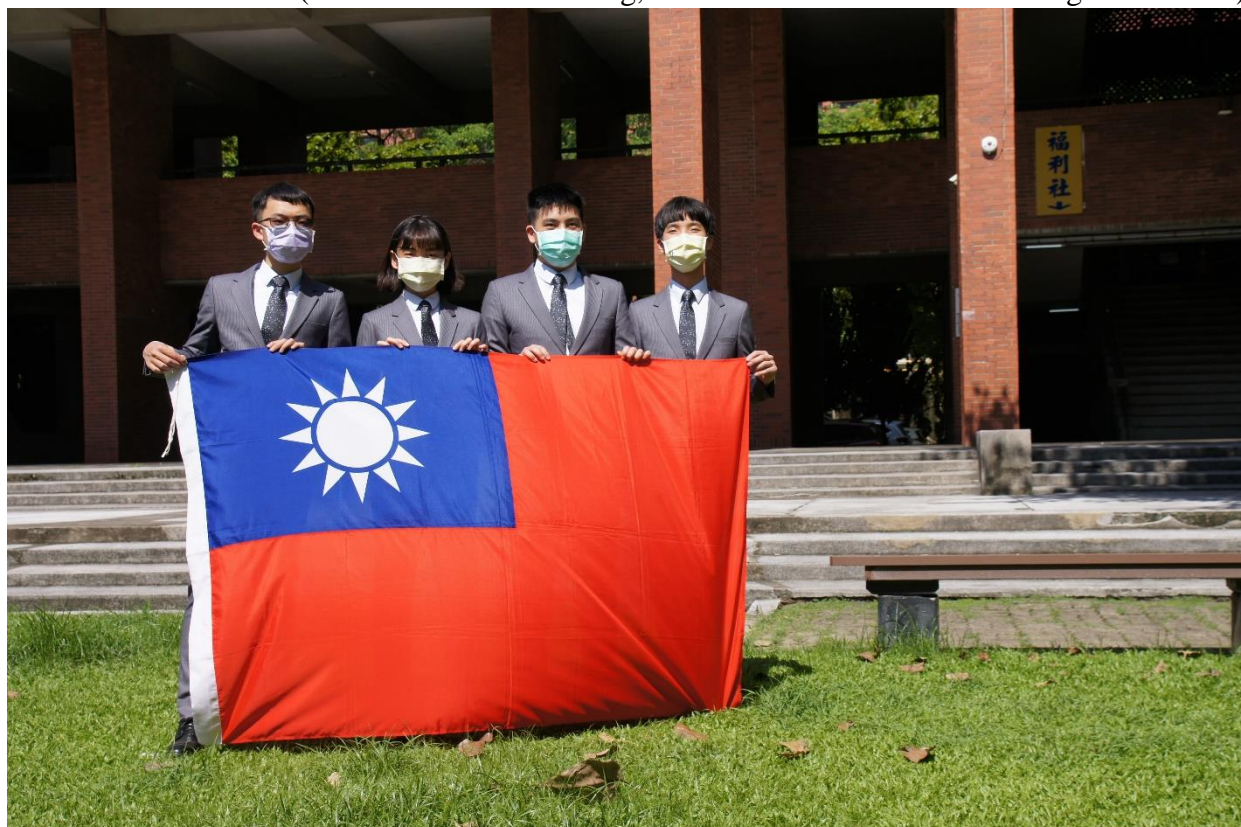


Team Taiwan Clinches 4 Golds at the 2021 International Biology Olympiad

(Photo/Text: Chen Yi-ling, Division of Academic Senior High Education)



The 32nd International Biology Olympiad (IBO), hosted by Portugal, was held online in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Team Taiwan was led by professors from National Sun Yat-sen University and sent back good tidings on July 23. All 4 representatives from Taiwan won Gold Medals, defeating 304 students from 76 countries to place first alongside China in the final ranking. A total of 30 Gold Medals, 54 Silver Medals, 82 Bronze Medals, and 28 Honorable Mentions were given out at IBO 2021. Kudos to Team Taiwan, comprising Lin Zong-Yi from Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University, Lin Wei-Chen from Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School, and Chi Liang-Yun and Wu Jia-Kai from National Chiayi Senior High School!

The student representatives underwent training under the guidance of 20 professors, one of whom is Professor Cheng Jiin-Tsuey from National Sun Yat-sen University. After a selection process comprising four phases, namely the preliminaries, the semi-final, the selection camp, and the final boot camp, 4 students were selected from among 5,187 students to represent Taiwan in this international competition. Besides team leader Professor Cheng Jiin-Tsuey

and co-leader Adjunct Associate Professor Hsiao Shu-Chan from National Chung Hsing University, the consultation team also includes the retired Professor Wang Ying from National Taiwan Normal University, Professor Chiang Yu-Chung, Adjunct Professor Liu Jong-Kang, Associate Professor Yen Shen-Horn and Assistant Professor Tsai Hsin-Yuan from National Sun Yat-sen University, as well as Professor Yang Yi-Ling from National Chiayi University, Associate Professor Shin Jyh-Wei from National Cheng Kung University, Associate Professor Tung Kuei-Shu from National Taiwan University, Professor Lin Han-Jia from National Taiwan Ocean University, National Chiayi Senior High School teacher Lin Hsiu-Chu, and Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University teacher Su Yu-Ching. Together, the consultation team assisted the team in the translation of questions and the arbitration of results, among other tasks. The competition was held from July 18th to 22nd, and the results were announced in the afternoon of July 23rd, Portuguese time, after which an online closing ceremony concluded the event.

Taiwan has been a regular in the International Biology Olympiad since 1999 and has constantly achieved outstanding results in the competition. Our cumulative medal tally now stands at 67 Golds, 22 Silvers, and 3 Bronzes. Besides 2021, Team Taiwan also achieved 100% gold in 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2016, and 2018.

The Ministry of Education has set up the "Priority Scheme for University Enrollment for Students with Outstanding Achievements in International Mathematics and Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs" to reward students who achieve Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medals in such events. These students will be guaranteed admission to various undergraduate departments or receive special recommendations to the department of their choice. In addition, Gold, Silver, or Bronze medalists can also receive scholarships worth NT\$200,000, NT\$100,000, and NT\$50,000 respectively. Those who have won multiple medals for either the same subject or across different subjects within the same year will receive the highest scholarship among the ones they are eligible for.

K12EA would like to express its appreciation to the team led by National Sun Yat-sen University's Professor Cheng Jiin-Tsuey for its relentless effort in preparing the students for this competition. Special thanks also go to Professor Shin Jyh-Wei, the Director of the Center for Continuing Education at National Cheng Kung University, for supplying the equipment necessary for the online competition. Taiwan will continue to select and train outstanding students to represent the country in the 2022 IBO, which will be organized by Armenia. It is also the hope of the Ministry of Education that students can partake in international exchanges and gain a global perspective through such competitions and events.