

## Four Golds and One Silver Scored at the 49<sup>th</sup> IPO of 2018!

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



An exciting piece of news about the Taiwanese national team at the 49<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad, or IPO of 2018, in Lisbon, Portugal, was spread to the home country. The five representative students among all 396 participants from 87 countries demonstrated great performance and scored four gold and one silver medals, tying in third place with Russia and Republic of Korea, and Singapore (based on the number of gold medals; both China and India have won five gold medals, ranking first).

The national team was trained by an advisory group, comprising Professor Gao, Xian-Chung from the Department of Physics of the National Taiwan Normal University, among a dozen of other professors. After the whole process of the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, tryout camp, and final, five students from 1,847 candidates from 143

schools were selected as Taiwanese representatives for the competition. The delegation was headed by Professor Gao, Xian-Chung with Professor Tsai, Shang-Fang from the Wu-Feng University, as the deputy leader, and Professor Shen, Ching-Sung from the Department of Physics of the National Taiwan Normal University, Professor Mou, Chung-Yu and Professor Chen, Jeng-Chung from the Department of Physics of the National Tsing Hua University, Professor Juang, Jen-Yi from the Department of Electro-physics of the National Chiao Tung University. In addition, Liu, Shun-Ju, teacher from the Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School, accompanied the team to provide assistance in areas such as translating the test projects and evaluating the results. The delegation headed for Portugal on July 20, 2018 to attend the competition, and the closing and award presentation ceremony was held at 03:30 p.m. local time on July, 28, 2018 (7 hours behind Taiwan time).

Taiwan has participated in the IPO since 1994 and the performance has been great. A total of 71 gold, 25 silver, 18 bronze medals, as well as 8 honorable mentions so far have been won, and the average international ranking has been maintained within the top three over the past five years. All of the Taiwanese representative students at the competition in the year of 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016, have won gold medals. The annual performance of the Taiwanese team at the IPO is listed in the table below:

Year	Host	Number of Participating Countries	X <sup>th</sup> IPO	Number of Medals	International Ranking
1994	China	47	25	1 Bronze 1 Honorable Mention	17

1995	Australia	51	26	1 Silver 1 Bronze 3 Honorable Mention	17
1996	Norway	55	27	2 Gold 2 Silver 1 Bronze	6
1997	Canada	56	28	2 Silver 2 Bronze 1 Honorable Mention	15
1998	Iceland	56	29	1 Silver 2 Bronze 2 Honorable Mention	12
1999	Italy	62	30	2 Gold 2 Silver 1 Bronze	7
2000	UK	63	31	2 Gold 2 Bronze 1 Honorable Mention	6
2001	Turkey	65	32	2 Gold 1 Silver 2 Bronze	5
2002	Indonesia	67	33	3 Gold 1 Silver 1 Bronze	7
2003	ROC	54	34	3 Gold 1 Silver 1 Bronze	3
2004	ROK	71	35	1 Gold 3 Silver 1 Bronze	7
2005	Spain	77	36	5 Gold	1

2006	Singapore	86	37	3 Gold 1 Silver 1 Bronze	5
2007	Iran	76	38	1 Gold 2 Silver 2 Bronze	15
2008	Vietnam	82	39	5 Gold	2
2009	Mexico	68	40	3 Gold 2 Silver	4
2010	Croatia	82	41	5 Gold	3
2011	Thailand	84	42	5 Gold	1
2012	Estonia	82	43	5 Gold	2
2013	Copenhagen	83	44	3 Gold 2 Silver	6
2014	kazakhstan	85	45	5 Gold	2
2015	India	82	46	4 Gold 1 Silver	3
2016	Switzerland	84	47	5 Gold	-
2017	Indonesia	86	48	3 Gold 2 Silver	8
2018	Portugal	87	49	4 Gold 1 Silver	3 (based on the number of gold medals)

The background information regarding the five students is disclosed in the table below:

Name	School	Grade	Medal	Ranking
Zhong, Shan-Xuan	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	12	Gold	22
Chen, Chang-Han	Taichung Municipal Taichung First Senior High School	12	Gold	32
Jiang, Li-Yuan	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	12	Gold	37
Gao, Wei-Bo	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	11	Gold	42
Zeng, Xian-Yang	National Experimental High School at Hsinchu Science Park	11	Silver	78

To encourage students' excellent performance, the Ministry of Education has established the "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 college or university; for students with an honorable mention, they will be recommended to the department of the same major in

college or university. In addition, the gold, 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 based on the student's best performance.

The delegation returned to Taiwan on August 2, 2018. Taiwan will continue training excellent students for the competition so as to enhance and broaden international exchanges and perspectives. This competition will be held in Israel next year, so Taiwan will continue training outstanding students for the competition to promote international exchanges and bring glory back to Taiwan.