

## The 8<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad (iGeo 2010 Taipei)

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad was successfully held in Taipei from 29 July to 4 August at the Sacred Heart High School for Girls. Twenty-seven teams participated, with a total of 105 students. It was the first time that Croatia, Denmark, Hong Kong and Singapore had sent teams and that Turkey had sent an observer.



A warm welcome for each team at the opening ceremony

The competition consists of three tests. Six sets of questions in the Written Response Test included the themes of Millennium Development Goals, Floods, Population Geography, Landforms, Agriculture and Environment, and Natural Hazards. The Multi-Media Test was held with students at individual computers. Students looked at the 40 questions and graphics in powerpoint format on the PC screen and were able to control the timing of each question themselves. These two tests were prepared by the WRT and MMT committees respectively, with contributions from the participating countries, while the Fieldwork Test was prepared through the collaboration of Taiwanese geographers and FWT committee members.

The site of the Fieldwork Test for the 2010 Geography Olympiad was the Guandu Wetland, where students made detailed maps and careful observations to answer questions related to vegetation, human intervention, the establishment of natural reserves, etc. Students were also asked to play the role of a city planner and give four arguments that they would expect to hear in a meeting about the future of the Guandu wetland and to discuss to what extent the arguments would be common in urban communities anywhere.



Fieldwork Test –I , Guandu Wetland, Taipei

Fifty-three students were awarded medals (Gold – 9, Silver – 17 and Bronze – 27) (see attached). Among 27 teams, 21 countries won medals. Singapore, though participating for the first time in the iGeo, impressively received the highest team score and won two gold and two silver medals. The five teams with the highest team score at iGeo 2010 Taipei were:

1	Singapore
2	Australia
3	Poland
4	Lithuania
5	Estonia



Gold medalists of iGeo 2010 Taipei

Apart from the tests, participants visited famous local sites, such as the National Palace Museum, Taipei 101, the Danshui night market, and the Yehliu Geopark. A whole day was devoted to a visit to central Taiwan, where participants visited the 921 Earthquake Museum and the Guang Shin Paper Factory. The students also participated in a GPS geocaching activity, as well as poster presentations on geographical aspects or issues in their countries. Another highlight was the Cultural Functions, where students presented elements of their cultures in a variety of ways, such as dancing, acting and playing games



Display of hand-made fans at Guang Shin Paper Factory, Puli



GPS activity at Yehliu Geopark, Taipei



Outcrop of active fault in Earthquake Museum, Wufeng

During the event, a Geography Education Day was held for team leaders and up to 80 local high school geography teachers, where the topic of fieldwork teaching and assessment in geography was discussed. Kath Berg (Australia) delivered introductory remarks on behalf of the iGeo Task Force. David Holmes (UK), Tony Leung (Hong Kong) and Bruno van Erp Taalman Kip (The Netherlands) gave talks. Lex Chalmers (NZ) and Su-Min Shen (Taiwan) introduced the idea of the decision-making oriented fieldwork which the iGeo Task Force promotes.

We would like to express our thanks to our sponsors, the Ministry of Education, the National Science Council, the North Coast & Guanyinshan National Scenic Area Administration, Tourism Bureau, MOTC, and Yehliu Geopark. Without their support, the 2010iGeo would never have been possible. Full support from the iGeo Task Force and the IGU Commission on Geographical Education was also essential (with special thanks to Kath Berg and Lex Chalmers). We also thank Garmin Taiwan for providing the prizes for the gold medalists and for their long-term support for the Taiwan domestic geography competitions. Last but not least, the contributions from up to 80 high-school and undergraduate volunteers and staffs, the cooperation of students and the contributions from team leaders during the event were also crucial in making a pleasant 2010 iGeo. Thank you again.



Group photo of all participants in the closing ceremony, iGeo 2010 Taipei

More details and photographs of each day's events at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad can be found on its website.

The 3 tests and the film of 2010 iGeo will also be available very soon.

(The film has been re-sized to around 150 Mb for your convenience in downloading it.)

<http://promotinggeog.geo.ntnu.edu.tw/iGeo2010taipei/english.htm>.

Su-Min SHEN (Associate Professor, Department of Geography, NTNU, Taiwan, ROC)

on behalf of the local hosts:

The Geographical Society of China Located in Taipei (GSC-Taipei)

National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU)

Sacred Heart High School for Girls (SHH)

12 August, 2010

List of medalists, iGeo 2010 Taipei

Medal	Name	Country the student from
Gold	Ion-Alexandru Barbu	Romania
	Lim Yuan Zhi Martin	Singapore
	Cătălina Jugrăvescu	Romania
	Ksenia Sokolova	Russia
	Samuel Joseph Buttenshaw	Australia
	Bartosz Paweł Gierlach	Poland
	Adomas Pilinkus	Lithuania
	Wan Jian Yong Darren	Singapore
	Inka Tuuli Oikarinen	Finland
Silver	Baris Dilaver	Australia
	Taavi Rebane	Estonia
	Koh Lock Leong	Singapore
	Rokas Danilevicius	Lithuania
	Emily Laurina Thoday-Kennedy	Australia
	Dániel Kiss	Hungary
	Kae-An Liu	Taiwan
	Geoffroy Damant	Belgium
	Jan Kreft	Poland
	Connor Reid Mclver	New Zealand
	Jan Šimbera	Czech Republic
	Péteris Rozenbaks	Latvia
	Chia-Huai Chang	Taiwan
	Andrew Scott Dysart	New Zealand
	Kweh Ren Hao Clement	Singapore
	Thomas Alexander Ridley	United Kingdom
Max Rogge	Germany	
Bronze	Serginio Reginaldo Chin-Wie Rommelzwaal	The Netherlands
	Sebastian Willem Duineveld	The Netherlands
	Atsushi Taguchi	Japan
	Grigorjevičs Aivars	Latvia

Karlo Lugomer	Croatia
Jens Dissevelt	Belgium
Iva Jurov	Slovenia
Wojciech Lechowski	Poland
Anu-Liis Laar	Estonia
Wojciech Kazimierz Kaczmarczyk	Poland
Petr Kolařík	Czech Republic
Petra Lacković	Croatia
Wouter Vermeyen	Belgium
Tomáš Koutný	Czech Republic
Dmitry Golushko	Belarus
Domen Kampjut	Slovenia
Antti Petteri Karisto	Finland
Ruduss Armands	Latvia
Bahdan Zhorau	Belarus
Ádám Nagy	Hungary
Marten Kaukula	Estonia
Agu Bleive	Estonia
Nathaniel Stephen Christensen	New Zealand
Yu-Tai Lin	Taiwan
Samuel Gregor Ridgeway	United Kingdom
Yoram Materlik	Germany
Constantin Popa	Romania