

Important activities of Institute of Physics in the WYP 2005

(1) Physics Enlighten the World Event

"Physics Enlightens the World" is a planned world-wide event. It is an endeavour to achieve just that: a world-wide relay of light to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Albert Einstein's death. About 45 countries including Singapore took part in this event. The program of this event begins with the switching off of the lights in Princeton, New Jersey, USA, where Einstein lived his last years, on the evening of April 18, 2005 (local time). Then, a light emerges, forming the seed for a grand optical relay. The flash of darkness and light wanders across USA, transgresses the seas, spans a continent, leaps across the oceans, spreads over hemispheres and eventually embraces the whole globe, uniting nations by the enlightening power of Physics.

IPS and NUS Physics Department took part in this event on the evening of April 19 after the council meeting. We received a phone call from Taiwan and then relayed the "light" by calling the Chairman of the Indonesian Physical Society.

(2) Public lecture by Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell

Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell delivered a public lecture entitled "What Astronomy has done for Einstein" on May 5 LT 31.

(3) Symposium on "Looking to the next 100 years in Physics and Its Impact on Engineering, Life Sciences and Technology: Featuring the Asian Perspective" 10-11 August 2005, Singapore.

IPS was a co-organizer of the symposium.

Inaugural IPS Prizes/Awards and World Year of Physics Activities

This year IPS gave out the inaugural IPS awards to the following winners:

- (a) The IPS President's Award: Professor Bernard Tan
- (b) World Scientific Physics Research Award: A/Prof Mark Breese
- (c) Nanotechnology Physics Research Award: Asst/Prof Peter Ho
- (d) The Outstanding Physics Teachers Awards (Category: Secondary School): Ms. Ning Hwee Tiang
- (e) The Outstanding Physics Teachers Awards (Category: JC): No winner this year
- (f) Public Awareness of Physics Award: Mr. Au Mun Chew

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan gave out the awards at the world year of physics dinner for the symposium "Looking to the next 100 years in Physics and Its Impact on Engineering, Life Sciences and Technology: Featuring the Asian Perspective".

Dr. Paul Davies gave a public lecture as part of the award ceremony. After the lecture, Dr. Davies gave out autographed books he authored to the IPS award winners. He was also conferred an honorary fellowship.

(4) Public lecture by Professor Jocelyn Martial Ducloy

With the support of French Embassy, Professor Martial Ducloy visited Singapore during the week of Nov 15- Nov 18 2005. He delivered a public lecture on 17 November, NUS LT31 entitled "A World Year of Physics: Why?"

(5) Public Lectures at Singapore Science Center

The following IPS members gave public lectures at Singapore Science Center

(a) Associate Professor Andrew WEE, NUS on *The Photo-Electric Effect Today* May 2 @ 2 pm and Aug 23 @ 3 pm

(b) Assistant Professor SOW Chorng Haur, NUS on *An Introduction to the NanoWorld* Jun 18 @ 2 pm and Sep 21 @ 3 pm**

(c) Associate Professor Belal E BAAQUIE, NUS on *Superstrings* Jul 30 @ 2 pm and Jul 27 @ 3 pm

(d) Assistant Professor KWEK Leong Chuan, NSSE, NIE on *Quantum Information Science* Jul 30 @ 2 pm and Jul 27 @ 3 pm