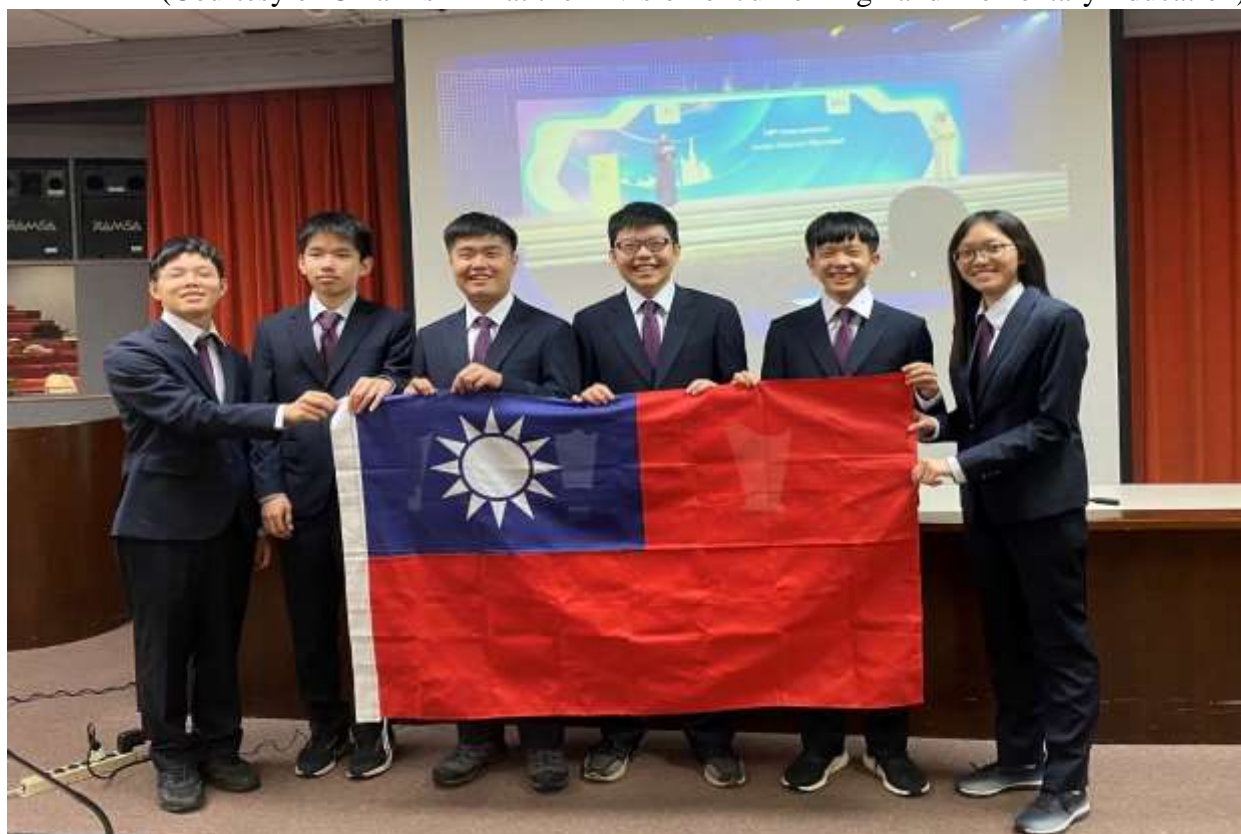


## Taiwanese Junior High School Students Bring Home Six Golds at 2021 IJSO

(Courtesy of Chia-Hsin Li at the Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



The Taiwan national team, which is composed of six students, participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) in 2021 and secured a total of six gold medals according to the results announced on the evening of December 20, 2021, ranking first overall. Hsuan-Ming Lin, a student at the National Tainan First Senior High School, won the special awards in the theory and the overall performance categories at the same time, ranking first among all participating students. Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education, sent a message of congratulation to the award-winning students on their outstanding performance and expressed appreciation for their endeavor to bring glory for Taiwan right after learning about this good news.

The IJSO is an international competition that integrates science-related subjects, including mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and earth sciences, to cultivate young people's interest in science. Participants must be students under the age of 16. Our country has participated in this grand event since 2004 and has maintained excellent performance over the years. So far, we have accumulated a total of 89 golds and 13 silvers.

This year's competition was hosted by the United Arab Emirates, with 359 participants from 59 countries. Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, participating countries needed to send their team leaders to Dubai to participate in a physical meeting, while the competitors participated in this competition through remote monitoring in their home countries. The entire process was the same as that of the competitions held previously. Two team coordinators of our country managed to participate in the physical meeting at Dubai on December 11, 2021, and took a flight back to Taiwan on December 21, 2021.

The six competitors were trained by an advisory panel, composed of professors from the College of Science, National Taiwan Normal University. After the opening ceremony on December 13, 2021, the team coordinators were separated from the competitors immediately and participated in online meetings and discussions on test questions. Meanwhile, the competitors engaged in the competition without accessibility to the communication network until they completed their experiments on the evening of December 18, 2021.

K-12 Education Administration stated that to encourage students to actively participate in the International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and international science fairs, the Ministry of Education has formulated the Regulations Governing Academic Advancement Incentives for Students Who Excel in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs. Any gold, silver, or bronze medalist in this competition can be recommended for a senior high school or a five-year vocational school without the need to take an entrance exam. Meanwhile, each gold, silver, and bronze medalist will be awarded a scholarship of \$200,000 NTD, \$100,000 NTD, and \$50,000 NTD, respectively, by the Ministry of Education. In the future, we will continue to select and train students to participate in such events to increase their exposure in overseas competitions and broaden their international horizon, while increasing the opportunities for exchanges and collaboration in the development of science education between Taiwan and other countries.