

Mechanics for the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) Olympiad

1. Levels of Competition

- ✚ The Regional Competition will be done in the seventeen (17) regions of the country. The competition will be coordinated by the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs (PSYSC) in collaboration with the IYA2009 National Organizing Committee (NOC) and the Department of Education (DepEd) Regional Offices for the secondary level and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the collegiate level. The activity will be done on 05 September 2009 in varied venues (see attached). Venue for the remaining five regions of the country will be posted at the website www.astronomy2009.ph.
- ✚ The National Competition will be participated in by ALL regional winners. It will be managed by the NOC and the UP National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (UP NISMED). It will be held at the UP NISMED on 11 December 2009.

2. Qualification of Participants

- ✚ Participants of secondary schools should be bona fide 1st to 3rd yr high school students while college students (representing themselves) should be enrolled in any undergraduate program.
- ✚ Members of astronomical societies shall be allowed to join the competition provided they meet the age limit and qualifications.
- ✚ For secondary schools, each team should be composed of two students.
- ✚ For college students, the competition will be against individuals.

3. Application Forms

- ✚ Application forms can be downloaded at website www.astronomy2009.ph

4. Registration of Participants

- ✚ Concerned school officials (for the secondary level) and individual applicants (collegiate level) should register the applications to the office of Dr. Cynthia P. Celebre, Single Point of Contact (SPOC) of the Philippines with IAU through Fax number 434-2675 or email address: cynthia_celebre@yahoo.com The deadline for registration is on or before 28 August 2009.

5. Types of Questions Per Competition and Declaration of Winners

- ✦ The Regional Test for the two levels will be a written examination will be made up of multiple-choice questions while the National Test will be both written and hands-on.
- ✦ For secondary schools the TEAM that garners the **highest total score will be declared the regional representative to the national competition.**
- ✦ For the collegiate level, the student with **highest score will be declared the regional representative to the national competition**
- ✦ The first three (3) highest scorers in the national competition (Team for secondary) and (individual for collegiate level) will be declared 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners while the succeeding seven (7) top scorers for both levels will be awarded consolation prizes.

6. Preparation of and Types of Questions

- ✦ Astronomy-related societies will be enjoined to submit items.
- ✦ The items will be reviewed and modified by a committee of scientists and science educators designated by the NOC.
- ✦ The items will be based on three (3) cognitive levels: factual information, conceptual understanding, and reasoning and analysis
- ✦ The Regional tests will be composed of 50 multiple-choiced questions (MCQs)
- ✦ The National Test: will be made up of 30 MCQs question and two (2) hands-on practical work task or problem solving situations.
- ✦ Rubrics will be used to evaluate answers to the open-ended and /or practical work tasks

7. Board of Judges

- ✦ The Board of Judges will be comprised of experts in the field designated by the NOC. They will also review questions submitted or formulate their own questions for the competition.
- ✦ The Board shall decide on disputes arising from the competition.

- ✚ The Board may disqualify any student who violates the rules of the competition.

8. Test Administrators

- ✚ The Regional Competition will be administered by the PSYSC and supervised by representatives of DepED, or CHED and NOC.
- ✚ Test booklets will be prepared by NOC and brought to testing sites by the NOC representative.
- ✚ The National Competition will be managed by NOC and UP NISMED

9. Budget

- ✚ Participation to the **Regional Competition** will be borne by the school (for secondary schools) or students (at college level).
- ✚ Students and test administrators will be provided with food during the regional elimination.
- ✚ **For the National Competition**, regional winners will be provided air or bus tickets, free accommodation at the NISMED Hostel (for two nights and three days) and food. Each **High School Team will be allowed one Coach** who will receive the same benefits as the students.