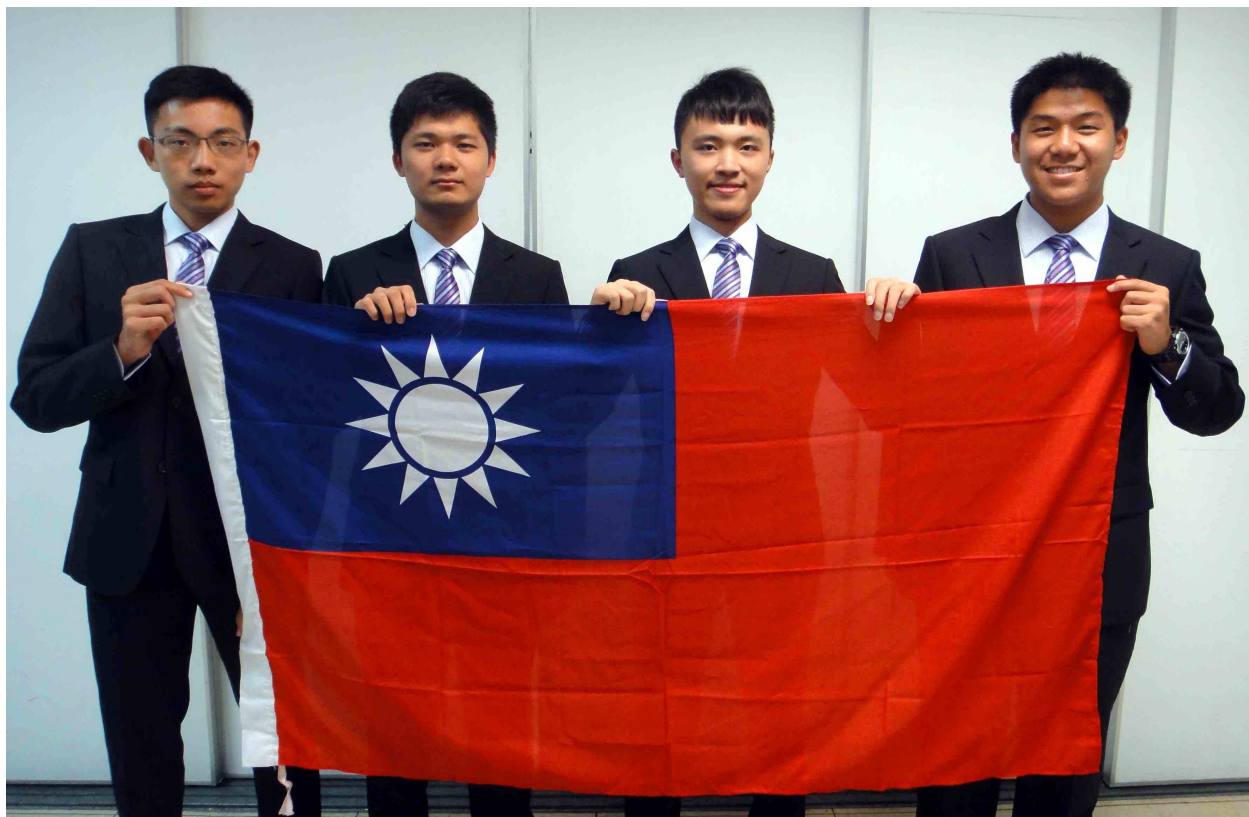


One Gold and Three Silvers for Our 2015 International Earth Science Olympiad Team!

(Photo and Texts by Chen Huei-e, Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)



On September 20th, 2015, a victory was claimed by our national team in the 9th International Earth Science Olympiad, held in Brazil. A total of 23 countries and 5 watch-list countries, which sent out a total of 86 students, participated in this competition. Our team secured 1 Gold and 3 Silver, ranking 1st place (South Korea ranked 2nd place and Indonesia ranked 3rd). Among the members of our national team, Jhou Sing-hong, student of the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU), won 2nd place in International Team Field Investigation, and Syu Yao-ting, student of Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School, won 2nd place in Earth Science Program. What a remarkable achievement! Since the inception of this competition, we have won championships for 9 consecutive years.

An advisory team was formed by Professor Chang Chun-yen of National Taiwan Normal University, together with more than 10 other professors, to train our national team. The domestic tryout was consisted of four stages: the preliminary, semifinal, tryout camp, and final. There were 527 participants who attended the preliminary stage, and only four of them managed to pass all four stages to qualify for the national team. This year, our national team was led by Professor Lin Pay-liam of National Central University (NCU), with Associate Professor Fu Hsieh-hai of NTNU serving as the

deputy leader. In addition, Professor Chang Chung-pai of NCU, and Associate Professor Yeh Meng-wan of NTNU joined the team as observers. The national team left on September 12th, 2015 for this competition that was held in Brazil. The closing and awarding ceremony was conducted at 8:00 a.m. on September 20th (local time: 11 hours behind Taiwan time).

Taiwan has joined International Earth Science Olympiad since 2007 and has made good performance every year. So far, a total of 25 Gold and 11 Silver have been awarded, and the medals obtained in each year are shown in the table below.

Year	Hosting Country	Number of Participating Countries	Xth Competition	Results	International Ranking
2007	South Korea	7	1	3 Gold and 1 Silver	1
2008	The Philippines	6	2	2 Gold and 2 Silver	1
2009	Republic of China	14	3	4 Gold	1
2010	Indonesia	19	4	3 Gold and 1 Silver	1
2011	Italy	26	5	3 Gold and 1 Silver	1
2012	Argentina	17	6	3 Gold and 1 Silver	1
2013	India	27	7	3 Gold and 1 Silver	1
2014	Spain	21	8	3 Gold and 1 Silver	1
2015	Brazil	23	9	1 Gold and 3 Silver	1

The background of the four students in our national team and their performance:

Name	Studying at	Grade	Medal	International Ranking	Note
Jheng Kai-hong	National Tainan First Senior High School	1 st	Gold	3	-
Syu Yao-ting	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	2 nd	Silver	10	2 nd place in Earth Science Program

Liou An-jyun	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	2 nd	Silver	14	-
Jhou Sing-hong	The Affiliated Senior High School of NTNU	2 nd	Silver	16	2 nd place in International Team Field Investigation

To encourage students with exceptional performance, the Ministry of Education has set up “Academic Incentives for Students Who Demonstrate Excellent Performance in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs,” which stipulates that gold-, silver-, and bronze-medal winners of this competition can be directly admitted to a university’s department of their major without taking exams, or be recommended to other departments at universities. Those who win an honorable mention can be recommended to a department of the same major. In addition, gold-, silver-, and bronze-medal winners will be awarded NT\$ 200,000, NT\$ 100,000, and NT\$ 50,000 by the Ministry of Education, respectively. However, for those who win more than one medal in the same field or in two different fields during the same year, they shall be awarded based on the highest prize that has been awarded.

After this competition, our national team conducted a cultural and educational visit to New Delhi and returned to Taiwan on September 23th. In 2016, International Earth Science Olympiad is going to be held in Japan. We will continue training excellent students for this competition to facilitate international interaction, broaden global perspectives and win much more merits.