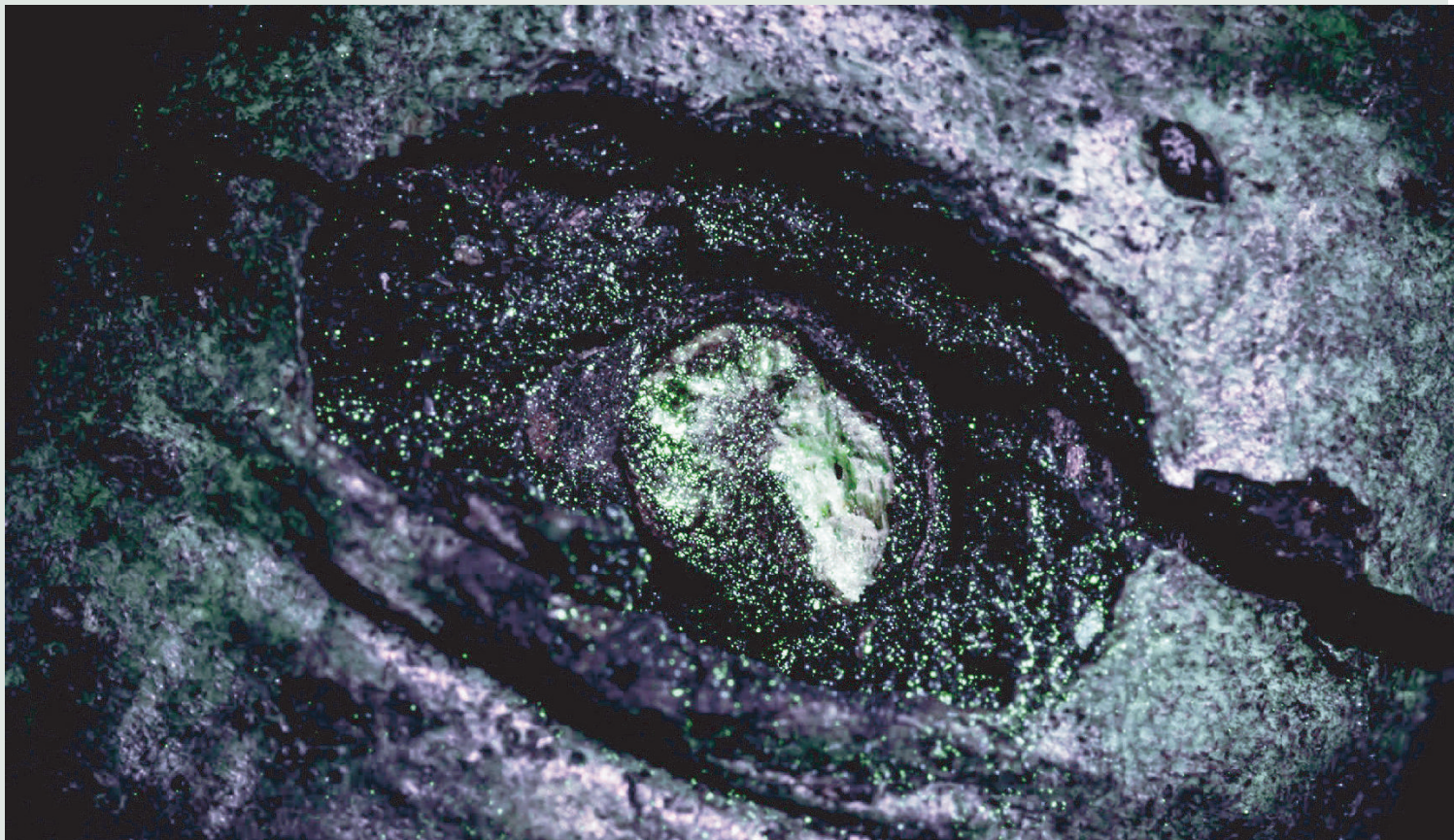


Monday, July 17th

ISSUE 9



CONTENTS

Full-day Kanto Excursion
Memories in IPhO2023
"Daikagura"
Message from Past Participant

物理

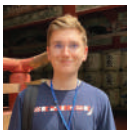
BUTSURI

Nikko



► Romania: MIRICA Ioan-Alexandru

I liked here, Nikko. The bus ride to come here was pretty long, but everything was beautiful. In particular, the Toshogu Shrine was incredible. It was much better than what we saw in the photos. Luckily, I got the best luck of Omikuji here. In Asakusa I got the worst luck, but now I had the best luck, so I hope I'll get good results in the Olympiad competition.



► Switzerland: SERRANO CAPATINA Adrian & TSUTSUI Kodai

The bus ride was a bit long because of the heavy traffic, but Nikko was extremely beautiful, especially this stone torii gate. I also liked hearing the stories of carvings of the three wise monkeys which tells us how to live the perfect life. They were quite interesting.

I really liked the detailed decorations of the torii gate with the never-seen-before precision. It was really mind blowing seeing this level of precision remained for a long time, say a couple hundred years at least. It's quite a good experience for me.



► Bulgaria: DIMITROV Rumen Lyubomirov

The visit to Nikko was really great. I was looking forward to this excursion so that I could also see the Edo culture. My team members had the same idea. As I expected, this tour was really interesting and I saw what I wanted to see. In particular, the sculptures of the three wise monkeys of "see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil" were great. We took photos of the sculpture with our members doing the same poses as these monkeys. We really enjoyed them. The lunch was nice, though it was different from our country's food. The difference is always good and it was nice.



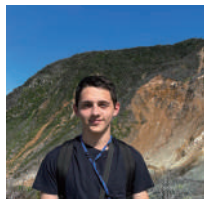
Excursion

Hakone



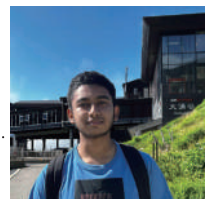
Bosnia and Herzegovina:
NUMANOVIC Muhamed

Hakone is a little bit away from Tokyo, but we enjoyed the ride to the destination. The feeling I had in Hakone was quite amazing. The most fascinating thing was the smell of the south pacific. Lunch was also good. I hope we would have a good view from the ropeway.



Bangladesh: ABRAR MD FAHIM

Today's excursion was great. First, we ate lunch at a famous restaurant, where the presentation on the Japanese dishes was really amazing. And then we went to Ohwakudani, where there are a lot of onsens. After this, we got on the ropeway. The environment was awesome and I loved it.



Kamakura



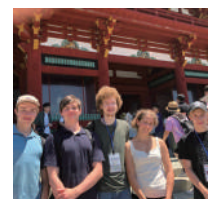
Netherlands: HANEMAAIJER Jesse

We first decided to go to the aquarium in Enoshima. There were some interesting fish, and some were very intriguing. Then we moved over to some shrines, using quite busy trains. At some point most of us were very hot, yet the shrines were very beautiful and comforting.



Estonia team

This shrine (Tsurugaoka Hachimangu) is really really big and the prettiest that I have ever seen. This shrine is very busy, but an actual traditional style is well in, which is nice. It was the first shrine I saw that had a SHIMENAWA. Its gradation is also very nice.





eating

Memories in IPhO2023





Cultural Experience

Memories in IPhO2023

Excursion



Daikagura

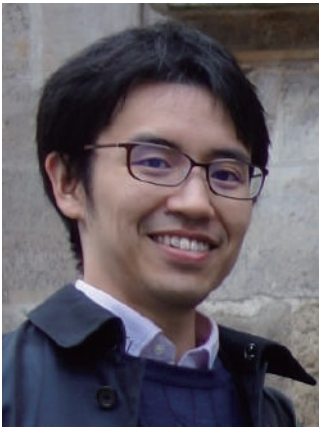
Traditional Japanese Performing Art



"Kyokugei"

Today's closing ceremony will feature a performance of Daikagura, a traditional Japanese performing art. Daikagura was originally a Shinto ritual art of the Edo period (1603-1867), in which Shinto priests of the Ise and Atsuta shrines in the central part of Japan performed lion dances and other performances as they traveled from place to place. Toward the end of the Edo period, Daikagura, which had previously been performed on the main street, began to be performed at vaudeville theaters called Yose. Today, it has become an indispensable entertainment at Yose.

Daikagura is composed of four arts: "Mai", "Kyokugei", "Wagei", and "Narimono": "Mai" is a type of dancing and includes lion dances to drive away demons. "Kyokugei" is acrobatics and includes throwing plectrums, balls, knives, and other objects, holding Japanese umbrellas on foreheads or chins, and spinning a gold ring or a square wooden box on top of the opened Japanese umbrella. In "Wagei" meaning storytelling, performers parody Kabuki plays by exchanging comedic banter. In "Narimono", musical instruments are played, such as flutes, drums, gongs, and others.



The Fun of Physics I Found from Outside Physics

Shuhei Yoshida

Participant of IPhO2008 in Vietnam

Born in Fukuyama City, Hiroshima

Graduated from Hiroshima University High School, Fukuyama in 2009

Graduated from the Department of Physics, Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo in 2018

Current: Researcher, NEC Visual Intelligence Research Labs

As far back as I can remember, I have always liked science. In my childhood, books on popular science were my favorite choice for my free time, and science museums in nearby cities were my favorite destination for weekend trips. I had a vague feeling of respect for "scientists" in the books who accomplished some cool stuff, just as many other children admired TV stars. After entering junior high school, my interest centered on mathematics and computer programming, which eventually led me to the final of the Japanese Olympiad in Informatics in my first year of senior high school. Unfortunately, I was not selected for the national team in the International Olympiad in Informatics. Still, around that time, I thought information science would be my future.

The Physics Challenge (the Japanese contest in physics) and IPhO totally changed the courses of my career. Many of the problems in the competitions involve subjects beyond the boundaries of physics taught in Japanese high schools. They presented how textbook knowledge and logic could help us understand physical phenomena that, for me, had only existed in books and science museum exhibits. That was a fascinating experience that ignited my enthusiasm for physics, which drove me over the next ten years until I eventually earned a Ph.D. in physics.

Now, my enthusiasm is pointing in another direction: machine learning and artificial intelligence. After obtaining the Ph.D., I joined a research group at NEC Corporation in Japan, where I have been studying machine learning and its application to image and video recognition. Researchers in this field try to develop new technologies that automatically understand complex data with computers. As I wrote above, I was into information science in high school. You might think I just have returned to what I used to like, but that is not the whole story. I am here because I studied physics. My experience in physics made me aware of some fascinating aspects of machine learning that I would not have found without my physics background. Conversely, there is also a fascination with physics that I noticed after I started machine learning.

In fact, there are many forms of connections between the two fields. For example, complex data may involve simple physical laws in its generation processes. If the laws behind them are uncovered, they can be incorporated into programs and significantly aid in understanding the data. In addition, various concepts from physics have been introduced into machine learning and used to understand existing algorithms and to develop new ones. Even after I left the field, I can see how powerful and universal the methods and concepts developed in physics are to model and understand complex systems. Behind this exchange of ideas is, of course, the exchange of people. Many researchers in machine learning have physics backgrounds; many colleagues in my current work have a physics degree. Occasionally, we communicate in the language of physics, which enables us to find new aspects of our machine-learning research.

Perhaps because machine learning is closely related to physics in the first place, I feel so familiar with physical ideas even after leaving physics. However, I believe that the style of physics itself, which is to scoop out meaningful information from complex situations and explore the principles behind it, is so powerful and universal that we can use it to solve problems in many other fields than just physics and machine learning. I hope that young people who were exposed to the fascination of physics through IPhO will use what they have gained from this experience and play an active role in their respective fields, whether it is physics, machine learning, or whatever.

SCHEDULE

TODAY
Monday, July 17th  27°C
37°C

TOMORROW
Tuesday, July 18th  27°C
37°C

Students

7:15-8:00 Breakfast NYC
9:30-12:00 Closing Ceremony NYC
12:20-13:30 Farewell Lunch NYC

Departures

Leaders&Observers

7:15-8:00 Breakfast NSH
9:30-12:00 Closing Ceremony NYC
12:20-13:30 Farewell Lunch NYC

Departures

We wish you all
a safe return to your
countries!



NYC: National Olympics Memorial Youth Center
NSH: Nippon Seinenkan Hotel



The Physical Society of Japan



Japan Society of Applied
Physics



The Physics Education
Society of Japan



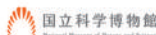
The Biophysical Society of
Japan



Japan Science and
Technology Agency (JST)



National Institution for Youth
Education (NIYE)



National Museum of Nature
and Science



Japan Arts Council



Tokyo National Museum



The University of Tokyo



Tokyo University of Science



Tokyo City University



Tokyo University of Foreign
Studies



International Christian
University



Sophia University



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