

Amazing Performance at the 13th IJSO of 2016

(Courtesy of Xu, Li-Juan from Division of Junior High, Elementary School and
Preschool Education)



An exciting piece of news about the Taiwanese national team at the 13th International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) of 2016 has spread to the home country. The outstanding performance of the six Taiwanese student representatives have brought home five golds and one silver. (Taiwan ranks first in the international ranking (the national award)). Lai, Qun-Mao, one of the representatives from Jian Sing Junior High School in Tainan City, has won two special awards in theory and overall performance category, ranking first among all participants.

The six representatives were trained by an advisory group, comprising of professor Luo, Pei-Hua from National Taiwan Normal University as well as other professors. This delegation headed for Bali, Indonesia, on December, 2nd, 2016 to attend the competition, and the closing and award presentation ceremony was held at 9:30 a.m. on December, 10th local time, which was followed by a three day/two-night trip to Bali and Surabaya for cultural and educational visits. They were scheduled to return to Taiwan on December, 14th.

Table one-The information about the six students for this competition is outlined below:

Name	School	Grade	Performance
Zheng, Yu-Qi	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	10	Gold
Lou, Pei-Rui	Taichung Municipal Chu Jen Junior High School	9	Gold
Shi, Jia-Yang	Ching Cheng High School	10	Gold
Chen, Yi	Tainan First Senior High School	10	Silver
Lai, Qun-Mao	Tainan Municipal Jian Sing Junior High School	9	Gold; Special Award in Theory (with the highest ranking) Special Award in Overall Ranking (with the highest ranking)
Song, Bo-Chen	Tainan Municipal Jian Sing Junior High School	9	Gold

IJSO is an international competition that aims to cultivate the aptitudes of students (who are under sixteen of age) in STEM subjects (such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and earth science). Taiwan has participated in the IJSO since 2004 and its performance has been great, with a total of 65 gold and 13 silver medals so far having been won. The Ministry of Education has established “Academic Incentive Initiative 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 high school or five-year junior college without the need of taking the entrance exam. In addition, gold, silver, and bronze medalists will be awarded \$200,000NTD, \$100,000NTD, and \$50,000NTD of scholarship by the Ministry of Education.

Taiwan will continue to train its students with a passion for science for the competition so as to offer them an opportunity to stand on the global stage and broaden their horizon, which will promote the exchanges of the up-to-date science education between Taiwan and other countries, thereby fostering cooperation within the international science community.

Table two-The annual performance of the Taiwanese national team at the IJSO is outlined below:

Year	X th IJSO	Host	City	Dates	Number of Participating Countries	Number of Participants	Number of Medals	International Ranking
2004	1 st IJSO	Indonesia	Jakarta	12/5- 12/14	31	173	5 golds 1 silver	2
2005	2 nd IJSO	Indonesia	Yogyakarta	12/4- 12/13	34	202	5 golds 1 silver	1
2006	3 th IJSO	Brazil	St. Paulo	12/3- 12/12	30	180	5 golds 1 silver	2
2007	4 th IJSO	Taiwan	Taipei	12/2- 12/11	36	197	6 golds	1
2008	5 th IJSO	Republic of Korea	Gyeongsang- nam do	12/7- 12/16	44	247	6 golds	2
2009	6 th IJSO	Azerbaijan	Baku	12/2- 12/11	45	258	4 golds 2 silvers	2
2010	7 th IJSO	Nigeria	Abuja	12/2- 12/11	33	201	4 golds 2 silvers	1
2011	8 th IJSO	South Africa	Durban	12/1- 12/10	40	228	6 golds	1
2012	9 th IJSO	Iran	Tehran	12/1-12/9	30	174	6 golds	1
2013	10 th IJSO	India	Pune	12/3- 12/12	48	226	6 golds	1
2014	11 th IJSO	Argentina	Mendoza	11/30- 12/15	39	185	1 golds 5 silvers	5
2015	12 th IJSO	Republic of Korea	Daegu	12/2- 12/14	42	236	6 golds	1
2016	13 th IJSO	Indonesia	Bali	12/2- 12/14	48	276	5 golds 1 silver	1