

Taiwan's national team secured two Golds, two silvers, and one bronze at the 15th IESO

(Photo/Text by Chen, Yi-Ling at the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



An exciting piece of news about Taiwan's national team at the 15th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2022) was spread to the home country on August 31, 2022. Among the 204 participating students from 34 countries, Taiwan's eight representatives have won two gold, five silver, and 1 bronze medals in total, ranking 4th in the world. The two gold medal winners are Wang, Cheng-Kai from Taipei Municipal Chien Kuo High School (individually ranked 9th) and Lin, Tzu-Hsiang from Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School (individually ranked 11th); the five silver medal winners are Tu, Yu-Hsuan from Taipei Municipal Chien Kuo High School (individually ranked 23rd), Hsieh, Cheng-An from National Hsinchu Senior High School (individually ranked 25th), Su, Hsuan-Han from the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University (individually ranked 26th), Wang, Te-Ming from National Hsinchu Senior High School (individually ranked 60th), and Hsiao, Hao-Tse from Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School (individually ranked 61st); the bronze medal winner is Wang, Tao-Yi (individually ranked 103rd). They excelled at the competition.

This year's IESO was hosted by Italy online. Participating countries' representative teams had to participate at venues in their own home countries in compliance with the IESO's requirements and needed to set up a competition site and trained proctors in accordance with the rules. Participating students needed to read a great deal of English materials online, analyze and generalize data to answer questions. The competition questions were innovative and challenging, which were well-aligned with the principles of exploration and hands-on experience under our 2019 curriculum guidelines.

This year's national team representatives were selected and trained by an advisory group, consisting of more than ten domestic university professors and scholars. After the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, and final and trial camp stage, eight out of 523 participants were selected as Taiwan's representatives to participate in six categories of this competition. In the category of National Team Field Investigation (NTFI), with the guidance of Huang, Chien-Fen, Professor of the Institute of Oceanography, National Taiwan University, and Liu, Chin-Yuan, Professor of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Tamkang University, as well as the assistance of the National Museum of Marine Science and Technology, Taiwan's national team selected two teams to participate in the competition. Among the 25 teams, our teams won one gold and one silver medals in total.

The delegation was led by Kuo, Hung-Chi, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, National Taiwan University, with Lin, Pei-Lien, Professor of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, National Central University, as the deputy team leader, as well as Chen, Hui-Hsuan and Lai, Yu-Ming, Professor and Associate Professor of the Department of Earth Sciences, National Taiwan Normal University, respectively; Tseng, Yu-Heng and Lin, Hui-Ting, Professor and Associate Professor of the Institute of Oceanography, National Taiwan University, respectively. In addition, Chin, Yi-Nan, Assistant Professor of the Department of Physics, Tamkang University, were in charge of translation competition questions and arbitrating the competition outcome. The delegation participated in this competition from August 25 through August 30. The results were announced and a closing ceremony was held on August 31.

To reward students' excellent in international science and mathematics competition, the Ministry of Education has established the Academic Incentives for Students Who Demonstrate Excellent Performance in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs: any medal winners at such competitions will be admitted to a department of the same discipline in college or university or be recommended to any department in college or university without a need for taking an entrance exam. In addition, each gold, silver, and bronze medalist will be awarded a scholarship of NT\$200,000, NT\$100,000, and NT\$50,000, respectively, by the Ministry of Education. However, for those who have won two or more awards in the same discipline or in different disciplines in the same year, the reward will be granted based on their best award.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, our country has participated in the IESO since 2007 and has witnessed exceptional performance over the years. So far, our national teams have brought home a total of 42 golds, 21 silvers, and two bronzes. Our country will continue to select and train outstanding students to participate in this competition to facilitate international exchanges and win glory for our country.