

Dear young scientists and all the organizers in Bangladesh,

I am very pleased that I was asked to write to you in this occasion when it is the first time the Science Olympiad is arranged in Bangladesh. I know that great expectations are directed to this gathering. Hundreds of students have spent thousands of hours preparing for this event which will demand not only good knowledge in science but skills and inventiveness as well. The goal in all science Olympiads is to encourage and enhance interest in science. Physics tells us that natural phenomena are based on interactions and the understanding of those interactions is the ultimate goal in physics. During the Science Olympiad many young students are interacting with each other. They meet others who are interested in the same things and think alike. This is also an important part of this event.

Let me tell you something about the International Physics Olympiads that I hope also your country will join in future. The first International Physics Olympiad was organized in Warsaw, Poland 1967. Five countries took part in this event. Since then the amount of participating countries has grown so that last summer in Pohang (Korea) there were competitors from 71 countries. Each country can send five students (contestants) who have to solve both theoretical and experimental problems during the two competition days. Also excursions to cultural sights and visits to industrial sites and research institutes belong to the schedule.

When the 23rd International Physics Olympiad was organized in Finland in 1992 I wanted to have publicity for the Olympiads and wrote an article to our main newspaper. For that article I asked our former competitors among other things what kind of reasons they thought to be behind that they had become interested in physics. Here are two answers.

I like all sciences and I can imagine myself as a biologist, astronomer, geologist, etc. Physics is perhaps the most enjoyable of them all because all sciences are built on it and it has connections to technology that helps one to build funny toys. I would like to have the inquiring mind through all my life.

All my life, as long as I can remember, I have been interested in nature. Already when I was a small child my father took me with him to his trips to the forests. The logical consequence from this was that I became interested in physics. It is physics that tries to answer the question why. Everybody who has sound curiosity should know some basic things about nature.

I wish you all a very successful First National Science Olympiad, and enjoy the Olympiad.

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