

Taiwan Grabs Six Golds at the 2023 International Junior Science Olympiad

(Image/Original Text: Li Chia-Hsin, Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



Taiwanese students participated in the 20th International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) in 2023, hosted by Thailand, and delivered outstanding performances, with results announced on December 9. Among the 304 students from 54 countries and regions, all six Taiwanese students won gold medals, and one team also won one gold medal for group experiments, which put Taiwan first in the competition. The six gold medalists are Wu Ssu-Chien (吳思謙) and Yen Tzu-Chiao (顏子喬) from Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School, Chan Wei-Chun (詹緯濬) and Lai Ching-Yu (賴敬宇) from Taipei Municipal Dunhua Junior High School, and Hung Ching-Cheng (洪靖承) and Su Cheng-Hsuan (蘇程玆) from Tainan Municipal Jian Sing Junior High School. Moreover, Yen Tzu-Chiao from Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School also won the award for the highest score in the competition (which is the first place for all participants). Minister of Education, Pan Wen-Chung (潘文忠), sent a congratulatory message immediately after receiving the good news, congratulating the students on their efforts and achievements that bring honor to Taiwan.

To cultivate teenagers' interest in science, the International Junior Science Olympiad combines related subjects such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and earth science for international competitions. Taiwan has participated in the competition since 2004 and has won a total of 97 gold medals, 17 silver medals, and two special awards for individual experiments. In addition, Taiwan also won two gold medals, one silver medal, and two bronze medals for the group experiment category, 12 best theory awards, nine highest score awards, and ranked first place 12 times in the competition.

The members of our team were selected and coached by a team of National Taiwan Normal University professors Lu Chia-Jung (呂家榮), Lu Kuo-Tung (呂國棟), Chang Yung-Ta (張永達) and Fu Tsu-Yi (傅祖怡), and associate professor Liu Yi-Hsin (劉沂欣). On November 30, the team flew to Bangkok for the competition. The closing and awards ceremony was held in the afternoon on December 9. In the meantime, the delegation visited Chiang Mai for cultural and educational exchanges after the competition to broaden students' horizons and returned home on December 13.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, to encourage students to participate in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs, the Ministry of Education has established regulations governing academic advancement incentives for students with great performance. By these regulations, the winners of gold medals in this Olympiad will be guaranteed admission to a senior high school or a five-year program in junior college, along with a scholarship of NT\$200,000.

The K-12 Education Administration will continue to select and train students to participate in the competition, building their overseas experiences and expanding their global perspectives. Moreover, it is hoped that there will be more opportunities for exchanges and cooperation in science education between Taiwan and other countries.