

107 Inventions from 9 Countries (Areas) Competed in 2015 International Exhibition for Young Inventors, IEYI, Hosted by Our Country

(Photo and Texts by Chen Huei-e, Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)



The 11th International Exhibition for Young Inventor (abbreviated as IEYI) in the year of 2015, on November 16th to 18th, was hosted by our country and the venue was in New Taipei City Hall. Its opening ceremony was held today (16) in the Multi-Purpose Auditorium of New Taipei City. A total of 107 inventions from 9 countries were showcased in this event. More than 500 students and teachers from all over the world joined this exhibition. The atmosphere of the opening ceremony was lively. President Ma, Lin Teng-chiao, Administrative Deputy Minister of MOE and Acting Director-General of K-12 Education Administration, Hou You-yi, Vice Mayor of New Taipei City, and Chang Guo-en, President of NTNU, all attended the ceremony and welcomed guests abroad.

International Exhibition for Young Inventor, IEYI, was initiated and founded in 2004 by Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation, JIII. It is different from other international exhibition of inventions in that it is hosted alternatively by its member states, and that the contestants are mainly teenagers aged between 6 to 19. This is an event that lays stress on the capabilities of innovation and inventions of teenagers. Contested categories include Disaster Response, Foods & Agriculture, Education & Recreation, Safety & Health, Technology for Special Needs, and Green Technology.

This year, most of the contestants under 14 competed in the category of Education & Recreation. The Japanese team invented a Rescue Robot Arm—something that can help the evacuation of people or objects by moving its arms—which is controlled by a rescue simulator powered by fluid. In the category of Safety & Health, the Thailand team designed a safety locker that is rust free. The locker is made of steel, which won't corrode, thereby prolonging its life. The Contestants over 14 paid more attention to Green Technology and Technology for Special Needs. Nearly 30 works joined the competition. The Indonesia team invented an ASYVO Technology Home Security System. The owner of the technology-based Smart Home can have remote control over smart phones through its Android system, voice recognition and other technologies. With this, home burglary is expected to decline.

As for Taiwan team, Taiwanese teenagers showed great creativity in the category of Foods & Agriculture. Taichung City Ne-Shin Elementary School students invented a planter with an interconnecting duct—a watering system that applies the science of interconnecting duct which can serve water to different plants equally. This smart planter is designed appropriately to be put in the balcony or courtyard. With this planter, people can grow vegetables by themselves and for themselves, a reflection of a social trend that places much focus on health consciousness and a happy life. The students from Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Industrial High School see that agricultural Technology is the future direction of research because of the debilitating food shortages and invented a Solar Power Soil Bacteria Killing System, which uses the solar power reflector and the solar tracking system to kill the bacteria in the soil effectively in an energy-saving way. There are also many new inventions in Green Technology. Team from New Taipei City Private Nanshan Senior High School invented a green house—a house that consumes least Earth resources and produces least waste, which uses house orientation, green building material, renewable energy, rainwater recycle, energy saving home appliances, natural lighting, geo-temperature and gas flow control system. Another team from Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Industrial High School invented a Solar Power Wifi-Connected Smart Trash Can powered by solar panels to provide a WiFi Sense System and the electricity for LED.

This exhibition of invention is one of the ways to motivate students to create. Competition can materialize innovative ideas, i.e. transform a simple idea into a product that can be launched into the market. In addition, observation and emulation can help student think outside the box instead of inside the box and generate more fresh and creative ideas. This activity not only helps students gain more interest in technology and invention but also makes them come up with new inventions.

Hong Jon-chao, the Secretary of IEYI and Professor of the Department of Industrial Education of NTNU, said that our national teams made it all the way, from the preliminary to the final in each and every year. They are fully capable of generating and materializing creative ideas. In 2014, there were a total of 46 national teams participating in the same competition held in Indonesia, and eventually secured 13 Gold, 16 Silver, 10 Bronze, and 8 Honorable Mention. What a remarkable achievement! It is hoped that our national teams this year can also make good performance. It is also hoped that Taiwan's global visibility in the realm of invention can be even more enhanced after this event, which can in turn help to promote an educational environment that stresses much on invention and innovation in Taiwan. The closing and award ceremony was held at 7:00 p.m. on November 18, 2015, at a hall on the sixth floor of New Taipei City Government.