

Taiwan Clinched 28 Gold Awards at 2020 International Exhibition for Young Inventors Achievement Affirmed by MOE

(Photo/Text: Liu Chien-yen, Division of Academic Senior High Education)



Over the years, MOE has been supporting students in various international competitions to inculcate the ability to think out of the box and stimulate their creative juices. In the 16th International Exhibition for Young Inventors (IEYI) held in 2020, student representatives from Taiwan clinched 28 Gold Awards with their impressive performance. Administrative Deputy Minister of Education Lin Teng-chiao presented awards to the Gold Award winners and their teachers on March 12 in an affirmation of their stellar performance. He also expressed his hopes for even more schools to continue this legacy and make the nation proud.

Participants aged 6 to 19 years old are eligible to take part in the IEYI, which puts the creativity and inventiveness of the youth to test. There are 7 categories in the competition, namely Disaster Response, Agricultural Technology, Sports and Recreation, Health and Safety, Care for Society, Green Energy and Technology, and Technology of the Future World. 73 teams were shortlisted to represent Taiwan in the international competition held in Russia. However, in

view of the pandemic, the IEYI Secretariat Office announced that the competition would adopt an online format this time around. Taiwan performed brilliantly among the 9 participating countries, which submitted a total of 158 entries. A total of 47 Gold Awards were given out, of which 28 were brought home by Taiwan, a truly impressive feat.

K12EA pointed out that the IEYI differs from other international invention expositions in that, in consideration of the limited financial resources accessible to young participants, the IEYI does not charge any registration or booth fees. In addition, the event upholds a high standard of fairness, making it an excellent platform for young people around the world to showcase their inventions and creative projects. All entries are designed to provide feasible solutions to existing problems or to meet individual needs. Also, the competition has been designed to ensure that student learning covers all areas of the STEAM framework, as demonstrated in the following explication. Science: Students use scientific methods to study the characteristics and limitations of materials or sensors that they wish to use in their project. Technology: Technology Literacy is inculcated in students during the model-making process, such as when they have to determine which tools to use. Math and Engineering: Using mathematics to improve engineering issues such as the stability, reproducibility, and safety of a mechanism. Art: Art Literacy is built in the design process of the prototype.

K12EA shared that Inquiry and Practice courses are an important part of senior high school education under the new curriculum. These courses include practical learning activities that explore the nature of things and adopt an interdisciplinary approach when it comes to teaching and learning resources. As such, the fact that IEYI encourages innovation and inventiveness makes it a perfect complement to the national curriculum. Through this competition, the students can bring their creative ideas to life. At the same time, as they observe other entries and attend the presentations of other teams, students can get even more ideas for creative problem-solving. In this way, participating in the competition nurtures young minds and encourages them to come up with creative means to tackle real world problems.

K12EA would like to express special thanks to Professor Hong Jon-Chao, Executive Secretary of IEYI, for helming Team Taiwan and leading the students and teachers to success. It is the hope of MOE that, by affirming the creative and inventive achievements of outstanding individuals, a new generation of youth will be inspired to grow their passion in the field of scientific and technological innovation.