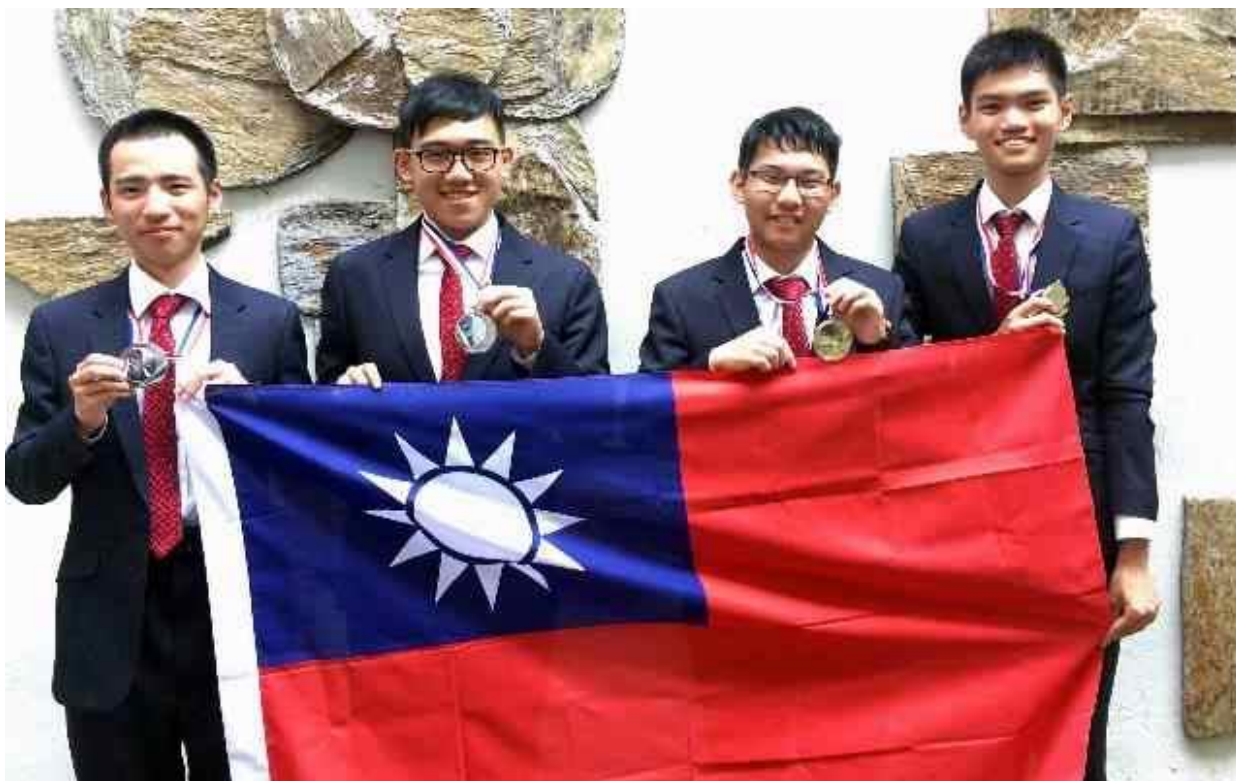


2 Golds 2 Silvers Scored at IESO of 2017

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



The Taiwanese national team attended the 11th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2017) in Nice, France, and showcased another strong performance. Among all 108 participants from 29 countries and observers from five countries (34 participating countries in total), Taiwanese representative team secured two gold medals and two silver medals, which was tied for 2nd place in the world with Japan. Of them, Huang, Shen Chang, a gold medalist and a 11th grader from Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School, also won the second place in the Earth Science Project (ESP).

The national team was trained by an advisory group, comprising of Chang, Chun Yen, professor of National Taiwan Normal University among a dozen of other professors. After edging out through the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, tryout camp, and final stage, four students from 478 candidates were selected as the Taiwanese representatives for this competition. The delegation was headed by Professor Yeh, Meng Wan, from the Center for

General Education, National Taiwan Normal University, together with Professor Lin, Pei-Lian from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences of National Central University as the deputy leader, and Profesor Chang, Chun Yen, Director at National Taiwan Normal University Science Education Center, Professor Liu, Te Ching, Professor Chen, Hui-Hsuan, and Professor Fu, Xue Hai, from the Department of Earth Sciences of National Taiwan Normal University, and Professor Huang, Qian Fen, from the Institute of Oceanography, National Taiwan University, as observers. The delegation headed for France on 20th of August, 2017 to attend the competition, and the closing and award presentation ceremony was held at 10:00 a.m. local time on 29th of August (4 p.m. on 29th of August Taiwan time).

Participants this year need to take a written test on the first day and a practical test on the second day. Apart from their professional knowledge being tested, participants also conduct experiments with devices in the latter test, and the entire experimental process needs to be assessed as well. The practical test includes many stages, some of which need to be conducted outdoors; for example, participants might need to go on a small field trip, apply the theoretical knowledge they have learned, and come up with an answer after thorough analysis. In addition to the two tests, the IESO also arranged the International Team Field Investigation (ITFI) and the Earth Science Project (ESP), in which group members are from different countries and need to communicate, cooperate, go on a field trip, discuss relevant issues, create presentation slides, and draw posters by hand within a limited period of time. Meanwhile, they all have to present during the presentation time and draw the project poster collectively after discussing the issue. Each detail of the activity is helpful for students' academic career, which is a new feature of the IESO.

Taiwan has participated in the IESO since 2007, and the performance has been great. A total of 31 gold and 13 silver medals have been secured. The annual performance of the Taiwanese team at the IESO is stated in the table below:

Year	Host	Number of Participating Countries	X th IESO	Number of Medals	International Ranking
2007	ROK	7	1	3 gold 1 silver	1
2008	Philippines	6	2	2 gold 2 silver	1
2009	ROC	14	3	4 gold	1
2010	Indonesia	19	4	3 gold 1 silver	1

Year	Host	Number of Participating Countries	X th IESO	Number of Medals	International Ranking
2011	Italy	26	5	3 gold 1 silver	1
2012	Argentina	17	6	3 gold 1 silver	1
2013	India	27	7	3 gold 1 silver	1
2014	Spain	21	8	3 gold 1 silver	1
2015	Brazil	23	9	1 gold 3 silver	1
2016	Japan	26	10	4 gold	1
2017	France	29	11	2 gold 2 silver	2

The individual performance and background information of the four Taiwanese competitors at this IESO:

Name	School	Grade	Medal	Special Prize
Huang, Shen Chang	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	11	gold	Silver medal for the ESP
Wu, Zong Xun	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	11	gold	-
Lu, Bo Yuan	The Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University	11	silver	-
Chen, Ying Qiao	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	11	silver	-

To encourage excellent performance of students, The Ministry of Education has established “Academic Incentives for Students with Excellent Performance in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs”: any medal winners at the competition can be admitted to any college or university without the need of taking the entrance exam, or they can opt to be admitted to other departments on a recommendation basis; for students with an honorable mention, they can be recommended to a department of the same major. In addition, gold, silver, and bronze medalists will be awarded NTD\$200,000, NTD \$100,000, and NTD \$50,000 of scholarship by the Ministry of Education, respectively. However, for students who win more than two medals either in the same field or different fields, the reward will be granted based on the student’s best performance.

The delegation returned to Taiwan on 3rd of September after the competition. This competition will be held in Thailand next year; Taiwan will continue to train excellent students for the competition so as to enhance international exchanges, broaden students' global perspectives, and bring more glory back home.