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Israel finishes 13th in world physics Olympiad, 12 spots better than last year

Yarden Skop

Five Israeli students won medals yesterday at the 44th International Physics Olympiad in Copenhagen, days after Israelis shone at a computer-science competition in Australia. In Copenhagen, Israel came in 13 out of 83 countries, a 12-place jump from last year.

China won the event, followed by Singapore, South Korea, the United States, Russia and India.

The Israeli gold-medal winner, Dan Karliner from Levi Eshkol High School in Kfar Hayarok, did better than he had expected. "Before the competition I expected to win a silver medal, so I'm very pleased," he said. "It was a long test, but not too difficult."

According to the head of the Education Ministry's Science and Technology Administration, Ofer Rimon, Israelis compete in four international science

Olympiads – in math, computer science, physics and chemistry.

"For students from Israel, a small country with few students, this is an achievement many times over because in large countries there are more top-notch students," Rimon said.

The competition included a theory exam featuring issues such as global warming and an asteroid hitting the earth.

In addition to Karliner's gold, Offer Kopelevitch from

Emek Hama'aravi Yifat High School, Guy Segal from Haifa's Hebrew Reali School and Gilad Kishony from Haifa's Leo Baeck school won silver medals. Shoham Jacoby from the WIZO Youth Village in Nahalal won a bronze.

Last week, at the world's top computer-science competition in Brisbane, four students helped Israel achieve its best-ever showing.

They won four medals, including a gold and two silvers.