

**Asian
Physics
Olympiad**

Adelaide, Australia | 5–13 May 2019

GRAVITAS

APhO 2019 NEWSLETTER
ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA
VOL. 1 6 MAY 2019

Gravitas was inspired by the Latin word for 'Gravity', it being the fundamental force of nature that holds our universe together - much like the passion for physics that binds people of diverse backgrounds and aspirations at a momentous occasion like APhO.

G'DAY MATE

WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA



Printed by Toshiba

INSIDE

WELCOME NOTE

Greetings from the
APhO Organiser

TOUCHDOWN ADELAIDE

250 delegates welcomed
by local volunteers

DISCOVERING AUSTRALIA

Students share their
first impressions



WELCOME

From the APhO 2019 Organiser

Ruth Carr

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE INNOVATIONS

It is a great honour for Australia to host the 20th Asian Physics Olympiad. We have planned an action-packed program that will see you doing challenging physics, cuddling koalas, kicking a 'footy', learning about our ancient culture, exploring the southern skies and much, much more. We wish you a fun, safe and rewarding week ahead.

FASCINATING ADELAIDE

CAPITAL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

As the APhO 2019 host city, Adelaide is proud to welcome delegates to the Land Down Under. Adelaide is South Australia's capital and its economic, educational and cultural hub. Filled with rich history and beauty, it has a lot to offer. Here some of the main attractions in this festival city waiting to be explored.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

For 150 years, the museum has celebrated Australia's cultural significance and natural heritage with its extraordinary collection of aboriginal artifacts and ancient animal fossils. A new initiative 'Her Story: Inspiring Women in Science', is another highlight of the museum showcasing female pioneers in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields.



ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

Nestled in the north-east corner of Adelaide city, the Adelaide Botanic Gardens are a wonderful escape from the stress of exams. Highlights include themed gardens featuring in-season exotic and native plants, an energy-efficient glasshouse collecting Amazon Waterlily, and the Bicentennial Conservatory fostering tropical rainforest plants endangered in their native habitats.



GLENELG BEACH

Situated but a mere tram ride away is Adelaide's favourite metropolitan beach, Glenelg Beach. Renowned for its stunning sunset, it offers visitors a buzzing vibe and entertaining atmosphere year-round. In 1931, the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club was established and is today known as a life-saving icon located alongside the beach. You will learn some valuable lifesaving skills from these experts.

NURTURING PHYSICS' BRILLIANT MINDS

WITTAYA KANCHANAPUSAKIT THAILAND



"I'm excited for the next few days. We trained the students for 4 weeks before coming here and we hope to bring some medals back to Thailand. But I told our students they don't need to do anything more to prove themselves in my eyes. I'm not going to judge them by the amount of medals they take back home. I really want them to enjoy their time in Adelaide and gain as much of experience as possible."

PRAMENDRA RANJAN SINGH INDIA



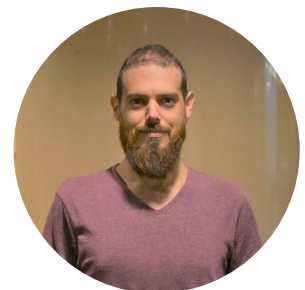
"Whether it's the Asian Physics Olympiad or International Physics Olympiad, this is a great competition. We have trained our students well and hope for a couple gold medals like last year, but we want all the students participating to do well. Physics is a very challenging and interesting subject. So if they do well in this subject they will be successful in their life too."

KIMLEANG KHUN CAMBODIA



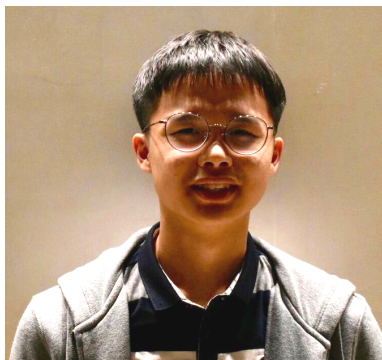
"It's great to be part of APhO and to be here in Adelaide, especially at this time when we get to enjoy the cold weather. Coming from Cambodia where it's 40°C, even the students are excited. With the competition, we don't want them to be afraid and told them to just work hard to do their best."

NITZAN ARTZY ISRAEL



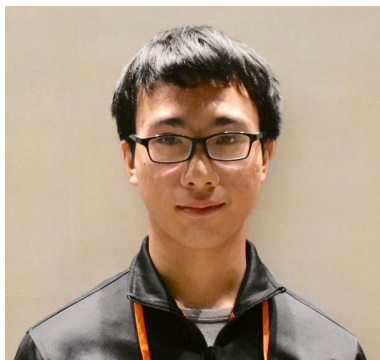
"We've been preparing the students for a year, sending them homework while conducting training. I just hope the students will have a great time meeting each other, enjoying the competition and possibly see some kangaroos and koalas. The most important thing they can do is meet other people and get to know them."

GEARING UP FOR ASIA'S TOUGHEST PHYSICS COMPETITION



LIM POH SENG
MALAYSIA

"What excites me the most is the excursions during this trip and the exams because this is a competition that not everybody can have the chance to participate in. So it's a real pleasure for me to get a chance to be in Adelaide."



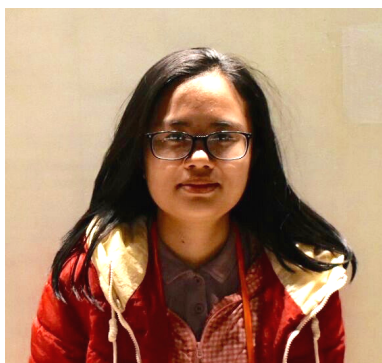
RUOYU YAN
CHINA

"I am very excited about making some new friends in APhO. In terms of the team preparation, we've reviewed exam papers from previous years and done lots of other practices. We even skipped the public holidays in China and focused on our preparations instead. As the Chinese team performed very well in APhO in the past two years, we are making every effort to meet the expectations."



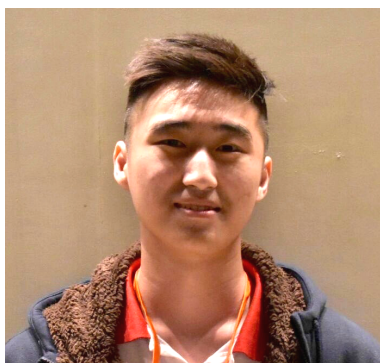
KHEM RAKSA PEOU
CAMBODIA

"I am looking forward to a little bit of everything, the food, animals and Australian lifestyles. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. Of course we've prepared a lot for the exam, and our focus is probably more on the exam, but the exam is not everything. We also want to make new friends and experience what Australia has to offer."



KHANH LINH NGUYEN
VIETNAM

"I want to see the unique animals in Australia because they are so different from the animals in the northern hemisphere. Also, I am most looking forward to the experimental exam. I know that Australia has lots of advanced technology. Hopefully, some high-tech elements or cutting-edge inventions will be involved in the experimental exam."



IVANDER JONATHAN MARELLA
INDONESIA

"We will focus on the exam and try to achieve the best possible result. We want to get as many medals as we can. Apart from that, we seek for new experiences and want to make new friends across the countries. I believe this APhO event will be a memorable experience for all of us, both for students and team leaders."



LAPHAS PREMCHAROEN
THAILAND

"I look forward to making like-minded friends who are interested in physics and expanding my knowledge in physics. After the exam, I would be able to know what's my weak point and fix it. For our team, we had a physics camp for a month, where we studied physics in classes and practiced previous exam papers from many years ago."

AUSSIE WORD OF THE DAY

In Australia, the good old Land Down Under, we have a reputation for having some of the oddest slang words that may be downright confusing. But we love 'em and we reckon you will too. So while you're immersing yourself in Adelaide's sights and sounds during the APHO 2019, why not pick up a few words?

'GOOD ON YA'

Here's one you'll hear pretty often. It is an Aussie way of saying 'well done'! Try it out and give your friend an Aussie compliment next time he/she does a good job!

WEATHER



**Sunny
and clear**

High 19° Low 11°

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

    @apho2019

 apho2019.asi.edu.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Kaurna miyurna, Kaurna yarta, ngadlu tampinhi

The Asian Physics Olympiad Committee acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today.



Photo credit: Adelaide Convention Centre

STAGE IS SET

NOT-TO-BE-MISSED PERFORMANCES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

We are finally here: the Asian Physics Olympiad 2019, a year in the making, right from the bidding process to organising and guest arrivals, today Adelaide is hosting some 250 visitors from 22 countries at this coveted event.

The stage is set to welcome all international delegates today, highlighting South Australia at its best, starting with the showcase of Adelaide's cultural heritage and local dancers.

Following this, guests will hear from distinguished speakers, some of whom have been called more than experts in the field of physics.

ADELAIDE INSIDER

Brought to you by The University of Adelaide

**TODAY'S
SNEAK
PEEK**

Physics at The University of Adelaide



IceCube neutrino detector at the South Pole processes signals

We hope you are as excited as we are about the chance to live and breathe physics for a whole week.

Like you, we are on a quest to understand the world around us, the world inside us and the world beyond us through physics.

Our world-renowned scientists are experts in their fields and their ground-breaking discoveries capture international attention in the world's best research journals.

We are ranked in the top 135 in the world for physics and astronomy.* We collaborate with national and international partners on cutting-edge global physics projects.

In fact, we were one of three universities in the world to be involved with finding the Higgs boson at CERN, astrophysical neutrinos by IceCube, as well as the Nobel Prize-winning discovery of gravitational waves by LIGO. And University of Adelaide students were part of all three projects.

We are active across a wide range of research areas, with our researchers at the forefront of discovery in astronomical and space sciences; atomic, molecular, particle and plasma physics and optical physics. So good luck for this week. We look forward to sharing the wonder that this fundamental science has to offer this week.