

Team Taiwan clinches 4 Golds and 1 Silver at the 2021 International Physics Olympiad

(Photo/Text: Chen Yi-Ling, Division of Academic Senior High Education)



Team Taiwan took part in the 51st International Physics Olympiad organized by Lithuania and did Taiwan proud! On July 24, it was announced that the 5 representatives from Taiwan won 4 Gold Medals and 1 Silver Medal from among 368 participating students from 76 countries, placing Taiwan 5th place in the international ranking, which was determined by the number of Gold Medals that each country has received. Korea, China, Russia, and the United States tied for 1st place, having achieved 5 Gold Medals each. The top performer among the Taiwanese representatives is Mou Tsung-Hsi, a senior from Ching Cheng High School, who attained a personal ranking of 13th internationally.

Due to the pandemic, this year's International Physics Olympiad committee decided to hold the event online. Thus, the participating teams from various countries had to identify suitable venues in their own countries that meet the criteria stipulated by the organizing committee, as well as set up the venue and train invigilators in accordance with the competition rules and regulations. A consultation committee made up of more than 10 professors from various

universities was formed to train the 5 student representatives, who were selected from among 2,942 students after a 4-stage selection process comprising the preliminaries, the semi-finals, the finals, and the pre-Olympiad boot camp.

Professor Chen Chuan-Ren from National Taiwan Normal University and the retired Professor Tsai Shang-Fang from WuFeng University served as the team leaders for this Olympiad. In addition, Professor Chia Chih-Ta and Professor Fu Tsu-Yi from National Tsing Hua University, Professor Mou Chung-Yu from National Tsing Hua University, and Professor Chu Chon-Saar and Professor Juang Jenh-Yih from National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University also lent their hands to the team by helping with the translation of questions and the arbitration of results. The competition took place from July 17th to 23rd, and a closing ceremony and prize-giving ceremony was held on July 24th afternoon, Lithuanian time. Taiwan has been a regular in the International Physics Olympiad since 1994 and has consistently achieved outstanding results in the competition. Taiwan's cumulative medal tally now stands at 77 Golds, 29 Silvers, and 18 Bronzes. Furthermore, in 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016, all Taiwanese representatives achieved Gold Medals.

The Ministry of Education has set up the "Priority Scheme for University Enrollment for Students with Outstanding Achievements in International Mathematics and Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs" to reward students who achieve Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medals in such events. These students will be guaranteed admission to various undergraduate departments or receive special recommendations to the department of their choice. In addition, Gold, Silver, or Bronze medalists can also receive scholarships worth NT\$200,000, NT\$100,000, and NT\$50,000 respectively. Those who have won multiple medals for either the same subject or across different subjects within the same year will receive the highest scholarship among the ones they are eligible for.

K12EA shares that Taiwan will continue to select and train outstanding students to represent the country in the 2022 International Physics Olympiad, which will be held in Belarus. The Ministry of Education also hopes that, through these competitions and events, Taiwanese students can partake in international exchanges, gain a global perspective, and do the nation proud.