

Three golds and two silvers are scored at the 53rd IPO

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



An exciting piece of news about the Taiwanese national team at the 53rd International Physics Olympiad (IPO) was spread to the home country on July 17, 2023. Among 387 participating students from 82 countries, the Taiwanese representative team, consisting of five students, won three gold and two silver medals in total, ranking fifth in the world (based on the number of gold medals). Of the Taiwanese national representative team, the three gold medal winners are Chang, Ya-Cheng, a student of the Taipei Municipal Chien Kuo High School (individually ranked 11th), Chang, Cheng-Kuang, a student of the National Experimental High School At Hsinchu Science Park (individually ranked 22nd), and Wang Chao Kuo, a student of the Ching Cheng High School (individually ranked 30th). The two silver medal winners are Hsu, Tzu-Hsiang, a student of the Taipei Municipal Chien Kuo High School (individually ranked 38th) and Chen, Peng-Wei, a student of the Taichung Municipal Taichung First Senior High School (individually ranked 40th). Their outstanding performance speaks for itself.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, this competition was hosted by Japan. The

national team was trained by an advisory team, consisting of more than 10 domestic university professors. After the whole process of the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, tryout camp, and final, five students from 2,374 candidates were selected as the Taiwanese representatives for the competition. The delegation was led by Chen, Chuan-Jen, professor of the National Taiwan Normal University, with Tsai Shang Fang, retired professor of the National Taiwan University as the deputy team leader; Chia, Chih-Ta and Kao, Hsien-Chung, professors of the National Taiwan Normal University, Mou, Chung-Yu and Chen, Cheng-Chung, professors of the National Tsing Hua University, and Ling, Mei-Ai, teacher of the Taichung Municipal Taichung First Senior High School assisting in translating competition questions and estimating the scores. The delegation headed for Japan on July 9, 2023 to attend the competition and returned to Taiwan on July 22, 2023.

To motivate students to demonstrate excellent performance, the Ministry of Education has promulgated 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 the same department or recommended to any department of a given college or university without the need of taking an entrance exam. In addition, the Ministry of Education will award each gold, silver, and bronze medalist a scholarship of NT\$200,000, NT\$100,000, and NT\$50,000, respectively. However, for those who have won two or more awards in the same discipline or in different disciplines in the same year, the reward will be granted based on their best award.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that it will continue to select and train outstanding students to participate in the next year's competition hosted by Iran to facilitate exchanges between Taiwan and the rest of the world, expand Taiwanese students' international horizons, and bring glory back to Taiwan.