

The 54th International Chemistry Olympiad – Taiwan Wins 4 Gold

(Division of Academic Senior High Education)



Taiwan's delegation had an outstanding performance in the 54th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) hosted by China this year, with the results announced on July 18. Among the 326 students from 84 teams from 83 countries (or regions), Taiwan was awarded four gold medals and was ranked first internationally (based on the number of gold medals). The four gold medalists were Pin-Hsi Chen (ranked 18th overall) from Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School, Kai-Chun Chen (ranked 29th overall) from Taichung Municipal Taichung First Senior High School, Hsin-Hung Chao (ranked 30th overall) from National Experimental High School at Hsinchu Science Park, and Yao-Lin Liu (ranked 36th overall) from National Chiayi Senior High School.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Olympiad was held online, with teams finding venues in their home countries, setting up their own competition environments, and arranging supervisors in accordance with the regulations of the Olympiad. Taiwan's delegation was trained by a team of over 10 professors from local universities, and four students were chosen from

among 1,742 applicants to represent the nation in a four-stage selection process including a local preliminary selection, winter selection camp, follow-up selection, and final selection camp.

This year's delegation was led by Professor Way-Zen Lee from the Department of Chemistry at National Taiwan Normal University, with Professor Chia-Jung Lu of the same department as the deputy team leader. Assisting with the translation of test questions and arbitration of results were Academia Sinica Institute of Chemistry researcher Hsiao-Hua Yu (gold medalist in the 1992 IChO); National Taiwan University Department of Chemistry Professors Bih-Yaw Jin and Andrew Tsung-Shing Wang (gold medalist in the 1996 IChO); National Taiwan Normal University Department of Chemistry Professors Cheng-Huang Lin, Hsyueh-Liang Wu, and Elise Yu-Tzu Li (silver medalist in the 2001 IChO); and Ya-Ping Tsao, a faculty member at Taipei Municipal Zhongshan Girls High School. The Olympiad was held from July 10 to 18, and the results were announced and the closing ceremony held on July 18.

In order to reward students for exceptional performance, the Ministry of Education established Regulations Governing Academic Advancement Incentives for Students with Great Performance in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs. By these regulations, the winners of gold, silver, and bronze medals in this Olympiad, among others, will be guaranteed admission to the corresponding department at a college or a university or be recommended to any department at a college or a university. In addition, gold, silver, and bronze medalists will receive scholarships of NT\$200,000, NT\$100,000, and NT\$50,000, respectively, from the Ministry of Education. The highest amount will also be awarded to those who receive two or more awards in the same or different disciplines in the same year.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that Taiwan has participated in the International Chemistry Olympiad since 1992, and has won 61 gold, 51 silver, and 11 bronze medals in total. The Olympiad will be hosted by Switzerland next year, and Taiwan will continue to select and train outstanding students to participate in the competition to promote international exchange and strive for honors.