

Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad

<http://aplo.asia>

Delegates from India, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, and Taiwan held a meeting concerning the creation of a new regional competition called Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad (APLO) with the aim of escalating attention to language and linguistics in the Asia Pacific region. The APLO will be held on the first Sunday of May every year (tentative), beginning in 2019.

APLO is *not* a contest where students from different countries physically meet in one place to participate in the competitions. Instead, the problem sets will be distributed to the local organizing committees of the participating countries or regions beforehand, and all contestants will compete in their home country on the same day. Detailed plans have been drawn up as below.

Regional Delegations We would like to invite the following countries or regions to participate in APLO, that (a) are part of the Asia Pacific region, defined broadly, *and* (b) have either participated or have shown interest in participating in the IOL in the past.

Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam.

Any country or region from the Asia Pacific region that has no experience of participating in the IOL will also be welcomed to take part in APLO.

Contest Format The contest is a one-day paper-based contest, with individuals competing within their home countries. There is no team contest. The contest will run for five hours and will be held on the first Sunday of May each year.

- Each delegation must run one or more *official contest sites*. All students must sit the contest at an official contest site. No virtual or on-line participation is allowed.
- Each delegation must choose a fixed starting time for the contest. Different delegations may start the contest at different times, but different sites within the same delegation may not start the contest at different times. No delegation may choose a starting time after the ending time of any other delegations.
- Each contest site must be fully supervised so that it is clear that students adhere to the contest rules.
- Local organizing committees are free to choose the number of candidates participating in APLO as a part of their delegation. However, only the **top eight** competitors from each delegation will be awarded and recorded as official participants (the process of selecting the top eight candidates is described later).
- Contestants are eligible for the APLO if and only if they are eligible for the IOL in the same year.

Languages Each delegation has the right to claim one local language to be added to the *official languages* of the APLO, with responsibilities to have Local Jury with the competence of translating problems into the claimed language from other versions of the problems provided by the International Jury and ability to grade the submissions written in the claimed language.

Every contestant, no matter what region they are sitting in for the contest, has the right to choose a working language and solve problems in it among all official languages of the APLO. There is no advantage or disadvantage for choosing English as a working language.

Timeline

By the end of January	Each delegation in the region should apply for accreditation. The International Board will accredit the delegations and finalize the list of participating delegations in the APLO of that year.
By the end of February	International Jury distributes the multilingual versions of the problem set. Local Jury will be given three weeks to translate the problem set into their local languages if they are not included in the distribution.
First Sunday of May	The APLO is held in each testing sites.
The following Monday	The Local Jury receives the solution and the grading scheme. The Local Jury must start grading the submissions as soon as possible and send the results to International Jury along with the scanned copies of up to top ten submissions by the following Friday. International Jury confirms the scores of the top ten submissions from each delegation and award medals to eight candidates (see below for awarding scheme).
By the end of May	International Jury notifies the results to local organizers. Local Organizers create the certificates in the format prescribed by APLO and distribute them in any manner — physical or digital — they deem appropriate. The announcement of the results should be scheduled under consensus of all participating local organizers as well as the Board.
During the IOL	Annual meeting of the APLO is held.

Awarding Scheme After judging is complete, the top eight contestants from each delegation will be counted as delegation's *official participants*.

- Let m and s be the mean and the standard deviation of all official participants.
 - $m + s$ is the cut-off score for Gold medals;
 - m is the cut-off score for Silver medals;
 - $m - s$ is the cut-off score for Bronze medals.
- Maximum number of the medals within the delegation:
 - Gold ≤ 1 ;
 - Gold + Silver ≤ 4 ;
 - Gold + Silver + Bronze ≤ 8 .
- Official participants who have not received any medal will be awarded Honorable Mentions.

Accreditation Criteria for Local Organizers Countries or regions seeking to participate for the first time should seek accreditation from the International Board. Accreditation can be sought at any time, but the deadline of January 31st must be met to guarantee participation in the upcoming APLO.

To be accredited, Local Organizers should either (a) be local organizers of a country or region that is accredited by the IOL *or* (b) fulfill the following criteria:

- must *not* be an individual;
- have a general contact for local inquiries (an email address, and, preferably, a website or social media page);
- have at least one person (coordinator) who arranges the contest and serves as a point of contact with the board *and* at least one person (jury) who can translate the problems and mark the papers and send back to the International Jury;
- advertise the contest to a non-negligible number of students, and report the results to the board. (If the country or region has a first round before the APLO, they should mention about the APLO on the notice of their national contest.)

Bodies of the APLO Below are the bodies that consist the APLO and their responsibilities.

- International Board
 - establishes and amends constitutions of the APLO
 - internationally coordinates the competition
 - accredits the delegations
 - shall be (re-)elected every year, at the annual meeting
- International Jury
 - creates the problem set (under collaboration with Local Jury)
 - collects the results reported by Local Jury and awards contestants
- Local Organizers
 - represent the delegation and locally coordinates the competition
 - advertise the APLO in the region they represent
 - distribute certificates after the results are published
- Local Jury
 - translates the problem set into a local language
 - marks the submissions and report the scores to the International Jury

At the moment, we have nominated the following members in various roles for APLO. More members in the various bodies will be inducted in consultation with the interested local organizers (by the end of December 2018).

- Monojit Choudhury, co-chair of the APLO
 - General Chair of Panini Linguistics Olympiad (PNO) and Local Organizing Chair of IOL 2016 Mysore, India
- Minkyu Kim, co-chair of the APLO and *ad hoc* jury chair
 - Team Leader of Korea and Local Organizer of IOL 2019 Yongin, Korea
- Suhaimi Ramly, APLO Board member
 - Vice Chair of Malaysian Computational Linguistics Olympiad (MyCLO)
- Shu-Kai Hsieh, APLO Board member
 - Team Leader of Taiwan and Organizer of Taiwan Olympiad in Linguistics (TOL)