



Training for Guides and staff

Just for you:

In order to provide the best service and assistance we interviewed more than two hundred students and selected 150 to serve as guides and staff. We then held four training sessions for the guides and staff. During the first two training sessions our organizing committee members gave lectures about how to be a good guide and what are the responsibilities of a guide. We also invited experts to give lectures about the scenic spots that you will be visiting during IBO 2011.

The last two sessions we went to these scenic spots to give on-site training. We also stayed at the hotel that the students will stay during IBO 2011 for a rehearsal. We took the training program very seriously because our goal is your 100% satisfaction.

Hotel check-in rehearsal ▼



Visiting Dashi Historic District ►



▼ Group photograph at the Novotel Hotel



Visiting Center for Traditional Arts in Ilan ►

Dr. Chang chairperson of the organizing committee gave last minute reminders for the guides and staff

Our guides: crouching tigers and hidden dragons

From the above photographs you can tell that our guides includes international students. In fact it is fair to say that we have "crouching tigers and hidden dragons" in our guide team. We have students from many universities with very diverse background. Most of our guides speak good English and we also have guides speak Spanish, French, German,

Japanese, Korean and many others. During the training program we can easily tell that our guides and staff were very serious about our mission—to make IBO 2011 a successful one. Although they were serious they smiled all the time so we believe that they will provide you the best assistance possible.

Welcome to National Taiwan Normal University



campus (main campus), Gong-guan campus, and Linkou campus, and consists of 10 colleges that include 59 departments and 54 graduate institutes, offering a wide variety of courses and degrees ranging from the arts and humanities, education, sociology, business management, athletics, to the sciences.

National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) is a vibrant learning community that has long been recognized as one of Taiwan's elite institutions of higher education. Founded in 1946, NTNU was formerly an institute for teachers' education, as suggested in the title Normal, that later emerged as a comprehensive university. Established on the credo that education is the root of our nation, NTNU has dedicated itself to achieve distinctive scholarship and the development of many influential educators and researchers. Bearing tradition and innovation as the hallmarks, today, NTNU encompasses three campuses, Ho-ping



NTNU Life Science Department

The Department of Life Science at NTNU has thirty faculty members from all fields of biology and is among the best life science departments in Taiwan. The department's modern facilities and research skills build on its historical strengths in

teacher education to provide intellectually stretching courses that prepare students for futures in research, in teaching and in a wide variety of other careers. Currently the department has approximately 140 undergraduate students, 80 master's students and 20 Ph.D. students.



The logo of



On our daily news you will see the logo of BIO 2011. In the logo you can see the continent of America; west of America is Asia, including the island of Taiwan in blue color which signifies the high diversity of butterflies as well as other types of organisms. Due to the isolation of Taiwan from the rest of Asia by the Taiwan Strait, the Pacific organisms in Taiwan have a distinctive genetic composition (DNA) from their close relatives in other parts of the world. The logo also emphasizes that we are part of the world

with all continents and island masses sharing the planet Earth. We would like to think that the butterflies in the log also symbolizes the transformation or metamorphosis of each young scientist from an early stage to a more mature stage of scientist as a result, in part, of this IBO. Also when each of you flies away from the beautiful and diverse island you will bring some essence of Taiwan with you to wherever you go. Please remember that Taiwan will always welcome you if you return!

Words from the top winner of IBO 2010 — China



Mr. Mu was the first place winner of IBO 2010 in Korea

Dear friends of IBO 2011,

My name is Tong MU. Last year, I attended the IBO 2010 in Korea. Now, I'm a freshman majoring in life sciences at Peking University, China. The IBO 2010 was an excellent experience as I made some really great friends there. IBO is a platform for us to communicate with contemporaries about life sciences aside from competing. From the communication with the new friends, I gained a lot about different cultures as well as scientific ways of thinking. Well, there are some tests

ahead. The most important thing, in my opinion, is to be relaxed when preparing for and taking the tests. All of you have prepared for the IBO 2011 for quite long, thus there is no need to force yourselves to review the whole things. It may be helpful to pick out some important pieces of information, take a look at them and then just enjoy yourself in the campus. There are a lot more to experience than taking the tests. As to me, when I put the tests in a less important position, the result always satisfies me. Hope all of you have a memorable experience in the IBO 2011 and get what you expect.

Best wishes,
Tong MU



Gourmet of Taiwan

Pearl milk tea derives from bubble tea. It is an offshoot of the Taiwan bubble tea culture, a popular tea drink in Taiwan society. Although found in many countries worldwide, one should realize that this fun drink originated in Taiwan. The "pearls" in pearl milk tea are a type of tapioca, made from sweet potato starch. Using a shaker as if making a cocktail, they shake black tea, green tea or oolong tea with a variety of juices and flavorings, with a great variety of results. We can still see pearl green tea and pearl black tea in Taiwan now. The "pearl" is an item. Customers

珍珠奶茶 Pearl milk tea

choose it and have it put into the tea, along with shaved ice, soybean jelly or roasted blackgrass jelly to add flavor. Some enjoy the chewy nature of the pearls; others enjoy the feeling of the balls hitting the roof of their mouths when they suck them through the extra-wide straws. To meet the diverse needs of customers when you order a cup of pearl milk tea, you can choose to have it with red tea or green tea, reduced levels (50%, 25% or 0%) of sugar and/or ice. Although you might have it before, why not try it in where it was invented while you are here in Taiwan.



Watch out for the sun and thundershowers.



The IBO 2011 period is the hottest days of the year in Taiwan. The day time temperature can easily reach 35°C (95°F) by noon. During the hot summer you can easily get sunburn if you are directly exposed under the sun for more than 15 minutes. We strongly recommend that you use sunscreen in the days when you have an excursion. The hottest time of a day is between 10:00 and 14:00. Be sure to drink plenty of water if you have outdoor activities. If it is extremely hot in the morning, there is a good chance that

there will be a thundershower in the afternoon. The thundershowers often come with short notice. That is it may be perfectly sunny at 13:00 but turns to be very cloudy in an hour and then comes the shower. Although a thundershower typically lasts only some 30 minutes to one hour or two they could be very fierce and you can get totally wet in five minutes. Therefore, it is a good idea to bring with you a "convenient raincoat" for excursions.



Greetings from Mayor of Taipei

Dear Honored Guests,

Welcome to Taipei! On behalf of the City government and its citizens, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to the delegates and participants of the 22nd International Biology Olympiad.

We would like to express our utmost appreciation to the National Taiwan Normal University Department of Life Science and Science Education Center for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the success of this global gathering. The conference will serve as a platform for the exchange of experience and expertise in the field of Biology. I am confident that this event will be most productive and stimulating for all the participants who have traveled afar from the world over to join this conference.

Apart from your time spent in the conference, please also take advantage of your stay in Taipei to explore this beautiful and vibrant city. Taipei has become a dynamo of progressiveness and a regional symbol of prosperity. The soaring Taipei 101 tower is an architectural icon that has become a popular destination frequented by residents and tourists alike. This inspiring work of modern architecture is well complemented by the prestigious National Palace Museum, plush 24-hour

bookstores, and a wide array of savory delicacies at vendor stalls and restaurants relished by many.

As the host city and sponsor of the 22nd International Biology Olympiad, we wish you a wonderful and successful conference, and hope that you bring home the most beautiful memories.

Sincerely yours,



Lung-Bin Hau

Lung-Bin Hau

Host



Organizer





國際生物奧林匹亞

The 22nd International Biology Olympiad

Daily News Issue 2

July 11 2011

Discover Taiwan

In 1544, a Portuguese ship sighted the main island of Taiwan and named it Ilha Formosa, which means "Beautiful Island." Separated from the Asian continent by the 160 km (99 mi) wide Taiwan Strait, the main island of the group is 394 km (245 mi) long and 144 kilometres (89 mi) wide. To the northeast are the main islands of Japan and the East China Sea, and the southern end of the Ryukyu Islands of Japan is directly to

the east; the Batanes Islands of the Philippines lie to its south across the Bashi Channel. The mountainous island spans the Tropic of Cancer and is covered by tropical and subtropical vegetation. Other minor islands and islets of the group include the Penghu Islands (Pescadores), Green Island, and Orchid Island, as well as the Diaoyutai Islands (Senkaku islands)



Image source from google earth

The Beautiful Island—Formosa

Busy check in

Yesterday was a busy and long check in day. Approximately 02:00 a.m. team Kuwait was the first team to register and by the end of the day we still had teams that had not shown up. The registration includes five sections. We interviewed several teams and they all thought that the registration was easy and straightforward.



Team Kuwait



schedule

Student

Time	Event
06:00-07:20	Breakfast
07:30-08:50	Transportation
09:00-12:00	Opening ceremony
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:30-17:30	Excursion: Taipei 101 Lab rotation
18:00-20:00	Dinner
21:00-23:00	Culture night I

Jury

Time	Event
06:00-07:20	Breakfast
07:30-08:50	Transportation
09:00-12:00	Opening ceremony
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:30 ~	Meeting

Check in procedures

Section 1: ID check



Section 2: Rest and last phone call for the contestants



Section 3: Handing in all communication products and record voice

It may be annoying but it is the rule

In the section #3 of the registration, we collected computers and cell phones of the contestants. To make sure that you will get exactly what you gave us, we took a photograph of the collected items for each contestant and have the contestant confirmed.



We want to pronounce your names right

Also because we want to pronounce your names correctly when we announce the contest winners at the closing ceremony. However, it is very difficult for us such that we had the contestants speak their own names and recorded that. We will try our best to practice and hope to pronounce them correctly in the closing ceremony.

Section 4: Departure confirmation



Section 5: Materials and information handout



Social activity

Students played a "killer" game in a big circle and language did not seem to be a barrier to these talented young biologists.



Contestant Nguyen Trung Kien (first from the right) from Vietnam said that the registration was easy and the guide was very helpful such that he did not encounter any difficulty in the registration.

Weather



Probability of rain

Temperature 28~34°C

40%



Indonesia Kazakhstan

We would love to find a lot of friends from around the world, eat Taiwanese food as much as people :), enjoy the scenes in Taiwan, and also succeed in the competition



I'm waiting for a fountain of emotions, I'm waiting for good result :))

We expect having fun and getting the first IBO medal.

I believe that IBO 2011 started with nice moods, and LAST with good end. All participants of 2011 and all guides will be excellent friends of biological world. Biology is heart of science!!! Good wishes to Taiwan.



Kuwait



Kyrgyzstan

What is your expectation for IBO 2011?



Mongolia

We want to see a lot of interesting things. For example: beach. We want to know national culture about Taiwan.



United Arab Emirates

We have ambition in this competition and we hope we can enjoy the opportunity in this beautiful country, Taiwan.

What is your impression about Taiwan before coming to Taiwan?

We expected to meet a lot of nice and friendly people, visit some interesting places and taste exotic dishes.

A technologically and economically advanced country. Very warm, humid with heavy rainfall and short people. :)



Slovenia



Sweden



Endemic organism of Taiwan

Chinese name: 臺灣黑熊

Species name: *Ursus thibetanus formosanus*



The Formosan Black Bear is an endemic subspecies of the Asiatic Black Bear in Taiwan. In the first year of twenty-first century (2001), it was voted as the most representative wildlife of Taiwan. The white or yellow V shape in the chest is one of the most distinctive features of this endemic subspecies. They are the largest terrestrial animals and the only native bears in Taiwan. Due to habitat destruction over the last several decades this species was listed as endangered under Taiwan's Cultural Heritage and Preservation Law in 1989. Currently they distribute almost exclusively in the remote mountains with

rough topography and very limited human activities. A woman zoologist Dr. Mei-Hsiu Hwang, a professor at National Pintong University of Technology who got her Ph.D from National Taiwan Normal University has been spending tremendous amount of time and energy tracing and studying the Formosan Black Bear and earned the title "mother of black bear". Although it should be considered a good luck to encounter a Formosan Black Bear one should quickly run away from it instead of chasing it in case it really happens.





Gourmet of Taiwan

The oldest name for the oyster omelet was "jianshizhui." It is a traditional Taiwan snack known to everyone, especially those in the older generation in the Anping area of Tainan, which relates to its interesting origin. In 1661, the Dutch occupied Tainan. When Zheng Chenggong defeated the Dutch, their army hid away all the local stores of food in a fit of revenge at being

蚵仔煎 Oyster omelet

beaten. In response to this the clever Zheng Chenggong thus mixed oysters and sweet-potato starch with water and fried it as an omelet. After many subsequent years of its popularity spreading, it is a true Taiwan snack that is found throughout Taiwan and is highly popular.



For your information (FYI) - Taiwan is the paradise of food



▲ Shilin Night Market

popular in many parts of the world. It would be such a pity if you leave Taiwan without trying it out. We know it is impossible to try all kinds of gourmet in Taiwan in just a week so we pick up some to describe in our daily news. Most of the dishes we picked are available everywhere in Taiwan and we strongly encourage you to try them out. However, remember some kinds of food are very challenging to foreigners. Stinky Tofu is top on this list and CNN just

Most international travelers and local people would agree that Taiwan is the paradise of food. Taiwan has all varieties of food from different parts of Mainland China. Following this Chinese tradition Taiwan has developed local unique favors. The long-occupation of Taiwan by the Japanese left a Japanese influence on Taiwanese cuisine. In addition, Taiwan has a very dynamic society

picked black eggs as the most disgusting food in the world. Many people in Taiwan and in Mainland China felt sorry for those who lose the courage to try black eggs because of CNN's report. As for stinky Tofu, it has to be stinky to be good but most westerners run away from this incredibly tasty food. There is one joke saying "if you like stinky Tofu you are truly a Taiwanese". We dare you to try it out and say I am a true Taiwanese now!

that continues to absorb all kinds of cultures and our food reflects our exceptional capacity to blend cultures in our food. In most night markets as well as in start-rated restaurants one can easily get Chinese food, Japanese food, Thai food, Vienna food, Korean food and western food. Our creation of new kinds of food is also absolutely amazing. Pearl Milk Tea is one of our recent inventions that has become



▲ Food vendors in Nanjichang Night Market

Words from the third place winner of IBO

Dear friends of IBO 2011,

I'm Chelsea Voss, currently a senior high school student at Cupertino High School in California. I will be attending MIT next year, and I competed in IBO 2010 in Korea last year.

IBO 2010 was an amazing experience. There is nothing quite like having that single week to explore a new country, share your biology skills, and meet new people whose friendship you will never forget.

As it turns out, one of my favorite memories of last year's IBO was from when all the students visited a park with dinosaur footprints. Near the site with dinosaur footprints was a waterfront which, though desolate it appeared at first, was actually teeming with life. Crustaceans, mollusks' shells, giant isopods, and the occasional jellyfish greeted those with a careful eye, and we perhaps

enjoyed the sight of these living specimens more than the ancient footprints themselves. There we were, students from so many different nations and each with our own unique experiences, but all united by our shared appreciation of biology.

So, competitors in IBO 2011, congratulations! Study hard, but be sure you are well rested for the practical and theoretical tests. Most importantly, do not forget to relax a little and appreciate the camaraderie of your fellow biology students; trust me that this International Biology Olympiad is going to be an unforgettable experience.

Thanks,
---Chelsea Voss



國際生物奧林匹亞

The 22nd International Biology Olympiad

Daily News Issue 3

July 12 2011

Discover Taiwan Gods bless Taiwan—Longshan Temple

Mengjia Longshan Temple (traditional Chinese: 艋舺龍山寺; Péh-ōe-jī: Báng-kah Liông-san-sī) was built in Taipei in 1738 by settlers from Fujian, China. It served as a place of worship and a gathering place for the Chinese settlers. The temple has been destroyed either in full or in part on numerous earthquakes and fires.

Taipei residents have nevertheless consistently rebuilt and

renovated it, and did so again after the end of the Second World War a few months later. Longshan is seen as an emblematic example of Taiwanese classical architecture, with southern Chinese influences commonly seen in older buildings.

Like most temples in Taiwan, the Temple worships a mixture of Buddhist, Taoist, and folk deities such as Matsu.

(<http://www.lungshan.org.tw/>)



Amazing grand opening

The IBO 2011 grand opening was full of surprises. Our vice president Vincent Siew and minister of Education Ching-Ji Wu came to express their greetings to the meeting participants. In their welcome addresses they both emphasized the importance of biology and ecology and hoped that the talented young biologists can work together to solve many of our urgent global environmental and ecological problems.



At the end of the opening ceremony students were so excited, many gathered together for a group photograph. Imagine this, one photograph has people from more than 50 countries with diverse cultures and they were so happily together.

schedule

Student

Time	Event
06:00-06:50	Breakfast
07:00-08:30	Transporation
09:00-12:00	Practical Exam
12:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-18:00	Practical Exam
18:00-19:00	Transporation
19:00-21:00	Dinner
21:00-23:00	Culture night II

Jury

Time	Event
06:00-07:00	Breakfast
07:00-17:00	Yangmingshan National Park & National Palace Museum
17:30-18:50	Taipei 101
19:00-21:00	Dinner



Show time

Many teams took their opportunities on the stage to impress the audience. Many teams put on their traditional dress. Team China put on elegant Tang suit, team Mexico had their awesome hats, and team Kuwait had their beautiful light and soft clothing. Team Hungry had a quick hat switch show, team Bulgaria cast roses on the stage. Amazing is insufficient to describe the wonderful surprises yesterday.



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Culture night

Last night was the first culture night, in addition to fortune ping-pong and lucky fishing, students also got the chance to get familiar with the timer and the pipeman that they will use in the practical examinations.



Weather



Temperature 28~35°C



Probability of rain

30%



Cyprus

We imaged it as a tropical island. The view of the island turned to be more outstanding than we're imagined, the hospitality of the citizens is impressive and the weather is weird!

Familiar, because we thought Taiwan is similar to South Korea.



Iran

A warm green island with tall buildings and short mountain (relative to mountains in Iran).

High population density, subtropic, hot.



Korea



Lithuania

What is your impression about Taiwan before coming to Taiwan?



Nigeria

Taiwan is a beautiful paradise.



Slovak Republic

We were excited and expecting delicious food and looking forward to seeing Taipei 101, that we knew about from a book.

What is your expectation for IBO 2011?

Return back home with medals! Make lots and lots of new friends.

Having fun & improving experience.



Sri Lanka



Tajikistan



Endemic species of Taiwan

Chinese name: 白背芒

Species name: *Miscanthus sinensis* var. *glaber*



Miscanthus Sinensis var. *glaber* in Yangmingshan, photograph taken by Tsai-Wen Hsu of Enedmic Species Research Institute.

Miscanthus sinensis var. *glaber* mainly distributes in northern Taiwan and dominated the grassland of Yangmingshan. It has extreme high tolerance to stress to and is one of the few plant species that can be found near sulfur hot springs. In Europe *Miscanthus* is used for generating electrical power. It has been estimated that if 10% of the land in Europe is planted with *Miscanthus* it could generate 9% of the electrical demand of Europe and reduce CO₂ emission by 9-10%. German plans to gradually increase the plantation of *Miscanthus*, many grass fields in airports of Sweden are planted with *Miscanthus*, and in the United States of America *Miscanthus* is used for the production of ethanol (biodiesel). Yet, is a grass native to Taiwan. Recently Dr. Chiang Tzen-Yuh, a graduate of National Taiwan Normal University and a professor of National Chenkung University, and several other scientists in Taiwan actively study *Miscanthus* and explore the use of *Miscanthus* as an important bio-resource.



Gourmet of Taiwan

棺材板 Coffin Lid or Coffin Sandwich

Like the oyster omelet introduced before, Coffin Lid or Coffin Sandwich is a Taiwanese variant developed in Tainan. It uses thick slices of Texas Toast, preferably those cut from soft loaves popular in East Asia, which are fried until crispy. A layer of crust is then cut away to expose the inside, which was then dug out, allowing stews to be placed inside. The crust layer is then replaced on top of the stew. The filling is a mixture of chicken meat and liver, shrimp, carrots, potatoes, and milk. It is best when served piping hot. This Tainan specialty often turns heads for its very unusual name.



FYI - Taiwan is a typhoon hotspot



Three typhoons in a row! Can you imagine this?
Image source: Central Weather Bureau

The picture shows three typhoons around Taiwan in August 2010. During our preparation for IBO 2011, there is one potential problem looming over us all the time—typhoons. We had a typhoon backup plan for the entire IBO contest and hoped never have to use it. On average, 3-6 typhoons attack Taiwan annually. When a strong typhoon hits Taiwan, trains stop and flights are cancelled and sometimes schools are closed. The torrential rain brought by typhoons often cause landslides and flooding. The formation of typhoons (hurricanes, tropical cyclones are all

the same climate phenomena but called differently in different regions) requires vast and warm ocean surfaces. When a typhoon is formed its continuous movement on the ocean will increase its intensity. Taiwan is located in the Northwest Pacific close to the equator but not too close to the equator such that it is right in the location where typhoons develop into extreme intensities. In 2008 typhoon Morakot attacked Taiwan and brought more than 2000 mm of precipitation to most parts of Taiwan with a maximum of nearly 3000 mm in southern Taiwan causing more than 600

casualties. Although typhoons are the number one natural disaster in Taiwan, a complete absence of typhoons would result in a severe drought problem as typhoon storms contribute more than 30% of our annual precipitation in central and southern Taiwan. Both the human society and the ecosystems in Taiwan are well adapted to typhoon disturbance. Even after the most severe typhoons the society will be back to function in a matter of

a day or two in the cities. Our ecosystems typically recover from typhoon disturbance within a year. We believe the adaptations of our society and ecosystems to typhoon disturbance are highly valuable to other regions that may expect to have more frequent tropical cyclones as a result of global climate change. This year we have not yet had a land-passing typhoon and let's hope there will be no typhoon during our IBO 2011.

Interview: Taiwan from an American Perspective

I am a biology professor at the University of Kansas, which is, admittedly, not a very diverse place from any perspective; however, I grew up in Southeast Asia, and my research on tropical epiphytes and desert succulents takes me all over the world. I have been coming to Taiwan on a near-yearly basis for almost 20 years, and the two words that seem most suitable to describe this island, both biologically and culturally are "diversity" and "richness". From tropical and subtropical rain forests to snow-capped mountains; from tropical epiphytic orchids to temperate conifers; from deer that bark like dogs to curious monkeys; from rice paddies to skyscrapers "grow-

ing" nearly side-by-side; from the symphony of several species of shrill, very noisy cicadas to the collective roar of thousands of scooter/motorcycles when the light signal turns green, from the repulsive, but tasty, stinky tofu to some of the best seafood to be found anywhere, Taiwan seems to have it all. All this, combined with an unparalleled warmth and friendliness from the Taiwanese people, from both colleague-friends and strangers, keep me coming back for more!

Craig E. Martin, Professor



國際生物奧林匹亞

The 22nd International Biology Olympiad

Daily News Issue 4

July 13 2011

Discover Taiwan

We are small but we are tall—Mt. Jade

Yushan (Chinese: 玉山; pinyin: Yùshān; literally 'Jade Mountain'; it can also be referred to as Mount Yu) is the highest mountain (up to 3,952 metres or 12,966 ft) above sea level.) in Taiwan and the fourth highest mountain on all islands in the world. In the winter, Yushan is often capped with thick snow which makes the entire peak shine like stainless jade, hence its name. On July 21, 2009, Yushan was

elected one of 28 finalists in the New7Wonders of Nature voting campaign. It even had held the top position in the "Mountains and Volcanos" category on the list of first round voting of the 77 nominees ended on July 7, 2009.

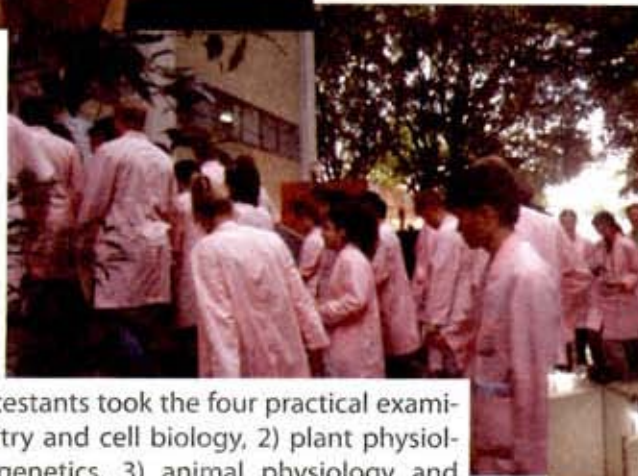
Yushan contains the largest tract of wilderness remaining in Taiwan and is also valued for its pristine forests and faunal diversity, including many endemic species.



We are almost there!

The professors and teachers has been translating the examination questions into their native languages from the afternoon of July 11th until the early morning of July 12th, just several hours before the examinations.

A Colorful Design for the Practical Examinations



Yesterday, all contestants took the four practical examinations: 1) biochemistry and cell biology, 2) plant physiology, anatomy, and genetics, 3) animal physiology and anatomy, and 4) ecology and systematics. Each contestant put on a laboratory coat with one of the following four colors: pink, green, yellow and blue. The colors were used to assign the students to each of the four examinations. All students with the laboratory coats of the same colors took the examinations in the same sequence. The colors were also used in the resting areas so that contestants would not encounter other contestants who had already taken the examinations, therefore avoiding the possibility of discussion.



Jury: Took it Easy

The spotlight of IBO has always been on the students since it is their competition. However, it is the professors and teachers who made Biology Olympiad truly International. The topics of the final examination were published in more than 20 languages as the result of the jury's hard work. After the very exhausting translation lasting from July 11th till the morning of July 12th, the jury went to Yangmingshan National Park, Taipei 101 and the National Palace Museum to explore the vast Chinese history, the landscape and the architecture of Taiwan.



Chungshan Building

Culture Night #2

After a long day of exams, students had a lot of fun in the second culture night. The shows were performed by students from the following countries: Georgia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Poland and Australia, and German and they were simply incredible! Moreover, the bingo game gave students the opportunity to introduce each other and make new friends. Our staff also spent hours coming up with a mind-boggling dance for this night.

Georgia



Slovenia



Germany



Poland & Australia



Ukraine



IBO 2011 PR Group



Sri Lanka



Weather



Probability of rain

Temperature 28~34°C

30%



Armenia

Everything was great, we liked the opening ceremony very much, especially the New Zealand team greeting and Taiwan Aboriginal Dance Flying Heart.

It was great because the ceremony pointed out the importance of biology. We really love the traditional Taiwanese performances.



Belarus

It was great and impressed our team very much.

Seeing students wearing their national clothes was especially interesting. All of us loved the aboriginal dance. It was a very good beginning of our week in Taiwan. Thank you :)



Bulgaria



Georgia

What is your impression about the opening ceremony?



Latvia

It was amazing to see people from different countries. Especially we enjoyed different traditional outfits.

The opening ceremony was very bright, I was feeling excited during the event. And the organization of the ceremony was quite perfect.



Romania

A great dance to meet the Chinese culture and people all over the world. Thank for these wonderful moments!

The musical performances were wonderful and being with our friends from other countries at the same stage was so nice.



Russia



Turkey



Ukraine

Very nice hall, good organization, very very good music. Really interesting, but sometimes hard to understand the English, Anything other - great!



Japalura luei, photograph taken by Si-Min Lin of National Taiwan Normal University

Endemic species of Taiwan

Species name: *Japalura luei*

Chinese name: 呂氏攀蜥

Japalura luei named by Dr. Hidetoshi Ota in 1998 was first discovered in Ilan, northeastern Taiwan in 1993. It is named after professor KungYang Lue to honor his long-term commitment on reptile and amphibian research over the last four decades. The elongated smooth scales on the ventrolateral corner of the chin just beneath the orbit and a discontinuous pale color pattern on the shoulder and flank

and the lack of dark pigmentation in the buccal-palatal mucosa and keeled dorsal scales on the snout distinguish it from two closely related species in the genus *Japalura*. It has very limited spatial distribution and our understanding of this endemic species mostly comes from the continuous study of Dr. Lue's laboratory at National Taiwan Normal University.



Gourmet of Taiwan

Nothing beats a bowl of crushed ice dessert in the hot summer. This popular dessert comprises a base of crushed ice flavored with mung beans, adzuki beans, starch balls, taro fig, jelly and other toppings and then sprinkled with sugar water, offering sweet and cool relief on a hot summer day. It has a long history in Taiwan. Four decades ago, many people often bought only the crushed ice without any flavor and added their own sugar and even blackgrass jelly when they got home. Although the original version looks boring today, it was a big treat in the past, espe-

剉冰 Crushed Ice Dessert

cially for children when there were barely any other options for them. In contrast, today you can find all kinds of creative new variations with toppings of mangoes, strawberries and other seasonal fruit among others. Be it plain or delicate, crushed ice is an all time favorite dessert for more than half a century in Taiwan. It is summer during your IBO visit in Taiwan so do not miss this dessert whenever you have a chance to taste it. Trust me, the crushed Ice Dessert in Taiwan will definitely cool you down but never let you down!



FYI - Animals and the Lunar Calendar



In many Asian countries, this year is the Year of the Rabbit. Many westerners often wonder how we decide which animal represents which year. There are a total of twelve animals and each animal represents one year in a cycle of the zodiac beginning with rat, followed by ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. For instance, someone born in this year (The Year of the Rabbit) would be a rabbit. Someone born twelve years ago would also be a rabbit and someone born last year would be a tiger. By knowing which animal year in which one was born we can quite accurately estimate his or her age. But be careful, if you meet someone who looks around forty years old and was born in the rabbit year, it is always better to ask "Are you 36 instead of 48?" Just to be on the safe side.



Corrections and Apologies

We have published three issues of the Daily News and made some mistakes. We made more mistakes on Issue 3 so I as the editor-in-chief would like to express my sincere apologies to those mistakes.

Teng-Chiu Lin
Teng-Chiu Lin

Page 1, in the daily schedule "Transpotation" should be "Transportation" and "Pratical" Exam should be "Practical" Exam (The first two issues also had the same mistakes). Page 2, in the Show time "Hungry" should be "Hungary" and I am deeply sorry for the mistake. Page 3, the sentence under Cyprus "imaged" should be "imagined". Page 4 under the typhoon image in a "raw" should be in a "row", and typhoon "Morakt" should be typhoon "Morakot". I would also like to make a sincere apology to both team Azerbaijan and team Kazakhstan for misplacing the group photograph of Azerbaijan under team Kazakhstan in Issue 2.



國際生物奧林匹亞

The 22nd International Biology Olympiad

Daily News Issue 5

July 14 2011

Discover Taiwan Our most precious culture treasure

—aboriginal tribes



people and Kaoshan (mountain) people. These labels are misnomers, for they don't reflect cultures and languages, or places of residence, properly. The early Han Chinese immigrants were mostly bachelors, and many of them married Pingpu girls, which sped up the merging of the two ethnic groups. There is a Taiwanese saying that "We have mainland forefathers but no mainland foremothers." The word kanchiu (wife) is derived from the Siraya tongue of the Pingpu. None of Taiwan's aboriginal tribes had a written language. To study the Pingpu culture, one must rely on archeological findings, written records from Chinese, Japanese, Dutch and Spanish explorers and rulers, and remaining oral tradition.

(http://www.sinica.edu.tw/tit/culture/0795_TribesOfTaiwan.html)

Currently, there are 12 officially recognized aboriginal tribes in Taiwan. Moreover, nowadays people in Taiwan show more appreciation for the culture of aboriginal tribes and hopefully this trend will go on.

Before the Han Chinese immigration began in the mid 1600s, Taiwan was inhabited by people belonging to the Austronesian race, which members lived in a vast area extending from Madagascar in the west to Hawaii and Easter Island in the east, and from New Zealand in the south to Taiwan in the north.

When the Han Chinese came to Taiwan, they divided, for convenience, the aborigines into Pingpu (plains)

Ideally... but Practically...

Ideally, the jury hoped that the theoretical examination topics could be translated into each team's native language before the end of the day (July 13th), but in reality it took several hours longer. We felt sorry for professors and teachers who were working hard while students were having fun during the culture night. However, enjoying themselves helped students to ease the stress of the theoretical exam.



Time Capsule: The Center for Traditional Arts

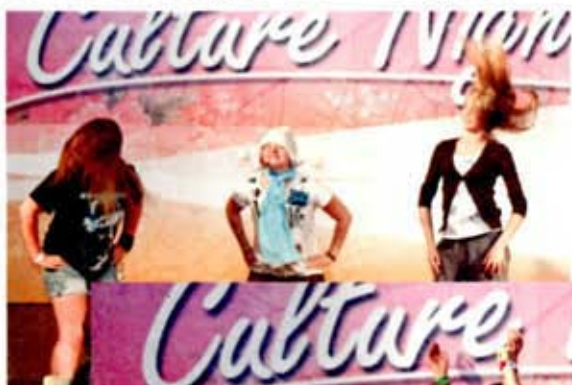
Before going to the Center for Traditional Arts, many students had only seen the modern Taiwan. The visit to the Center for Traditional Arts certainly opened the window to the past of Taiwan. No matter what it was, the architecture, the show, the exhibition or the food, the Center of Tradition Arts certainly gave students a quick overview of how life was in Taiwan before its modernization. Many students especially enjoyed playing the puppets. Puppet shows were one of the very few shows that civilians could enjoy in the past but over time it evolved into a very high tech entertainment.





Culture Night #3: It Gets Higher and Higher

Students were all very excited about the second culture night on July 12th but the third culture night made them feel exhilarated! Eleven teams presented their shows, including students from Finland, Mexico, Azerbaijan, Romania, Armenia, Spain, Italy, Argentina, Russia, Indonesia, Sweden, and Greece. Laughing and catcalls were ongoing, which showed how much students enjoyed their time together.



Weather		Probability of rain
		70%
Temperature	28~34°C	



Belgium

It's great, impressive, extraordinary and tall.

It was worth the trip. It was pretty high. Impressive because it's so high and the view is great because you can almost see the entire city of Taipei.



The Czech Republic

We enjoyed the view from the top because we could see the whole Taipei city. The wind felt really comfortable but also tangled our hair badly :).

Quite tall. Tall enough. Worth seeing. Beautiful view.



Denmark



Finland

What do think about the Taipei 101?



Germany

Amazing architecture with breathtaking view on a fascinating city in a wonderful country.

"Da"(大), the view is breath taking! And the elevator is exciting like a roller coaster.



Greece

It was a breath-taking experience! Being able to admire the city from such a high altitude made us felt like being in the center of the world. A world that combines nature and modern civilization. We will definitely remember this visit for a life time.

Taipei 101 is very impressive and there is a great view from the top. What a pity we couldn't go down by stairs!



The Netherlands



Switzerland

The Formosan Rock Macaque



Endemic species of Taiwan



Species name: *Macaca cyclops*

Chinese name: 臺灣獼猴

The Formosan Rock Macaque is the only native primate in Taiwan. It is commonly found in low- to mid-elevation hardwood forests as well as bamboo woodlands but could also be seen at elevation as high as 3600 such as the Yushan National Park. We also have a Formosa Rock Macaque Nature Reserve in central Taiwan to protect this species. The Formosan Rock Macaque feeds mostly on plants but its diet also includes insects, snails and bird eggs. Dr. Hsiu-Hui Su, a

professor at National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, has been studying this species for more than two decades and has captured some of the most amazing pictures of this species.



A Formosan rock macaque is eating banana in Fu-shan mountain



Gourmet of Taiwan

鹹酥雞 Crispy Salted Chicken

Crispy Salted Chicken is the most common snack in Taiwan. The main ingredient is chicken. It is said that the first crispy salted chicken store was in Banqiao City, Taipei County. In the old days, it was marketed in many different ways, and this still remains the case today. This snack is very easy to make, but the secret ingredient, which differs from one place to another, is the key to its fabulous taste. During preparation, the chicken is marinated overnight in soy sauce, sugar, garlic and spices, and in cornstarch the next day. Often an egg yolk is also added to

the marinade, the chicken is then tossed in the sweet potato starch and is deep-fried. Its strong flavor and crispiness have made it very popular. It is one of a small number of snacks that still survives outside night markets. In our experience most foreigners love this snack on their very first try. Because it is available everywhere in Taiwan, we highly recommend you to give it a try and the chances are you will fall in love with it immediately!



Crispy salted chicken is the most popular item in food stands selling fried food



FYI - The Best Place in the World for Learning Mandarin

Mandarin Training Center, a subsidiary of National Taiwan Normal University, was founded in the autumn of 1956 for teaching Chinese as a second language. Currently, MTC is the largest and the most renowned Chinese language center, with around 1,700 students from more than 70 countries enrolling each academic quarter (three months.) MTC students come from different cultural and language backgrounds. They share the common goal of learning to communicate in Chinese effectively—some for employment, some for interest in Chinese culture and history. Many

students have never learned Chinese before they enroll in MTC while others start from intermediate or advanced levels. No matter what your motivation is or which level you are in, MTC will do all it can to help you make rapid progress. John Harrison, a professor in biology, once came to Taiwan in 1995 for a summer study. He learned Mandarin in the center for less than three months. However, by the time he left Taiwan he was able to understand more than 70% of daily conversation and able to speak about 50% of the conversation in Mandarin.



Last Minute Reminder from the Gold Medal Winner of IBO

Here are some last minute reminders for the upcoming theoretical examinations

1. Never give up. You might think that you've messed up on the practical exam, and that there is no hope in winning a medal. Even though half of the overall score is determined by the result of the practical exam, the other half is determined by the theoretical part. Therefore, try your best.
2. Manage your time well. There are lots of questions on the theoretical exam, and you may or may not be able to answer them all. You don't necessarily need to get everything right to win a gold medal. If you find yourself spending too much time on a question, skip it first.
3. Don't be anxious. You may be nervous about the exam. Nonetheless, the best way to do well on a theoretical exam is to stay calm and concentrate. Read through the questions carefully and try your best to answer them. If you feel anxious, close your eyes and take a deep breath.



國際生物奧林匹亞

The 22nd International Biology Olympiad

Daily News Issue 6

July 15 2011

Discover Taiwan Can you tell the difference – traditional vs. simplified Chinese?

歡迎參加2011國際生物奧林匹亞競賽

欢迎参加2011国际生物奥林匹克竞赛

The meaning of the above two sentences are "Welcome to 2011 International Biology Olympiad", one in traditional Chinese (top line; used in Taiwan) and the other in simplified Chinese (second line; used in Mainland China). Do they look similar to you? The traditional Chinese has been used for thousands of years, but the

simplified version, developed in the middle of the 20th century, is used by more than one billion people. It takes some effort for users of one form to read the other form but after some practice one has little difficulty reading both.

From the Students: It's Finally Over

The two theoretical examinations together took 4.5 hours. At 16:30 the bell rang which officially ended the examinations of IBO 2011. Students certainly looked relaxed though tired regardless of their performances on the examinations.



From the Jury: It's Our Turn to Take It Easy

Yesterday while students were taking the theoretical examinations, it was finally the jury's turn to take it easy. The professors and teachers went to the Center for Traditional Arts and the Distillery and Orchid of King Car Group. Like the students, they got a quick overview about how life was in Taiwan before its modernization at the Center for Traditional Arts. At King Car Distillery and Orchid Department they saw a well-known Taiwanese company using biotechnology to bring their enterprise to a new era.





Taipei Friendship Night: A Wonderful Culture Night

Our Public Relations Group organized a wonderful Taipei Culture Night. Both the jury and the students tried the Taiwanese night market food and traditional arts. The chairperson of IBO 2011 Organizing Committee, Yung-Ta Chang, gave prizes to the winning teams of five poll questions. The shows performed by the students of Wego Private Elementary School and Kan Chiao Bilingual High School were truly amazing. The traditional drama—Madame White Snake: Flooding of the Golden Mountain Temple combining martial art and performance gave the audience an unforgettable night. The dance after the show totally released the tension that accompanied the students throughout The IBO contest.



阿布都拉 阿布都拉

剪紙 Paper Cutting

Weather		Probability of rain
		40%
Temperature	28~33°C	

Australia Canada



Really fun, especially Poland & that other country's performance.

Wonderful!! We met plenty of new friends. The "BOBEE" dancing was impressive. The Bingo game was excellent! Though it was a little bit hard.



We were all impressed by the dance. It's really good overall.

Splendid performances; quite enjoyable. Got us rejuvenated !
Bingo!

China



India



What do you think about the culture night?

New Zealand



Singapore



(If the maximum score is +5) performance was +4, bingo was -1, the introduction video was -1

It's good and exciting. The performance was great.

Good fun, but finished a bit late for people who were tired.

It was a great opportunity to learn about other countries' cultures. The performances were all quite amusing.

United Kingdom



United States of America



Turkmenistan



Visiting the Center of Traditional Arts was a really unforgettable experience. Especially its traditional ice cream ("Baoshin desserts")



Endemic species of Taiwan

Species name: *Peucetia formosensis* Kishida

Peucetia formosensis is an endemic large size spider with the body length reaching 21 mm for a female and 12 mm for a male. The green color makes it almost indistinguishable from a leaf which makes it easier for the spider to ambush small insects. This species is mostly distributed in central, southern and eastern Taiwan. The main habitat for *P. formosensis* is grassland and shrubland. The main reproductive season concentrates between August and November. It has a yellow-brown, oval-shaped egg sac. The egg sac often

hangs on a hive weaved from leaves and small branches. Moreover, the female is in charge of guarding the egg sac. Dr. Shyh-Hwang Chen, a professor at National Taiwan Normal University, has been working closely on this spider and many other spiders for decades. He has identified more than 50 species of spiders since 2009. He earned the nickname of "Spiderman" through his hard work on Taiwanese spiders.



Gourmet of Taiwan

蚵仔麵線 Thin oyster noodles



Thin oyster noodles is a distinctive, unique snack in Taiwan. The main materials are thin noodles and fresh oysters. This dish came about because Taiwan is, of course, surrounded by the sea originally. Housewives obtained local materials and cooked them for the farmers to nourish them. Thin oyster noodles have a rich, fragrant flavor. The traditional variety is hard to find now as it is very labor intensive. Our ancestors discovered when the thin white noodles are steamed, they turn red.

The quality of this dish is judged by the freshness of the oysters and chewiness of the noodles. While oysters contain high levels of cholesterol they also have high levels of protein and zinc. In old days when cholesterol is of little concern to farmers and fishermen who exercise more than enough, this dish is of very high nutrition value to them as it contains large amounts of glucose, protein, and vitamins. In Taiwan, there are a lot of small vendors who sell only oyster noodles but make a large fortune. This should give you an idea of how much we love this dish in Taiwan. Therefore, don't hesitate to try it out when you have the chance.



From the Organizing Committee: The Winners Are...

In order to promote social interactions and build foundation for future collaboration among the young biologists, our Public Relations Group organized several Culture Nights. The contestants had many opportunities to interact with each other and to know cultures differing from their own over the last several days. We believed that the contestants should have some ideas about other teams so we conducted a survey in which we asked the students to vote for five poll questions in July 13th. The chairperson of IBO 2011 Organizing Committee—Dr. Yung-Ta Chang announced the winning teams of the poll questions in the "Taipei Friendship Night". The result of the survey is listed below.

The most impressive team is "*Liechtenstein*"

The most energetic team is "*The Netherlands*"

The most friendly team is "*Australia*"

The best dressed team is "*Sri Lanka*"

The most mysterious team is "*Nigeria*"

Although team **Germany** was not #1 on any one of the five poll questions, it was on the top three for the first three questions. The organizing committee decided to give team Germany a special award "the best team overall". Congratulations to the six teams!!

Each student in the six teams got a digital picture frame as the prize.



Interview: Do not give up Japan and Japan never gives up!

After the earthquake of March 11, there were many astonishing scenes that impressed people all over the world. However, what impressed people the most was that Japanese were so calm, patient and grateful. We took this IBO 2011 opportunity to interview contestants from Japan and hoped to learn from them. The following are their responses to our questions.

Hiroki Matsuda

Taiwan gave Japan so much help and money and I want to say thank you, Taiwan.

We know that ourselves are not the only ones that are important so we must be patient and calm. Besides, we were in Tokyo and there is no way out so the best thing to do is to be calm and think about what to do.

Hideaki Kume.

I think it is our moral that keeps us calm and grateful.

Tomoyuki Mikami

Our training for IBO 2011 was affected but we know this is relatively minor.

Yuta Otsuka

Japan is now trying to recover and thank you for all the help from all over the world.

Never
Give Up!
Japan



Tomo Hide Otsu Hiro



Samurai Boys &
Japanese Newt
want to say Hello!



國際生物奧林匹亞

The 22nd International Biology Olympiad

Daily News Issue 7

July 16 2011

Discover Taiwan The island of convenience or the island of convenience stores?



Two convenience stores less 200 m apart shining at mid night.

Is Taiwan the island of convenience or the island of convenience stores? Walking on the streets in Taiwan it is difficult not to notice the abundance of convenience stores.

While convenience stores can be seen all over the globe, their number and ubiquity go to extremes in Taiwan. There are approximately 10,000 convenience stores in Taiwan. In almost any convenience store in Taiwan, you can fax and receive faxes, pay utilities, credit card bills, parking tickets and tuition fees. You can also buy concert tickets, bus and train tickets, and sport tickets. What's more, you can even bring your memory stick and print your Word documents. In addition to regular Xeroxing, you can pick up your online orders of books, DVDs, and MP3 players among others. The convenience stores are also the largest chain of coffee shops and the drop off and pickup points for DHL and Federal Express in Taiwan. They are truly "convenient" and it is now difficult for most Taiwanese people to imagine life without convenience stores. As you might guess, the answer to the question above is "both".

Volcano Mountains Immersed in Clouds and Rain

Yesterday the students went to the backyard of Taipei-Yangmingshan National Park. It was cloudy and there was steam. Many students had fun checking the temperature around the fumaroles. Some students also took the chance to see the arrow bamboo grassland. The dwarf bamboo is very different from the common slender bamboo. The Yangmingshan area rains, on average, approximately 200 days a year with mean annual precipitation nearly 5000 mm. The timing of the visit was perfect because at this season, even if it is sunny in the morning, there are still brief but intense showers. In fact, it rained fiercely several hours after the students left.



The Jury Went back to Work

At Keelung the jury was busy checking the results of the examinations and discussing the final list of the medal winners. There was also a coordinator meeting in which the coordinators discussed issues including the previous and next IBO, and also the membership of observer countries.





THE LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT THE LEAST CULTURE NIGHT

On the culture night of July 15th, Team Thailand, Vietnam, China, Hungary, the Netherlands, Japan, Cyprus and Chinese Taipei, Taiwan performed. The "Monopoly of Taiwan Traveling" game introduced cities in Taiwan to the students. The dance performed by the PR group once again impressed the students. The Culture Night ended with the announcement of the three winning teams voted by the students for the awesome performances in the four Culture Nights. The top three winning teams (in this specific order) are Chinese Taipei, Taiwan, Japan, Sri Lanka.



Weather		Probability of rain
Temperature 26~33°C		60%



It was really big and what we liked the most was rolling in the grass with Spain.

We believe it was a really convincing remake of Taiwan as it once was. There were also lots of pretty fish in the pond.

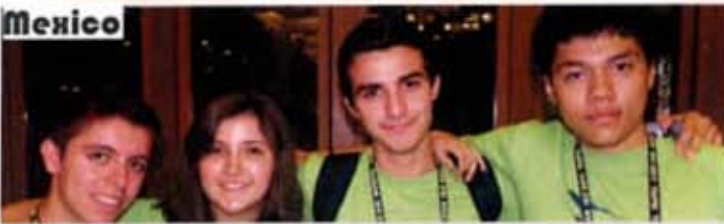


It was absolutely awesome!!! :) Especially, I have to mention the writing my name in your language.

It has been a great experience because we had the chance to get to know Taiwan's culture and arts.



What do you feel about the Taipei Friendship night?



Amazing! A great experience to know other cultures that are so different! We'd love to come back some day. We love our guide Sina :)

It's beautiful!!!



We like it very much. We had a lot of fun and we would like to stay longer.

It was really fun dancing "Macarena" in a Taiwanese traditional temple with new good friends and we also enjoyed learning about Taiwanese culture and high temperatures!



Get to Know a Bit More About Liechtenstein

Since many of the students and staff don't know a lot about the country of Liechtenstein the editor of this newspaper asked me to shortly present my country. To begin with, Liechtenstein is one of the ten smallest countries in the world, both in area and population. Our country covers about 160 square km of which 80% consists of uninhabitable mountains. The impressive mountains with a maximum height of 2600 m are perfect for various sports like biking, hiking and skiing. That's why the flat areas next to the River Rhein (European's biggest river) are quite densely populated which enables an effective public transportation system, which connects us to our neighbors Switzerland and Austria. Our country is nowa-

days reigned on parliamentary base and the influence of our prince has sunk to a minimum. Due to the strong industrial sector and a big number of more or less legal financial activities reigning Liechtenstein has been a pretty easy job. So all in all Liechtenstein is a small country with a related atmosphere and if you need more pens, flyers or infos about how to get there, please contact the Liechtenstein team.

— Liabi Grciass





Gourmet of Taiwan

Dumplings are traditionally eaten at Chinese New Year's Eve as they are considered the symbol of wealth. This is because dumplings are shaped like ancient silver and gold ingots. They can be cooked by boiling, steaming, simmering, frying, or baking. They typically have a filling made of meat (with pork as the most popular type but beef and other types are also quite popular) and vegetable (with leek and cabbage being the most popular). They can be eaten by themselves, in soups or stews, with gravy, or in any other way. Dumplings are mostly eaten with sliced ginger, fresh garlic, and Zhenjiang vinegar, so they



Boiled Dumplings

餃子 Dumplings

taste juicier, more tender, and fresher, without odd or variant flavors. The taste is consistently delicate and fragrant. Such dumplings are probably the easiest Taiwanese dish which Westerners can enjoy. Making dumplings at home is a good family activity since family members can have fun making dumplings and eating them. While eating dumplings with garlic is wonderful, having it for lunch could be bothersome because the strong smell will stay with you for the rest of the day. One way to reduce the smell is to chew mint-flavored gum after eating dumplings..



Fried Dumplings

FYI - Tablemat cleaning

In the banquet tonight, you'll find a gift under your glass—a ceramic tablemat with the logo of IBO 2011. It can absorb water. When small amount of water spills on it, the water will be absorbed by the tablemat instead of flowing

over your table. If you accidentally spill tea or coffee on it, you can easily clean it by soaking it in diluted bleach (1/100) for 30 minutes and then rinsing it with water. The tablemat will be almost like new!



Kazakhstan

What is your expectation for IBO 2011?

I'm waiting for a fountain of emotions, I'm waiting for good result :))

Note:

In Issue 2 we misplaced the photo so we get it right this time

Endemic species of Taiwan

Species name: *Microtus kikuchii*

Chinese name: 臺灣高山田鼠

The Taiwan Field Vole is an endemic species in Taiwan, and can only be found above 2500 m in the high mountain meadows and forests. A relic species from the glacial period, it is the most southernly distributed Microtine rodents. Like many of its congeners at the temperate zones, such as meadow voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) or common voles (*Microtus arvalis*), the Taiwan field vole population size showed considerable temporal and spatial heterogeneity. The species is primarily an herbivore that consumes large amounts of the dominant plant species, Yushan cane (*Yushania niitakayamensis*), in the alpine ecosystem, and plays a key role in structuring plant communities. Dr. Liang-Kong Lin of the Tong-hai University has studied the species for 20 years. He found that the species may have a monogamous mating system, which is rare in mammalian species. His students continue to look for molecular and behavioral



Taiwan Field Vole, photograph taken by Yu-cheng Chang of Tunghai University

evidence of monogamy for the species. There are over a hundred mountain tops over 300 m high in Taiwan. They can serve as habitat islands for many alpine species in Taiwan. Dr. Lin is also investigating the phylogeographic pattern of the Taiwan field vole populations inhabiting different mountain tops in Taiwan. We might learn of the discovery of new microtine species very soon through his research work.



國際生物奧林匹亞

The 22nd International Biology Olympiad

Daily News Issue 8

July 17 2011

Discover Taiwan

The island of biodiversity

Taiwan is an island of great diversity despite its seemingly small area of 36,000 km². With an elevation rising from sea level to nearly 4000 m over a horizontal distance of less than 100 km and the Tropic of Cancer crossing through the southern part of the island, Taiwan encompasses tropical, subtropical, temperate and alpine climates. The high climatic diversity and complex topography contribute to an extraordinarily high biodiversity in Taiwan. Taiwan hosts approximately 4,000 species of vascular plants and 150,000 species of animals. Both terrestrial and marine organisms have widely divergent origins as the island is located on the boundary of the "Palearctic Region" and the "Oriental Region". Approximately 25% of the island's plants and animal are endemic to Taiwan. The large elevational range allowed

many organisms to move up and down during the glacial cycles and are considered glacial relicts.

The high humidity and warm temperate climate promotes the growth of a variety of plants and makes Taiwan a beautiful green island recognized by the Portuguese in the mid-16th century, when they called it Ilha Formosa, or "beautiful island." Taiwan has set aside numerous areas of land to protect wildlife and preserve the natural environment, including 20 nature reserves, 39 wildlife refuges and habitats, 8 national parks, and 10 forest reserves. These protected areas occupy a total of more 7,000,000 hectares of land, or more than 19 percent of Taiwan's total land area, and cover a variety of different ecosystems.

IBO 2011 Ended with a Great Success

The closing ceremony of IBO 2011 held at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall was a great success. The Premier of the Executive Yuan Mr. Den-yih Wu congratulated the medal winners and encouraged all students to learn from this unique IBO opportunity and be ready for all the challenges to come. He also invited international guests to visit Taiwan again with their family and friends.



The Medals

A total of 24 gold medals, 47 silver medals and 68 bronze medals were given to the students. Many medias, including one from Mainland China, came to report the closing ceremony and interviewed the medals winners.



What Two Great Teams!

Team USA and team Taiwan (Chinese Taipei) each won four gold medals. Rebecca Doris Shi and Charles Huanghon Du of team USA were the first place and third place winners, respectively, and Je-Rui Chang of team Taiwan (Chinese Taipei) was the second place winner. Congratulations to the two great teams!

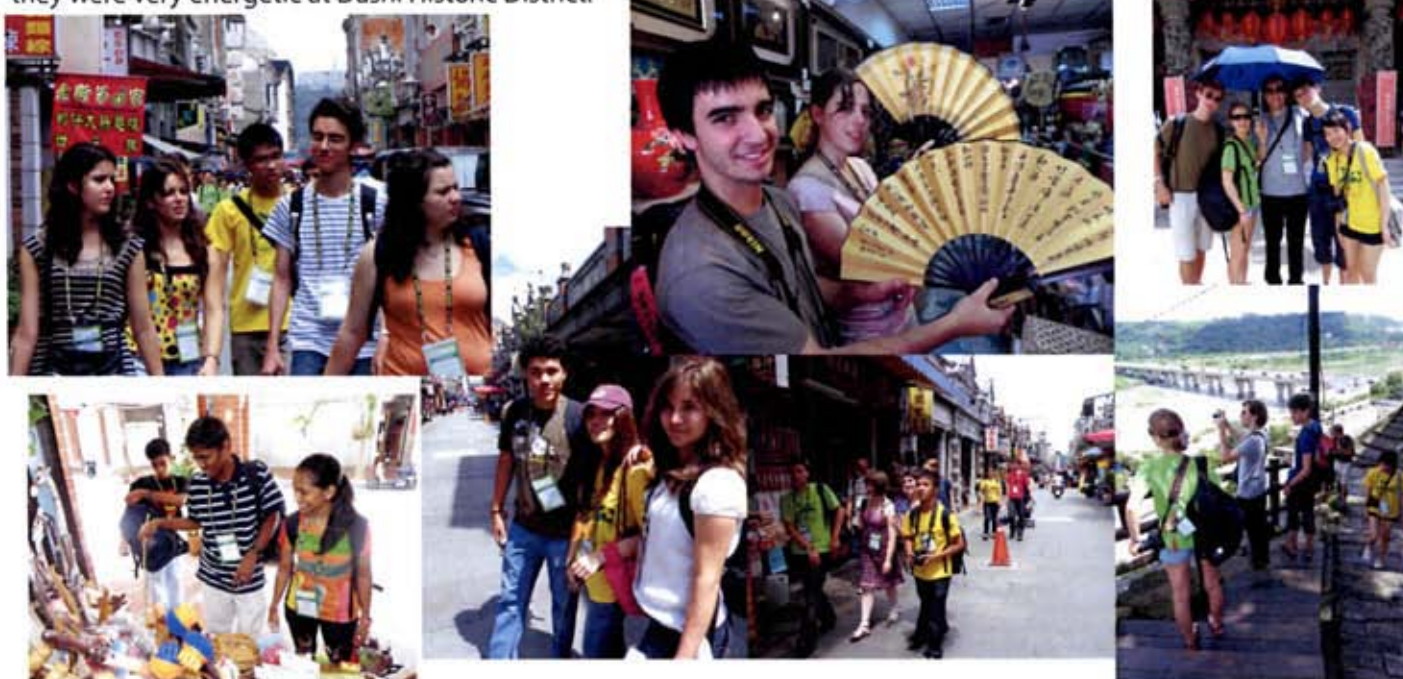


Team USA

Team Taiwan (Chinese Taipei)

A Living History in Dashi Historic District

Students enjoyed their last excursion to Dashi Historic District. Although many of them stayed very late the night before, they were very energetic at Dashi Historic District.



A Visit to the Most Amazing Nature Sculptures at YehLiu

They jury went to YehLiu Geological Park too see the amazing landscape created by the winds and ocean currents over hundreds of thousands of years. The Queen's Head certainly attracted more attention than any other spot.



GOOD-BY MY FRIENDS, SEE YOU SOMEWHERE SOMETIME

In the farewell banquet may students left contact information to the friends they made during IBO 2011.



Two of the student guide Vladimira Bilijenkova (left) from Czech Republic and Manoucheh Ghorbani-Koshal (right) from Iraq were particular helpful during the IBO 2011.

Brazil



We enjoyed a lot. It was a great opportunity to know other cultures and competitors.

Friendship night was similar to the Japanese festival "Matsuri" I enjoyed dancing, eating and communicating with a lot of students from other countries.

Japan



What do you feel about the Taipei Friendship night?

Pakistan



We get to appreciate the rich Taiwanese culture. A brilliant ending to a stressful day.

All the activities and food were absolutely great! And the dancing party was cool!

Thailand



Hungary

The party was great! We liked the chicken.

The programs arranged were fantastic and various.

Liechtenstein



Chinese Taipei, Taiwan



We enjoyed dancing a lot. The performance reminded us of what we learned in Chinese class.

We feel very happy and excited. It was a lot of fun.

Vietnam



Endemic species of Taiwan

Chinese name: 臺灣扁柏

Both *C. formosensis* and *C. taiwanensis* are endemic conifer tree species of Taiwan. The genus *Chamaecyparis* comprises five species and one variety native to Taiwan, Japan, Canada, and USA, which demonstrates a classical eastern Asian, western North American, and eastern North American disjunct distributional pattern. A study by Professor Hwong of NTNU using chloroplast DNA indicates that the phylogenetic tree shows that *C. nootkatensis* is clearly diverged from other *Chamaecyparis* species. For *Chamaecyparis* species, *C. thyoides* is sister to *C. formosensis* and *C. pisifera* and these together form a monophyletic group. *C. lawsoniana* is sister to *C. obtusa* and *C. taiwanensis*; and these form another monophyletic group. Highlights of professor Hwong's research are: (1) at least two divergence events have produced the eastern Asian, and both western and eastern North American disjunct distribution in *Chamaecyparis*; (2) intercontinental sister species pairs are found in *Chamaecyparis*; (3) divergence between two intercontinental sister pairs of *C. thyoides* and *C. pisifera*, and *C. lawsoniana* and *C. obtusa* *Chamaecyparis* in continental Asia is probable. (4) suggests an estimated divergence time of 14 and 5.5 million years ago during middle and late Miocene, respectively; (5) divergence of two Asian *Chamaecyparis* groups between *C. obtusa* and *C. taiwanensis*, and between *C. pisifera* and *C. formosensis* suggests an estimated divergence time of 1.3 and 2.9 million years ago during Pleistocene and late Pliocene, respectively; these estimated divergence times suggest a relatively recent migration of *Chamaecyparis* to Taiwan from the Japanese Archipelago; (5) that climatic deterioration caused the disappearance of

Species name: *C. formosensis* and *C. taiwanensis* *pisifera* and these together form a monophyletic group. *C. lawsoniana* is sister to *C. obtusa* and *C. taiwanensis*; and these form another monophyletic group.

Highlights of professor Hwong's research are: (1) at least two divergence events have produced the eastern Asian, and both western and eastern North American disjunct distribution in *Chamaecyparis*; (2) intercontinental sister species pairs are found in *Chamaecyparis*; (3) divergence between two intercontinental sister pairs of *C. thyoides* and *C. pisifera*, and *C. lawsoniana* and *C. obtusa* *Chamaecyparis* in continental Asia is probable.





Gourmet of Taiwan

Stinky Tofu is a form of fermented tofu that has a strong odor. It is a popular snack in East and Southeast Asia, particularly mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. It is usually found at night markets or roadside stands, or as a side dish in lunch bars rather than in restaurants. With stinky tofu, the stronger its pungent odor, the tastier the results. Recently a stinky tofu shop in a community was forced to close because the neighbors filed an official complaint for its too strong and stinky smell. While many foreign people are put off by the smell, those who take the plunge and try it are usually won over by this distinctively yummy treat. Stinky tofu can be eaten in 3

臭豆腐 Stinky tofu

ways — fried, spicy hot and roasted. The most popular style is fried, cutting the stinky tofu into pieces and frying them to eat with soybean sauce, chopped garlic, and pickles. The spicy hot dish uses mushrooms, dried shrimp, garlic, chili, onion, duck blood, pig intestine, ground meat, and hot oil to make a hot pot soup, in which the stinky tofu is cooked. To roast it, it is pierced with a bamboo skewer, smear it with barbecue sauce, and roast it over charcoal. We thought of letting you try it out in the "Taipei Friendship Night" but decided to leave it out because the smell may stay in the auditorium for many days.



Thank you and good-bye!

This is the last issue of the Daily News of IBO 2011 and it means that it is time to say good-bye. Including this issue we have published eight issues of IBO 2011 Daily News. We have introduced every team in our Daily News so that you have some ideas about your competitors and friends. Also, in our Daily News we introduced some of the must-eats (Gourmet of Taiwan), must-sees and must-knows (Discover Taiwan and FYI) of Taiwan. We hope that through our Daily News you get to know Taiwan from several aspects. Hope that you enjoyed reading our Daily News and your visit in Taiwan. If you did not collect the Daily News but want to

read/review it for any reason, we have put the electronic version in PDF format online at the following website: <ftp://140.119.43.121> (account ibo2011, password 2011ibo)

However, like most websites this website is not going to stay online forever. We encourage you to download the electronic version of the Daily News soon before they are gone. Once again, we apologize for the mistakes we made in the eight issues. Thank you for taking time to read the Daily News and good-bye!

——The IBO2011 Daily News Team

The Source of Fun—the Public Relations Group

The PR Group of IBO 2011 led by Dr. Chih-Wen Sun helped the registration and organized the opening ceremony, closing ceremony and four culture nights. Without their efforts there would hardly be any fun during the IBO 2011.



The guides that guided the students throughout the IBO 2011

It is hard to imagine what IBO 2011 would be like without our guides, senior guides and the head of the team Dr. Chung-Hsin Wu

