

The 52nd International Physics Olympiad – Taiwan Wins 2 Gold, 3 Silver

(By Han-Ting Lai, Division of Academic Senior High Education)



Taiwan's delegation had an outstanding performance in the 52nd International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) hosted by Switzerland this year, with the results announced on July 17. Among the 368 students from 75 teams from 75 countries (or regions), Taiwan was awarded two gold medals and three silver medals and was ranked fourth internationally (based on the total score of student competitions). The two gold medalists were I-Ting Lin (ranked 11th overall) and Wei-Chen Lin (ranked 14th overall) from Taichung Municipal Taichung First Senior High School. The three silver medalists were Shun-Wen Lin (ranked 45th overall) from Taipei Private Yan Ping High School, Yu-Yu Yang (ranked 63rd overall) from Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School, and Yun-Yen Wu (ranked 70th overall) from Taichung Municipal Taichung First Senior High School.

Due to the Russo-Ukrainian War, this year's Olympiad was hosted by Switzerland instead and 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

five students were chosen from among 2,717 applicants to represent the nation in a three-stage selection process including a local preliminary selection, follow-up selection, and final selection camp.

This year's delegation was led by Professor Chuan-Jen Chen from National Taiwan Normal University, with Emeritus Professor Shang-Fang Tsai from the Department of Physics at the National Taiwan University as the deputy team leader. Assisting with the translation of test questions and arbitration of results were National Taiwan Normal University Professors Tsu-I Fu and Chih-Ta Chia; National Tsing Hua University Professor Chung-Yu Mou; National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University Emeritus Professor Chung-Hsia Chu. The Olympiad was held from July 10 to 17, and the results were announced and the closing ceremony held on July 17.

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 discipline disciplines in the same year.

Taiwan has participated in the International Physics Olympiad since 1994, and has won 79 gold, 32 silver, 18 bronze medals, and eight honourable mentions in total. According to the K-12 Education Administration, the Olympiad will be hosted by Japan 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.