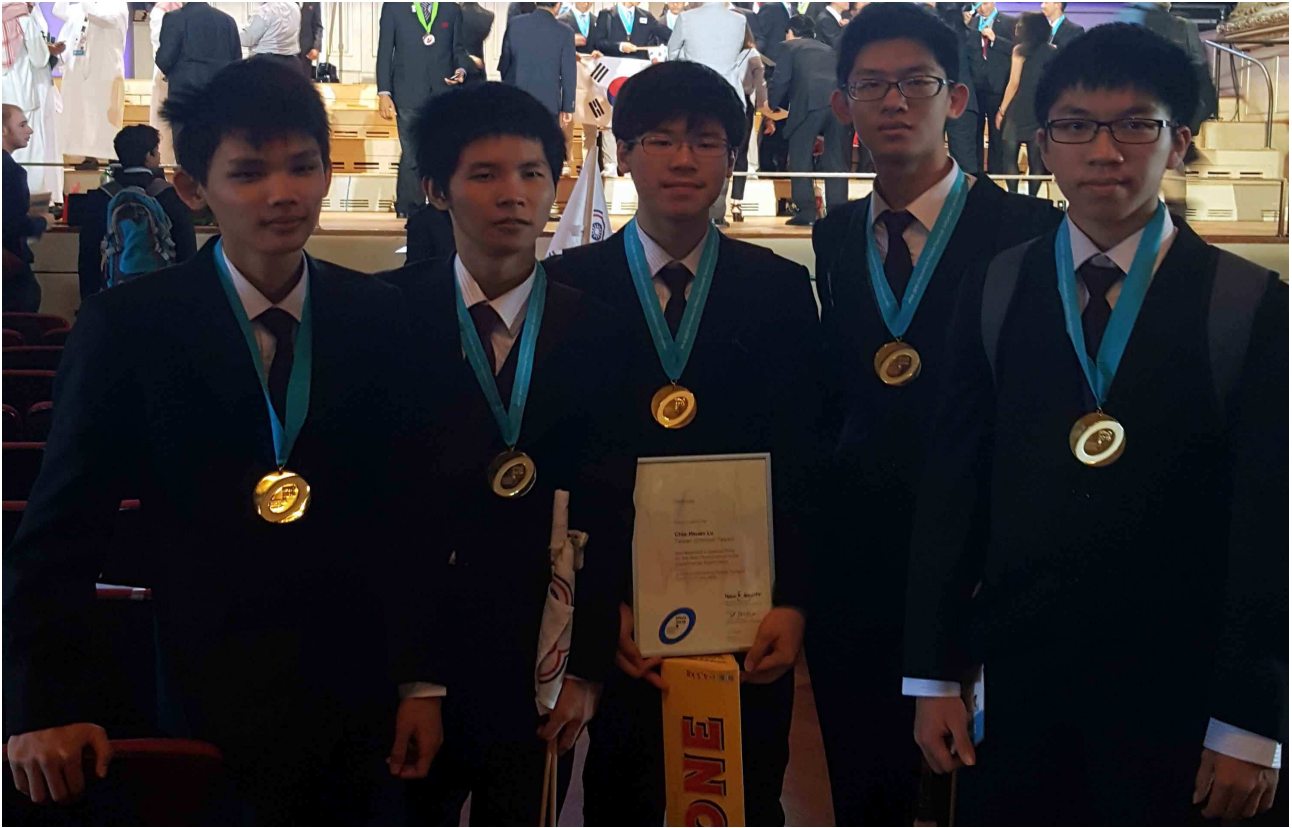


Five Golds Scored at the 47th IPO of 2016

(Courtesy of Chen, Hui-e, Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)



An exciting piece of news about the Taiwanese national team at the 47th International Physics Olympiad, or IPO of 2016 in Switzerland was spread to the home country. All five representative students, among all 398 participants from 84 countries, have been awarded gold medals (a total of three countries have brought home five gold medals: China, South Korea, and Taiwan). Among them, Lu, Jia-xuan, a student from National Wu Ling Senior High School, received an award for the best experiment for his outstanding work.

The national team was trained by an advisory group, comprising of Jia, Zhi-da, professor from National Taiwan Normal University among a dozen of other professors. After the whole process of the preliminary stage, semifinal stage, tryout camp, and final, five students from 2,664 candidates were selected as Taiwanese representatives for the competition. The delegation was headed by Jia, Zhi-da, together with Tsai, Shang-fang, professor from Wu-Feng University, as deputy leader and Gao, Xian-chung, professor from National Taiwan Normal University, Mou, Chung-yu, professor from National Tsing Hua University, Wu, Jun-hui, professor from National Taiwan University, Lin,

Jun-yuan, professor from National Chiao Tung University, and Li, Wen-tang, teacher from National Chiayi Senior High School, as observers. The delegation headed for Zurich, Switzerland on July, 9th, 2016 to attend the competition, and the closing and award presentation ceremony was held at 10:00 a.m. local time on July, 17th (6 hours behind Taiwan time) in University of Zurich where Albert Einstein graduated from.

Taiwan has participated in the IPO since 1994 and the performance has been great. A total of 64 gold, 22 silver, 18 bronze medals, and 8 honorable mentions so far have been awarded, and our average international ranking stayed within the top three over the past five years. All of the Taiwanese representative students in 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016, have won gold medals. The annual performance of the Taiwanese team at the IPO is stated in the table below:

Year	Host	Number of Participating Countries	X th IPO	Number of Medals	International Ranking
1994	China	47	25	1 bronze 1 Honorable Mention	17
1995	Australia	51	26	1 silver 1 bronze 3 Honorable Mention	17
1996	Norway	55	27	2 gold 2 silver 1 bronze	6
1997	Canada	56	28	2 silver 2 bronze 1 Honorable Mention	15
1998	Iceland	56	29	1 silver 2 bronze 2 Honorable Mention	12
1999	Italy	62	30	2 gold 2 silver 1 bronze	7
2000	UK	63	31	2 gold 2 bronze 1 Honorable Mention	6
2001	Turkey	65	32	2 gold 1 silver 2 bronze	5
2002	Indonesia	67	33	3 gold 1 silver 1 bronze	7
2003	ROC	54	34	3 gold 1 silver 1 bronze	3
2004	ROK	71	35	1 gold 3 silver 1 bronze	7
2005	Spain	77	36	5 gold	1
2006	Singapore	86	37	3 gold 1 silver 1 bronze	5
2007	Iran	76	38	1 gold 2 silver 2 bronze	15
2008	Vietnam	82	39	5 gold	2
2009	Mexico	68	40	3 gold 2 silver	4
2010	Croatia	82	41	5 gold	3
2011	Thailand	84	42	5 gold	1

2012	Estonia	82	43	5 gold	2
2013	Copenhagen	83	44	3 gold 2 silver	6
2014	kazakhstan	85	45	5 gold	2
2015	India	82	46	4 gold 1 silver	3
2016	Switzerland	84	47	5 gold	-

Note: international ranking can only be finalized after the scores of all participants are published by the host country.

The background information of the five students for this competition is stated in the table below:

Name	School	Grade	Medal	Ranking	Note
Shu, Fang-ci	Ching Cheng High School of Chang-hua County	11	gold	20	-
Tsai, Pei-kai	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	11	gold	23	-
Lu, Jia-xuan	National Wu Ling Senior High School	12	gold	25	Award for the Best Experiment
Chen, Xuan-rui	Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School	11	gold	28	-
Wu, Xiang-rui	National Experimental High School at Hsinchu Science Park	12	gold	35	-

To encourage excellent performance of students, The Ministry of Education has established “Academic Incentives for Students Who Demonstrate Excellent Performance in International Mathematics or Science Olympiads and International Science Fairs” : any medal winners at the competition can be admitted to college or university without the need of taking the entrance exam, or they can opt to be accepted to other departments on a recommendation basis; for students with an honorable mention, they can be recommended to the department of the same major. In addition, gold, silver, and bronze medalists will be awarded \$200,000NTD, \$100,000NTD, and \$50,000NTD of scholarship by the Ministry of Education. However, for students who win more than two medals either in the same field or different fields, the reward will be granted based on the student’s best award. The delegation returned to Taiwan on July, 22nd. Taiwan will continue to train excellent students for the competition so as to enhance international exchanges and broaden global perspectives. This competition will be held in Indonesia next year, so Taiwan will keep training outstanding students for international competitions as a way to promote international exchanges, and provide our students with opportunities to shine on the global stage.