S’pore among best in IB despite dip in performance

SINGAPORE — Singapore students continued to rank among the highest globally in the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma examination last year, despite a dip in the national average score to 36.43 points.

The average score in the Asia-Pacific region was 33.14 points, while the global average was 29.94, out of a perfect score of 45.

In 2013, students here topped the Asia-Pacific region in the examination for a fourth consecutive year, scoring a national average of 36.53 points.

When asked by TODAY, the International Baccalaureate Organisation office here declined to reveal Singapore’s ranking among the 22 countries in the region last year. However, the Republic was ahead of Hong Kong and nations such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea.

More than 2,000 students took the examination in Singapore last year and, of these, 66 topped their schools with a perfect score of 45. Across the country, 96.8 per cent earned a passing grade of 24 points or more.

Close to 450 students from Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) took the examination last year, with 34 of them achieving a full score of 45 — up from last year’s 32. On average, the students scored 41.3 points.

SJI Senior School, among the 21 institutions here that offer the IB Diploma Programme, produced its pioneer cohort of IB diploma holders last year. All of its 76 students who took the examination passed, with an average score of 39.4 points.

Three students outshone their peers with high scores of 44 points. However, despite an outstanding performance, one of them — 18-year-old Cheong Su-Yen — was disappointed that she lost a point for history, a subject close to her heart. Still, she intends to study the subject at London School of Economics.

Cheong Su-Yen (left) from SJI Senior School and Kai Sunderman of SOTA both scored 44 points in the IB exam. (PHOTOS: HKT)