PRESS RELEASE

ZEON CORPORATION
1-6-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8246 Japan

November 6, 2025
Zeon Corporation

Zeon participates as special co-sponsor in 20th Grand Contest on Chemistry for High School Students, supporting high school and technical college students pursuing chemistry with passion and curiosity

Zeon Corporation (Zeon; head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Tetsuya Toyoshima) participated as a special co-sponsor in the 20th Grand Contest on Chemistry for High School Students for the third 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 Fukui Prefectural Fujishima 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 25 and 26. A total of 115 teams from across Japan that passed the initial documentary screening gave 100 poster presentations and 10 oral presentations. Over the two days, there was a cumulative attendance of more than 900 people.

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	Freezing Point Depression in High Concentrated Solution （Fujishima high School）

Comment from the Fukui Prefectural Fujishima High School team upon receiving the award

We are truly grateful to have been selected for this award. Freezing point depression is a phenomenon that anyone studying the sciences learns about and also encounters in daily life. Textbooks describe it as a property of dilute solutions, which made us wonder what happens in concentrated aqueous solutions. Our research began with that simple question. Because our research involved temperature measurement, establishing reliable experimental methods proved challenging, but we were thrilled when our hypothesis ultimately led us to derive a new formula.

Comment from Zeon Corporation chief judge

We highly commend your initiative in verifying and analyzing the discrepancy between calculated and experimental values observed in the high-concentration region of the freezing point depression equation, and in exploring the underlying principles behind it. While many might regard such discrepancies as undesirable results and lose interest without further inquiry, what truly matters is understanding the causes of the phenomena. Even seemingly unfavorable results can lead to new discoveries when examined in depth. We encourage you to keep nurturing your curiosity and to continue your research with that same inquisitive spirit.

—Kei Sakamoto, Chief Judge, Zeon Challenge Award (R&D Planning Department)

For more information, contact:
Department of Corporate Communications, Corporate Sustainability Division, Zeon Corporation Contact form