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PRESS RELEASE

NUS High School Research Congress

Grooming Passionate Researchers at NUS High School

For the past year, Joshua Lim Yong Kiat, a 14-year old student of NUS High School has been indulging in his hobby of building a Tesla Coil (a high voltage machine which creates streaks of lightning) in his home. When his teachers learnt of this, they recognised the value of Joshua's hobby. Building a Tesla Coil is a complex challenge that requires a mastery of electronics and a practical understanding of electricity and magnetism. Joshua was given equipment and laboratory space within the school's Applied Technology Laboratory so he could carry out his work more efficiently and safely. DSO National Laboratories (DSO) also generously offered a helping hand to groom this young Singaporean. They asked a member of their research staff, Mr Danny Yap, to provide expert advice and technical support in his spare time. With such support, Joshua was about to complete his pet project while juggling the demanding academic curriculum at NUS High. After wrapping up this project, Joshua intends to carry out a research project with DSO. His mentor hopes to direct Joshua's passion into building some of the electronic components needed in ongoing research projects.

NUS High School believes that giving its students such room and opportunity to explore their interests is an important first step in grooming outstanding researchers. Research is an important component of the NUS High School curriculum. Dr Hang Kim Hoo, the school's principal, believes that the more open-ended nature of research provides a complementary and important pathway to develop scientific minds. Dr Hang shared that, "Our math and science curriculum together with the Da Vinci programme help to develop our students' values, habits of mind and competencies for them to become world-ready scientific minds. We hope that NUS High School can provide a truly holistic math and science education in Singapore." The school recognises that while some students are highly motivated in pursuing academic challenges like the Olympiads, others are more passionate about research and are willing to persist through the hard work needed to excel in research.

NUS High School starts preparing its students systematically for research right from the first year of their course. Year 1 students are taught basic technical skills and brainstorming techniques so that they can design and build a prototype for an innovative product. More advanced skills, such as scientific writing and research methodology, are taught in later years. All students of NUS High School are required to do a research project as part of their graduation requirement. When students show particular aptitude or interest in a particular area, the school supports them as far as possible. Through this programme, the school hopes to train the scientific minds needed in today's competitive economy. This hard work has paid off. In the past years, NUS High School students have co-authored 9 publications in scientific journals and have had their work presented at 14 international conferences.

The students of NUS High School share their research findings at the annual Research Congress. The keynote speaker for this year's congress is Professor Chong Tow Chong, Provost of the Singapore University of Technology and Design. Over 140 projects will be presented at the congress. The majority of these projects are carried out in the National University of Singapore as well as in collaboration with partner institutes such as DSO National Laboratories, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), as well as Nanyang Technological University. NUS High School has also been collaborating with government agencies such as the Public Utilities Board for research in water technology.

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You are cordially invited to cover the NUS High School Research Congress 2011. 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 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 classrooms and laboratories. Innovative and interesting teaching methods are used, and emphasis is given to higher level cognitive learning. Upon successful completion of our six-year programme, students graduate with the NUS High School Diploma that is recognised by both local and renowned overseas universities.