

## Four Golds Scored at IESO 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 10<sup>th</sup> International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) of 2016 in Japan has spread to the home country. Among all 100 participants from 26 countries, Taiwanese student representatives have secured four gold medals, ranking 1<sup>st</sup> in the world. Of them, Huang, Jia-Guan, a student from Taipei Fuhsing Private School, stunned the world with his outstanding performance, earning him a global ranking of 1<sup>st</sup>; meanwhile, the other three students also had incredible performance with their individual rankings within top five in the world. Taiwan has been 1<sup>st</sup> in the global rankings since the competition was launched 10 years ago.

The national team was trained by an advisory group, comprising of Chang, Chun-Yen, professor from National Taiwan Normal University among a dozen of other professors. After the whole process of the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, tryout camp, and final, four students from 483 candidates were selected as Taiwanese representatives for the competition. The delegation was headed by Lin, Pei-Lian from

Department of Atmospheric Sciences of National Central University, together with Mi, Hong-Sheng, professor from Department of Earth Sciences of National Taiwan Normal University, as deputy leader and Chang, Chun-Yen, Director at National Taiwan Normal University Science Education Center, Wu, Chau-Rong, Chen, Hui-Hsuan, and Liu, Te-Ching, professors from Department of Earth Sciences of National Taiwan Normal University as well as Chin, Yi-Nan, professor from Department of Physics of Tamkang University, as observers. The delegation headed for Mie Prefecture, Japan on 20<sup>th</sup> of August, 2016 to attend the competition, and the closing and award presentation ceremony was held at 9:00 a.m. local time on 27<sup>th</sup> of August (1 hour ahead of Taiwan time).

Taiwan has participated in the IESO since 2007 and the performance has been great. A total of 29 gold and 11 silver medals have been secured with the global rankings of 1<sup>st</sup> for 10 consecutive years. The annual performance of the Taiwanese team at the IESO is stated in the table below:

Year	Host	Number of Participating Countries	X <sup>th</sup> 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
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

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

Name	School	Grade	Medal	Ranking	Note
Huang, Jia-Guan	Taipei Fuhsing Private School	11	gold	1	-
Hsu, Yu-Lun	Tainan First High School	11	gold	3	-

Name	School	Grade	Medal	Ranking	Note
Chen, Yun-Chung	National Taichung First Senior High School	11	gold	4	-
Liu, Ruo-Yu	Taipei First Girls High School	11	gold	5	Silver in Group J of ESP

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 can be admitted to college or university without the need of taking the entrance exam, or they can opt to be accepted 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 \$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, the reward will be granted based on the student’s best award.

The delegation returned to Taiwan on 31<sup>st</sup> of August after the competition. This competition will be held in France next year; Taiwan will continue to train excellent students for the competition so as to enhance international exchanges, broaden students’ global perspectives, and shine on the global stage.