

Ocean Challenge 2023 Applicant Handbook



Program Overview

Ocean Challenge 2023 invites interested applicants around the world to propose creative marine-science based solutions to address pressing ocean conservation issues. Launched in 2019, Ocean Challenge is an annual Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) competition that raises awareness of complex marine conservation issues and creates an opportunity for young people to get involved in the global effort to protect our oceans. Ocean Challenge is co-hosted by Taiwan's Ocean Affairs Council (OAC) and the American Institute in Taiwan Kaohsiung Branch Office (AIT/K) as part of Taiwan's larger effort to support the United Nations' "Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development" program.

Eligibility

- The program includes four categories as follows:
 - A. Teen Category:** Applicants aged 12-18, currently enrolled in secondary schools in Taiwan.
 - B. Youth Category:** Applicants aged 18 and above, currently enrolled in college or graduate programs in Taiwan.
 - C. Professional Category:** Applicants aged 18 and above, currently not enrolled in degree or certificate programs in Taiwan.
 - D. International Category:** Applicants aged 12 and above, based outside of Taiwan.
- Each team should consist of 2 to 8 English proficient team members. Cross-school or cross-category teams are permitted.
- Please provide the required information on the application form, including team name, title of proposal, number and names of team members, name of school, and the coach information.

Application

- **Deadline**
 - ✧ Applications are due by **11:59 pm CST (UTC+8) Tuesday, January 31, 2023.**

Please note that the OAC and the AIT/K reserve the right to extend the application deadline.

✧ Please email your proposal and application form to youthocean@oac.gov.tw

● **Proposal instructions**

1. The proposal must highlight a specific ocean challenge and provide solutions that utilize scientific approaches, such as AI, 5G, IoT, blockchain, Big Data, APP, and unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV), etc.. The youth-based action plans should adopt innovative perspectives on a range of issues such as marine science, field studies, ecological conservation, net-zero emissions, creative marketing, cultural preservation and maintenance, etc. The proposal should aim to raise public awareness and promote positive action.
2. In order to enhance international exchange and achieve the policy goal of bilingual education in Taiwan, proposals can be written in Mandarin or English. The proposal should be submitted as an action plan (innovative and experimental plans preferred) and include an explanation of current situations, reasons for making proposal, analysis of problem, improvements and solutions, implementation strategies, team roles, a work plan timeline, budget, and target outcomes.
3. English is mandatory for oral presentations and Q&A sessions in the final round. Presentations can be delivered as a TED Talk-style lecture, a dramatic performance, an animation, a video presentation, or other relevant format.

Awards

A total of 16-20 teams (4 -5 teams from each category) will be selected to proceed to the final round based on preliminary proposal reviews. Finalists will be recognized with awards as follows:

1. **First Place Award:** NT\$50,000 and an award certificate.
2. **Second Place Award:** NT\$20,000 and an award certificate.
3. **Third Place Award:** NT\$10,000 and an award certificate.
4. **Fourth Place and Fifth Place Award:** an award certificate.
5. **Best Proposal Award:** The first place team will receive a grant, provided on a reimbursement basis, of no more than NT\$100,000 to carry out their proposal. All of the outputs and receipts should be submitted to the designated unit before November 30th, 2023.
6. **Free I-Ride Experience:** All finalists will be able to enjoy an I-Ride or M-Ride, a 4D dynamic simulation experience provided by Brogent Technologies Inc.

Selection Process

The selection process will be split into two stages. All proposals will be reviewed by a panel of judges, consisting of ocean science and conservation experts.

- **Preliminary review**

1. All submissions will be evaluated by the judges. Four to five teams from each category will be selected to progress to the finals.

2. Evaluation Criteria

- (1) Relevance and Effectiveness (30%): the extent to which the proposal responds to a specific ocean issue and presents an effective solution.

- (2) Innovation (35%): the extent to which the proposal utilizes creative thinking to overcome existing challenges and difficulties.

- (3) Feasibility (35%): (A) Steps and methods; (B) Workforce planning and work plan timeline; (C) Integration and connection of resources from government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); (D) A reasonable budget plan.

- **Final round (presentation round)**

1. In this round, each selected team is required to create a presentation in which team members must present the ideas on their proposal.

2. Evaluation Criteria

- (1) Relevance and Effectiveness (20%): the extent to which the proposal responds to a specific ocean issue and presents an effective solution.

- (2) Innovation (25%): the extent to which the proposal utilizes creative thinking to overcome existing challenges and difficulties.

- (3) Feasibility (35%): (A) Steps and methods; (B) Workforce planning and schedule; (C) Integration and the connection of resources from government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); (D) A reasonable budget plan.

- (4) Q&A (20%): (A) Team discussion and interaction; (B) Q&A interaction between judges and finalists. Each team will be evaluated based upon their ability to express themselves, think on their feet, as well as provide complete and relevant responses.

Finalists' Engagements

Finalists are required to participate in the activities below:

- **Workshop (Date TBA)**

- Advising Session

- Youth Dialogue with Ocean Affairs Council
- Interactive Discussion with AIT Kaohsiung
- **Final Round Presentation:** June 1-2, 2023 at the offices of Brogent Technologies Inc. (address: No. 9, Fuxing 4th Rd., Cianjhen Dist., Kaohsiung City.)

Please note: International participants will join the workshop and final presentations via a virtual meeting platform. The link to the platform will be provided prior to the event.

Copyright

By submitting your entry to the competition, you, the “entrant”, will provide OAC and AIT/K with a non-exclusive, sub-licensable, worldwide, irrevocable license in perpetuity, to use, copy, modify, translate, and/or adapt, distribute, publicly display by any means and in any media to create derivative works of your entry (such as photographs, video & audio recordings, microfilms, music writing and editing, documentaries, etc.) in activities related to, and the promotion of, the competition and the particular project, without any further notice or remuneration to you.

By entering the competition, the entrant also acknowledges and accepts that all aspects of any submission narrative, description, details, images, illustration and animation may be used for publicity purposes by OAC and AIT/K. OAC and AIT/K hold the right to publish such material in whole or in part, to use them in any way it sees fit in connection with the competition without permission of the entrant or payment for such use.

If a winning entry involves works from a third party, a license from its author must be submitted to OAC and AIT/K. The entrant shall waive any moral rights or similar rights you have in your competition entry whether such rights arise pursuant to the relevant copyright or equivalent legislation anywhere in the world.

Important Dates

Application Deadline	January 31, 2023
Finalists Announced	March 30, 2023
Finalists' Workshop	Late April, 2023
Finalists' presentations/Winners Announced	June 1-2, 2023

Please note: the OAC and the AIT/K reserve the right to amend the regulations of this handbook at any time.

Points of Contact

1. Ms. Ariel Lai, Officer, Ocean Affairs Council

Phone: +886-7-3381810 ext. 261322

Email: yiwen612@oac.gov.tw

2. Mr. David Lee, Specialist, American Institute in Taiwan Kaohsiung Branch

Phone: +886-7-3355006 ext. 6007

Email: LeeDJY@state.gov