

## Mahidol University - Kanchanaburi Ready to Welcome Contestants from 38 Countries to 12th International Earth Science Olympiad

**16 July 2018**, Mahidol University kanchanaburi campus is now fully ready to welcome top science students from around the world to the 12th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2018) to be held on August 8-17, 2018, the organizer told a press conference.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn will graciously preside over the opening ceremony of the competition in which 38 countries have confirmed to participate.

“Science has been playing an extremely important role in the present and future of global society,” said **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pinit Ratananukul, Acting Deputy Secretary General** of the Promotion of Academic Olympiad and Development of Science Education Foundation under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra (POSN), “We are now in an era which some foresee that science and technology would reach their zenith, and science has become the dominant culture of the modern world and knowledge-based society.”

“Youth represent the driving force of nations, it is therefore vital that they are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the natural world and man-made technologies and be able to apply it logically, creatively, and morally.”

“Scientific knowledge does not only improve the quality of people’s lives but help them gain a better understanding of how to sustainably use, develop, conserve natural resources, and protect the environment.”

POSN’s main mission is to provide opportunities for science-talented students in secondary schools nationwide to further develop their theoretical knowledge and practical skills in scientific fields for which they have an aptitude, he said. The roles of POSN also include selecting students to represent the country in International Science Olympiads in various fields.

IESO is one of the twelve subjects of International Science Olympiads. Up until last year's competition in France, teams of Thai students have been sent to nine IESOs and won a total of 34 gold, silver, and bronze medals, and one honorable certificate. They also received the highest score once in each of the following categories: the world's overall, theoretical examination, and astronomy.

**Prof. Banchong Mahaisavariya, Acting President of Mahidol University**, said the theme of the 2018 IESO is "Earth Science for All" for science will determine the world's future.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn herself has placed great importance on scientific and technological development along with the development of the next generation of scientists, he added.

Alongside with the competition, "From the Sky, Down from the Mountains, into the Vast Sea", a special exhibition will be staged to celebrate His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's applications of earth science for preservation and conservation of natural resources and the environment.

**Thirty-eight countries have already confirmed to participate, according to Asst. Prof. Dr. Thatchavee Leelawat, Acting Vice President for Information and Kanchanaburi Campus, and the chief organizer.** He also declared the campus's readiness to host the event in all aspects, from staff, accommodation, competition venue, electrical and communication systems, security, transportation, health services to international and Thai food services.

Each country will send a team of 4 students along with 2 teacher-mentors. Some member countries will take part as observers. The competition format comprises theoretical and practical examinations in three branches of earth science: geology, meteorology and astronomy. Another component is an International Team Competition, in which students from different countries form



## 12<sup>th</sup> International Earth Science Olympiad

8 - 17 August 2018, Mahidol University Kanchanaburi Campus,  
Thailand



into teams and work together in field observation and problem analysis. Educational trips will also be arranged for participants.

\*\*\*\*\*