

Three Golds and One Silver Scored at 2016 IChO

(Courtesy of Chen, Hui-e, Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)

An exciting piece of news about the Taiwanese national team at the 48th International Chemistry Olympiad, or IChO of 2016 has spread to the home country on the 31th of July. The four Taiwanese student representatives have brought home three golds and one silver. In terms of number of medals, China has won four golds, ranking first at this competition while Taiwan and South Korea tied for the second place. A total of 264 students from 67 countries and 2 observer states participated in the competition and the performance of Taiwanese national team outshined others at the global stage. On top of that, Chang, Yi-Zhi, associate professor and leader of the team, has been selected as the chairman for the 2017 International Steering Committee (ISC) of IChO, a recognition that has indicated that served to improve Taiwan's visibility in the world.

The national team was trained by an advisory group, comprising of Lin, Zhen-Huang from Department of Chemistry, National Taiwan Normal University, as well as a dozen of other professors. After the whole process of the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, tryout camp, and final, four students out of 982 were selected as Taiwanese representatives for the competition. The delegation was led by Chang, Yi-Zhi, associate professor, with Jin, Bi-Yao, Professor from Department of Chemistry of National Taiwan University, Lu, Jia-Rong, from Department of Chemistry of National Taiwan Normal University, Wang, Zong-Xing, assistant professor from Department of Chemistry of National Taiwan University, and Cao, Ya-Ping, teacher from Taipei Municipal Zhong Shan Girls High School serving as observers. The delegation headed for Georgia on July, 22nd, 2016 to attend the competition, and the closing and award presentation ceremony were held at 15:00 local time on July, 31st (four hours behind Taiwan time).

Taiwan has participated in the competition since 1992 and the performance has been great. A total of 45 gold, 43 silver, and 11 bronze medals have been won, maintaining the average global ranking within the top 5 over the past decade. What's more, Taiwan has even secured the first place in the international ranking in 1993, 1997, 2009, 2013, and 2015.

The annual performance of the Taiwanese team at the IChO is stated in the table below:

Year	Host	Number of Participating Countries	X th IChO	Number of Medals	International Ranking
1992	U.S.	33	24	1 gold 1 silver 1 bronze	6
1993	Italy	38	25	2 gold 2 silver	1
1994	Norway	41	26	3 silver 1 bronze	8
1995	China	42	27	3 silver 1 bronze	13
1996	Russia	45	28	1 gold 2 silver 1 bronze	7
1997	Canada	48	29	2 gold 1 silver 1 bronze	1
1998	Australia	47	30	1 gold 2 silver 1 bronze	8
1999	Thailand	51	31	2 gold 1 silver 1 bronze	5
2000	Denmark	52	32	2 gold 2 silver	3
2001	India	54	33	4 silver	9
2002	the Netherlands	57	34	2 gold 2 silver	3
2003	Greece	59	35	1 gold 2 silver 1 bronze	10
2004	Germany	61	36	1 gold 2 silver 1 bronze	7
2005	ROC	59	37	2 gold 2 silver	5
2006	South Korea	68	38	3 gold 1 silver	2
2007	Russia	68	39	2 gold 2 silver	3
2008	Hungary	69	40	2 gold 1 silver 1 bronze	5
2009	U.K.	67	41	4 gold	1
2010	Japan	68	42	2 gold 2 silver	4
2011	Turkey	70	43	3 silver 1 bronze	8
2012	U.S.	72	44	3 gold 1 silver	2
2013	Russia	73	45	3 gold 1 silver	1
2014	Vietnam	75	46	2 gold 2 silver	2
2015	Azerbaijan	75	47	4 gold	1
2016	Georgia	67	48	3 gold 1 silver	-

Note: international ranking can only be finalized after the scores of all participants are published by the host country.

The background information of the four senior high school students for this competition is stated in the table below:

Name	School	Grade	Performance
Wang, Guan-Wei	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	12	gold
Hong, Rui-Qian	Ching Cheng High School of Chang-hua County	11	gold
Lu, Zhen-Yu	Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School	10	gold
Xu, Yan-Xin	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	12	silver

To encourage excellent performance of students, The Ministry of Education has established “Academic Incentive Package for Students Who Demonstrate Excellent Performance in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs”: any medal winners at the competition will be sent to college or university without the need of taking the entrance exam, or be recommended to other departments in university; for students with an honorable mention, they will be recommended to the department of the same major. In addition, gold, the silver, and bronze medalists will be awarded \$200,000NTD, \$100,000NTD, and \$50,000NTD of scholarship by the Ministry of Education. However, for students who win more than 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. The delegation returned to Taiwan on August, 2nd. Taiwan will continue to train excellent students for the competition so as to enhance international exchanges and perspectives. This competition will be held in Thailand next year, so Taiwan will continue to train outstanding students for international exchanges and to shine on the global stage.