

# NEWSLETTER ALOHA INTERNATIONAL March 2014



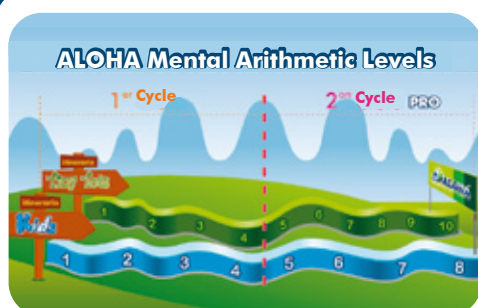
## International Expansion Process



## ALOHA Competitions



## New Ideas



## ALOHA Star





# International Presence

## ALOHA Mental Arithmetic around the world.



**ALOHA ANDORRA**  
[www.alohaandorra.com](http://www.alohaandorra.com)  
**ALOHA AUSTRALIA**  
[abacuscc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:abacuscc@optusnet.com.au)  
**ALOHA AZERBAIJAN**  
[azerbj@alohama.com](mailto:azerbj@alohama.com)  
**ALOHA BANGLADESH**  
[www.alohabangladesh.com](http://www.alohabangladesh.com)  
**ALOHA BAHRAIN**  
[www.alohabahrain.com](http://www.alohabahrain.com)  
**ALOHA BRAZIL**  
[www.alohamabrasil.com.br](http://www.alohamabrasil.com.br)  
**ALOHA CANADA**  
[www.aloha-canada.com](http://www.aloha-canada.com)  
**ALOHA CHINA**  
[cn-info@alohama.com](mailto:cn-info@alohama.com)  
**ALOHA COLOMBIA**  
[julietamireyatorres@hotmail.com](mailto:julietamireyatorres@hotmail.com)  
**ALOHA GERMANY**  
[www.aloha-germany.com](http://www.aloha-germany.com)

**ALOHA INDIA**  
[www.alohaiaindia.com](http://www.alohaiaindia.com)  
**ALOHA INDONESIA**  
[indon@alohama.com](mailto:indon@alohama.com)  
**ALOHA MALAYSIA**  
[www.alohama.com](http://www.alohama.com)  
**ALOHA MEXICO**  
[www.aloha-mexico.com](http://www.aloha-mexico.com)  
**ALOHA NEW ZEALAND**  
[abacusma@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:abacusma@yahoo.co.nz)  
**ALOHA NIGERIA**  
[nigeria@alohama.com](mailto:nigeria@alohama.com)  
**ALOHA OMAN**  
[www.alohaoman.com](http://www.alohaoman.com)  
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[www.alohaspain.com](http://www.alohaspain.com)  
**ALOHA SUDAN**  
[alohamas@hotmail.com](mailto:alohamas@hotmail.com)  
**ALOHA SYRIA**  
[khaled\\_alakel@yahoo.com](mailto:khaled_alakel@yahoo.com)  
**ALOHA THAILAND**  
[thai@alohama.com](mailto:thai@alohama.com)  
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**ALOHA VENEZUELA**  
[www.alohavenezuela.com](http://www.alohavenezuela.com)

# Successful visit to China and Taiwan

In recent days, we travelled to China for the meeting with Zhejiang abacus association and Dong Cheng Elementary School, regarding International Competition 2014, at the same time we got an opportunity to meet the two great personalities who created their niche in the field of abacus and mental calculation.

The combination of children and abacus is something we are quite familiar with, but to see an adult using the abacus for higher arithmetic calculation and doing mental calculation, visualizing the abacus, with great speed and accuracy was amazing.

## Associate Profesor, Mr. Cai Peng in China

Associate Professor Mr. Cai Peng, completed 82 years and still practices abacus daily with great enthusiasim and he believes firmly that the abacus is an extremely rewarding not only for children but also for adults . Highly convinced of the benefits of using the abacus, he has been the promoter of mental arithmetic program since 1979, the year when he became one of the founding committee members of "Zhejiang abacus association" and currently still advisor to the association. He was subsequently appointed in the committee member of "China abacus association", after his retirement he was given the honour to be an advisor to ALOHA International. Professor Mr. Cai Peng has actively promoted abacus and mental arithmetic program in schools and universities and has published books on mental arithmetic.



Thanks to associate professor Mr. Cai Peng for giving us a copy of his book about abilities and speed in abacus calculation.

## Mr. Tsai Chin Yu in Taiwan

After meeting Professor Mr. Cai Peng in China, we travelled to Taiwan to meet Mr. Tsai Chin Yu in person, who is 71 years, is a true legend in mental arithmetic. He has won several championships of Mental Calculation in Taiwan and has shared his competency over several years of teaching mental arithmetic in preschool and primary school. In 1994, he was appointed as an advisor to ALOHA International to enrich the mental arithmetic teaching.

After the trip, we became more equipped with what Professor Mr. Cai Peng and Mr. Tsai Chin Yu shared with us as its enriched our knowledge. We are sure that their expertiese and experience over 50 years in the field of the abacus and mental arithmetic has set an important precedent in ALOHA, allowing us to open the door to new projects.



Mr. Robert Low, Mr. Loh Mun Sung and Mrs. Kiran Motwani were hosted in Taiwan by Mr. Tsai's family.



# Successful Expansion

# Abacus Joins the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List



ALOHA Bahrain joining the international family, signing ceremony

From its beginning in 1993, ALOHA Mental Arithmetic has been very successful. The first success was in Malaysia, the country of origin, with the endorsement of Malaysia Abacus and Mental Association (MAMAA) and the Abacus Association of Zhejiang (China).

The program’s success quickly reached the neighboring countries entering Australia first, then to India, where, thanks to Mr. Kumaran, the educational curriculum was improved; and then the other countries of Asia, Middle East.

The leap to the other side of the ocean was made with the implementation of ALOHA Mental Arithmetic in the USA and Canada where the program is considered to be a turning point in the teaching of arithmetic and the early mental stimulation.

Later, the program arrived to Spain, where ALOHA Mental Arithmetic was adapted to the European quality standards, reaching a resounding success in Latin America too.

In these past twenty years, the program has been implemented in many countries across the five continents reaching over twenty-nine territories which are now part of the ALOHA Mental Arithmetic international network.

The recent nomination of Zhusuan, or traditional Chinese abacus, as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, brought to light the oldest instrument of calculation that has been used. It was created in Asia and particularly used in countries like China and Japan.

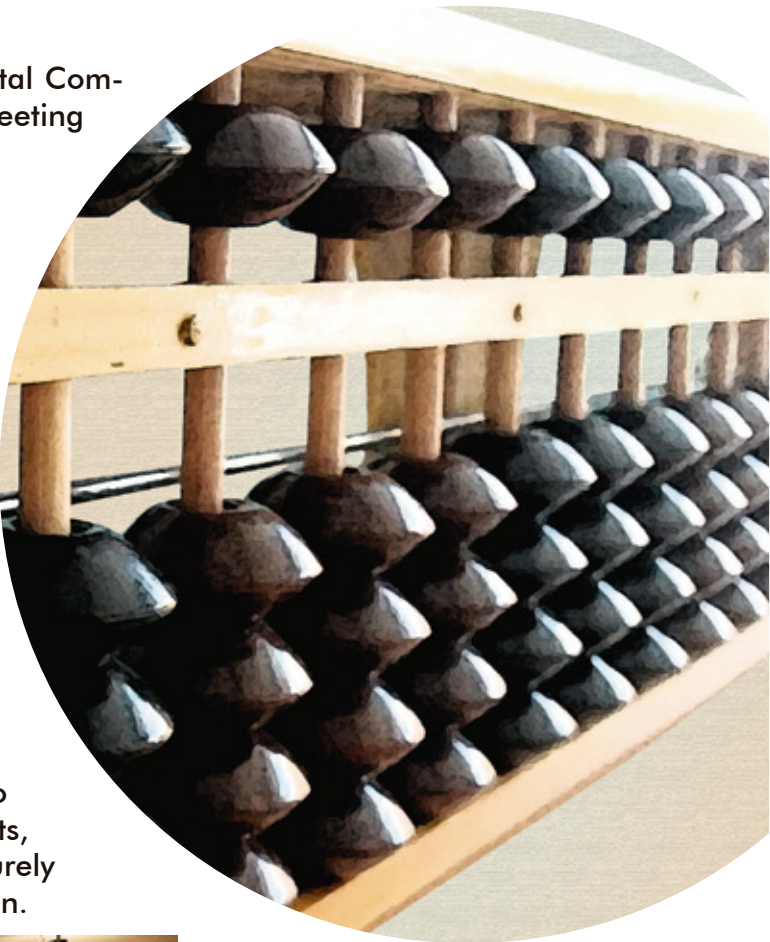
The inscription was made at the 8th Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan last December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### Abacus Benefits

Denominated in Chinese as “Zhusuan”, the abacus has an over 1800 years history. Arithmetic calculations can be done on the abacus, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, equations and others. It has been proved that learning mental arithmetic with an abacus, improves mental abilities; memory, concentration and establishes a connection between the left and right brain.

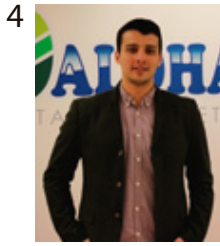
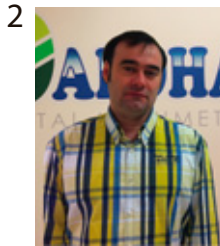
### The abacus nowadays

So far, the abacus has been replaced by electronic instruments. However, that set of beads sliding into columns that are strung together representing units, tens, hundreds, thousands and higher figures will surely be reassessed in the teaching of arithmetic for children.



Abacus Museum in Linhai, China

We are pleased to present the new members of our team: Bahrain, Andorra and Germany.



- 1 ALOHA BAHRAIN  
Jaydeep Mishra
- 2 ALOHA ANDORRA  
Xavier Farré
- 3 ALOHA GERMANY  
Mümtaz Özdemir
- 4 ALOHA GERMANY  
Erkan Beyazal



# Images of National & International Competitions



ALOHA Brazil 1<sup>st</sup> National Competition 2013

Every year, the ALOHA International Competition is held. A meeting which is mentioned, in this edition, took place in Malaysia in 2013.

Hundreds of students came from many countries to take part in the event

The event received students from various countries such as China, Malaysia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and other ALOHA countries throughout globe. The participants travelled with their parents to take part in the competition. It was conducted in seven groups, began, as usual, with the participants

showing their calculation and focus capacity in an initial demonstration. After this, the official competition started, where students attempted to complete 70 sums of various computations and complexities in just five minutes.

At the end of the ceremony, there were trophies for the winners and special awards were given to well deserving students.

# Images of National & International Competitions



ALOHA Spain National Competition 2013



ALOHA Bangladesh National Competition 2013



ALOHA Turkey National Competition 2013



ALOHA India Regional Competition 2013



ALOHA International Competition 2013 in Malaysia



ALOHA Peru National Competition 2013



# ALOHA International is proud to announce the "ALOHA Mental Arithmetic International Competition 2014"

**Venue:** Dong Cheng Elementary School, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China  
**Date:** 8th of June, 2014  
**Time:** 8.30am to 4.30pm

ALOHA International invites all registered ALOHA students across the World to participate in the upcoming competition. Registrations for the event will be accepted only if they are authorized by the ALOHA Country Representatives.



West Lake, Hangzhou

## Hangzhou City (杭州)

Hangzhou is the capital of Zhejiang province and its political, economic and cultural center. With enchanting natural beauty and abundant cultural heritages, the city is known as 'Heaven on Earth' and one of China's most important tourist venues. The City is located on the lower reaches of the Qiantang River in southeast China and only 180 kilometers from Shanghai.

The West Lake is undoubtedly the most renowned feature of the city, noted for the scenic beauty that blends naturally with many famous historical and cultural sites. In this scenic area, Solitary Hill, the Tomb of General Yue Fei, the Six Harmonies Pagoda and the Ling Yin Temple are the most frequently visited attractions. The "Ten West Lake Prospects" have been specially selected to give the visitor outstanding views of the lake, mountains and monuments.



ALOHA International will assist to provide one day city tour at cost upon early confirmations. ALOHA International will also provide assistance in booking hotels, cars and tour packages

## ALOHA Mexico



ALOHA Mexico joining the international family, signing ceremony

The commitment of Lic. Julieta Torres and MBA Arturo Gómez with their country, made them take ALOHA Mental Arithmetic program to Mexico in order to develop children skills so they will become better students and thereby better citizens.

After witnessing the ALOHA International Competition 2012 in Australia, they both decided to join to ALOHA's vision and signed for expansion of the program in Mexico.

### ALOHA Mexico's expansion

Thanks to the support of Motwani family, since October 2013 the time they arrived the country, and to the hard work of the whole Mexican team, the program has achieved great national reputation. In a short period of time, ALOHA has been implemented in private schools in the main cities of Mexico: Toluca, Metepec, Puebla Nuevo Laredo, Querétaro, San Pedro, and Distrito Federal.

### Ronit and Samir in Mexico

The skills that Ronit Motwani and Samir Motwani have developed through ALOHA, at the age of 12 and 13 respectively, have surprised the audience with their demonstrations around Mexico.

ALOHA has caught positively the attention of the media. In December 2013, the Mexican broadcaster, TV Azteca, issued a space on the program AL EXTREMO in which Ronit and Samir showed what can be achieved through abacus. This awaked the interest of schools and parents to join ALOHA Mental Arithmetic.



Snapshot of the participation in Al Extremo



# New Ideas

## Level Bracelets

With the objective of increasing the motivation of children, ALOHA Spain has launched the "level bracelets." These silicone bracelets are given to the students when they succeed each level. Like the color code used in sports, there are eight colors of ALOHA bracelets for Kids and ten for Tiny Tots, coinciding with the number of levels in each itinerary.



## Champions, INC.

ALOHA Mexico, searching for new motivation tools, created ALOHA "CHAMPIONS, INC.", which is designed for students to earn points for different aspects in their classes (participation, daily practice, class work etc.) Those points are reflected in the website and students can access with a serial number for inquiries.

There is a catalog divided by levels with items they can redeem, every time the students complete a level they can exchange their points for an item in the catalog. At the end of each level, a check will be given to the children so they can access to the next level catalog.

The main objective of the program, besides keeping the student's motivation is to create in them the sense of belonging to ALOHA.

## Count with me

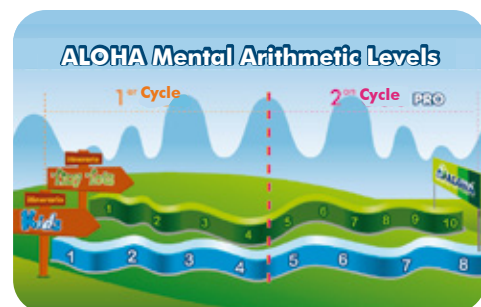
Daily practice at HOME is a key for the students to experience significant improvements in their intellectual development. Therefore, ALOHA Spain has launched a motivational tool to increase the percentage of students who practice regularly at home.

The main advantages of "Count with me" are:

- Improves student progress.
- Encourages child's motivation.
- Enhances the playful nature of tasks.
- Expands the information that parents receive about ALOHA.
- Increases the parent's satisfaction rate.

## Itineraries Basic/PRO

ALOHA Mental Arithmetic Spain has made a significant upgrade in the formal structure of the program to increase the best learning index of our students. The program is divided into 2 cycles: Tiny Tots and Kids, which are subdivided as follow:



With this adjustment, children and parents see the end of cycles (4 levels) as easy and nearby goal. It is also probable that the results obtained at the end of the first cycle acts as an incentive to continue and finish the second cycle.

# Questionnaire

ALOHA International has created an activity for every person who belongs to ALOHA family worldwide. It is about a 10 questions survey related to the International Newsletter of this year. Those who answer correctly all questions will participate in a draw on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Send your answers and find more information at [www.alohama.com/luck01](http://www.alohama.com/luck01)  
Only the answers received before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 will participate.

1. Mention 10 countries in which ALOHA is taught.
2. In which year was ALOHA Mental Arithmetic founded?
3. In which country was ALOHA introduced for the first time?
4. In which year Mexico signed to join ALOHA Mental Arithmetic program?
5. How many students did ALOHA India have in the first month?
6. Date when UNESCO inscribed the Chinese abacus as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
7. In which year was associate professor Mr. Cai Peng an ALOHA adviser?
8. In what has Mr. Tsai Chin Yu been a champion for several times?
9. Which 3 countries recently joined ALOHA?
10. What is the name of the new home practice tool?

# ALOHA Star Mr. Kumaran

"All that we are is the result  
of what we have thought"  
- Buddha

Perhaps this was etched in the mind of Mr. Kumaran, Chairman, ALOHA India who is the ALOHA STAR of the year. In 2000, Mr. Kumaran with his wife Mrs. Renuka visited Malaysia and had a chance to witness their friend's daughter who was demonstrating Calculations in Abacus that she learnt from ALOHA classes.

Mr. Kumaran was amazed to see that the child was effortlessly manipulating 4 digits with ease. That was when the idea of bringing the wonderful concept of Abacus learning to India occurred.

## ALOHA India growth

He started with one ALOHA centre in Chennai in 2002 and enrolled 3 students in the first week! It grew to 30 in the first month and to 300 in 10 months. The past 12 years has been an exciting and exhilarating one for Mr. Kumaran.

The tremendous experience he gained from ALOHA India drove him to start a school in Chennai and he runs that also very successfully.

He says he learnt the art of active listening, being patient, being assertive from Mr. Loh. He admires Mr. Loh's dictum that in matter of relationships, flow with the current like water; in the matter of principles stand like rock. Mr. Kumaran is also mentoring young entrepreneurs in his own quiet way.

As he looks back on these 12 eventful years, he glows with satisfaction that ALOHA has trained over 500,000 students, given employment to over 6000 people besides earning the goodwill of parents across the length and breadth of India. He does not forget all those who stood by him – right from the office boy, those who struggled with him in the early days, the current crop of teachers and the scores of men and women who made ALOHA what it is today.



Mr. Kumaran  
Director of ALOHA India

## More than a successful entrepreneur

I was amazed at the fact how a business can rejuvenate a person by giving him different, unique life experiences and transform him into a better human being. Mr. Kumaran exemplifies this fact vividly. He says at the end of it all "peace and happiness" is what he wanted and ALOHA has given it in plenty. While traveling in China in 2006, he met with an almost fatal accident but miraculously survived. He recalls that incident and says that "the GOOD LORD has more things to accomplish through me and hence he let me live" with his characteristic modesty. He is in search of that purpose and calling. The journey continues...

-Interviewed by Dr. Vasuki Mathivanan



ALOHA India Team



ALOHA India, signing ceremony 2002