

TKU WON BOTH THE 2ND AND 3RD PLACES IN NATIONAL CONTEST

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Supervised by the Department Chair Hsuan Chang and Prof. Hsi-jen Chen, Chemical and Materials Engineering seniors Bin-yan Li, Cheng-kai Liao, Hong-ji Liao, Che-wei Fan and Chian-zheng Ye won both the 2nd place of NT\$20,000 and 3rd place of NT\$10,000. Both teams also got award plaques at the 2009 National Contest of Chemical Process Design. Hsuan Chang said, "We have been doing splendidly in this competition for 3 years in a row and we have also been acclaimed very highly."

The theme of the contest was "Process Design for Biodiesel." Biodiesel is a kind of recycled energy which can reduce the pollution by trucks with diesel engines. Bin-yan Li explained they had designed the complete system, and adjusted variables on temperature, pressure and the reflux ratio to make it into the most suitable condition. That was why they were able to have won. In the whole designing process, they had experimented with the system more than 30 times because if a small part of it was wrong, they had to re-adjust all the variables or revise the entire project. During the winter vacation, they researched and experimented thoroughly and had several discussions with the supervising professors. Although it was very tiring, they had a proud sense of achievement, for they could apply all their accumulated knowledge gained in their academic studies at TKU. They were also grateful to their supervising professors for their patient supervisions. Hsuan Chang said that through the Contest, students sharpened their creativity, trained their skills of process designing, and raised their academic knowledge which would be a great help for their future employment, as the usability of chemical knowledge was obvious in chemical industries. (~Dean X. Wang)

