

November 5, 2024

Zeon participates as special co-sponsor in 19th Grand Contest on Chemistry for High School Students, supporting high school and technical college students pursuing chemistry with passion and curiosity

Zeon Corporation

Zeon Corporation (Zeon; head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Tetsuya Toyoshima) participated as a special co-sponsor in the [19th Grand Contest on Chemistry for High School Students](#) for the second consecutive year, which was hosted by the Shibaura Institute of Technology. The contest, held since 2004, supports the learning and research activities of high school students and technical college students (third year and below), encourages them to nurture their scientific creativity while enjoying self-initiated exploration activities, and develops human resources capable of demonstrating their abilities in scientific fields. In this year's contest, which Zeon has supported as a special co-sponsor since 2023, the Zeon Challenge Award—selected from our unique perspective—was presented to the team from Nagano Prefectural Iiyama High School.

The contest, often referred to as the “Koshien of Chemistry” after Japan’s national high school baseball championship, concluded with the final round in Tokyo on October 26 and 27. A total of 302 students from over 90 teams that passed the initial documentary screening took part in 89 poster presentations and 10 oral presentations.

Through our co-sponsorship of this contest, Zeon will continue to support the development of human resources who will lead the next generation.

Zeon Challenge Award	Development of MBR, CO2 absorption ball (Nagano Prefectural Iiyama High School Natural Science Club MBR team)
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Award ceremony



Students from Iiyama High School with Zeon representatives

Comment from the Nagano Prefectural Iiyama High School upon receiving the award

As a response to global warming, we developed a Midori Bioreactor (MBR) by enclosing photosynthetic green algae, such as Euglena, within calcium alginate beads. Our research demonstrated the MBR's capacity for carbon dioxide absorption, its cultural characteristics, and its effects on the surrounding environment. Moving forward, we aim to continue our research to promote MBR applications, and we would like to express our gratitude for being selected for this award.

Comment from Zeon Corporation Chief Judge

I thought it was brilliant that the team conceived the idea of enclosing live Euglena in particles and then went on to achieve it. They also did an excellent job of observing the changes in the particles throughout the experiment, and their report clearly reflected their enthusiasm for a self-directed approach. In chemical experiments, only those who engage hands-on can get a feel for the subject matter, which often leads to significant breakthroughs. I hope you will continue to take on challenges with confidence and pursue research that cultivates that feel.

—Kei Sakamoto, Chief Judge, Zeon Challenge Award (Incubation Center)

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[Contact form](#)