

The Legislative Council Meeting on 18 December 2013
Motion on “Boosting and reviving the academic standard and atmosphere of Hong Kong's mathematics and the sciences, and fully supporting the hosting of international mathematics competitions”

Progress report

Purpose

This progress report provides an update on the progress of the aforementioned motion since December 2013.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Legislative Council on 18 December 2013, Members were informed that Hong Kong was awarded to host the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad in 2016. Members expressed their support to hosting the event and further discussed the measures to boost and revive the academic standard and atmosphere of Hong Kong's mathematics and the sciences.

Latest Development

3. The International Mathematical Olympiad Hong Kong Committee Limited (IMOHKCL), formed as a charitable institution, is empowered by the International Mathematical Olympiad Advisory Board as the “Host Organisation” under its General Regulations.

4. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) has also agreed to assume the role of “Host University”.

5. In April 2014, the IMO HKCL kick-started the preparatory work and managed, on the strength of tax exemption under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance, to launch a sponsorship drive in the private sector.

6. The Education Bureau (EDB), other than keeping the role as supporting organization, also renders necessary advice through quarterly meetings with the Organising Committee of the IMO HKCL chaired by Professor Shum Kar-ping. Timely steer by way of verbal and written exchanges was also given as and when a need arises. Members may refer to the Annex (English version only) the update from the IMO HKCL as a result of these collaborations.

7. Insofar as the patronage is concerned, invitations have been extended to the Chief Executive and other local dignitaries and prominent leaders. Progress has been promising although the Chief Executive’s Office has regretted the invitation given the specific nature and organizational hierarchy of the IMO. As an indication of support and encouragement and shortly before their departure, the Chief Executive met in his office the IMO HKCL Chairman, the team leader as well as the six contestants (S3-S6 students) representing Hong Kong for the 55th IMO in South Africa. The Hong Kong Team reaped four Silver and two Bronze Awards and ranked 18 out of the 101 participating

countries/regions.

8. EDB has been in touch with the Immigration Department. The visa requirements are complex. EDB will line up meetings with the Department when necessary.

9. In July 2014, EDB arranged two observers to attend the 55th IMO in Cape Town, South Africa and take stock of chain of local events from the opening to the closing ceremony. The experiences are valuable and much information have been gathered for planning purposes. For the 56th IMO 2015 to be held in Thailand, it is expected that the event would be more spectacular in scale than that of the 55th IMO in South Africa. Observations of EDB and IMO HKCL will be mutually exchanged to ensure the 57th IMO yet another success.

10. As general measures to promote Mathematics education, EDB continues to support the students' participation in well-established national and local Mathematics competitions such as the China Mathematical Olympiad, the China Girls' Mathematical Olympiad and the China Western Mathematical Invitation. Through maximisation of current resources, EDB constantly provides and rallies various support in facilitating and mounting more local activities for the promotion of mathematics education under different but suitable context.

11. In fostering students' scientific literacy, and other generic skills e.g. critical thinking and problem-solving ability, EDB makes ongoing

efforts under relevant Key Learning Areas such as Science education, Mathematics education and Technology education to update the knowledge and promote the importance of learning mathematics, as well as science and technology among schools. Logical thinking and computational thinking skills has continuously been enhanced in the curriculum at basic education levels.

Education Bureau

September 2014

附件

Annex

**To: Secretary for Education
Education Bureau**

The Organising Committee has the honour to present to the Education Bureau the latest update regarding:

Progress on the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad 2016

1. Host Organisation

The International Mathematical Olympiad Hong Kong Committee Limited (IMOHKCL), a private, non-commercial body, has formally registered with the Companies Registry as a charitable organisation. It sets up primarily to oversee the operation, logistics, funding and the event programmes etc. in connection with the IMO 2016 with the governance of the following sub-committees:

- (a) Problem Setting and Moderation Sub-committee;
- (b) Communication and Promotion Sub-committee;
- (c) Finance and Sponsorship Sub-committee;
- (d) Programme and Logistics Sub-committee.

2. Sponsorship Drive

- Since the launching of the sponsorship drive in April 2014, the IMOHKCL has succeeded in rallying a good number of sponsors, dignitaries and foundation funds inclusive. Sponsorship amount has been up to HK\$7M in the last five months. Lobbying in the private sector is still ongoing. The next phrase will involve commercial sector. Initial target is HK\$10M in terms of sponsorship in cash.

- A film premiere in July 2014 initiated by Hon. Mrs. Regina Ip Lau Suk-ye, Honorary Principal Advisor of the Organising Committee (IMOHKCL), also raised a sum of HK\$0.2M.

3. Host University

After the two further meetings in July and August 2014 with IMOHKCL, the University of Hong Kong Science and Technology (HKUST) has pledged to become the “Host University for 57th IMO 2016” through free provision of accommodation and meals for around 800 Leaders, Deputy Leaders and Contestant participating the event.

4. Supporting Organisation

- As the supporting organisation, EDB will support the 57th IMO specifically on the following areas:
 - ◆ medals for the winners;
 - ◆ printing materials for publicising the Event; and
 - ◆ Opening and Closing Ceremonies, plus the cocktail and banquet arrangements, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC).
- IMOHKCL has sent two observers to attend the 55th IMO 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa and decided to mount further observation on the 56th IMO 2015 to be held in Thailand. It is hoped that with the accumulated experiences drawn from these events, the success factor for the 57th IMO 2016 will be enhanced.

Date: 10 September 2014

Seal of IMOHKCL

