

PRESS RELEASE

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Physics Olympiad draws young physicists from around the world



A total of 381 high school students from 83 countries will be in Denmark from 7 to 15 July to put their knowledge of physics to the test at the International Physics Olympiad—IPhO 2013. The event, which is organized jointly by DTU and the University of Copenhagen, is being held in Denmark this year to celebrate the centenary of Niels Bohr's revolutionary theory about the hydrogen atom.

A demanding exam in theoretical and experimental physics is what awaits 381 young people from all over the world when they arrive in Denmark on 7 July. Around 20 gifted physicists from the Technical University of Denmark, the University of Copenhagen and high schools around the country have come up with three theoretical and two experimental assignments designed to establish just how well acquainted the young people are with the laws of physics.

The pupils will be required to solve the assignments without any aids—so they will have to have their wits about them when they take the tests, which will be held on Tuesday, 9 July at the Niels Bohr Institute/Gefion High School, and on Thursday, 11 July at DTU Lyngby Campus. The tests will be translated by accompanying teachers into all the languages represented, and the pupils will naturally be allowed to submit their answers in their native language.

Between the tests there will be plenty of time for social activities where the young people can get to know each other—and Denmark—a little better. For example, they will be visiting Dyrehaven animal park, Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen City Hall, the Viking Ship Museum and Lejre Museum. And there will, of course, be a party.

Over and above the trip and the experience, two-thirds of the participants will be going home with a medal or an honourable mention.

Facts about The International Physics Olympiad 2013

- The International Physics Olympiad 2013 will be held in the period 7–15 July 2013, with the opening ceremony on 8 July and the closing ceremony on 14 July at DTU.
- The event is being organised by the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen (KU).
- The patron is HRH Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark.
- The Physics Olympiad Committee comprises Senior Lecturer Niels Hartling (Birkerød High School), Professor Henrik Bruus (DTU) and Director Christian Thune Jacobsen (DTU).
- Up to 900 people are involved: 381 enrolled pupils, 155 leaders, 100 observers/guests, and 250 organizers, guides, assignment graders and assistants.
- Denmark is entering a team of five students, including one of this year's super students, Michael Blom Hermansen, who has recently completed his Secondary School Leaving Examination from CPH West in Ishøj with an exceptionally high grade point average.
- The host country pays for accommodation for five students and two teachers from each country, with sponsorship this year from the Danish Ministry of Education and eight private foundations.
- In addition, the majority of the participating countries pay the voluntary participation fee of EUR 3,500.
- Medals:
 - 8% (35 pupils) win gold
 - 17% (70 pupils) win silver
 - 25% (100 pupils) win bronze
 - 17% (70 pupils) receive an honourable mention

Contact

Henrik Bruus, Professor and Vice President of IPhO 2013

e-mail: bruus@fysik.dtu.dk

Tel. +45 4525 3307 (landline), +45 2262 0880 (mobile)

Visit the website at www.ipho2013.dk