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Sydney maths teacher Eddie Woo with Su Ron Tee, Erik Wilson, and Nadee Manchanayaka. Picture: Hollie Adams

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YouTube teaching pioneer Eddie Woo has been named as one of the top 10 educators in a global teaching competition that could see him bring home more than \$1.2 million.

At a time when Australia has been under pressure for student performances in mathematics and science, the Sydney teacher has been recognised as a global leader in the field for his viral maths lessons that have been viewed more than 11 million times.

Mr Woo, who was named Australia's Local Hero last month, now stands to win the Global Teacher Prize, established by London-based educational NGO The Varkey Foundation, for his WooTube videos.

The annual award, presented to an exceptional teacher who has made a measurable impact on their community, will be presented in Dubai next month.

The idea that secured Mr Woo a top spot out of 30,000 nominations from 173 countries came to him five years ago, while teaching at James Ruse Agricultural High School, in Sydney's northwest.

"I was told that one of my Year 10 students had been diagnosed with cancer and would have to take time out of school to undergo chemotherapy and radiation therapy," Mr Woo said.

"I decided to upload videos of my classes to YouTube so he would be able to follow along and learn at his own pace."

Propping his iPhone on a wooden stand he had knocked together in the school's woodwork room, Mr Woo began filming his mathematics class each day and uploading the videos to his WooTube channel for the student to access remotely.

The easy-to-follow videos featured Mr Woo scribbling furiously across his whiteboard as he decoded the seemingly impossible language of mathematics for his students with enviable ease.

Much to his surprise, WooTube went viral, students, parents and teachers from all corners of the globe tuning in to learn about everything from exponential functions and quadratic equations to complex logarithms.

Now the head maths teacher at Cherrybrook Technology High School, Mr Woo will fly to Dubai next month where he will meet the other finalists in the Global Teacher Prize.

"I never imagined other people would find my videos useful, but it just grew and everyone engaged with them," he said.

"No matter where you are or where you live, if you have access to education and learning resources there are no limits on what you can achieve."

Mr Woo is the only Australian to have made the top 10 teachers list this year.

His WooTube channel now has 200,000 subscribers.