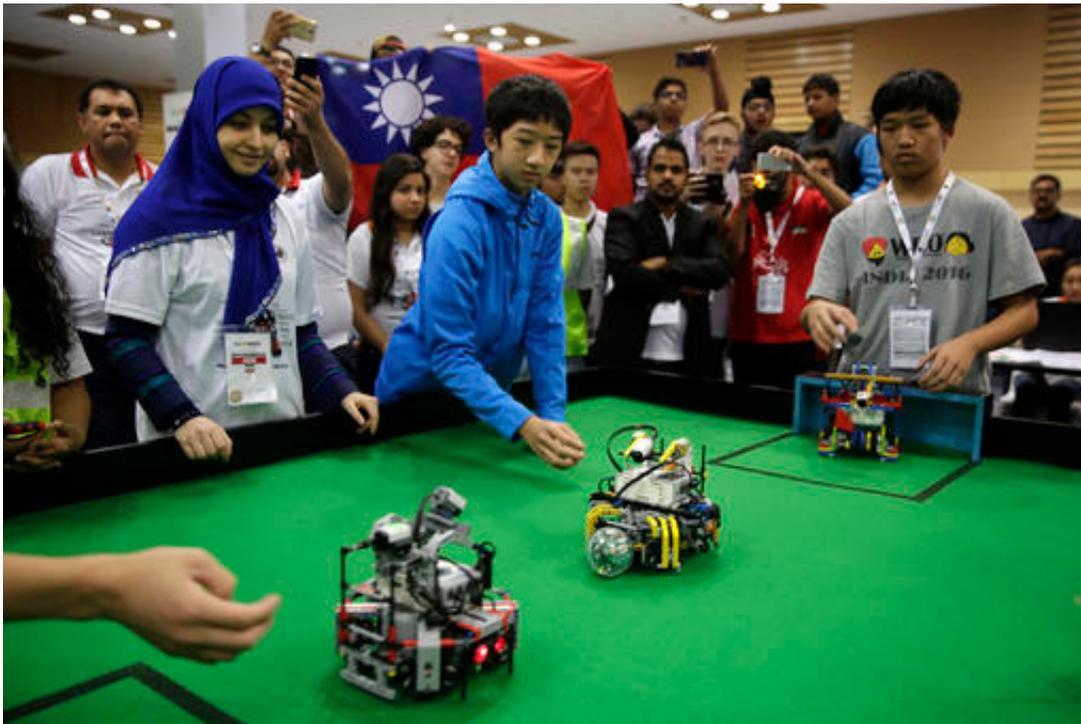


Two Taiwanese teenagers win World Robot Olympiad in India

November 28 2016, by Rishabh R. Jain



In this Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, photo, participants from Taiwan watch their robots playing a soccer match during the World Robot Olympiad in New Delhi, India. The weekend games brought more than 450 teams of students from 50 countries to the Indian capital. (AP Photo/Tsering Topgyal)

Whizzing around a green felt table chasing a soccer ball beaming infrared light, the boxy robot shoots—and scores—and wins its Taiwanese teenage creators first prize at this year's student robot games.

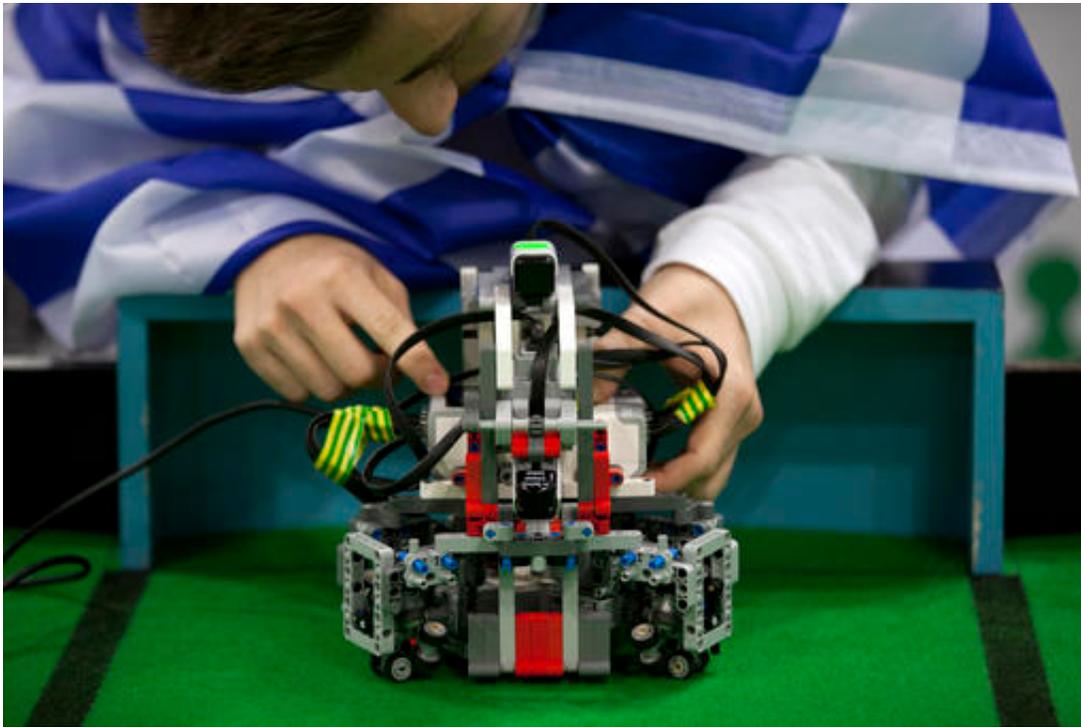
The two breadbox-sized scooters, playing goalie and kicker, from the team called "Wings of Storm" were up against another Taiwanese team's robots in the "Football" category of the World Robot Olympiad held over the weekend in the Indian capital of New Delhi.

"We have been practicing since primary school," said Liaw Jia-wun, 15, thrilled to have won with his teammate. "We never in our lives could think that we would win the world championship."

Other categories at the robotics championships—attended by more than 450 teams from 50 countries—asked participants to create robotics solutions to reduce or recycle waste, leading teams to build robots that emptied trash bins or scooped up building debris for future use.

Some participants were as young as 6 years old, while others were approaching university graduation.

In the more advanced robotics category, robots had to be preprogrammed for the automated challenge of picking up mini bowling balls and knocking down pins. That meant the robots had to sense where the target was and hit it without any intervention from their creators.



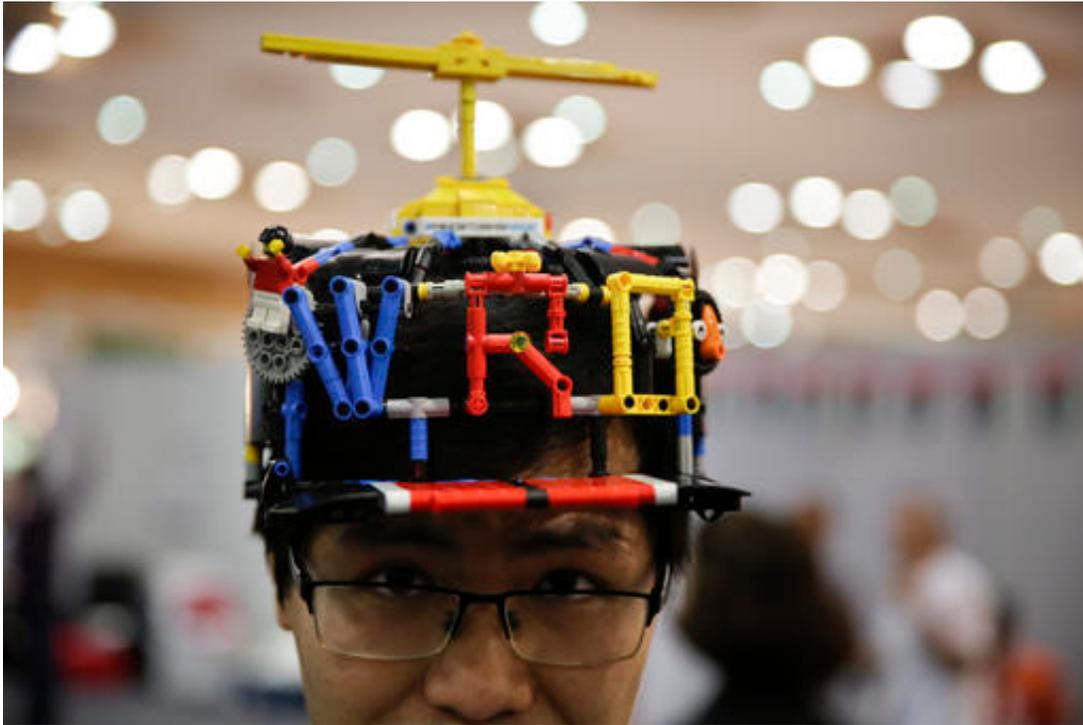
In this Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 photo, a participant from Greece gets his robot ready for a game of soccer at the World Robot Olympiad in New Delhi, India. The weekend games brought more than 450 teams of students from 50 countries to the Indian capital. (AP Photo/Tsering Topgyal)

The idea is to teach students computer programming as robotics moves beyond factory applications to everyday functions, said engineer Dominic Bruneau, the head coach for the Canadian teams.

"More and more, we will be interacting with robots" in our daily lives, Bruneau said. The student engineers are not just working on theory but are "doing practical work of building real stuff and trying to solve problems."

South African teacher and coach Nicky Du Plessis said the games helped kids develop key skills.

"We start with the fundamentals. We believe that if kids can start from a very young age ... it teaches them how to build," she said. "Then it teaches them logical thinking. How to change something quickly."



In this Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 photo, a participant is seen at the World Robot Olympiad in New Delhi, India. The weekend games brought more than 450 teams of students from 50 countries to the Indian capital. The idea is to teach children computer programming at a young age. (AP Photo/Tsering Topgyal)



In this Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, photo, a boy plays with a robot during the World Robot Olympiad in New Delhi, India. The weekend games brought more than 450 teams of students from 50 countries to the Indian capital. (AP Photo/Tsering Topgyal)



In this Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, photo, participants and spectators watch robots displayed at the World Robot Olympiad in New Delhi, India. The weekend games brought more than 450 teams of students from 50 countries to the Indian capital. (AP Photo/Tsering Topgyal)



In this Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 photo, participants and spectators look at a 3D printer made of LEGO parts during the World Robot Olympiad in New Delhi, India. The weekend games brought more than 450 teams of students from 50 countries to the Indian capital. (AP Photo/Tsering Topgyal)

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