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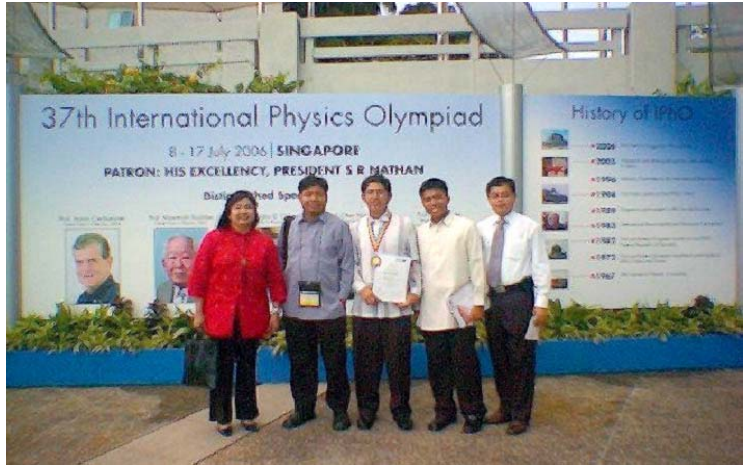
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PHILIPPINE TEAM SHINES IN 37TH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD HELD IN SINGAPORE

18 July 2006 — Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Belen F. Anota reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that the Philippine team that participated in the 37th International Physics Olympiad took home a bronze medal and an Honorable Mention certificate during the closing ceremony on 16 July 2006 held at the Nanyang Auditorium of the Singapore National Institute of Education (NIE).



Ambassador Anota said that nearly 400 pre-university students from 86 countries participated in the annual event, that was held from 8 to 17 July 2006 and hosted by Singapore for the first time. The Philippines has been a participant of this Olympiad since the late 80's.

Members of the Philippine team to the 37th International Physics Olympiad (37th IPHO) held at the National Institute of Education, Singapore from 8 to 17 July 2006, with officials of the Philippine Embassy in Singapore. From Left: Consul General Maria Lumen B. Isleta, Prof. Jose Perico Esguerra (team leader), Carlo Vincienzo Dajac (bronze medalist), Neil John Ortega (honorable mention) and Vice Consul Mersole J. Mellejor.

This year's team was composed of Carlo Vincienzo Dajac (bronze medal) and Neil John Ortega (Honorable Mention certificate), recent graduates of the Philippine Science High School. They formed the Philippine team headed by Prof. Jose Perico Esguerra of the UP College of Science.

Ambassador Anota reported that 37 gold, 49 silver and 82 bronze medals and 81 Honorable Mention certificates (for a total of 289 awards) were given out during the closing ceremony. Indonesia emerged as the overall champion with four (4) gold medals and the best scores in various events (theoretical and experimental).

"Although traditional powerhouses such as the US, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and other European countries, among others, figured in all award categories, Asian countries such as China, Iran, Thailand, India, Singapore and Vietnam also emerged with strong showings by taking numerous gold and silver medals alike," the Ambassador added.

According to Prof. Esguerra, the members of the Philippine team were chosen through a series of examinations beginning February 2005. They then trained at the National Institute of Physics in UP-Diliman conducted by volunteers from the *Samahan ng Pisika sa Pilipinas* (SPS).

The 38th IPHO will be held in Isfahan, Iran, on 13-21 July 2007 while the 2007 Asian Physics Olympiad will convene in April in Shanghai, People's Republic of China. END