

## Four Golds Scored at the 27th IBO of 2016

(Courtesy of Chen, Hui-e, Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)



An exciting piece of news about the Taiwanese national team at the 27th International Biology Olympiad, or IBO of 2016 has spread to the home country on the 23rd of July. The four Taiwanese student representatives have brought home four golds (Three countries have won four golds: China, Singapore, and Taiwan). In addition, the four students also participated in the microfilm competition held by the host country to make films that feature themes (Save the Future Planet) related to biology. A total of nine countries participated in the microfilm making, and the Taiwanese students impressed the audience by winning the only special award and 250 euros of prize money.

The national team was trained by an advisory group, comprising of Chen, Jin-Cui from Department of Biological Sciences, National Sun Yat-sen University, as well as two dozens of other professors. After the whole process of the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, tryout camp, and final, four students out of 3,650 were selected as Taiwanese representatives for the competition. The delegation was headed by Zhao, Da-Wei, professor from National Sun Yat-sen University, with Chen, Jin-Cui, professor as a deputy leader, and Xiao, Shu-Juan, professor from National Chung Hsing University, Dong, Gui-Shu from National Taiwan University, Wang, Ying,

professor from National Taiwan Normal University, and Liu, Yu-Shan, teacher from Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School serving as observers. The delegation headed for Hanoi, Vietnam, on July, 16th, 2016 to attend the competition, and the closing and award presentation ceremony were held in the afternoon on July, 23rd local time.

Taiwan has participated in the IBO since 1999 and the performance has been great. A total of 50 gold, 19 silver, and 3 bronze medals so far have been secured, and the average international ranking has stayed within the top three. All of the Taiwanese student representatives in 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014, and 2016, have won gold medals. The annual performance of the Taiwanese team at the IBO is stated in the table below:

Year	Host	Number of Participating Countries	X <sup>th</sup> IBO	Number of Medals	International Ranking
1999	Sweden	36	10	3 gold 1 silver	2
2000	Turkey	38	11	3 gold 1 silver	2
2001	Belgium	38	12	2 gold 2 silver	1
2002	Latvia	41	13	3 gold 1 silver	3
2003	Belarus	47	14	1 gold 2 silver 1 bronze	8
2004	Australia	50	15	1 gold 3 silver	4
2005	China	50	16	2 gold 2 silver	5
2006	Argentina	53	17	3 gold 1 silver	3
2007	Canada	49	18	2 gold 2 bronze	6
2008	India	55	19	4 gold	2
2009	Japan	56	20	2 gold 2 silver	4
2010	South Korea	60	21	4 gold	3
2011	ROC	58	22	4 gold	2
2012	Singapore	59	23	3 gold 1 silver	3
2013	Switzerland	62	24	2 gold 2 silver	5
2014	Indonesia	61	25	4 gold	1
2015	Denmark	60	26	3 gold 1 silver	5
2016	Vietnam	68	27	4 gold	-

Note: international ranking can only be finalized after the scores of all participants are published by the host country.

The background information of the four students for this competition is stated in the table below:

Name	School	Grade	Medal
Liu, Yi-Chen	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	12	gold
Xie, Yun-Neng	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	12	gold
Lin, Meng-Hong	Tainan First High School	11	gold
Huang, Jing-Wei	Tainan First High School	11	gold

To encourage excellent performance of students, The Ministry of Education has established “Academic Incentive Package for Students Who Demonstrate Excellent Performance in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs”: any medal winners at the competition will be sent to college or university without the need of taking the entrance exam, or be recommended to other departments in university; for students with an honorable mention, they will be recommended to the department of the same major. In addition, gold, silver, and bronze medalists will be awarded \$200,000NTD, \$100,000NTD, and \$50,000NTD of scholarship by the Ministry of Education. However, for students who win more than two medals either in the same field or different fields in the same year, the reward will be granted based on the student’s best award. The delegation returned to Taiwan on July, 29th. Taiwan will continue to train excellent students for the competition so as to enhance international exchanges and perspectives. This competition will be held in the UK next year, so Taiwan will continue to train outstanding students for international exchanges and to shine on the global stage.