

Sunway students excel in competitions

"FROM the competitions, I learnt that I should not give up," said Sai Yin Chen, 18, of the Sunway College A-Levels programme.

Sai achieved gold honours – the highest score among college students – in the Asean International Mathematical Olympiad, held in July in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand.

He received a Certificate of Distinction in the Euclid Math Contest, and was first runner-up in the University of Malaya Competition for Young Mathematicians this year, his first in all the three competitions.

Two other four representatives from Malaysia at the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) include Tan Jun Hao, 19 – who took home the silver medal – and Muhamad Lutfir Rahman Hamzam, 17, also from Sunway College A-Levels programme.

Their partially sponsored trip gave them the opportunity to meet chemistry enthusiasts from around the world.

"Being with such talented chemistry students from all over the globe has inspired me to be like them," said Lutfir.

"That has certainly given me the motive to work twice as hard to achieve what I have wanted to achieve."

Meanwhile, three students represented the country at the International Biology Olympiad, held at University of Warwick, Coventry, the United Kingdom in July.

Gold medals

"The competition exposed us to additional technical knowledge and skills," said Foo Yu Cheng, who together with Gary Wong Rui Ming and Kenneth Loh Jia Jun won gold medals at the Malaysian level of the competition.

The local level was organised by Pusat PERMATApintar Negara, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.



(Second from left) Sai, Tan, Muhamad Lutfir, Loh, Wong and Foo flanked by Ruth Cheah (left) and Irma Chan, the director and deputy director of Sunway College's A-Levels programme, respectively.

For 18-year-old Loh from Petaling Jaya, the gold medal win was a bonus as it was his first time participating in a competition.

"During the intensive workshop, the professors gave a lot of theoretical understanding and practical skills. I learnt concepts that went beyond biology," said Wong, 18, from Kuching, Sarawak.

The three, with another Malaysian, spent a week in Warwick.

"During that one week, we met people of

different backgrounds and cultures from over 70 countries," said Foo, from Ipoh, Perak, who took home the bronze medal in the international competition.

This is the third year Malaysia took home a bronze in the International Biology Olympiad.

Foo expressed his gratitude to his Biology teacher Dr William Ng for encouraging them to take part.

For Wong, the International Biology

Olympiad was challenging: "In the competition, I had to compete in areas of biology that were an entire new level above my current standard."

Enriching experience

However, he said it was an enriching experience and he met people from all over the world.

For Loh, his most important takeaway was the opportunity to meet and speak with other competitors, who are more knowledgeable in the field – all gold medal winners from other countries who are passionate about biology.

Other than the tests and revisions, the trio had time to mingle with other participants, play board games and join a birthday celebration during their stay there.

They also had the opportunity to visit Coventry Cathedral, Warwick Castle and various museums in the city.

Other than achieving good results in the Cambridge International Examinations, Sunway College A-Levels students have performed well at various international competitions.

In the International Mathematical Olympiad, Tan Kin Aun won the Bronze medal for two consecutive years in 2016 and 2015 and an honourable mention in 2014.

In IChO, Lin Zi Khang took home the bronze medal for two consecutive years (2015 and 2016).

■ For further information about the Cambridge GCE A-Levels programme at Sunway College, call 03-7491 8622, e-mail info@sunway.edu.my or log on to sunway.edu.my/college/a-level

Alternatively, drop by the campus on Dec 16 and 17 from 10am to 4pm for the Sunway Education Open Day.

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