

**10 Oct 2008**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Research and cheMagic!**

The National University of Singapore High School of Mathematics and Science (NUS High) will be holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Research Congress on 16 Oct 2008 (Thu).

### **NUS High's Strong Research Culture**

NUS High prides herself on her strong research culture, a result of having systematically exposed her students to research from Year 1 to 6. Despite the school's small population of less than 900 students, we have seen 187 research projects completed or going underway this year.

Notably, many of the projects have earned an international audience. These include projects presented at the Europe International Magnetism Conference held in Spain, the 12<sup>th</sup> International Sociobiology in April, and the Behavioral Ecology Congress held in Cornell University in New York, USA in August this year.

The Research Congress 2008, the culmination of the students' efforts in research work this year, aims to showcase the students' progress and achievements in their respective research, innovation and enterprise programmes, including the Innovation Programme and the Science Training-In-Action (SCIENTIA) Programme, a programme under the aegis of the National University of Singapore (NUS). The Congress will be held on school grounds.

### **Highlights of the Research Congress 2008**

Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Education, will be the distinguished Guest-of-Honour for our Research Congress.

DSO National Laboratories (DSO) is the sole sponsor of the congress and Dr Teo Kien Boon, DSO's Programme Director (Physical Sciences), will be the keynote speaker. Since NUS High's establishment, DSO has been a close partner of the school in promoting science and technology amongst the younger generation. DSO's scientists and engineers are also actively involved in mentoring our students in numerous research projects. Their sponsorship of the Research Congress demonstrates their commitment as a National Laboratory in encouraging students to discover the exciting realm of scientific research.

The projects presented at the Research Congress come from various disciplines and different inter-disciplinary research areas that marry unlikely partners such as Physics and Music. Aptly, the theme of this year's Research Congress is '*Nexus*', which depicts NUS High as the connecting hub for different research fields.

For the first time this year, we have invited secondary school students from the west zone and primary school students to take part in the Congress. Dr Hang Kim Hoo, Principal of the NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, noted that the Research Congress will provide these young budding researchers with a platform to share their research achievements with their

peers. "It is our hope that these students would be able to learn from one another through the interaction and exchange of ideas at the Congress, and be inspired to pursue research at a higher level in future," he added.

Among other things, students and guests at the Congress would be able to view the innovative products that the NUS High Year 1 students have produced under the Innovation Programme. These products will be displayed in a mock-up apartment in the school hall. Products like "EZ Remote", an elderly-friendly remote control, and "Toilet Seater", a modified toilet seat with a mechanism to help the elderly stand up from the seat with minimal effort, are just two of the many prototypes that students have produced to meet the needs of the elderly.

Last but not least, another highlight of the Research Congress would be the launch of the school's second publication, "cheMagic: 50 Chemistry Classics and Magical Tricks!". (*Please refer to the Appendix for the Programme Highlights.*) Written by Dr Seah Wee Khee and four NUS High students, this book contains fifty illustrated methods and techniques used in chemical magic, the art of using science to captivate audiences. Readers can learn how to make Pyrex glassware disappear, make steam rise from a teapot, and start a fire with ice.

***You are cordially invited to cover the event. Should you wish to send a reporter and/or photographer to the event, please contact:***

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

The National University of Singapore High School of Mathematics and Science is a specialised independent school that aims to cultivate and nurture whole individuals through its curriculum, co-curricular activities and enrichment programmes. Its academic programme caters to the cognitive and affective needs of the best and brightest students in Mathematics and the Sciences. The school offers a six-year programme that follows a broad-based curriculum where innovative and interesting teaching methods are used and classes are held in technologically rich rooms. Emphasis is given to higher level cognitive and learning skills, such as critical thinking, independent learning, problem solving, formal writing, research and development. Students who graduate from the school are awarded the NUS High School Diploma.

**APPENDIX**

**NUS High School 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Congress 2008  
Programme Highlights**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
1400	Arrival and registration
1425	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour, Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Education
1430	Welcome Address by Dr Hang Kim Hoo
1440	Opening Address by Guest-of-Honour
1450	Launch of cheMagic Book
1500	Keynote Address by Keynote Speaker, Dr Teo Kien Boon, Principal Member of Technical Staff and Programme Director for Physical Sciences in DSO Emerging Systems Division
1518	Presentation of ISEF Award Winning Project
1530	Proceed to Concourse and Hall for Poster / Exhibits
1530	Tea Reception
1700	End of Research Congress