PRESS RELEASE

6 August 2013
For Immediate Reporting

SINGAPORE TEAM WINS 2 GOLDS, 1 SILVER AND 1 BRONZE MEDAL AT THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY OLYMPIAD IN JAPAN

1. The Ministry of Education (MOE) congratulates the Singapore team for their excellent performance at the 10th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) held in Kyoto, Japan, from 31 July to 5 August 2013.

2. The Singapore team obtained two Gold medals, one Silver medal and one Bronze medal. This placed Singapore third in a field of 126 students from 32 countries. This is the third time Singapore is taking part in the competition.

3. The Gold medalists are Mr Daniel Wong Xue Wei from Raffles Institution and Mr Ian Teo Tze-Rong from St Andrew’s Junior College. Mr Daniel Wong is also the top Gold medalist in the competition. The Silver medalist is Mr Tan Hean Shuen from Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) and the Bronze medalist is Mr Eric Ryan Toh Yung Siung from Victoria Junior College. All the students had participated in the International Geography Olympiad for the first time.

4. The students’ participation in the International Geography Olympiad is a joint effort between MOE and the following organisations:

   • Department of Geography, National University of Singapore;
   • National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University; and
   • Geography Teachers’ Association of Singapore.

Background on iGeo and team selection process

5. The International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) brings together 16 to 19 year old Geography students from around the world, challenging and stimulating their minds in the spirit of competition. This annual competition is organised by the International Geographical Union (IGU), and consists of written, multimedia and fieldwork tests. Students are expected to have good knowledge of a wide range of physical and human geography topics. The teams are also required to apply their geographical knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts such as undertaking...
fieldwork in the Fushimi Ward in Kyoto, Japan, to assess water management measures and urban redevelopment strategies.

6  iGeo provides students with the opportunity to fulfill their potential alongside other outstanding Geography students from different parts of the world. MOE supports the aims of the iGeo, which includes promoting an active interest in geographical and environmental studies among young people. The study of Geography enables students to understand our interconnected world through the study of topical issues such as urban liveability, resource scarcity and climate change. Students acquire global perspectives and develop critical thinking skills as they learn about the interdependence of people and places, and the environmental challenges that we face today.

7  Members of the Singapore team were selected from the National University of Singapore Geography Challenge 2012 and from the National Geography Talent Development Programme (TDP). The TDP is designed to nurture students’ passion in Geography and deepen their knowledge of the subject. The TDP is supported by the abovementioned organisations.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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(From left to right: Tan Hean Shuen, Ian Teo Tze-Rong, Eric Ryan Toh Yung Siung, and Daniel Wong Xue Wei)