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Israel achieves its best-ever show in Math Olympiad

With a total of six medals and ranking 13th in the world, Israel leaps 40 places in 3 years

Yarden Skop

Israel achieved its best-ever performance at the International Mathematical Olympiad, in Colombia on Saturday, ranking 13th in the world as compared to 53rd just three years ago.

The Israeli team won six medals - one gold, three silver and two bronze - capping a leap of 18 places since 2012. The gold medal winner, 16-year-old Omri Nisan Solan from Herzliya, came in fifth place overall out of the 600 contestants at the Olympiad, which included contestants from 103 countries.

Other medalists are Amotz Oppenheim, an 11th grader at Shevah Mofet High School, Ramat Gan; Tom Kalvari, a 12th grader at Hakfar Hayarok High School, Ramat Hasharon; and Nitzan Tur, an



Team members. Gil Cohen-Magen

11th grader at Alliance High School, Haifa, who all won silver medals. The bronze medal winners were Yoav Kraus, a 12th grader at Efraim Katzir High School, Holon; and Ofer Grossman, an Israeli citizen who recently moved to the United States.

Education Minister Shay Piron congratulated the team. "This is an occasion for national pride," he said in a statement. "The students who represented Israel in the Olympiads in the sciences, who brought this amazing accomplishment to the State of Israel, are one of the keys to our existence here. I see this victory as a matter of great national importance. We will continue investing in our young people and encouraging them to desire excellence, dream of it, and strive for it to make our achievements in the future even greater."

This year was the first time that Israeli delegations to all the associated Olympiads won a medal, including five medals at the Physics Olympiad, four at the Chemistry Olympiad and four at the International Olympiad in Informatics (computer science).