Ocean Challenge 2024 Applicant Handbook

Program Overview

Ocean Challenge 2024 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, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) 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 2 categories as follows:
  A. Teen Category: Applicants aged 12-18.
  B. Youth Category: Applicants aged 19-40.

- Each team should consist of 2 to 8 English-proficient team members of any nationality. Cross-school or cross-category teams are permitted. Cross-category team will be classified by the majority of applicants' age(teen or youth) to determine which category the team belongs to. If it is fifty-fifty, the team can decide which category you would like to participate in.

Application

- **Details of the Competition**

  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, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Underwater or Surface Unmanned Vehicle etc. The youth-based action plans can 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, promote the regional

revitalization and encourage positive actions.

2. Final Round Presentation will be held in early June, 2024. Finalists (each team at least 2 members) are required to attend the presentation. International participants are allowed to deliver final presentations via a virtual meeting platform. 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 format.

Important Dates

Application Deadline	March 1, 2024
Finalists Announced	April 1, 2024
Finalists' presentations/Winners Announced	Early June, 2024 (Date TBA)

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

- **Deadline**
  - ✧ Applications are due by **11:59 pm CST (UTC+8) Friday, March 1, 2024. Please note** that the OAC and the AIT/K reserve the right to extend the application deadline.
  - ✧ Please complete the application form on the online application system at https://reurl.cc/7MWmAl before the application deadline, and email the links of your application materials to oceanchallenge01@gmail.com

Written Proposal	1. Proposals can be written in Mandarin or English. 2. The proposal should include an explanation of current situations, reasons for making the proposal, analysis of the problem, improvements and solutions, implementation strategies, team roles, a work plan timeline, budget, and target outcomes. 3. PDF or Word document with a maximum of 15 pages, including both text and images. 4. Must include a proposal summary (within 300-500 Chinese characters or 600 English characters). 5. Upload to a Google Drive folder and provide the link.
Pitch Video	1. Participants should produce a pitch video for the innovative solution with creativity. The video should include subtitles or a transcript provided within 3 minutes.

| | 2. Video resolution: 1920×1080 or higher; file format: MP4. Please upload the video to YouTube and provide the video link. |
| | 3. The video should have a title sequence with the Team's Name, the Title of the Proposal, and "Ocean Challenge 2024" |

Selection Process

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

- **Nomination**

  All submissions will be evaluated by the judges based on effectiveness, innovation and feasibility. Six teams from each category will be nominated for the finals.

- **Final (presentation round)**

  Each team will give a presentation (in English) to demonstrate their proposal ideas. Judges will give feedback and post questions. The team will then respond to the judges' questions. The time allocation is as follows:

  1. Presentation: 8 minutes
  2. Feedback and questions from judges: 6 minutes
  3. Team's response: 5 minutes

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

Awards

A total of 12 teams (6 teams from each category) will be nominated to proceed to the final round. Finalists will be recognized with awards as follows:

- **Implementation Grant**: Each finalist team will receive a participation grant of NT$10,000 to be used for the implementation of their proposal. This grant will be disbursed in the form of a cash prize to the team.

- **Awards for Each Category**

  1. **First Place**: NT$30,000 and an award certificate.
  2. **Second Place**: NT$20,000 and an award certificate.
  3. **Third Place**: NT$10,000 and an award certificate.

- **Special Awards**

1. **Best Innovation Award:** NT$50,000 and an award certificate.

2. **Most Potential Award:** NT$50,000 and an award certificate.

3. **Best Practice Award**: NT$100,000 and an award certificate.

● Each special award recipient must submit a project outcomes report to the organizer by **October 31, 2024**.

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Points of Contact

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