

NUS High School student tops science contest

NUS High School of Mathematics and Science student Tan Kin Hern clinched the top spot in the student category in the A*Star Talent Search (ATS) 2019 for his project on recreational mathematics called Regular Matchstick Graphs.

A*Star or Agency for Science, Technology and Research is a national agency that drives scientific research and technological innovation. Among its aims are to grow the economy and jobs, and improve society such as through developments in healthcare.

On his project, Kin Hern, 17, said: "When we talk about graphs, people usually think about the graphs that have the x- and y-axes, but in mathematics it's quite different.

"In the field of graph theory, we

are looking at graphs created with points and lines, where every point can be connected to another point via a line. So for my project, I'm investigating if all of the (connecting) lines are actually straight lines of the same length."

He was among the 117 young talents celebrated for their stellar research achievements at the ATS and Singapore Science and Engineering Fair Awards Presentation Ceremony 2019, held at the University Cultural Centre on April 24.

Following their success at the SSEF, six projects across five categories were selected to represent Singapore at the Intel ISEF, the world's largest international pre-college science competition. They competed with more than 1,800 students to showcase their independent research this month.

Nur Syahiidah Zainal



Tan Kin Hern with Professor Kurt Wuthrich, who was awarded a Nobel Prize in chemistry in 2002. He was the chief judge at the A*Star Talent Search. PHOTO A*STAR