

Physical Society of Hong Kong (PSHK)

Basic information & highlights of recent activities

Background

The Physical Society of Hong Kong (PSHK) was established in 1966 by a group of local physicists. As of now, PSHK has about 100 members, mostly from staff and students at the six universities in Hong Kong. PSHK's **membership** is open to any person or recognized organization who is engaged in the scientific, engineering, technological or education profession, a graduate or a student of a university in or associated with physical sciences, engineering, physics education or science education.

PSHK was established with the following **objectives**: (1) To advance and disseminate knowledge and appreciation of physical sciences, and to promote physics and science education; (2) to encourage and foster friendly collaboration with the members of other recognized institutions, societies and organizations both local and abroad; and (3) to sponsor social activities among members.

The following **membership categories** are available: Full Member, Associate Member, Student Member, Honorary Member, and Corporate Member.

The day-to-day management is carried out by the Executive Committee (ExCo), under the governing PSHK Council. An Annual General Meeting is held every year in June to elect the new ExCo Members and Council Members.

Please visit our website for more information: <http://www.pshk.org.hk/>. Several recent key activities are outlined below.

2005: The International Year of Physics

We have good reason to celebrate in 2005! The United Nations has declared 2005 to be the International Year of Physics. In 1905, Albert Einstein published three important pieces of work that were to change the world. In the 100 years that followed, physics has affected every part of our daily life. In 2005, physical societies around the world will organize activities to celebrate IYP2005.

PSHK, the Hong Kong Science Museum, and all physics-related departments in Hong Kong, have planned for a year-round talk for secondary school students and teachers, together with a mini-exhibition. There will also be joint colloquia for undergraduate and postgraduate students. For details, see PSHK website.

Winter Schools

PSHK has, in the past few years, organized Winter Schools on selected topics in physics targeted at postgraduate students and other members. The aim of these Schools is to provide up-to-date information on topics in the frontiers of physics. Topics in the past two years comprise, e.g. Nano-Science and Technology, Photonic Crystals, Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Annual Conference

In conjunction with the Annual General Meeting, PSHK hosts an Annual Conference in June every year. Annual Conference provides an excellent platform for members to interact and exchange ideas. The oral presentations comprise a few invited talks reflecting important recent progress made by local physicists and contributed talks by members. Large proportion of the participants are the postgraduate students, for whom presentations at the Conference provides a valuable opportunity to improve their presentation and communication skills. **The next Annual Conference will be held in June 2004 at the City University of Hong Kong.**

Besides the Annual Conference, PSHK has also co-organized conferences with the physics and physics-related departments in Hong Kong on various occasions. For example, PSHK co-organized the Third Joint Meeting of Chinese Physicists Worldwide held in Hong Kong in 2000.

In 2004-05, PSHK also plans to co-organize colloquia by eminent scholars targeted at postgraduate students and undergraduates.

Out-Reach Programmes:

PRESS (Physics Research Experience for Sixth-form Students)

PSHK initiated the PRESS programme. The programme aims at providing real hands-on research experience to a selected group of Form 6 students who show exceptional talent and interest in physics and science. The research projects are supervised by teaching staff from all six physics and physics-related departments in Hong Kong. PRESS, started with less than 50 students in 2001-02, has expanded to more than 70 students in 2002-03. In 2003-04, PRESS was organized by PSHK and the Gifted Education Section of the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) of the HKSAR Government. PRESS 2004-05 is now on-going.

Article Writing for Secondary Students

Since 2002, we have been mobilizing members to join us in an effort of writing articles on physics and science that are geared for the Secondary 4-5 level. This is meant as an important step to provide support to students and teachers when a revised Secondary 4-5 physics syllabus becomes effective in September 2003. PSHK members have responded positively, with more than 30 articles prepared so far. These articles will be posted on an EMB website for teachers and students.

Popular Physics Talks

Members of PSHK have also been active in promoting physics to a wider audience through popular talks given at such venues as the Hong Kong Science Museum and Hong Kong Space Museum.

Invitation to Membership

Finally, on behalf of the Physical Society of Hong Kong, I would like to extend my invitation to all physicists, physics graduate and undergraduate students, physics teachers, and eligible scientists in Hong Kong **to become members of the PSHK**. The present members are encouraged to pay the membership fees to their Campus Coordinators (see below). Currently the dues are HK\$100 for Full Membership and HK\$40 for Student Membership. It is worth to note that PSHK has signed a **dual-membership agreement** with the American Physical Society (APS) and the Physical Society of Japan (JPS). Members of PSHK, upon showing a valid PSHK membership card, may register at APS and JPS conferences at the APS membership rate. Filled-in membership application forms can also be sent to the President. [Prof. Pak-Ming Hui, Department of Physics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T. Enquires: 26096351.]

Executive Committee (2004-2005):

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