

Three Golds, One Silver, Two Bronzes Scored at the 59th IMO of 2018!

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



An exciting piece of news about the Taiwanese national team at the 59th International Mathematical Olympiad, or IMO of 2017, was spread to the home country on July 13, 2018. Among 594 student participants from 107 countries, Taiwanese students have scored three gold, one silver, and three bronze medals in total, ranking sixth in the world (the top five countries are the U.S., Russia, Russia, China, Ukraine, and Thailand). The performance of the Taiwanese national team was amazing, particularly Shi-Yu Wang, a student from the National Experimental High School at the Hsinchu Science Park, who won the gold medal, ranking 4th in the world.

The national team was trained by an advisory group, comprising Cheng-de Fu from Graduate Institute of Statistics, National Central University, among a dozen of other professors. After the whole process of the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, tryout camp, and final, six students were selected as Taiwanese representatives for the competition. The delegation was headed by Cheng-de Fu, chair professor, led by Tzer-Jen Wei, associate professor from the

Department of Applied Mathematics at the National Dong Hua University with Meng-Kai Hong, professor from the National Central University as a deputy leader, and Dr. Zhu-Lan Gao, assistant professor from the National Chiao Tung University as well as Bang-Cheng Wu (former national competitor), student from the Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering at the National Taiwan University, as observers helping with relevant math questions and grading judgement. The delegation headed for Romania on July, 6, 2018 to attend the competition, and the closing and award presentation ceremony was held at 14:30 local time (19:30 in Taiwan) on July, 13, 2018.

The IMO is currently the largest in scale among the Olympiad competitions that Taiwan has ever attended; more than 100 countries have attended the IMO since 2008. Taiwan has participated in the competition since 1992 and the performance has been great. A total of 40 gold, 89 silver, 24 bronze medals, and 8 honorable mentions have been brought home, with the global ranking within the top 8 over the past five years. The annual performance of the Taiwanese team at the IMO is stated in the table below:

Year	Host	Number of Participating Countries	X th IPO	Number of Medals	International Ranking
1992	Moscow	NA	33	3 Silver 2 Bronze	17
1993	Turkey	NA	34	1 Gold 4 Silver 1 Bronze	5
1994	Hong Kong	NA	35	4 Silver 1 Bronze 1 Honorable Mention	13

1995	Canada	73	36	4 Silver 1 Bronze 1 Honorable Mention	12
1996	India	73	37	2 Gold 3 Silver 1 Bronze	20
1997	Argentina	80	38	4 Silver 2 Bronze	14
1998	ROC	80	39	3 Gold 2 Silver 1 Bronze	5
1999	Romania	81	40	1 Gold 5 Silver	9
2000	SOK	82	41	3 Gold 2 Silver 1 Bronze	8
2001	US	83	42	1 Gold 5 Silver	9
2002	UK	84	43	1 Gold 4 Silver 1 Bronze	7
2003	Japan	82	44	1 Gold 2 Silver 2 Bronze 1 Honorable Mention	16
2004	Greece	85	45	3 Gold 3 Silver	6
2005	Mexico	92	46	3 Gold 2 Silver 1 Bronze	7

2006	Slovenia	90	47	1 Gold 5 Silver	10
2007	Vietnam	94	48	2 Gold 3 Silver 1 Bronze	9
2008	Spain	101	49	2 Gold 4 Silver	9
2009	Germany	104	50	1 Gold 5 Silver	11
2010	Kazakhstan	96	51	1 Gold 3 Silver 1 bronze 1 Honorable Mention	19
2011	Netherland	101	52	2 Gold 4 Silver	8
2012	Argentina	100	53	1 Gold 3 Silver 2 Honorable Mention	14
2013	Columbia	97	54	2 Gold 4 Silver	8
2014	South Africa	101	55	4 Gold 2 Bronze	3
2015	Thailand	104	56	4 Silver 1 Bronze 1 Honorable Mention	18
2016	Hong Kong	109	57	3 Gold 3 Silver	5
2017	Brazil	111	58	1 Gold 4 Silver 1 Bronze	9

2018	Romania	107	59	3 Gold 1 Silver 2 Bronze	6
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The individual performance and background information of the six Taiwanese competitors at this IMO:

Name	School	Grade	Medal	Individual Ranking
Shi-Yu Wang	National Experimental High School at the Hsinchu Science Park	11	Gold	4
Rong-Tao Zheng	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	12	Gold	6
Wei-Ping Huang	Taichung Municipal Taichung's First Senior High School	12	Gold	24
Ting-Feng Lin	The Affiliated Senior High School of National Kaohsiung Normal University	12	Silver	61

Tian-Sheng Cheng	Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School	10	Bronze	157
You-Sheng Shi	Mingdao High School	11	Bronze	250

To encourage excellent performance of students, The Ministry of Education has established “Academic Incentives 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 the department of the same major in college or university without the need of taking an 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, the silver, and bronze medalists will be awarded NT\$200,000, NT\$100,000, and NT\$50,000 of scholarship respectively by the Ministry of Education. 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.

After the competition wrapped up, the delegation returned to Taiwan on July 16, 2018. Taiwan will continue to train excellent students for the competition so as to enhance, broaden international exchanges and perspectives. This competition will be held in the UK next year, so Taiwan will continue training outstanding students for the competition to promote international exchanges and bring glory back to Taiwan.