Sawaddee (Hello) :-)

On behalf of the promotion of academic olympiads and development of science education foundation (POSN) under the patronage of her royal highness princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra and Chulalongkorn University (CU), we would like to welcome all of the students, teachers, and honour guests to the 42nd physics olympiad competition in the kingdom of Thailand. Apart from the usual tensed competition and super high standard physics olympiad problems, the students and teachers will be scheduled to expose to wonderful and relaxing Thai culture and tradition during their stays in Thailand.

This year, the most important event for all Thais is the celebration of the king’s 84th birthday. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (see the royal profiles on p.3) has shown great interests in science and technology as you can study the king’s achievement inside this issue. Thus, this 42nd physics olympiad is not just a usual competition, but its successfulness will also be the part of this great important king’s 84th birthday celebration.

It has been of greatest honour that Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the chairperson of POSN, will be the chair person for the opening, the medal awarding, and the closing ceremonies. HRH has always shown her interests in science, education, and the development and promotion of young talents. (continued on p.4)
Thailand at a glance

Thailand, officially the Kingdom of Thailand is a country in Southeast Asia with coasts on the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. It borders Myanmar (Burma) to the north-west, Laos to the north-east, Cambodia to the south-east and Malaysia to the south.

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, or King Rama IX, the ninth king of the Chakri Dynasty, the present king. The King has reigned for over 60 years, making him the longest reigning Thai monarch and the world’s longest-serving current head of state.

Thailand embraces a rich diversity of cultures and traditions. With its proud history, tropical climate and renowned hospitality, the Kingdom is a never-ending source of fascination and pleasure for international visitors.

Thailand is one of the most strongly Buddhist countries in the world. The national religion is Theravada Buddhism, a branch of Hinayana Buddhism, practiced by more than 90% of all Thais. The remainder of the population adheres to Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and other faiths all of which are allowed full freedom of expression. Buddhism continues to cast strong influence on daily life.

**Welcoming statement**

A warm welcome to all the participants of the 42nd International Physics Olympiad.

No doubt you have come to Bangkok with great expectations. Maybe you hope to be one of the winners of the Olympiad; after all that is why you are here. But you are here also to meet your peers who have the same fascination for physics as you do. So you will experience that this Olympiad is a once in a lifetime possibility to make friends from all over the world. It turns out that very often these friendships will last for ever and serve as an important first step towards a career in science. At the moment that might seem far away. But soon you will start to study at a university in which, no doubt, you will be very successful. Whatever direction you will follow, you will never forget that once you participated in the International Physics Olympiad in Thailand and it will probably inspire you to become a person who made the difference. Let it happen to you now when you have the possibility. I wish you a very pleasant stay in Bangkok with the best result you can wish.

Hans Jordens
President IPhO
Royal Profiles

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand was born in Cambridge Massachusetts, USA, on Monday the 5th of December 1927. His Majesty was given the significant name of Bhumibol, meaning "Strength of the Land".

For decades, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej has been respected, revered, and loved by Thais throughout the Kingdom. His life’s work, spanning decades, covers a vast spectrum of activities which have far-reaching effects on Thai life. His Majesty has dedicated himself to development work since 1951, personally initiating nearly 2,000 projects in such areas as rural development, agriculture, land and water resources, public health and education, resulting in benefits to the majority of Thais.

His Majesty King Bhumibol's genius and meritorious deeds have been recognized worldwide. This has been reflected in numerous prestigious awards from many organizations. Some of the most notable are: Health-for-All Gold Medal, in recognition of His Majesty's outstanding contributions to achievement of the social goal of health for all by the year 2000, presented by WHO; Plaque of Honour, in recognition of His Majesty's literacy works, presented by the Organizing Committee of S.E.A. Write Awards; UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award (special citation) in recognition of His Majesty's outstanding contribution to sustaining habitats and improving the quality of the Thai people's lives, presented by United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNDP Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of the global relevance of his call for a sufficiency approach to development, presented by United Nations Development Programme; The first Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Medallion in recognition of His Majesty's outstanding humanitarian service in alleviating starvation and poverty, presented by the World Food Prize Foundation.

This year marks the seventh cycle of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday as Thailand prepares to celebrate the 84th birthday of the world's longest-serving head of state on the 5th of December 2011.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was born in 1955, the third child of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand. HRH has acquired first-hand experiences in working for Their Majesties the King and Queen’s development projects in such fields as health and hygiene, education, water resource development, agriculture and cottage industry by regularly accompanying Their Majesties on visits to remote areas since the age of sixteen.

HRH runs several philanthropic organizations and foundations. She has been Executive Vice President of the Thai Red Cross Society since 1977, Executive Chairman of Ananda Mahidol Foundation (to promote higher education), President of the Sai Jai Thai Foundation (to support disabled veterans). She set up Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Foundation to support needy students in schools, vocational colleges and universities. She is the Chair of the Promotion of Academic Olympiads and Development of Science Education Foundation under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra (POSN Foundation).

Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra was the eldest child of Prince of Songkla and Princess Mother (Sangwan). Prince Mahidol has been proclaimed "The Father of Thai Public Health" and the Princess Mother "The Mother of Thai Nursing" in recognition of their selfless and dedicated contributions to the Thai people in the field of public health. Her Royal Highness was born on Sunday 6 May 1923 in London, England. She had two younger brothers, namely King Ananda Mahidol and King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in science majoring in chemistry from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1948.

Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani was keenly interested in and actively supported activities in the development of scientific and mathematical talents of school children. She recognized that school education is the foundation for higher education. In particular she had been the patroness in the project to send students to participate in the International Mathematical and Science Olympiads since Thailand first participated in the 30th International Mathematical Olympiad in Germany in 1989. Her Royal Highness realized that competition at the international level would help develop and promote students' potentials as well as science and mathematics education in secondary schools to reach the international standard, which would bring long-term benefits to the country. She therefore generously provided funding and moral support, giving much attention and following the implementation of the activities closely. For this reason Her Royal Highness established the Promotion of Academic Olympiads and Development of Science Education Foundation under Her Royal Highness’s Patronage (JOSN) with the objectives of supporting and promoting the development of science and mathematics education in schools throughout the country to reach the international standard.
At last, we would hope that you, students, beat the unbeatable problems, get all the gold medals, make the top scores, and most of all have the wonderful and enjoyable time during your stays in Thailand. We would hope that teachers and honour guests will have good time and experience the delicate and elegant culture and traditions of Thailand, and helping us spread the word “Thailand the land of smile” all over the world.

Note: For the opening ceremony, please wear your national dresses or formal dresses. The formal dresses for western countries are acceptable: lounge suits or business suits for men, skirt suits are preferable for women. Taking photos is not allowed during the opening ceremony. All official photos will be available on the official IPhO website for download.

Chulalongkorn U. at a glance

Chulalongkorn University, Thailand’s first institution of higher learning, officially came into being in March, 1917. It was established by King Chulalongkorn (King Rama V).

Today, the university has many notable experts in many different fields and disciplines. Therefore, it is continually organizing courses, training programs, seminars, forums and symposiums for interested persons and members of the public to join, learn and share their ideas.

Useful telephone numbers

<table>
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<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn University</td>
<td>02-215-0871-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathumwan Princess Hotel</td>
<td>02-216-3700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novotel on Siam Square</td>
<td>02-209-8888</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Montien Hotel, Surawongse</td>
<td>02-233-7060</td>
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<td>Police: 191 Fire Brigade: 199 Ambulance: 1669</td>
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<td>General</td>
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<td>Tourism Authority of Thailand</td>
<td>1672</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourist Police Hotline</td>
<td>1155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPhO Committee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Suwan Kusamran</td>
<td>086-893-0699</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thai Currency

The currency of Thailand is the baht (THB, ฿), written in Thai as  บาท. There are six coins and six notes:
- 25 and 50 satang (cent, copper colour) coins - nearly worthless and only readily accepted (and handed out) by buses, supermarkets and 7-11s
- 1, 5 (silver colour), 2 (gold or silver) and 10 baht (silver/gold) coins
- 20 (green), 50 (blue), 100 (red), 500 (purple) and 1000 (grey-brown) baht notes

The most useful bills tend to be 20s and 100s, as many small shops and stalls don’t carry much change.

The wai

Thai traditional greeting known as the wai, where you press your hands together as is in prayer and bow slightly. You can say “Sa-wad-dee” (Hello) with this greeting. This same gesture is used for apologies, together with word “khor-toed” (sorry).