

Julia Robinson  
Mathematics Festival



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## The Third Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival in Hong Kong, March 23, 2019

(Hong Kong) Hong Kong's second Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival (JRMF) was held at the Singapore International School (Hong Kong) on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The goal of this mathematics festival is to make mathematics accessible to every student of all abilities, and focuses on collaborative problem-solving, as opposed to the competitive nature of mathematics examinations and contests, so that students can enjoy the richness and beauty of mathematics without anxiety.

Guided by experienced mathematics teachers, math enthusiasts and other mathematics lovers in the community, over 250 students aged 10 to 14 worked on a variety of mathematical problems, puzzles and activities. Students came from The Chinese International School, Independent School Foundation (ISF) Academy, English Schools Foundation (ESF) affiliated schools like South Island School, Victoria Shanghai Academy, Canadian International School, Yew Chung International School, TWGH Schools, Han Academy, Singapore International School (Hong Kong) among others. The festival culminated with TED-like talks from Mr. Shen Jian, Festival Co-Director, talking about John Conway's theory of cellular automata and Mr. Quintus Kilbourn, a math mentor-CS sophomore, talking about Raymond Smullyan's logical puzzles.

High-achieving secondary school students from the Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Diocesan Girls' School, Chinese International School and the Shanghai World Foreign Language Middle School were awarded the Julia Bowman Robinson Student Award for demonstrating the highest level of excellence through academic endeavors at their schools and enthusiasm for mathematics. Some of these Julia Bowman Robinson Student Award recipients took up the roles of problem setters and table facilitators mentoring other students at the festival. Ten local tertiary students were recognized with Outstanding Mentor award for their consistent and finest contribution and dedicated service as student mentors at JRMF in Hong Kong.

The JRMF events honour the memory of Julia Robinson, a mathematician recognized for her work in solving Hilbert's tenth problem and encourages more students to pursue mathematics. In partnership with the American Institute of Mathematics, the Festivals began at Google in 2007, and have since expanded to many places worldwide. The Hong Kong Festival received support and sponsorship from Google Inc., the Information Theory Society, Nautilus Software Tech., and the Singapore International School (Hong Kong) along with its supportive SISHK-Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), and most importantly of all, positive feedbacks from the student participants (e.g., a student's feedback excerpt on next page).

Organizing Committee of Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival in Hong Kong

Director: Dr. Tan, Chee Wei, Professor of Computer Science

Co-Director: Mr. Shen, Jian, Shell Street Labs Ltd.

Advisor: Dr. Saul, Mark, Executive Director of Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival

Mr. Ng, Bernard, Vice-Principal of Singapore International School (Hong Kong)

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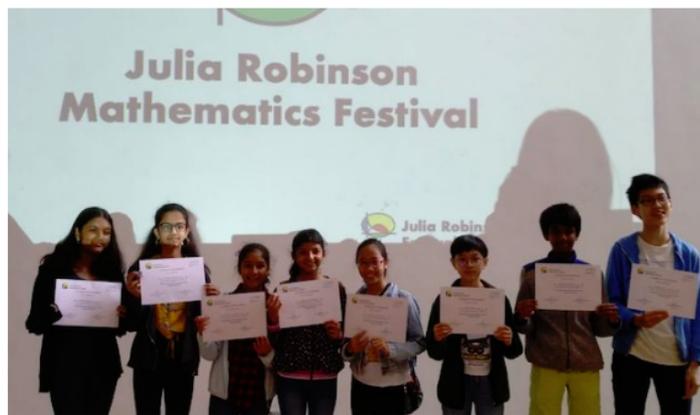
For photos, videos and more information, please go to: <https://algebragame.app/jrmf>



## Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival

*"The 2019 **Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival** was a great experience! It was an action-packed day and was very entertaining. It had many different questions that made your brain think and was worth it. The questions were very intriguing and exciting, and we fully immersed yourself with the question. It was a unique Maths competition as it was non-competitive and very engaging. The facilitators were very friendly and helped you understand when you get stuck. It improved your logical reasoning skills and helped you improve many other skills like teamwork and analytical skills. There were many original questions and games too. The event was very technologically advanced and involved using phones and downloading fun Maths games. There were Maths riddles and many other different types of questions; each helping you improve, not only were they life skills but also useful problem-solving skills such as cancelling out possibilities, algebraic formulas, physical representations. It was fascinating, and it was a worthwhile experience!"*

Karthik VENKATESH (9K2)



A student from ESF South Island School sharing his experience of the festival:

<https://www.sis.edu.hk/family-bauhinia-newsletter-march-2019>



Group photo of math table facilitators and volunteers at the 2019 JRMF Hong Kong