

2018 IEYI Award Presentation Ceremony

(Courtesy of Hui-E Chen at the Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)



The Ministry of Education encourages students to think and invent. On March 7, 2019, Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education met with the gold medal winners and their advisors of the 14th International Exhibition for Young Inventors (IEYI) in 2018 on behalf of the government and presented awards to the students and advisors in recognition of their outstanding performance. He hoped that Taiwan's representative team would keep up the good work, to work harder, and shines in the future.

The IEYI was launched in 2004 and hosted by different countries, and major participants are youths at the age of six to 19. It emphasizes youth innovation and invention. There are a total of six categories, namely "Disaster Response," "Foods and Agriculture," "Sports and Recreation," "Safety and Health," "Social Care," and "Green Energy Technology."

Our national team that won the Gold Medal of the IEYI was the team that was selected from the 484 projects of the "2017 IEYI International Exhibition for Young Inventors and

Taiwan Trial," jointly organized by the National Taiwan Normal University and the Taipei City Government. Of them, a total of 36 projects represented our country to participate in the 14th IEYI in 2018 held in Delhi, India, from October 18 through October 20, 2018. Among 17 gold medals from 101 projects from 10 countries, our national teams won five gold medals in total.

Different from other international invention exhibitions, the IEYI, given the economic ability of youths, does not charge the registration fee and booth fee, and its fairness is highly recognized. This event provides a stage for outstanding youths from around the world to showcase their inventions and creations. Based on the nature of problem solving or response to individual needs, participants conceive feasible solutions, pay attention to the characteristics and limitations of their materials (or sensors in some science project), and develop their technology literacy through selecting tools from model production process. They apply mathematics (math) to solve engineering problems, including stability, reproducibility, and safety of an invention, refine and enhance their cultivation of art through engineering design process of the finished invention. This has been referred as project-based STEAM learning process.

The IEYI encourages students to innovate and invent, allowing Taiwanese students to apply their knowledge, use their application skills, and put their creative ideas into practice, so that their ideas are no longer just ideas. In this way, they will grow and have further inspirations in the process rather than constrained by the common educational approach where exams guide teaching, rote memorizing and understanding are focused.

Through the contest, innovative ideas can be made happen; simple ideas can be transformed into products that can be launched to the market. In addition, from the observation of presentations and innovative inventions, participants can identify problems and solve them, creating more

creative sparkles. This event enhances and strengthens youths' competence in thinking and creating inventions, while enabling the industry, academia, and people on the workplace to complement and learn from each other.

The inventions of the IEYI are ingenious, close to daily life, innovative, and practical. Our country's youths are able to put all kinds of creative ideas into practice, which deserves the recognition from all walks of life. The Ministry of Education expressed appreciation toward Professor Rong-Zhao Hung, Executive Secretary General of the IEYI, for leading the students and advisors in Taiwan to shine in the exhibition. It is hoped that through this recognition, outstanding talents will be motivated to invent and innovate, which will arouse a new generation of young students' passion for technological inventions and drive the vigorous development of inventions in our country.