

## News from Nara MICE

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### Nara, the oldest capital of Japan was virtually experienced with the state-of-the-art technology by IChO 2021 participants from around the world

Originally planned to take place in Japan in July 2021, the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) -an annual competition for the world's most talented chemistry students at the secondary school level- was held virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

During Remote IChO 2021 Japan, the IChO Japan Committee and its secretariats (Kinki Nippon Tourist Corporate Business Co., LTD.) created VR avatars of the participants and invited them to visit realistic virtual sites of Kansai area, some of which used 3D photos taken with a 360-degree camera to give greater realism. The virtual world also gave access to special areas to which access is normally rather hard such as the restoration site of an ancient Buddha statue at Gangoji institute for research of cultural property in Nara city. This was, thanks to KNT Corporate Business team, a great example of showcasing the history and culture of Nara as Japan's cradle of wisdom in a virtual world. (The link to the event: <https://www.icho2021.org/>)

Nara, known for being a safe and clean destination, is ready to welcome face-to-face events as well as virtual and hybrid events.



<Images from the Remote IChO 2021 Japan>

#### <About International Chemistry Olympiad >

The International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) is an annual competition for the world's most talented chemistry students at the secondary school level. Nations around the world send representative students, who are tested on their chemistry knowledge and skills. The IChO helps develop and enhance friendly relations among young people around the world. It also promotes international contacts in chemistry and encourages international cooperation and understanding. IChO 2022 will be held in Tianjin, China.

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