

Taiwan's national team won four golds, three silvers, and one bronze at the IESO 2023

(Courtesy of Chen, Yi-Ling at the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



An exciting piece of news about Taiwan's national team at the 16th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2023) was spread to the home country on August 26, 2023. Among the 179 participating students from 32 countries, Taiwan's eight representatives have won four gold, three silver, and one bronze medals in total, ranking second in the world (based on each national team's total score), and won one gold and one silver medals in the "National Team Field Investigation" category. Several individuals took this opportunity and secured medal for themselves, the four gold medal winners are Ho, Liang-Hung (individually ranked 1st) from Taipei Municipal Chien Kuo High School, Wu, Chun-Hsien (individually ranked 5th) from National Tainan First Senior High School, as well as Chen, Yu-Lin (individually ranked 6th) and Yang, Chueh-Hsi (individually ranked 17th) from Taipei Municipal Chien Kuo High School; the three silver medal winners are Chen, Yu-Hsun from Taichung Municipal Taichung First Senior High School, Chen, Po-Yu from Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School, and Yang, Yi from National Hualien Senior High School, and the bronze medal winner is Chang, Chia-Chen from the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University. They

all demonstrated outstanding performance at the competition.

This year's IESO was hosted online. Each participating national team needed to participate at a venue in its own home country in compliance with the IESO's requirements and set up a competition venue and trained proctors in accordance with the rules. Taiwan's national team representatives were selected and trained by an advisory group, consisting of more than ten domestic university professors and scholars. After the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, and final camp stage, eight out of 498 participants from 92 schools across the country were selected as Taiwan's representatives to participate in this competition.

The delegation was led by Kuo, Hung-Chi, Professor of National Taiwan University, with Lin, Pei-Lien, Professor of National Central University, as the deputy team leader; and Tseng, Yu-Heng, Professor of National Taiwan University, Chen, Hui-Hsuan and Yeh, Meng-Wan, Professors of National Taiwan Normal University, Chin, Yi-Nan, Assistant Professor of Tamkang University, as well as Yang, Tzu-Jui, Assistant Researcher of the National Museum of Natural Science, who helped to translate competition questions and estimate the scores. The delegation participated in this competition online from August 20, 2023, through August 25, 2023. The results were released and a closing ceremony was held on August 26, 2023.

To reward students' excellent performance, the Ministry of Education has formulated the Regulations Governing Academic Advancement Preferential Admission for Students with Great Performance in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs: any medal winners at such competitions will be sent to a department of the same discipline in college or university or be recommended to any department in college or university without a need for taking an entrance exam. In addition, each gold, silver, and bronze medalist will be awarded a scholarship of NT\$200,000, NT\$100,000, and NT\$50,000, respectively, by the Ministry of Education.

The K-12 Education Administration expressed sincere gratitude to the advisory team's

assistance during the arduous selection and training process and stated that it will continue to select outstanding students to participate in such competitions in the future to facilitate international exchanges, while expanding their international horizons.