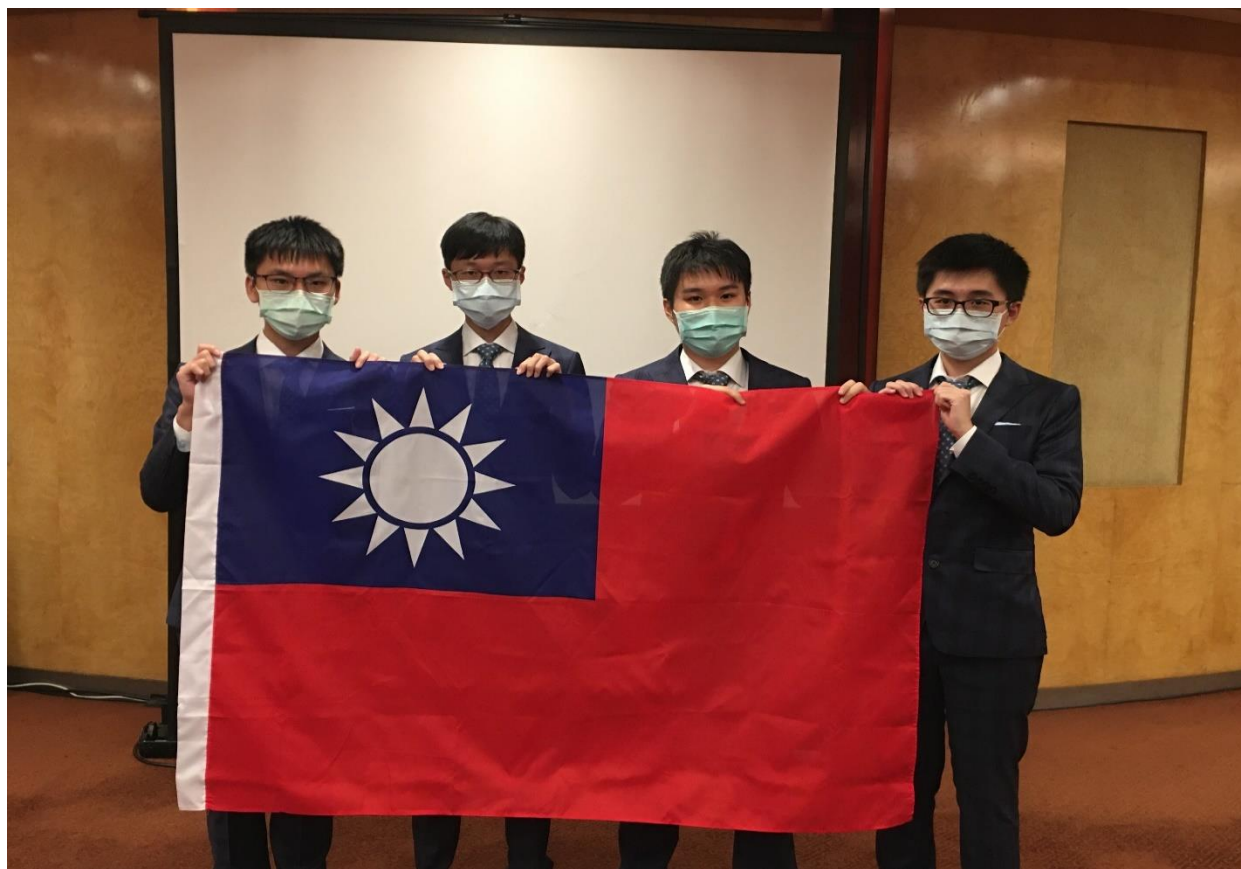


Taiwanese Senior High School Students Brought Home Three Golds and One Silver at 53rd IChO in 2021

(Courtesy of I-Ling Chen at the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



The 53rd International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) hosted by Japan was concluded on July 28, 2021. The organizer held an online closing ceremony on August 2, 2021 (Taiwan time). Among 312 students from 79 countries, our country secured three gold and one silver medals, ranking 3rd in the international community (based on the number of gold medals; China and Russia won four golds, tied for 1st place). The three gold medalists winners are Po-An Chen from the Taipei Wego Private Senior High School; Chun-Cheng Ting from the Taichung Municipal Taichung First Senior High School; Jui-Hsi Wang from the Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School; the silver medalist is Hsuan-Ting Lin from the National Experimental High School At Hsinchu Science Park. A truly outstanding performance.

The K-12 Education Administration mentioned that due to the pandemic, the 53rd International Chemistry Olympiad was hosted online. Representative teams from participating countries had to participate at venues in their own home countries that met the organizer's requirements, and

participating countries needed to set up a competition environment and trained proctors that are in accordance with the rules.

The national team was trained by an advisory group, comprising of more than 10 professors from domestic universities. After the entire process of the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, tryout camp, and final, four students out of 1,965 were selected as Taiwanese representatives for the competition. The advisory group was led by Wei-Jen Li, professor from the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) with Chen-Huang Lin as the deputy head of the group, along with other members, including Hsiao-hua Yu, a researcher from the Academia Sinica (our country's 1st IChO gold medalist); Yu-Tzu Li, Chia-Jung Lu, and Hsueh-Liang Wu, professors from NTNU; Ling-Hsien Tu, Associate Professor from NTNU; Pi-Yao Chin, professor from National Taiwan University; Ya-Ping Tsao, teacher from Taipei Municipal Zhong Shan Girls High School, who was responsible for translating competition test questions and evaluating the results.

Taiwan has participated in IChO since 1992 and the performance has been great. We have won a total of 57 gold, 51 silver, and 11 bronze medals, and had been ranked 1st in 1993, 1997, 2009, 2013, 2015, and 2017.

To encourage excellent performance of students, the Ministry of Education has established “Academic Incentive Package for Excellent Performance in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs”: any gold, the silver, or bronze medalist of the competition will be sent to the same department of college or university without the need of taking an entrance exam, or be recommended to any department in university; meanwhile, the gold, the silver, and bronze medalists will be awarded \$200,000 NTD, \$100,000 NTD, and \$50,000 NTD of scholarship, respectively, by the Ministry of Education. However, for students who won at least two medals either in the same field or different fields in the same year, the reward will be granted based on the student’s best award.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, the host country of next year's IChO is China. It will continue to select and train outstanding students to participate in this competition to promote exchanges between Taiwan and the world, broaden students' international perspectives, and win glory for our country.