

May 17, 2010

Dear Student,

I have the pleasure of informing you that you have achieved a rank in the top 12 at SLMCC 2010 – you will be awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals as winners of Sri Lankan Mathematical Olympiad (SLMO) 2010 in the ratio of 1: 2: 3 according to the rank. Congratulations!

Continuing beyond SLMO, possibly to the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), requires a lot of commitment from you. As you can see your performance at SLMCC 2010 is not good. Please see the attached results sheet. Problems in SLMCC 2010 are not hard compared to the IMO – only problem 5 comes close to the IMO level, it could be an Easy IMO problem. Problems in the IMO are categorized as Easy (problems 1 and 4), Medium (problems 2 and 5) and Hard (problems 3 and 6). In the past, 7 of our students have won Bronze medals at the IMO by solving Easy and Medium problems. But no one has got more than two points out of seven to a Hard problem. If you are determined to go to the IMO and be recognized by the international mathematical community then you have to work very hard. Sadly the local media and the government do not understand the magnitude of the achievements at the IMO level. The book *The IMO compendium* which contains theory and past IMO problems with solutions is an excellent book on IMO. Hope that you will seriously study this book.

You are all invited to the IMO Team Selection Competition 2010 which will be held from 9 am to 1.30 pm on May 29, 2010. This competition will have 3 problems at the Easy IMO level. The Sri Lankan team to the IMO 2010 will be selected according to the performance at this competition.

If you are selected to the team then it is a must that you participate in our training program. Details of the training program will be given in the first week of June. There will be more exams during the training program to evaluate your progress, and if the progress is not adequate then we will be compelled to take a smaller team consisting of 3 or 4 students – we took only 5 students to the IMO 2006. Those who are doing GCE AL this August must decide now whether they are going to the IMO or not. We will conduct our training program with minimal disturbance to your AL preparation. But there will be a two week residential training camp towards the end of June and your participation in this is a must.

You have to make a decision with your parents whether you are going to the IMO or not. If you are going then you have to bear the round trip air fare to Astana, Kazakhstan; obligatory insurance coverage; and visa fees. The IMO 2010 Organizing Committee will cover all official expenses for the team in Kazakhstan including meals and lodgings.

**The Sri Lanka Olympiad Mathematics Foundation will utilize its limited financial resources to award the airfare to any deserving student who wins at least a Bronze medal. But this will only be awarded after the team returns from the IMO.** Last year GRBR Gamlath who won a Bronze medal was awarded Rs. 100, 000.00. Lajanugen Logeswaran who also won a Bronze medal last year was offered a financial award but he did not accept.

**You must have a passport before the end of this month.** If you don't have a passport then you have two options.

1. You get a passport now through the normal service without worrying about whether you get selected to the team or not.
2. You get a passport after you get selected to the team. In this case you have to get the passport on May 31<sup>st</sup> through the one day service. You have to have all the documents ready before May 27<sup>th</sup>.

We need to send the passport details to the relevant authorities in Kazakhstan before the end of this month to get visa. Any delay in sending this information might result in visa not being issued to you!

Please let us know on the 22<sup>nd</sup> whether you are going to the IMO or not, and the status of your passport. Please print the attached declaration and fill it and bring it on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Good luck to you on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Please confirm your participation by sending an sms to 072 3678215. Do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Chanakya J. Wijeratne  
Former Head/ Department of Mathematics, University of Colombo &  
CEO/ Sri Lanka Olympiad Mathematics Foundation