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TO NEWS EDITOR
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## CHINESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REPRESENT FAR EAST IN INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER PROGRAMMING CONTEST

Four Computer Science students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong will have the honour of representing Hong Kong and the Far East region to compete with their counterparts at top universities including Harvard, M.I.T. and U.C. Berkeley in the prestigious International Collegiate Programming Contest, which will be held at Phoenix, Arizona on March 8-9.

The programming contest will be held in conjunction with the Annual ACM Computer Science Conference, a major international computer science event. The contest is an important activity sponsored by the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), which is the largest and oldest international scientific and educational computer society in the industry.

The main goal of the competition is to test the contestants' team work and the ability to program the computer to solve problems accurately in a fixed amount of time. The scope of the problems is very broad, ranging from business transaction processing to robot path planning.

One question in last year's Finals requires the contestants to determine how funds and new employees of a company should be divided among different divisions in order to maximize the total productivity increase. Another concerns the subdivision of land faced by surveyor. The remaining topics are budget travelling, ancestry relationship calculation, geometric modelling, musical instrument digital interface to computers, the 15-puzzle, and scanner image processing.

This year, a total of 626 teams, coming from countries as far apart as Australia to Bulgaria, took part in the preliminary contests to compete for one of the 35 spots in the Finals. The CUHK team excelled over six other local institutions in the ACM (HK Chapter) contest held in July last year to become one of the representatives of the Far East Region in the Finals. The other Far East representative comes from Taiwan.

Cathay Pacific Airways is sponsoring the team's trip to the United States. Cathay Pacific's Corporate Communication Manager Kwan Chuk-fai said, "We are delighted that the CUHK team will be representing the Far East in this large scale international event. Cathay Pacific is Hong Kong's flag carrier, and fully supports cultural and educational exchange as such."

The Team consists of Dr. Hsu Siu Chi (Coach), Chan Wai Wai, Lou Chi Wai, Tong Ka Leung, and Won Hon Wing.

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