

News – Singapore

Saturday, May 24, 2008

Found: another new use of sunlight

Using a magnifying glass to direct sunlight onto a piece of paper may be an age-old way of burning materials.

But two 19-year-old students from the NUS High School used this simple theory to garner one of the top awards at a recent Science Competition in the United States.

Their idea - using sunlight diverted through a telescope, instead of the conventional laser beam, to modify extremely minute components in a material.

The students are part of the Science Research Programme, which allows them to work with university professors on practical projects.

Zhao Ye who is one of the two students, shares what she learnt from the programme.

"In the research situation, we are able to go hands on and investigate every single detail which we do not understand and from there we learnt a lot and in terms of resourcefulness we learn how to gather our equipment, be persistent and really be determined to get our results."

There are currently about 100 students and 70 mentors involved in the Science Research Programme.