

TECHNOLOGY

# Teenager Excels to win Microsoft Office contest

Alice Woodhouse  
alice.woodhouse@scmp.com

A Hong Kong teenager took advantage of his expertise in Microsoft Word to beat 144 other students to win top prize in the Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship.

Lee Pak-hei, 17, was named world champion in Microsoft Word 2013 – the most recent version of the software – at a ceremony in Dallas, Texas, winning scholarship money worth US\$7,500 in the competition held by testing firm Certiport.

"These winners are part of an elite group that know how to use Microsoft Word efficiently and to its full potential," said Certiport's Aaron Osmond.

The competition saw 600,000 people from 47 countries, aged between 13 and 22, compete to show their skills in Office products, including spreadsheet programme Excel and presentation tool PowerPoint.

In the final round, contestants worked on project-based tests to show their ability to create documents in Word.

Second place in the competition, which was first held in 2002, went to Cao Yuting from mainland China, followed by Yoko Shimoji from Japan.

"Winning the world championship puts them in a class of their own, and we look forward to seeing how they put their Microsoft Office skills to use in the future," said Alison Cunard, general manager of learning experiences at Microsoft.

Last month, Microsoft launched Windows 10 in Hong Kong, the latest version of its popular operating system. It was offered as a free upgrade for all customers running Windows 7 or 8.

The move came as analysts questioned the US technology giant's strategy as strong sales of the Xbox One and Surface tablet family failed to generate significant profits and may even be costing the firm money.

