

**PROGRAM OF SCIENTIFIC INITIATION WITH EMPHASIS IN MATHEMATICS FOR YOUNG TALENTS**



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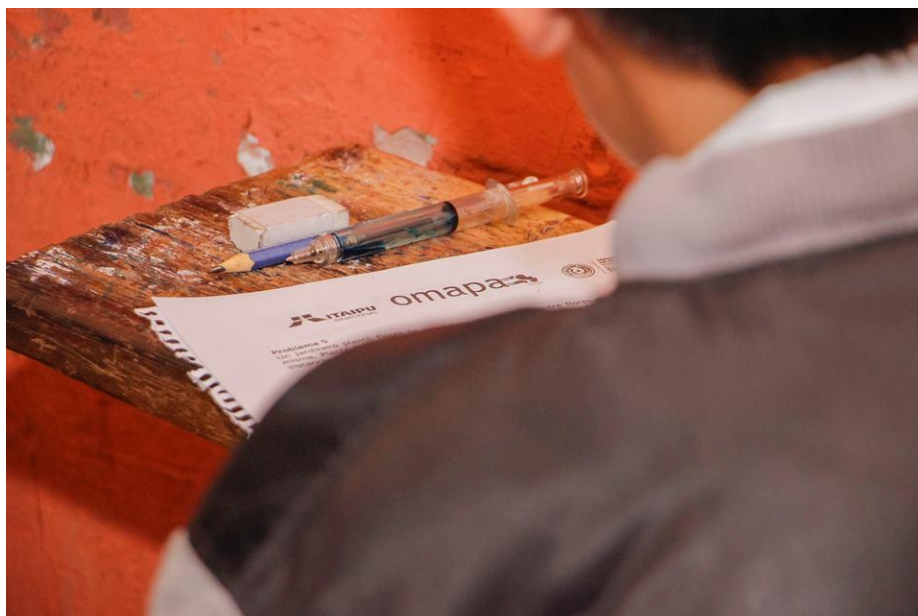
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TALENTS**

Thanks to the support of our donors from GlobalGiving to the Project of “Scientific Initiation for 120 students in Paraguay”, who contributed with a part of the funds needed for our activities. This program aims to empower the talent for problem solving of young students with mathematical skills, and thus enable them to achieve a higher level than the one they achieve through the educational system in our country.

It is the first and only program with these features in the country, has a national scope and proven international effectiveness and has been conducted continuously since 1989. It consists of three main steps:

- 1) Detection and motivation through National Mathematical Olympiads;
- 2) Academic and Scientific Training;
- 3) Incentive to Excellence.

The long-term impact intended with the program, is the continuous training of Paraguayan professionals in science and technology, which will be the engine for the social and economic development of Paraguay.



After the last report (March 2016), the annual courses started in 9 cities around Paraguay. This year an innovation called “Math Laboratory” has been introduced. This innovation in the program proposes a different curriculum covering the traditional content of the initial and intermediate levels and incorporate methodologies for solving problems according to the latest knowledge of Mathematics Education level international.

During the classes, different types of problems are presented to the students:

- **Motivational problems**, that are chosen to motivate students in the issue of solving math Olympiad problems.
- **Challenge Problems**: those that need some theoretical tools that often they don't have. With the instructors' experience those new concepts are presented and developed through these well-developed problems.
- **Additional problems**: usually outside the main theme, that promotes interaction between the instructor and students. They are accompanied by different types of materials, such as: cards, balls, etc. It will be a more playful and open problem.

During the last three months 261 students attended to the program. It should be noticed that 137 students from public schools had a complete scholarship from ITAIPU Binacional (OMAPA's Major Donor). Funds from GlobalGiving donors were used to give some partial scholarships to students from private schools, allowing their attending to courses. These donations are extremely useful and really help us to achieve our goals. We hope to keep receiving the support of our donors, to whom we thank for their support.

In addition, the courses' contents are a support for the training of our students who compete in Mathematical Olympiads. Last May, the Cono Sur Mathematical Olympiad was held in Argentina, where one student got Bronze Medal, and another one an Honorable Mention. Then, another benefit of these activities is the improvement of our results in international competitions.

For more information please take a look at:  
[http://www.omapa.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=364&Itemid=1](http://www.omapa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=364&Itemid=1)



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