of participants indicated an exceptionally positive response to the Lecture Series. These lectures were video-taped, and school teachers may borrow the tapes for future use in schools.

B. Mini-Exhibition – “Frontiers in Physics”

Held in conjunction with the monthly lectures was a mini-exhibition entitled “Frontiers in Physics”. All the physics departments in Hong Kong joined forces in preparing a set of posters introducing exciting research topics to secondary school students and the public. A sample of the topics includes: smart and functional materials, cosmology, biophysics, nanotechnology, and superconductivity. The Hong Kong Science Museum provided the artistic expertise in designing the display.

C. Colloquia for Graduate Students

The Physical Society of Hong Kong has organized several joint colloquia by eminent scholars for graduate students with physics departments in Hong Kong. Invited speakers include: Prof. Jason TL Ho of Ohio State University, Prof. SC Zhang of Stanford University, and Prof. David Sherrington of Oxford University.

D. Student Team to WYP2005 Launch Conference in Paris

The Physical Society of Hong Kong, joining forces with all the physics departments in Hong Kong, provided partial support to a 6-member student delegation to attend the WYP2005 Launch Conference in Paris (13-15 January 2005). The students enjoyed the experience. Student reports and photos are posted at www.pshk.org.hk/iyp2005/

E. Undergraduate and Public Lectures organized by physics departments

Physics departments have also organized lectures on their campuses targeting at physics undergraduates, non-physics major undergraduates, and the general public.

F. Follow-up in 2006

Due to the highly popular monthly lecture series in 2005, the Physical Society of Hong Kong will collaborate with the Hong Kong Science Museum again on organizing physics lectures for secondary school students and teachers in 2006.

Prepared by:

Pak Ming HUI

Convener

Working Group on International Year of Physics 2005

The Physical Society of Hong Kong

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