



The 1st International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics

Visit to Sirindhorn Observatory and the Learning Centre of King Bhumipol's Philosophy of Economic Sufficiency

Students participating in the 1st IOAA 2007 visited Chiang Mai University's Sirindhorn Observatory tower on Doi Suthep on Saturday evening. With the help of guides from the CMU Astronomy Club, all of the participants enjoyed stargazing using the 16-inch reflection telescope which is the largest telescope in Thailand. The Astronomy Exhibition staged at the Observatory also attracted much attention from the students.

On Sunday morning, the students visited the Learning Centre of King Bhumipol's Philosophy of Economic Sufficiency located in Tambon MaeSa, Amphur MaeRim, to learn about the philosophy and how it integrates in to the Lanna way of life. The students all showed great enthusiasm at all of the learning activity stations, especially those concerned with pottery and *Sa* paper production. The crowd of onlookers cheered when participants from Poland, Iran, and Bangladesh tried their hands at the various activities. "Nothing ventured anything gained" seemed to be the order of the day.

Tonight there will be an observation examination for the contestants in the 1st IOAA 2007 tonight.

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www.ioaa.info/ioaa2007/