



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**12 AUGUST 2013**

## **7<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD ON ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS**

1 Following Singapore's success at the recent International Math and Science Olympiads, NUS High School of Mathematics and Science (NUS High School), Raffles Institution (RI) and Hwa Chong Institution (HCI) congratulate the Singapore team on their outstanding performance at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) in Vólos (Greece) from 27th July to 5th August 2013.

2 The Singapore team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place among 40 participating teams in the team competition. We clinched one Gold Medal, one Silver Medal, two Bronze Medals and one Honourable Mention at the 7<sup>th</sup> IOAA.

3 Francis Wang Fan from NUS High School did Singapore proud by winning overall 2<sup>nd</sup> position amongst 188 participants. This is the second consecutive gold medal won by Singapore at the IOAA. Francis also won a medal for the Best in Observation and Data Analysis. Fifteen-year-old Darren Chua, of Raffles Institution received a Silver Medal. He was also the youngest in the team. The bronze medallists are Mark Theng from Hwa Chong Institution and Kendrick Wong Wei Xiang from NUS High School. Oh Wei Shen of Raffles Institution received an Honourable Mention.

4 The Singapore delegation was led by Mr Barnabas Tan from NUS High School and Ms Geraldine Tan Shu Hui from Raffles Institution.

### **Background on IOAA**

5 The IOAA is an annual event in which high school students from around the world compete against each other, solving theoretical, analytical and observational problems in the fields of astronomy and astrophysics. The theoretical component requires the students to analyse difficult problems and apply physics and mathematics considerably beyond the Junior College syllabus. The first IOAA was held in Thailand in 2007, followed annually by events in Indonesia, Iran, China, Poland, Brazil and Greece. The 8<sup>th</sup> IOAA will be held in Romania in 2014.

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### **About NUS High School of Mathematics and Science**

The NUS High School of Mathematics and Science is a specialised independent school that aims to nurture well-rounded and world-ready scientific minds through its academic programme, affective education and co-curricular activities. The students are provided a broad-based and flexible curriculum that is conducted in technologically well-equipped laboratories. Upon successful of our six-year programme, students graduate with the NUS High School Diploma that is recognised by both local and renowned overseas universities.

### **About Raffles Institution (RI)**

Founded in 1823, Raffles Institution (RI) is a beacon of educational excellence that attracts the best students from Singapore and the region regardless of background, race or creed. Rafflesians are among the most gifted and talented of their cohort, and at RI, they receive an all-round education that enables them to excel in their many passions and pursuits.

### **About Hwa Chong Institution (HCI)**

Hwa Chong Institution is a premier independent school in Singapore with a rich history of more than 90 years. Today, it is one of the finest educational institutions for high-achievers and the gifted in the region. Its reputation as a premier school is based not only on the academic excellence of the students but also their determination to excel in all other areas like leadership, sports and games, co-curricular activities, science research, and service to the community.

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Enclosed photo:



**From left to right:** Francis Wang (NUS High School), Kendrick Wong (NUS High School), John Seiradakis (Secretary, 7<sup>th</sup> IOAA Greece), Oh Wei Shen (Raffles Institution), Darren Chua (Raffles Institution), Mark Theng (Hwa Chong Institution)