

Three Golds and Three Silvers Scored at the 57th IMO 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 57th International Mathematical Olympiad, or IMO of 2016 was spread to the home country on the 15th. Among 602 student participants from 109 countries, Taiwanese students have been awarded three golds and three silvers in total, ranking fifth in the world (the top four countries are the U.S., South Korea, China, and Singapore). The performance of the Taiwanese national team was amazing. Among the national team, Shu, Shao-huai, a student from Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School, was particularly amazing. He achieved an individual score of 35 points, ranking 12th in the world.

The national team was trained by an advisory group, comprising of Fu, Cheng-de, chair professor 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 Fu, Cheng-de, together with Lin, Yan-ji, assistant professor from Department of Mathematics of National Taiwan Normal University, and Hong, Meng-kai, professor from National Central University serving as team leader and team deputy leader, and Dr. Gao, Zhu-lan (former national participant) from Graduate Institute of Statistics, National Central University as an observer. The

delegation headed for Hong Kong on July, 9th, 2016 to attend the competition, and the closing and award presentation ceremony was held at 16:00 local time on July, 15th.

The IMO is currently the largest in its scale among other relevant 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 36 gold, 84 silver, 21 bronze medals, and 8 honorable mentions have been awarded and our global ranking stayed within the top 20. 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

The individual performance and background information of the six Taiwanese competitors at this IMO:

Name	School	Grade	Medal	Score	Ranking
Shu, Shao-huai	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	12	gold	35	12
Li, Pin-hong	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	11	gold	31	23
Cheng, Rong-tao	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	10	gold	30	35
Wang, Shi-yu	National Experimental High School at Hsinchu Science Park	9	silver	28	45
Cheng, Tian-jun	Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School	10	silver	27	63
Qiu, Yu-bin	Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School	11	silver	24	94

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 can be admitted to college or university without the need of taking the entrance exam, or they can opt to be accepted by other departments on a recommendation basis; for students with an honorable mention, they can be recommended to the department of the same major. In addition, gold, the 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.

After the competition wrapped up, the delegation returned to Taiwan on July, 16. Taiwan will continue to train excellent students for the competition so as to enhance international exchanges and broaden global perspectives. This competition will be held in Brazil next year, so Taiwan will keep training outstanding students for international competitions as a way to promote international exchanges, and provide our students with opportunities to shine on the global stage.