

Taiwanese students clinched 6 Golds, 2 Silvers, 3 Bronzes, and 2 Honorable Mentions at 21st Asian Physics Olympiad

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The 2021 Asian Physics Olympiad, which attracted 23 teams from 22 countries and regions, drew to a close on May 24. As the Asian Physics Olympiad charter allows host countries to send in an additional team, Taiwan sent in two teams, Taiwan Team A and Taiwan Team B, to represent the country, since this year's event was hosted by Taiwan. There were around 200 participating students, and the Taiwanese representatives did the nation proud by clinching a total of 6 Gold Awards, 2 Silver Awards, 3 Bronze Awards, and 2 Honorable Mention Awards. Taiwan Team A performed especially well, accounting for 4 Golds, 2 Silvers, 1 Bronze, and 1 Honorable Mention out of the total tally, ranking second internationally.

Due to the pandemic, this year's Asian Physics Olympiad had to be held online. National Taiwan Normal University convened a consultation committee made up of professors from National Taiwan Normal University itself as well as faculty members from Wu Feng University, National Tsing Hua University, and National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University. The selection and training process for Taiwanese representatives comprises four stages, namely the preliminaries, the semi-finals, the finals, and the pre-Olympiad boot camp. 2,942 students from 166 schools across the country took part in the preliminary selection round. By the end of the finals, the top 8 students were selected to form Taiwan Team A, and 7 reserves were selected to become members of Taiwan Team B.

Professor Jiang Pei-Hsun from National Taiwan Normal University and Professor Chang Ming-Chuan from Fu Jen Catholic University led the two teams participating in the Olympiad.

Professor Fu Tsu-Yi and Professor Mou Chung-Yu, from the Department of Physics at National Taiwan Normal University and National Tsing Hua University respectively, were also with the teams during the competition to assist with the translation of questions and the arbitration of results. The teams participated in the online competition from May 18th to 21st as well as the closing ceremony and awards ceremony held on May 24th.

The Ministry of Education shared that the "Priority Scheme for University Enrollment for Students with Outstanding Achievements in International Mathematics and Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs" has been established to reward students for their outstanding performance in such events. As a case in point, students in Taiwan Team A who have brought home gold, silver, or bronze medals in the Asian Physics Olympiad will be guaranteed admission to various undergraduate departments or receive special recommendations to the department of their choice. Winners of the Honorable Mention Awards will also receive special recommendations for undergraduate courses. In addition, the winners of the gold and silver awards will receive scholarships worth NT\$100,000 and NT\$50,000 respectively.

The Ministry of Education affirmed that the ministry will continue to select and groom outstanding students to participate in international competitions to cultivate a global outlook among the participants, provide opportunities for international exchanges, and do the nation proud. In addition, such opportunities could build a strong talent pool for Taiwanese physics professionals whose expertise will be on par with their international counterparts.