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**Science Fair Foundation  
of British Columbia**

Founding Patron  
Dr. Michael Smith (1932 – 2000)  
Nobel Laureate

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### **BC Science Fair Students Win International Award in Taiwan!**

Cody O'Neil and Derek Ling, both Grade 11 students at Kelowna Secondary School in Kelowna have returned big winners from the Taiwan International Science Fair, held February 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> in Taipei, Taiwan.

Their work entitled "*Orbital Forcing: An Astrophysical Solution to the Puzzle of Climate Change*" was awarded first place in the Earth Science category. Their project studied the effects of orbital forcing on the Earth's climate through the analysis of astrophysical cycles. Based on extensive orbital research and analysis, they formed a plausible theory relating variations in the Earth's orbit to long-term climatic change, particularly ice ages. In addition, an attempt was made to relate the solar cycle of sunspots to short-term climate change associated with global warming.

The students were accompanied by Mr. Marlon Brown, a teacher at Dr. Knox Middle School in Kelowna and a member of the Central Okanagan Regional Science Fair committee. The students were selected to participate based on their science fair project work, their effective communication skills and their ambassadorial qualities. Mr. Brown was chosen as the educator because of his broad teaching experience and his years of enthusiastic support of the science fair program and its educational benefits for students.

During their time in Taiwan Cody and Derek home-stayed with a local family which provided both a wonderful ambassadorial opportunity as well as a unique and incredible cultural experience. The International component of the competition included entries from Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Thailand and the United States.

As Cody O'Neil says, "Representing Canada at the Taiwan International Science Fair was absolutely unbelievable. Experiencing the science and culture of students from around the world was so much fun for all of us. While the languages may have been a barrier, the science projects stimulated interest in each other's experiences and opened the door to discussion and collegiality."

This is the sixteenth year that British Columbian students have attended the Taiwan International Science Fair as part of an international science fair exchange program set up by the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia. The Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia is supported by the Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development.

'Through scientific research and innovation, Science Fair participants are able to gain important life and job skills which help reveal where new career opportunities exist' said Patti Leigh, Executive Director, Science Fair Foundation of BC. 'Science fairs allow students to stretch their imaginations and intellect, and they also provide a chance for young scientists to network with their peers and with potential mentors.'

British Columbia regional science fairs are supported by the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia, a non-profit organization whose vision is to sustain and enhance the science culture of the youth of British Columbia.

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