

Immediate

6 September 2003

MEDIA RELEASE

National Junior Robotics Competition

The largest national robotics competition that injects fun and creativity to learning of science and technology

More than 3,500 students forming 740 teams will compete and test their strategic skills and technical expertise as they take part in the National Junior Robotics Competition (NJRC), held at the Singapore Science Centre from 6 to 11 September 2003.

Since its inception in 1999, NJRC has held strongly its initial aim to inject fun and creativity to the learning of science and technology. It is through these interactive and meaningful experiences that the Competition continues to receive over-whelming support from teachers and students, making NJRC the largest robotics competition held in the world.

“NJRC is about changing perception about science, and in fact, to develop their interest in science. After taking part in this competition, many students have realized that math and science can be practical and essential to solve real-world problems,” says Dr Chew Tuan Chiong, Chief Executive, Singapore Science Centre.

Each year, the organisers develop the robotics competition by posting a challenge for the teams of students to solve using the LEGO® MINDSTORMS Robotics Invention System and Robo Lab kits to construct their machines.

— Page 1 —

— More —

This year, under the theme of “Bermuda Triangle”, the Competition requires the teams to perform two missions at a specified time frame. The first mission is to map and mark out the danger zone around the no-longer Tranquility Bay to create a big danger zone for the shipping traffic. The second mission is to repair the lighthouse’s transmitter, rescue a cruise liner and prevent an oil spill.

To make the competition more exciting and intense, a “Search & Rescue” Award will be given out to the team that exhibits the best and most creative features of a Search and Rescue facility.

Due to the large number of teams participating this year, the NJRC will run for six days for the first time. After the initial five days of preliminary competition, the best forty teams from each category will vie for the Championship Award, which includes a trip to United States worth S\$70,000. The teams that clinch the Best Performance Robot will also win a trip to Korea in November and participate in the International Robotics Olympiad.

Apart from the main challenge, there are two side events for students to participate. The two events are the ever-popular “Sumobot” and the newly introduced “Sprint Race” that requires students to design, build and programme a stable robot to race against the opponent’s robot and reach the finishing line first.

The NJRC is co-organised by the Singapore Science Centre and the Agency for Science, Technology & Research (A*STAR), with support from the Ministry of Education and the Singapore Totalisator Board. It is also one of the hundred events under the Science.03 – a month-long celebration with a series of exciting and informative science events for students, professionals and the general public.

For more media information, please contact:

Esther Ang (Ms)
Public Relations Officer
Singapore Science Centre
DID: 6425 2541 Hp: 9113 9654
Email: eny_ang@science.edu.sg