

## F. University 631

Chapter 631: The Birth of a Genius and Champion!

It seems that even the team from the University of California, Berkeley are on the verge of cracking under the pressure of the questions.

This is a school that currently ranks in the top ten!

You can imagine how desperate the other schools, and even the second echelon teams are when they face Question [G].

Attitude becomes very important at this point.

Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen from the Mist City Arts and Science University were methodically addressing [Problem G].

Eventually, Xu Bin came up with a breakthrough.

"Look, can we try solving it this way?" As Xu Bin worked, he pitched his idea to Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen.

The two looked closely at his plan. Neither was entirely sure about it, but they both nodded their heads and echoed in unison, "Director Xu, I think we could give it a shot!"

"Great!"

Xu Bin took a deep breath, thinking of Principal Ding Yue's expectations for him, gritted his teeth, and started trying to solve [Problem G].

Even if this approach didn't work, Xu Bin wondered if there would still be a chance to change tactics.

But this method had to be tried.

At the 31-minute mark, the contest organizers received Imperial Polytechnic University's submission.

However!

The judges' decision was — WA!

Meaning the answer was wrong!

According to ACM competition rules, if a submitted program is not running correctly within the stipulated time, the program will be returned to the competitor team, and the team can modify and resubmit the problem.

In other words, all competing schools have the chance to test and correct their code.

Clearly, Imperial Polytechnic University took a gamble—the gamble being that their program would pass the first time it was submitted.

If successful, the team could take a significant lead.

Because solving this problem would take at least 50 minutes!

Ding!

"Imperial Polytechnic University's answer is incorrect!"

The contest organizers returned Imperial Polytechnic University's program, leaving its three team members stunned.

"It's over."

"We have about twenty minutes left, should we try Plan B?"

"We have no other choice, let's make the most of our time."

Dispirited, the three of them quickly adjusted their mental states. If Plan A was a failure, then they had to execute Plan B.

Moscow State University, like Imperial Polytechnic University, chose to test out Plans A and B.

Moscow State University's Plan A submission, much like their counterparts', was deemed a — WA!

The problem was returned to Moscow State University, and they immediately moved on to Plan B.

But time was tight, and there was no guarantee that Plan B could be fully executed.

Actually, Xu Bin and his team from Mist City Arts and Science University employed a similar strategy to Imperial Polytechnic University and Moscow State University.

That was, test one method first, then if that fails, try another approach.

However, as Xu Bin coded, he found that this approach seemed faultless. With help from Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen, Xu Bin now wanted to perfect and execute this method as quickly as possible!

"Brother Yue, several schools have submitted their programs, but all have returned errors. Are they just probing for the right answer? But I don't see any signs that Bin is preparing to test different approaches," said Huang Youjie, sensing something different.

"Sure, the best approach for this problem would be to test different scenarios. If Bin and his team aren't planning to do this, it can only mean one thing," said Ding Yue, a smile appearing at the corner of his mouth.

"And what would that be?" asked Huang eagerly.

"That means Bin and his team are confident that they can solve [Problem G] on the first attempt!"

Between the 30th and 45th minute of the problem-solving session, many schools continued to submit their solutions but all received the same feedback from the judges — incorrect!

In other words, the strategy of rushing to make multiple guesses within a short time span had, by and large, failed.

So, many schools had virtually given up on this problem.

Given that only twenty minutes or so remained, it was practically impossible to flawlessly execute a second program.

Of course, there were some highly confident school teams like Imperial Polytechnic University and Haicheng University of Transportation.

Once the 53rd minute rolled around,

Xu Bin completed the final line of code and looked at Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen.

They both nodded in unison.

If their submission didn't pass, they'd be in a pretty bad predicament, maybe even risk losing the chance to win the championship.

After all, if the submitted program didn't run correctly, they'd be left with only seven minutes to switch tactics, hardly enough time.

Xu Bin, seeing their determined looks, gritted his teeth internally.

Submit!

About half a minute went by.

Ding!

"Congratulations to Mist City Arts and Science University for successfully solving [Problem G] in 53 minutes!"

Bang!

As a purple balloon rose behind Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen, they became the first team to solve Problem 6.

Mist City Arts and Science University!

The audience erupted into applause.

At 53 minutes in, finally a team had successfully solved [Problem G].

This really was a difficult problem.

A majority of the schools, at least ten, had already thrown in the towel.

Chapter 632: The Birth of a Genius and Champion!

About ten university teams are feeling they are running out of time.

Some are making their second attempts after failing their first, while others, like Mist City Arts and Science University, are working through it doggedly.

Ding!

"California Institute of Technology has successfully completed [Problem G] in 55 minutes and 09 seconds!"

At the 55-minute mark, California Institute of Technology also cracked this notoriously difficult problem.

In the next five minutes, Imperial Polytechnic University submitted their second solution, which was also accepted, and Haicheng University of Transportation got through at the 58th-minute mark.

St. Petersburg State University also managed to get through at the 59th minute.

The solution submitted by Moscow State University - incorrect!

Well, there you have it. Moscow State University is out, they didn't score on the sixth problem.

Nanyang Technological University made it just in time to solve [Problem F].

The sixth problem directly kicked the other universities out of the championship race.

In other words, the champion is basically going to come from Mist City Arts and Science University, Imperial Polytechnic University, St. Petersburg State University, Haicheng University of Transportation, California Institute of Technology, and Nanyang Technological University.

However, it's going to be extra hard for Nanyang Technological University to win the championship because their previous cumulative scores were relatively worse.

At this moment, Ding Yue's heart is in his mouth.

The final problem will determine the champion!

The committee has released the seventh problem!

Seeing the difficulty of the seventh problem, the other university teams have lost interest in even trying to solve it.

Because the difficulty is even greater than the sixth problem.

If someone could solve this, they probably won't have any trouble becoming the chief engineer at any computer company in the world, right?

The expressions on the faces of the three contestants from Haicheng University of Transportation when they see the seventh problem are priceless.

"Damn! We have an hour and a half, but how are we supposed to finish this?"

"Damn it! Give me a month, and I still might not be able to solve it."

"The problems at this year's ACM competition are ridiculously hard, aren't they?"

The three young men are slightly despairing.

After a while, one of them calms down and says, "Maybe there's another way to solve this program. Otherwise, how could the committee expect us to solve in an hour and a half, a program that would normally take a team a month to solve!"

"That makes sense!"

Over at Mist City Arts and Science University, Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen are analyzing the problem.

[Problem G] is indeed extremely difficult.

Ouyang Chen is almost paralyzed when he sees it.

Chen Jun is slightly better, he can at least analyze it to some extent.

Xu Bin is frowning intensively, as he too feels this problem might be impossible to solve.

But on second thought, something doesn't add up.

Why would the committee issue a problem that almost everyone can't solve?

"I've got it!"

At this moment, the ideas of a genius always take an unconventional route.

"Director Xu, do you have an idea?" Chen Jun asked wide-eyed, looking at Xu Bin.

At this moment.

Over at St. Petersburg State University, the three contestants are very calm.

The three contestants from Imperial Polytechnic University, on the other hand, are engaged in heated discussion.

All these contestants, hailed as geniuses in their own right, don't need to participate in the ACM competition. Based on their academic performances alone, they could easily work at any top computer companies in the world.

Even among them, are some experts from the hacker world.

For example, a contestant from Imperial Polytechnic University is a top expert in the global hacker community and goes by the codename "Mediterranean".

The competition fell into a long period of silence.

Because the solving time for the seventh problem is a whopping one and a half hours.

In the first hour, none of the university teams submitted a solution.

One hour and twenty minutes.

Still nothing!

At one hour and twenty-two minutes, there's finally some activity on the field!

Ding!



"Congratulations..."

When Ding Yue hears the word "Congratulations", his pupils tighten instantly.

Because he knows that the university team that solved the seventh problem has emerged, and the champion is most likely about to be born!

Chapter 633: Known to the World after One Battle?

The sound resonating in the competition scene has sparked anticipation in many.

Who exactly was the first to solve [Problem G]?

At this moment, even the three students from Imperial Polytechnic University, who were still intensely occupied with this problem, couldn't help but look up.

"Who could it be?"

A student from Imperial Polytechnic University asked curiously.

This was particularly important to them.

Because if it was a team from a second-tier school or a late first-tier school, then Imperial Polytechnic University still has a chance.

But if it's one of the schools ranked higher, then things get dicey.

Because the few top-ranked schools do not vary much in their time scores, solving [Problem G] at this time pretty much locks in the champion for this year's ACM competition.

Many of the participating school teams started to tense up.

Was the champion about to emerge at this moment?

Ding!

"Congratulations to Mist City Arts and Science University for successfully solving [Problem G], with a time of 1 hour 24 minutes and 09 seconds!"

Bang!

Accompanying the announcement in the competition scene, a balloon rose behind the position of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Yes!"

Xu Bin finally relaxed his clenched fist. After submitting the program just now, Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen were all very tense.

Because if the program runs incorrectly, then Mist City Arts and Science University would not obtain any scores for this problem, essentially missing the championship by a whisker.

But now!

At this moment, when the judges' group of the competition committee announced that Mist City Arts and Science University was the first school to solve [Problem G], whether it was Xu Bin, Chen Jun, or Ouyang Chen, they were all extremely excited.

"Nice!"

Ding Yue, sitting in the backstage lounge, could not help but stand up from the sofa and shout excitedly, "Beautiful!"

"Wow, this school is really strong."

"I can't believe that this privately-owned school from Eastern Xia Country is so impressive."

"What? This is a private school in Xia Country?"

"They are too strong. Mist City Arts and Science University has always performed well in these problems."

"It looks like Mist City Arts and Science University is definitely going to be the champion."

The on-site audience started to discuss excitedly. A majority of them were foreigners, who could not imagine that a privately-owned university from Xia Country, a university they had never heard of before, was most likely to win the championship.

At this moment, some of the Xia students studying abroad started cheering.

"Principal Ding, have we won the championship?"

Wen Ruohan did not understand the competition rules that well, but seeing Mist City Arts and Science University being the first school to solve [Problem G], she thought that they had already won the championship.

Ding Yue seemed relaxed, but he wasn't completely certain and replied: "It now depends on St. Petersburg State University and California Institute of Technology. Even if Haicheng University of Transportation and Imperial Polytechnic University solve [Problem G] within the given time frame, their time scores will not surpass ours."

That's right!

The current uncertainty lies with California Institute of Technology and St. Petersburg State University.

If they also quickly solve [Problem G], then it's uncertain who might be the champion.

However!

Time ticked by, second by second.

On the competition scene, many participating players were intently solving the problem, but until now the judges' group hadn't received any submitted programs.

It wasn't until 1 hour 29 minutes and 33 seconds that Haicheng University of Transportation submitted their program, but the judges' group deemed it - WA! An incorrect program!

"Question-answering time is over!"

Once the competition committee announced the end of the last question-answering time, everything finally settled.

Although Ding Yue had been excited earlier, at the moment he felt exhilarated but knew he had to keep calm.

"Principal Ding, is it over? Did we win the championship?"

Wen Ruohan asked cautiously, unable to contain her curiosity.

By this time, Huang Youjie could no longer hold back the excitement rising in him, "Hahaha, Xiao Wen, our score is first! The championship is ours!"

The ACM competition committee quickly calculated the total time scores.

That's right, Mist City Arts and Science University was ranked first!

[National Television Station 's Science Education Channel Live Room] -

At this moment, the audience in the live room was in an uproar.

Whether they were students of Mist City Arts and Science University or not, all were happy and proud that Mist City Arts and Science University had won the global ACM competition championship.

Because Mist City Arts and Science University is a school in Xia Country. Participating in such a global competition, naturally, represents the education level of universities in Xia Country.

"Awesome! Mist City Arts and Science University is awesome!"

"First! We are the champions!"

"Hahaha, our Mist City Arts and Science University is so strong."

"Damn! Is your Mist City Arts and Science University really so awesome?"

"Incredible, your Mist City Arts and Science University's Computer Science major is bound to be top-tier in the country!"

"666, only you guys at Mist City Arts and Science University solved this last problem. So strong!"

In the Xia Country's Mist City, precisely in the campus of Mist City Arts and Science University, many students were staying up late to watch the ACM competition live, despite it being around two in the morning.

Chapter 634: Known to the World after One Battle?

When the final results came out, the students of Mist City Arts and Science University could hardly contain their excitement and started cheering.

"Mist City Arts and Science University is awesome!"

"The Computer Science Department is awesome!"

"We're the champions!"

The cheers echoing between the dorm buildings were similar to when the Xia Country team won the championship in a certain video game.

"Stop yelling, you idiots, go to sleep!"

A deterrent voice came from the girls' dorm across the way.

Indeed, it wasn't quite appropriate to yell so loudly at two in the morning.

In Zurich, Switzerland, thousands of miles away, it was just about seven o'clock in the evening. After the ACM competition committee announced the time results, they officially declared the team from Xia Country's Mist City Arts and Science University as the champion of this year's ACM International College Student Programming Competition!

The disappointed competitors from Imperial Polytechnic University, St. Petersburg State University, and California Institute of Technology all shook their heads helplessly. At the same time, they admired this private university from Xia Country because everyone else failed to solve the last problem of the ACM competition.

Only Mist City Arts and Science University did it.

Their skill was indeed very strong. Foreigners are like that, they will only respect you if you show strength, but if you show weakness, they will bully you!

An electronic firework, programmed to light up, burst at the competition center. The competition committee invited the three members of Mist City Arts and Science University team to the center of the competition field, that is, Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen.

Next, naturally, was the competition committee awarding the trophy and certificate to Mist City Arts and Science University!

Since the ACM competition is the Olympic Games of the college computer field, the design of the trophy is average at best. After all, the prize money is only 100,000 US dollars, and there is a championship certificate of the ACM competition.

These apparent honors are not important. What is important is that the team from Mist City Arts and Science University has won the championship of the international computer field competition. The influence that this honor brings is what Principal Ding Yue really wanted.

Of course.

Principal Ding was happy for Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen for winning the championship.

Upon their return, he would surely reward them properly.

The awards ceremony ended quickly.

Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen, holding their trophy, certificate, and the voucher for 100,000 US dollars in prize money, excitedly returned to their resting area in the Xia Country competition zone.

At this time, Principal Ding Yue was chatting with the leaders from Haicheng University of Transportation, Northwestern University of Science and Technology in the resting area.

"Principal Ding, congratulations!"

"Winning the championship in your first time participating in the ACM competition, the strength of the computer major at your Mist City Arts and Science University is truly strong!"

Facing the compliments from Haicheng University of Transportation and Northwestern University of Science and Technology, Ding Yue responded with a smile: "Thank you, thank you, this is also the result of the students' hard work."

No sooner had he finished speaking than Ding Yue saw the three students, Xu Bin, who had returned from the competition field to the rest area, and immediately went up to them: "Bin, well done! Chen Jun, Ouyang Chen, you guys have made a great contribution to the school this time!"

After saying that, Ding Yue directly stepped forward and gave Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen a big principals' hug.

Finally, he gave his good buddy Xu Bin a big hug and whispered in his ear, "You really didn't disappoint me!"

"Hahaha, we definitely won't let Yue down!" Xu Bin replied confidently.

"Ruohan, arrange it right away. Tonight, we're going to have a proper celebration for everyone!"

After releasing the hug, Ding Yue turned his head and said to his secretary Wen Ruohan.

"Okay, Principal Ding!"

Ruohan nodded and immediately searched for the best restaurant in Zurich, Switzerland, preparing to make a reservation.

"The 100,000-dollar championship prize money is all yours. In addition, the university will also reward each of you with another 300,000 yuan!"

Ding Yue looked at the championship prize check in Chen Jun's hand and thought about the reward.

"Thank you, Principal Ding!"

Upon hearing the news, Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen excitedly expressed their gratitude to Principal Ding.

With an award of 100,000 US dollars, each person could receive more than 30,000, converted into renminbi, that's tens of thousands.

Not only that, Principal Ding also offered an additional reward of 300,000 yuan for their victory. Such a generous award, wouldn't Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen, the two young fellows be excited?

Xu Bin, on the other hand, seemed quite composed.

For Xu Bin, money was no longer that important. Ever since he had started and built Mist City Arts and Science University with Ding Yue, he was no longer short of money.

The news came out on the same night in Western time soon after the ACM competition ended.

Many foreigners said they had not heard of Mist City Arts and Science University before, and were surprised to find it had become the champion of this year's ACM competition. Most importantly,



the strength exhibited by Mist City Arts and Science University in this ACM competition was very strong.

In Xia Country, besides well-known institutions like Haicheng University of Transportation and Yancheng University, there is such an amazing private university in the field of computer science?

Ding Yue knew that his influence abroad would not be particularly great, but one way or another, the computer science major at Mist City Arts and Science University did gain some reputation abroad because of the ACM competition.

What Ding Yue cared about more was the influence within the country.

Because only the people within the country would know how impressive it is for Mist City Arts and Science University to win the ACM Competition.

Moreover, Ding Yue needed the domestic influence of this championship to elevate the social status of Mist City Arts and Science University and the influence of its computer science major!

With this championship, Ding Yue believed that the computer science major at Mist City Arts and Science University would become the dream place for countless students who like computer science.

It would be even better if they could be rated as a nationally recognized key major or first-class discipline.

Domestic news would not ferment until daytime.

At this time it was still early morning in the country. Although some big V bloggers in the field of computer electronics on Twitter had already immediately announced the news of Mist City Arts and Science University winning the ACM competition, most people were still asleep and not too many people were paying attention.

But it didn't matter.

Ding Yue had asked Wen Ruohan to contact Director Liu Hongxia of the Propaganda Department of Mist City Arts and Science University. When the time comes, they should publicize Mist City Arts and Science University's victory in the ACM Competition as much as possible.

If they don't publicize such a thing, that would be a real brain drain.

After a hearty celebration in the restaurant, Ding Yue and the rest of the group returned to the hotel for rest.

Then Wen Ruohan booked flight tickets for the next day's daytime in Switzerland and prepared to return to their country, loaded with honors.

Meanwhile, in the daytime back in their country.

Upon receiving Principal Ding's instructions, the propaganda department of Mist City Arts and Science University immediately released the news about the computer science team's victory in the ACM International College Student Programming Competition on the school's official website and the public account.

Shortly followed by releasing this news on major self-media platforms and then drumming up its popularity!

In the country, Mist City Arts and Sciences University was already a hot institution in itself, having been on the trending list many times and each time as a positive energy. Netizens even jokingly called Mist City Arts and Science University a "net-red" university.

As the official account of Mist City Arts and Science University promoted news on various self-media platforms, more and more netizens became aware of the matter.

A private university won a world-class competition?

Although it sounded pretty awesome, many netizens felt there must be something fishy or low-value about this competition, right?

"I don't understand, is the ACM International College Student Programming Competition gold-content high? "

"Mist City Arts and Science University can be the world champion? This competition is probably a sham, isn't it?"

"Is Mist City Arts and Science University so amazing now?"

"How come I've never heard of the ACM International College Student Programming Competition?"

"Is there a big shot to explain what level is this ACM competition?"

More and more voices of doubt began to flood the internet...

Little did Ding Yue, who was far away in Zurich, Switzerland, expect that even though his Mist City Arts and Science University had won the ACM competition, there were still doubts about its value on the internet back home!

Chapter 635: Elite Student Tool

Mist City Airport.

After approximately ten hours on the plane, Ding Yue and the Mist City Arts and Science University team that participated in the ACM International College Student Programming Competition finally returned to Mist City.

"Principal Ding, the school bus is waiting for us in the parking lot on the third floor underground of the terminal building."

After disembarking, Wen Ruohan had already made all the arrangements. As soon as they arrived at the airport, a school bus from Mist City Arts and Science University was there to pick them up.

"By the way, how has the reaction been in our country to us winning the championship at the ACM International College Student Programming Competition?"

As they walked towards the parking lot, Ding Yue asked his secretary Wen Ruohan about it.

"Principal Ding... It seems on the internet in our country..."

Wen Ruohan started to speak hesitantly.

"What's wrong?"

Ding Yue couldn't help but ask curiously.

"Most netizens in our country are questioning the value of the ACM competition championship we won."

Wen Ruohan shook her head helplessly, "It's too bad. This competition is very valuable."

"He he, though surprising, it feels quite normal because most netizens actually don't know about the ACM International College Student Programming Competition, let alone that our Mist City Arts and Science University won the championship."

Ding Yue didn't show much emotional fluctuation upon hearing this.

It was as if it was within his expectations.

"Principal Ding, we can't just let those people question us, can we?" Wen Ruohan expressed her displeasure.

"At this moment, what we need to do is to popularize the value of ACM International College Student Programming Competition."

Ding Yue smiled calmly and said.

In fact, as soon as many netizens on Twitter started questioning the value of the ACM competition, influential bloggers in the field of computer science stood up to defend Mist City Arts and Science University.

After all, while outsiders may not understand the ACM International College Student Programming Competition, anyone related to the field of computer science knows that it's the top-level global competition for college students in their field.

Those participating are famous computer teams from colleges worldwide.

Thanks to the efforts of these bloggers, some netizens finally realized after learning about the value of the ACM International College Student Programming Competition, just how prestigious the global computer competition championship that Mist City Arts and Science University won was.

[Programmer Wage Earner] v: I see many people saying that the championship won by Mist City Arts and Science University at the ACM International College Student Programming Competition is not valuable. Please, if you don't understand, don't just make blind comments. Make good use of internet search. The universities from our country Xia that participate in the ACM International College Student Programming Competition are Haicheng University of Transportation, Northwestern University of Science and Technology, and Mist City Arts and Science University. They all earned their qualifications to participate in the competition through their abilities.

Do you know which universities worldwide participate in the ACM International College Student Programming Competition?

Telling you would shock you!

California Institute of Technology, St. Petersburg State University, Imperial Polytechnic University, Stanford University, Nanyang Technological University, University of California, Berkeley, University of Melbourne, Tokyo University...and so on. These are world-class universities that most people can only dream of attending!

In such a highly competitive college-level competition in the field of computer science, our Xia Country's Mist City Arts and Science University won the championship. We should be cheering for them, because without some substantial strength, they really wouldn't have been able to win this championship!

It's well-known that our country's Haicheng University of Transportation's computer science major is top-notch, right?

Yes! Haicheng University of Transportation has also won the ACM International College Student Programming Competition championship before!

Now do you understand how powerful the computer science department of Mist City Arts and Science University is?

Retweets (1.5w), comments (5.9w), likes (10.2w)

On Twitter, this influential blogger named [Programmer Wage Earner] quickly caught the attention of many netizens with this long post, and it quickly started trending.

More and more netizens are realizing the true value of the ACM International College Student Programming Competition won by Mist City Arts and Science University.

"I don't know what other majors at Mist City Arts and Science University are like, but their computer science major is definitely strong!"

"They established a cooperative relationship with Yancheng University's artificial intelligence science department. If they didn't have real strength, do you think Yancheng University would do that?"

"Impressive! After winning this year's ACM International College Student Programming Competition, the computer science department of Mist City Arts and Science University has really taken off."

"This strong? Then I'll go to Mist City Arts and Science University next year."

"emmmm...I've had the same thought. I suppose I won't be able to attend Haicheng University of Transportation, but I still want to major in computer science. It seems like Mist City Arts and Science University truly is a good choice."

"I'm also going to Mist City Arts and Science University to major in computer science!"

Gradually, senior high school students began to express their desire to major in computer science at Mist City Arts and Science University.

These senior high school students must all have a strong interest in computer science and have been planning for a long time to study computer science in college.

But!

The score line for Haicheng University of Transportation is simply too high, and many students who like computer science may not be able to get into Haicheng University of Transportation.

Therefore, Mist City Arts and Science University has become their best choice.

Although Mist City Arts and Science University currently doesn't require scores for admission, and is a private university, its computer science department is powerful; it has won the ACM International College Student Programming Competition championship, and the conditions at Mist City Arts and Science University are also very good.

In comparison to Mist City Arts and Science University, it seems that other ordinary universities' computer science majors have no competition!

After Ding Yue and Xu and others returned to Mist City Arts and Science University by the school bus, they first went back to rest in the Elegant Garden Apartment.

After all, they had taken a plane for about ten hours and then drove back to the Mist City Arts and Science University from Mist City airport.

Fatigue from the journey was inevitable.

As soon as Ding Yue was about to step into his apartment room, a system prompt suddenly sounded in his mind.

Ding!

"Congratulations to the host's Mist City Arts and Science University for winning first place in the ACM International College Student Programming Competition!"

"Congratulations to the host for obtaining the reward for the honorable mission [ACM Competition Champion]: 50 reputation points, [Computer Department Scholastic Card+1], [2nd Level University Treasure Chest]+1."

Hmm?

Ding Yue was a bit slow in realization. This ACM competition championship indeed was a good honor for Mist City Arts and Science University.

Ding Yue had an honorable mission, that is, after his Mist City Arts and Science University or the students won the competition, they would get corresponding rewards.

If it had not been for the system to suddenly remind him that he got the reward for the honorable mission, Ding Yue almost forgot about it.

If Ding Yue remembered correctly, the last time he received such an honorable mission reward was in November, when the culinary documentary "A Bite of Xia Country" won an award on the NTS station in Yancheng.

The reward that time was just average.

However, this time, after winning the ACM International College Student Programming Competition championship, the reward for the honour mission seemed quite generous.

Firstly, there were 50 Reputation points!

Ding Yue gladly accepted them!

Secondly, there was a new item reward, and this was the first time Ding Yue had seen this kind of reward– [Computer Department Scholastic Card+1].

In addition to that, there was also a [2nd Level University Treasure Chest].

Merely the 2nd Level University Treasure Chest made Ding Yue feel good as it could unlock some good items.



Of course, if luck was bad, some useless items might also be unlocked. It all depended on if one was lucky or unlucky.

In fact, what Ding Yue was more curious about was the item called [Computer Department Scholastic Card]. It seemed to be understood by its name, but Ding Yue didn't know its specific effects.

So Ding Yue pulled out the system interface with a slight intention and looked at the items column, where he found the [Computer Department Scholastic Card].

Item: Computer Department Scholastic Card.

Usage: With this card, you can give computer science students the "Scholastic Attribute," enhancing their learning efficiency by 1% - 10%

As Ding Yue expected, this was an item that provided students with a learning BUFF.

Wait a minute!

A doubt suddenly rose in Ding Yue's mind.

The students of his Mist City Arts and Science University already had a learning BUFF. According to the learning BUFF effect of last year's batch and this year's, it seemed that the learning BUFF cannot be overlaid.

So this... is it not very useless?

"Does this Computer Department Scholastic Card conflict with the BUFF I have already added to the students?"

Ding Yue immediately asked the system.

Fortunately, the result was very satisfactory to Ding Yue. This professional Scholastic Card item did not conflict with the overall learning BUFF effect of the school; they could be compatible!

"Well, this is indeed a good thing."

After learning about this, Ding Yue was overjoyed.

The [Computer Department Scholastic Card] could directly enhance the learning efficiency of the computer science students in his Mist City Arts and Science University once more, it felt like a great celebration.

The probability of genius scholars appearing in the computer science department may have to be increased again.

"If I complete an honor mission related to the computer department in a world competition, will I be rewarded with a related professional item?"

Ding Yue began to ponder, did these honor mission rewards follow this rule?

If it really is like this, doesn't it mean that the students of every department and major of his Mist City Arts and Science University, on top of the original learning BUFF, can also use Scholastic Card?

There are many students in Mist City Arts and Science University at present, but too few shine out like Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen.

More students can only complete their academic tasks for this stage smoothly.

Of course, it's also possible that Ding Yue hasn't discovered the students with huge potential yet.

It is very crucial for the Mist City Arts and Science University to develop better and faster, apart from the majority being able to successfully graduate and find a job based on their professional advantages. More students like Tong Yihang, Liu Tiefei, Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen need to emerge!

With this [Computer Department Scholastic Card], Ding Yue reckoned that many more students like Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen could be born in the computer department, right?

## Chapter 636: Applying for National Key Disciplines

The day he returned to Mist City Arts and Science University, Ding Yue suffered from jet lag.

He slept off his jet lag straight through to the next morning. It seemed that he was more accustomed to local time.

During his time in Zurich, Switzerland, he always felt strange knowing that it was still early morning back at home every time he woke up.

Early in the morning, Ding Yue received a phone call from his secretary, Wen Ruohan.

"Principal Ding, after returning yesterday, we were contacted by Mist City News, Mist City Education Bureau, and the National Computer Association. Considering that you needed to adjust to the time difference, I asked them to contact me today. I believe it might be related to our winning the ACM International College Student Programming Competition and our University," Wen Ruohan rapidly reported over the phone.

"Understood, I'll handle these matters."

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue remained composed.

The likes of Mist City News, Mist City Education Bureau, and the National Computer Association looking to contact him must be due to Mist City Arts and Science University's recent win at the ACM International College Student Programming Competition in Europe.

After getting up, Ding Yue showered and had breakfast at the second canteen.

Then he came to his office in the Administration Building. It was 8:55 AM.

Work hours start at 9 o'clock, so Ding Yue wasn't in a hurry since the calls he had been informed about would surely come during work hours.

However,

To Ding Yue's surprise, his mobile phone started to ring at 8.59.

It must be someone of significance to be able to dial directly to Ding Yue's mobile phone.

Indeed.

Raising an eyebrow at the caller ID, Ding Yue saw that it was Director Xiao Wenxing from the Mist City Education Bureau.

If you count it, Xiao Wenxing is Ding Yue's "superior" in education. The teaching work carried out at Mist City Arts and Science University fell under Director Xiao's jurisdiction.

Furthermore, Director Xiao held a very high opinion of Mist City Arts and Science University and has given it a lot of support over the past year.

The relationship between Ding Yue and Director Xiao was also quite good.

"Hello, good morning, Director Xiao."

Ding Yue immediately answered the call.

"Good morning, Principal Ding. As soon as I got to my office, I immediately rang you. We tried calling yesterday, but I forgot you had just returned and had to adjust to the time difference. Hahahaha."

Director Xiao's voice was amiable on the other end of the phone.

"Ah, what can I do? Europe is seven to eight hours behind us. I'm more accustomed to our local time," Ding Yue chatted casually.

"Principal Ding, the reason I called was to congratulate Mist City Arts and Science University. You went abroad to participate in an international competition and brought back a championship. This is no small honor."

Director Xiao congratulated him, saying, "Congratulations to you all."

"Director Xiao, you're too modest," Ding Yue laughed.

"No no no, this is not me being modest. The ACM International College Student Programming Competition may not be very well-known, but the value it represents is extremely high. Your university becoming the global champion means that your computer science program has reached a world-class level."

Director Xiao spoke very seriously.

"Indeed, our university's computer science program has rapidly improved, but I fear there is still a gap between us and the world's top universities. I can only say that students like Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen are truly geniuses in this field."

Ding Yue remained modest.

Honestly speaking, claiming that the overall level of the computer science program at Mist City Arts and Science University is world-class was indeed a bit exaggerated.

The comprehensive ability of their computer science program might have jumped to an impressive level in the country.

However, compared to powerhouse computer science programs at universities such as the California Institute of Technology and St. Petersburg State University, there was still a significant gap.

"Anyway, you guys have gained significant recognition this time. Principal Ding, have you considered making the computer science program at Mist City Arts and Science University a key program in the city, or even in the country?"

Director Xiao asked enthusiastically.

"Of course I've considered it. Do we have a chance, Director Xiao?" Ding Yue immediately responded as soon as he heard it.

If it could receive official certification from Mist City or even at the national level as a key program, it would certainly be a great thing for Mist City Arts and Science University.

Even though the computer science program at Mist City Arts and Science University has been rated by the system as a provincial key program.

However, in terms of social status and influence, it was obviously necessary to obtain official national recognition.

"I think there maybe a chance. Besides congratulating you, the main purpose of this call is to discuss this matter. The Education Bureau is interested in helping Mist City Arts and Science University apply for the National Key Disciplines," Director Xiao said.

"That's great, thank you Director Xiao. What should we at Mist City Arts and Science University do specifically?"

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue immediately asked excitedly.

If they could apply for the National Key Disciplines, it would be as if the privately-run Mist City Arts and Science University had received a certain degree of official recognition.

Even if it's only the computer science discipline, that would be enough.

Remember, there are very few national key disciplines officially recognized by the nation at privately-run universities in Xia Country.

#### Chapter 637: Applying for National Key Disciplines

If Ding Yue didn't remember wrongly, a few disciplines of Xu Dongcheng's Westlight University were at the National Key Level.

This is what is commonly referred to as private key disciplines.

For a private university to have a key private discipline is quite a success.

And Ding Yue's Mist City Arts and Science University has the opportunity, because of this year's ACM International College Student Programming Competition championship, to apply for this National Key Discipline.

"Principal Ding, you guys should prepare the application materials for Mist City Arts and Science University, fully demonstrating your overall strengths in the Computer Science Department. And also the fact of winning the ACM International College Student Programming Competition. I believe there should be no problem as long as the strength of your computer science department is adequate," Director Xiao Wenxing gave instructions on the documents that Ding Yue needed to prepare.

"Alright, Director Xiao. I understand. I will have the Computer Science Department on our side start preparing the relevant materials immediately."

"Very good, once the materials are ready please submit them to the Mist City Education Bureau where we will submit them for you to apply for National Key Discipline!"

"I appreciate your effort, Director Xiao."

"This is an opportunity you guys earned for yourselves."

After chatting with Director Xiao Wenxing for a while, Ding Yue immediately asked his secretary, Wen Ruohan, to begin preparing materials from the Computer Science Department after hanging up the phone.

These materials included detailed information about the Computer Science Department of Mist City Arts and Sciences University.

For example, faculty strength, teaching equipment resources, teaching work achievements, etc. All of these materials will determine if the Computer Science department of Mist City Arts and Science University can become a National Key Discipline.

However, for Ding Yue, this shouldn't be too big of a problem, because ever since Mist City Arts and Science University made Computer Science a priority, its faculty strength, teaching equipment resources, and teaching performance have been exceptionally good.

What's more, the Computer Science department of Mist City Arts and Sciences University has also established a collaborative relationship with the Artificial Intelligence Science program of Yancheng University.

With all these elements combined, and having just won the ACM International College Student Programming Competition, Ding Yue believed that securing National Key Discipline status should not be a big issue, right?

According to what Director Xiao Wenxing stated, if the materials are presented now, results should be out around Spring to Summer next year.

This means that if it's approved by then, when recruiting students next September, the Computer Science department at Mist City Arts and Science University will essentially become a National Key Discipline.

The appeal of that is practically sky-rocketing!

Looking at it this way, it seems very likely that the Computer Science department will become the leading and most formidable department and program of Mist City Arts and Science University, starting from next year!

With the machinery department following closely behind, and the School of Architecture, Medicine and Animation also keeping up the pace.

"My Mist City Arts and Science University is growing stronger day by day!"

Ding Yue couldn't help but sigh in his heart.

At this rate of development, Mist City Arts and Science University could possibly become a top-tier university within ten years.

There's even potential for it to become one of the double first-class universities.

If the Computer Science program becomes a National Key Discipline, the next step is to strive for top-level discipline status.



To ensure a smooth application for National Key Discipline, Ding Yue specifically asked the head of the Computer Department, Liu Wei, to call all students to a meeting at the school's auditorium. This will also serve as a ceremony to acknowledge the three students who won the ACM International College Student Programming Competition.

"Alright, understood Principal Ding. I will prepare right away!" Liu Wei, the head of the computer department, eagerly agreed over the phone.

After hanging up, he immediately went to prepare.

In the afternoon.

Ding Yue arrived at the grand auditorium of the Computer Department where the awards ceremony was being held.

The auditorium could accommodate hundreds of people and was the largest indoor venue suitable for art activities currently in Mist City Arts and Science University.

Of course, excluding the stadium.

In addition to genuinely wanting to recognize Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen, Ding Yue also had another reason for holding this award ceremony.

That was, Ding Yue was preparing to activate the [Computer Department Scholastic Card].

If all the students in the computer department are to use the [Computer Department Scholastic Card], they need to be gathered together.

"Brother Yue, we're having a full-blown awards ceremony, there's no need for this, haha," Xu Bin laughed as he approached Ding Yue.

"Whether you want an award or not doesn't matter, but we definitely need to honor the two students, Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen."

Ding Yue glared at Xu Bin.

He knew Xu Bin was indifferent to fame and fortune and loved messing around with computer programs and technology.

If Xu Bin were to use this [Computer Department Scholastic Card], with his innate intelligence, he could possibly increase his learning efficiency by the maximum percentage of 10%.

Another ten-percent boost for Xu Bin might take him to the next level.

When Ding Yue founded Mist City Arts and Science University, he never imagined his friend Xu Bin would become one of the university's leading figures.

"Principal Ding, all the students have arrived, not a single one missing, can we start now?"

The head of the computer department, Liu Wei, came over and reported to Principal Ding.

Looking around the auditorium, Ding Yue saw it filled with computer science students.

"Hmm, okay, let's begin now," Ding Yue nodded and told Head Liu Wei.

So.

Liu Wei took the stage and began the opening speech for today's awards ceremony.

After his speech, Liu Wei raised his voice, "Next, I would like to invite our Principal Ding to give a speech and present the awards to the winning team!"

In preparation for tonight's awards ceremony, department head Liu Wei had specially ordered a banner from the school's graphics studio.

The words on the banner read - Mist City Arts and Science University Computer Department ACM Champions Awards Ceremony!

In addition, for the awards presentation segment, Liu Wei specially ordered three medals made with the school's emblem and three gold plaques.

Principal Ding had planned to award each member of the championship team a prize of 300,000 yuan. Although this money had already been provided by the finance department this morning, there still had to be a ceremonial gold plaque at the ceremony.

After department head Liu Wei stepped off the stage, Ding Yue came up and stood in front of the microphone.

"Good afternoon, students!"

Ding Yue stood in front of the microphone, raised his hand at a 45-degree angle, and greeted his students.

"Good afternoon, Principal Ding!"

The students cheered and applauded.

For the students, Ding Yue was very much admired because of his abilities, open-mindedness, and teaching policies, and so it was only natural for them to love their Principal Ding.

"I've always had a high regard for the computer science department, and it has not disappointed me. With a group of excellent students full of youthful vitality and geniuses like Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen who are willing to strive, I believe our Computer Science Department at Mist City Arts and Science University will become a leader in the country, even in the world in the future!"

Ding Yue's impassioned speech immediately drew a thunderous applause from the students.

"Today's stars are the team that won the ACM International College Student Programming Competition. Let's welcome them now!"

Accompanied by a round of applause, Xu Bin, Chen Jun, and Ouyang Chen marched onto the stage in unison, standing behind Ding Yue's left side.

"It's them who brought international honor to Mist City Arts and Science University, which is why the school has decided to hold this ceremony in their honor, and each will receive a prize of 300,000 yuan!"

As Ding Yue's voice fell, all the students present were stunned.

A prize of 300,000 yuan!

This was not a small amount.

Even for most of these students who came from decent families, 300,000 yuan was a considerable prize.

In the whole country, probably only Principal Ding would be so generous among all the private universities.

A principal who rewards high prizes at the drop of a hat, we absolutely adore him!

Chapter 638: Core Technologies of the Internet of Things

"Principal Ding is so generous!"

"Awarding each person 300,000 yuan, I'm envious."

"That's the benefit of private universities. If the principal is generous, the prize money could be substantial. In public universities, this would likely amount to just a few thousand yuan."

"Not necessarily, public universities might not give any prize money at all, just a certificate of recognition."

"Ha ha ha, I checked online and the grand prize of the ACM National College Student Programming Contest is \$100,000."

"\$100,000? That's over 600,000 yuan."

"After deducting taxes, each of Chen Jun's team can receive tens of thousands yuan, plus the 300,000 yuan award from Principal Ding, they're going to be rich."

The computer science students in the auditorium, having seen Principal Ding personally award the prize money to Chen Jun's team, couldn't help discussing and showing their envy.

Each student fantasized that they could be Chen Jun or Ouyang Chen.

The allure of hundreds of thousands yuan in prize money was quite significant.

"Principal Ding's strong encouragement and rewards for our computer science award-winning students shows that he firmly supports our department."

"Didn't you know? Principal Ding has invested a lot in our computer science department in terms of educational expenses."

"Doesn't that mean that our Computer Science Department will be a key focus of development for our school in the future?"

"That's inevitable."

"The future looks promising. I should continue to work hard to achieve good results in school so that when I graduate, I can find a satisfying job."

This ACM International College Student Programming Competition award ceremony, just as Ding Yue had expected, had a motivating effect on the students of the computer science department.

Ding Yue guessed that the motivational effect was even greater.

Internally, it could motivate the students of the Computer Department to continue to strive ceaselessly in their future studies and life.

Externally, it could inspire other departments to pick up their pace.

If Mist City Arts and Science University aspires to become a globally top-ranking comprehensive institution, every department needs to have a strong capability.

As it stands, many departments of Mist City Arts and Science University are still "ordinary".

As the Principal, Ding Yue still needs to invest some thought and energy into exploring the potential of other departments at Mist City Arts and Science University.

On the stage, Ding Yue awarded the three cash prizes to Xu Bin, Chen Jun and Ouyang Chen.

The auditorium suddenly erupted into warm applause.

After Xu Bin and the others bowed in appreciation, they took their prize money and medals and left the stage.

Seizing this opportunity, Ding Yue prepared to deliver a few remarks to encourage the computer science students. He also used the [Computer Department Scholastic Card] prop.

"Dear students and teachers, even though our Computer Science Department is very young, it is because of the efforts of every teacher and student, that we are in the flourishing situation we have today."

Ding Yue had used a [Deep into the Heart] prop card for his speech, which he had exchanged for 5 reputation points in the system store.

The effect of the card was that Ding Yue's words would deeply resonate with the group. It was an excellent tool to use during motivational speeches.

In addition to the [Deep into the Heart] Prop Card, Ding Yue also used the [Computer Department Scholastic Card].

Ding!

"The host successfully used the [Computer Department Scholastic Card]....."

Accompanied by a prompt in his mind, a silvery light appeared to cloak the entire auditorium, falling upon every computer science teacher and student present on the stage.

"Here, I have good news to share with everyone. Director Xiao Wenxing of the Education Department told me today that our Computer Science Department at Mist City Arts and Science University is slated to apply for National Key Disciplines."

Ding Yue announced this news shared by Director Xiao Wenxing earlier that day.

Without a doubt, this news would serve as a strong stimulant, inspiring the computer science students to strive forward.

Upon hearing Ding Yue's words, the teachers and students of the Computer Science Department were filled with astonishment and excitement.

"Apply for National Key Disciplines?"

"Wow! That's impressive, National Key Disciplines!"

"If the application is approved, will our Computer Science Department at Mist City Arts and Science University become a national key discipline?"

"That's awesome, my major!"

"We have the opportunity to apply for National Key Disciplines so soon. It's clear that our Computer Science Department is truly strong."

"What did you think? Did you assume that the championship of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest was handed to us easily?"

Seeing the passion and fighting spirit of the students below, Ding Yue was very satisfied.

After the successful conclusion of the award ceremony, in less than a day, news spread to every department of the Mist City Arts and Science University.

All the teachers and students knew that Principal Ding had held an award ceremony to commend the Computer Science Department and awarded each of them 300,000 yuan.

Liu Wei, the head of the Computer Science Department, received all kinds of praise from his colleagues these past few days.

However,

Other department heads also wanted to achieve glory for their schools and become a department that Principal Ding highly values, just like the Computer Science Department.

But earning Principal Ding's high regard isn't easy.

First and foremost, the department would need outstanding teaching achievements and excellent students. If not, the principal wouldn't easily place their emphasis on them.

Chapter 639: Core Technologies of the Internet of Things

If they were confident, they would take the initiative, just like the previous director of the Film and Television Academy, Zhu Youzhao, did.

At that time, Zhu Youzhao went to Principal Ding and convinced him to invest a sum of money.

Then, Zhu Youzhao and the faculty and students of the Film and Television Academy produced the food documentary "A Bite of Xia Country", which was ultimately very successful and won the Gold Award for Documentary at the NTS Gala.

Mist City Arts and Science University has more than twenty departments, besides those already heavily invested and valued by Principal Ding, other department heads are not too confident volunteering themselves.

Therefore, the Computer Department's commendation ceremony could only silently encourage them to do their professional teaching well and strive to cultivate excellent students in their own departments.

Two days later.



The Computer Department of Mist City Arts and Science University had organized the related materials and submitted them to the Mist City Education Bureau for application as a national key discipline.

Since returning from Zurich, Switzerland, Ding Yue had to adjust to the time difference, deal with school affairs and held the commendation ceremony, it had been very busy these days.

It wasn't until the third day after returning from Europe to Mist City Arts and Science University that Ding Yue remembered there was a [Level 2 University Treasure Chest] in the honor rewards of the ACM competition champion.

Previously, Ding Yue's attention was all on that [Computer Department Scholastic Card], and he didn't pay much attention to this [Level 2 University Treasure Chest].

[Level 2 University Treasure Chest] seemed a bit tasteless for Ding Yue.

Sometimes it could yield useful items, but other times, it would not produce anything good.

In the Principal's office.

Ding Yue prompted an idea, pulled up his system panel, and found the [Level 2 University Treasure Chest] in his item column.

"Open the chest!"

Ding!

"Congratulations to the host for opening the [Level 2 University Treasure Chest], you have received a reward - [Internet of Things Core Technology] +1."

Upon hearing the system's prompt, Ding Yue was taken aback at first.

Then a smile gradually appeared on his face.

Because it seemed like the item opened from the [Level 2 University Treasure Chest] this time was not bad.

Internet of Everything!

This is a relatively advanced and cutting-edge technology that has been proposed, but so far no technology company has claimed to have realized "Internet of Things" technology.

The reason why the mature application of Internet of Things technology has not been realized so far is because some of its core technologies have not been fully resolved yet.

And Ding Yue just opened the [Internet of Things Core Technology] from this [Level 2 University Treasure Chest]!

This Internet of Things is related to the computer domain. Ding Yue thought to himself, this [Level 2 University Treasure Chest] itself was obtained by the Computer Department team after participating in the ACM competition.

"Internet of Everything..."

After seeing this technology opened from the chest, Ding Yue couldn't help but mutter to himself.

The Computer Department doesn't seem to have any projects of its own right now.

They have participated in the photolithography machine experimental project, and as for artificial intelligence, that's mainly handled by Xu Bin.

Shouldn't they give the other Computer Department students a chance?

The Internet of Everything, while not a black technology for the current science and technology but still an unspread concept, seems to be a good opportunity for the students of the Computer Department to practice.

"System, can this [Internet of Things Core Technology] I acquired be directly imparted to all students of the Computer Department?"

Ding Yue curiously asked the system.

Before, Ding Yue had always been imparting the technology obtained from the treasure chest or exchanged from the system mall to a few individuals or teams, but he had never tried to directly impart to all the students of a related department major.

"Insufficient authority!"

The system gave a reply.

A technology can be imparted to multiple teachers and students, but it doesn't mean that once it is imparted to these students and teachers, they will directly master this technology.

Endowing technological knowledge is merely a key to unlock the door to a new world; what lies within that new world still requires the one bestowed with the key to discover.

Those who are naturally gifted can quickly grasp the technology.

Take Xu Bin for example.

Ding Yue had bestowed Xu Bin with numerous technological skills related to computers. Due to Xu Bin's exceptional talent, he quickly and proficiently mastered them.

The Artificial Neural Intelligence Program is a prime example of that.

Aside from that, there were others like Tong Yihang, Liu Tiefei, Luo Peng, and Su Beilin from the mechanical department. After Ding Yue endowed them with photolithography-related technology, they—as talented students and teachers—also grasped the concepts quickly.

However, there are still noticeable differences between individuals.

The core technology of the Internet of Everything that was rolled out this time was prepared by Ding Yue so as to involve the entire teachers and students of the computer department. Hence, he thought of bestowing it directly to them.

However!

The system informed Ding Yue that he did not possess enough authority to implement this action.

"How can I obtain such authority?" Ding Yue asked curiously.

Situations like these would inevitably arise in the future, so understanding the process now was undoubtedly the best course of action.

"Host's Mist City Arts and Science University needs to be upgraded to Lv3, also known as 'Well-known', to unlock such authority!"

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue immediately fell deep into thought.

The level of Mist City Arts and Science University needed to be upgraded to Lv3, while it was currently at Lv2 or 'Minor Achievements'.

"If my memory serves me right, upgrading to Lv3 'Well-known' requires 5000 experience points, having been established for over a year, having won three university honors, and a national-level science and technology award!" Ding Yue muttered to himself.

Many of the upgrade conditions had already been met.

For instance, fame points could be converted into experience points, and the fame value that Mist City Arts and Science University had currently harvested was enough to convert into the experience required for several levels.

Also, the condition of having been established for over a year had also been fulfilled.

As for the three University Honors, Mist City Arts and Science University had already completed more than three such tasks.

In other words, the only thing left to upgrade to Lv3 'Well-known' was a national-level science and technology award.

However, obtaining a national-level science and technology award proved to be quite challenging.

Ding Yue had conducted research on this beforehand, and this national-level science and technology award referred specifically to the National Science and Technology Awards.

The National Science and Technology Awards were extremely prestigious, the highest honor in the internal scientific and technological research community of Xia Country, designed to reward citizens and organizations that had made outstanding contributions in the area of scientific and technological advances. The Xia Country government had established these five National Science and Technology Awards in total.

These five National Science and Technology Awards were the National Highest Science and Technology Award, the National Natural Science Award, the National Technological Invention Award, the National Science and Technology Progress Award, and the Xia Country International Science and Technology Cooperation Award.

As for the National Highest Science and Technology Award, it was practically impossible to attain, as only the most distinguished individuals or organizations in every research field of scientific technology in Xia Country could be awarded it.

The Xia Country International Science and Technology Cooperation Award was acknowledged for major contributions to international science cooperation.

This was also not currently attainable.

That left us with the remaining three awards from the National Science and Technology Awards, namely, the Natural Science Award, the Technological Invention Award, and the Science and Technology Progress Award.

The Natural Science Award primarily emphasized basic and application-based research fields, such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology, etc. It was mainly conferred on scientists who had made significant discoveries in exploring the phenomena, characteristics, and laws of nature.

The Technological Invention Award, on the other hand, was given to citizens who made significant technological inventions in products, processes, materials, systems, and other aspects.

Of the three awards, the Science and Technology Progress Award covered a wide array of categories, including technology development, societal benefits, national security, and significant engineering among others. It was awarded to citizens and organizations who made exceptional contributions in the completion of significant scientific and technological achievements, projects, plans, or in the propagation of advanced scientific and technological achievements.

If Ding Yue's Mist City Arts and Science University sought to win the national-level science and technology award required for the upgrade, they could consider the Natural Science Award, Technological Invention Award, and Science and Technology Progress Award.

However, trying to win these prestigious awards was just as challenging as climbing to the sky by way of the treacherous Shu Road!

#### Chapter 640: The First Batch of Early Graduation Ceremony

To win one of the three major awards of the National Science and Technology Awards, you have to make a significant contribution to the development of national science and technology.

Previously.

Ding Yue, together with Professor Zhou Wen, Professor Shen Congde, and Professor Wang Shangzhong from Jiangnan University of Science and Technology, developed the third-generation nitride gallium semiconductor material.

Although this nitride gallium semiconductor material plays a key role in promoting the development of the third-generation semiconductor material technology in China.

However, this technology is not exactly high-end and it only promotes some development of the semiconductor field domestically.

After all, the technology of nitride gallium semiconductor materials is somewhat mature abroad, so this technology only earns them some provincial-level science and technology awards, achieved by Ding Yue and the three professors of Jiangnan University of Science and Technology.

To win a national science and technology award, it still depends on the photolithography machine experiment project!

However, the photolithography machine experiment project cannot be completed smoothly in a year or half.

"The photolithography machine experiment project takes too long... I wonder if my sister's graphene mechanical exfoliation preparation machine can be used?"

Ding Yue suddenly thought of a technology that might be tried for the national science and technology awards.

That is the mechanical exfoliation preparation machine developed by his sister, Ding Xiaoyou, Luo Peng, and Tong Yihang before she began researching graphene battery technology.

This machine can efficiently produce graphene by mechanical exfoliation, greatly increasing the output and reserves of graphene.

And graphene can be used in a wide range of fields, it has a significant role in promoting the development of science and technology in various fields in our country.

Such an important thing.

Ding Yue pondered that it should be worth a try, right?

What if we're lucky and we really win the award?

So, Ding Yue made up his mind and called Tong Yihang and Luo Peng to his office.

Ding Yue plans to have them optimize the nearly completed graphene mechanical exfoliation preparation machine to achieve the best effect of exfoliating and preparing graphene.

Then they can use this technology to vie for one of the three major awards in next year's National Science and Technology Awards.

The graphene mechanical exfoliation preparation machine should qualify for one of the three major awards - the Science and Technology Progress Award.

After all, mechanical exfoliation of graphene is not an invention. The scientist who discovered graphene by mechanically exfoliating graphite won the Nobel Prize for it.

And now the graphene mechanical exfoliation machine is an important scientific and technological achievement which can promote the widespread application of graphene—"the material of the future".

Knock, knock, knock!

Just as Ding Yue was pondering this, there was a knock on the office door.

"Come in."

The visitors were Luo Peng and Tong Yihang.

"Principal Ding, you wanted to see us?"

When Yihang entered the office, he looked at Principal Ding and asked.

"Hmm."

Ding Yue nodded slightly, then got straight to business: "I called you here to have you further optimize the technology of the graphene mechanical exfoliation preparation machine. The school is planning to use this machine to apply for a major award."

"Principal Ding, what kind of award are you trying to apply for?" Luo Peng asked curiously.

"National Science and Technology Awards!"

Ding Yue slowly uttered these seven words.



When Luo Peng, Su Beilin, Tong Yihang and Liu Tiefei heard these seven words, they were all stunned.

"Principal Ding, the National Science and Technology Awards... it's the highest science and technology award in our country!"

Su Beilin said in disbelief.

"Let's give it a try. Think about it, our graphene mechanical exfoliation preparation machine, which realizes the high-efficiency method of mechanically exfoliating graphene, can fully promote the major development of graphene materials in our country. It's very important. Why can't we apply for the National Science and Technology Awards?"

Ding Yue elaborated his own idea.

"When you put it that way, Principal Ding, it kind of makes sense. In the future, the application of graphene will be extremely wide. What hinders the use of graphene materials now is the production method. The graphene mechanical exfoliation preparation machine we developed has cleared this bottleneck."

After careful thought, Luo Peng thought that Principal Ding's words made some sense.

This important scientific research achievement in the field of mechanical engineering is worth trying to apply for the National Science and Technology Awards.

Applying is one thing, whether you can finally win the award is another matter.

"Principal Ding, if we are to apply for the National Science and Technology Awards, we will have to wait until next year." Tong Yihang suddenly said.

"Hmm."

Ding Yue nodded: "So it's not urgent. You just take your time to perfect the graphene mechanical exfoliation preparation machine. Also, don't forget about the photolithography machine experiment project, okay?"

"Understood, Principal Ding. We have already resumed the photolithography machine experiment project recently. The first round of funds are expected to be exhausted before the Spring Festival. If we want to continue the research afterward, we'll need more funding, Principal Ding..."

As the head of the precision machinery manufacturing part of the photolithography machine experiment project, Luo Peng knew the best about the arrangement and use of funds.

Ding Yue invested 200 million yuan in the first round of funding for the photolithography machine experiment project.

This amount of money is astronomically high for ordinary people, and they may never earn this much in their entire lives.