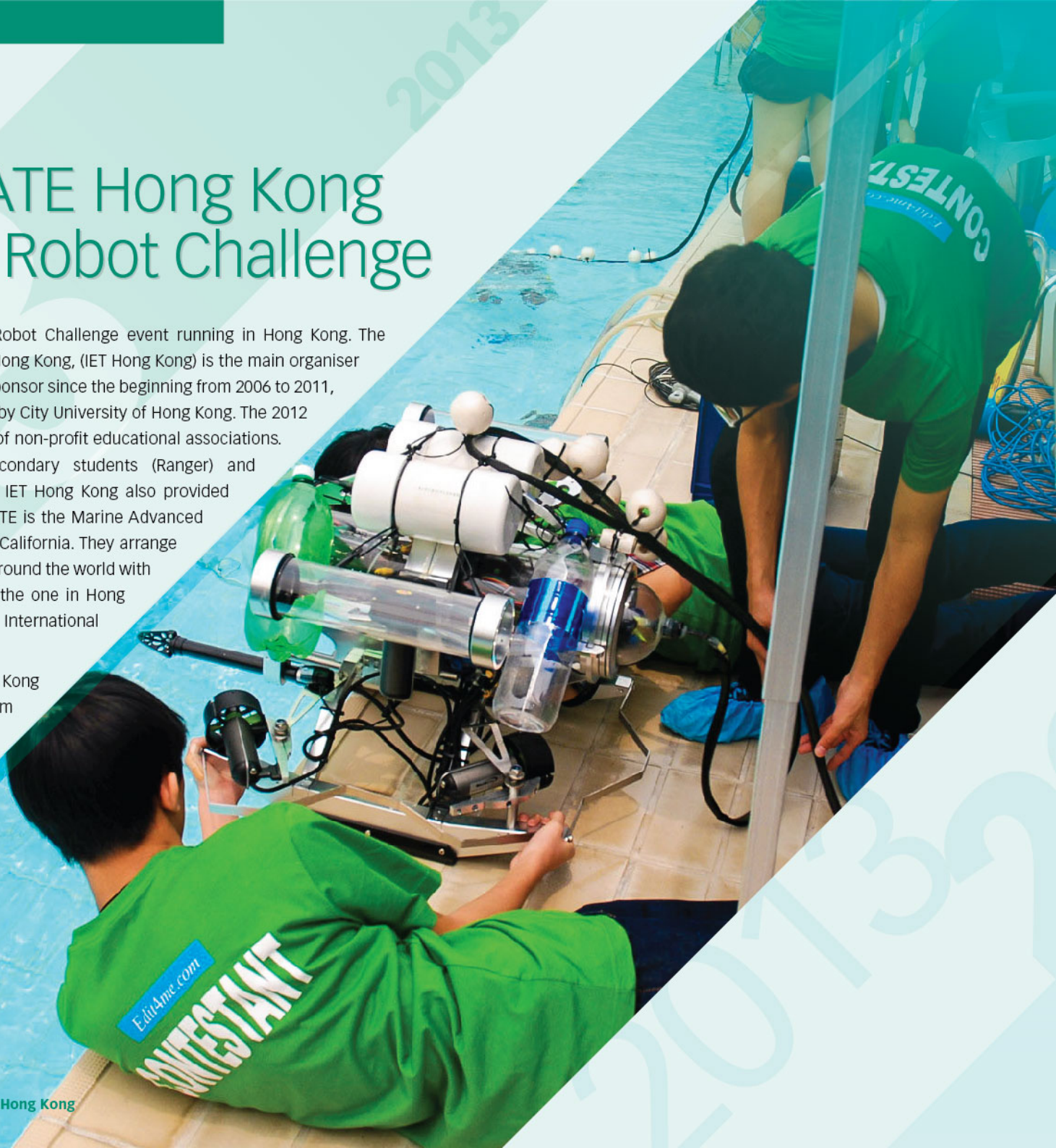


# The IET / MATE Hong Kong Underwater Robot Challenge

2013 marks the 8th annual Underwater Robot Challenge event running in Hong Kong. The Institution of Engineering and Technology Hong Kong, (IET Hong Kong) is the main organiser this year. IET has been the main technical sponsor since the beginning from 2006 to 2011, the contests in Hong Kong were organised by City University of Hong Kong. The 2012 Robotic Challenge was funded by a group of non-profit educational associations. The contests are aimed at senior secondary students (Ranger) and college/university students (Explorer). The IET Hong Kong also provided judges and prize money for the event. MATE is the Marine Advanced Technology Education Center in Monterey, California. They arrange the contest each year at various locations around the world with the top teams from each region, such as the one in Hong Kong. The winners will be going onto the International Finals, usually held in North America.

Each year at least three teams from Hong Kong attend these finals – two Ranger teams, from local schools, and one or two Explorer teams from local universities.





In the first six years of the contests in Hong Kong, sponsorship City University of Hong Kong and WWF helped to run the Hong Kong contest. As well the funds allow all twenty-four schools, entering the Ranger contest, to be provided with an ROV kit (ROV in a bucket). The fund also covers the cost of the books and manuals on designing and building underwater robots, expenses for running the workshops, which attendance was compulsory for all teams.

Unlike many other regional contests around the planet, Hong Kong encourages schools and universities to attend a series of workshops. These cover basic ROV construction, advanced electronics and sensing techniques, and mission/project planning.

This year, 2013, the contest has attracted a breaking record number of teams from all around Asia; with 21 local and 12 overseas teams taking part in this annual event. In addition to Hong Kong contestants, they were also came from Singapore, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, India, Thailand, China, Taiwan, Macau and Japan.

Taking into account the new teams this year, approximately eighty different schools have now participated in the competition in the last seven years. IET Hong Kong is proud to have introduced, sponsored and organize a renowned annual competition for schools and universities across Asia.

