

As a member of the Board of the Russian school Physics Olympiad I have known Ivan Ivanov since 1994, when he was in high school. His prominent knowledge of Physics revealed even then. He won 2nd diploma at the Russian school Physics Olympiad in 1994 and 1995 that allowed him to become one of the 16 candidates to, and later one of the members of the Russian team on the 27th IPhO in Oslo, where he was awarded Bronze Medal.

Among other winners of the Russian Olympiad Ivan took part in winter (two weeks) and summer (a month) sessions of candidates to the team in 1996. The sessions included advanced lectures on physics. Seminars devoted to theoretical problems and intensive laboratory courses were alternated with frequent rounds of problem solving contests designed to reduce the number of candidates from 16 to 5. Even though initially he had been placed sixth in our unofficial rating, his perseverance, purposefulness and diligence enabled him to enter the final membership of Russian team. During the time of sessions Ivan showed ability of quick perception of new ideas and using them in future, high intelligence and capacity for work.

For his great achievements Ivan has been admitted to MIPT without entrance examinations, where he continued working hard. His grades, despite very high requirements to students, were only excellent. He was awarded Soros grand and Eximer fellowship (The latter is given only to two students among 80). He has taken the third prize of Physics Olympiad among first-year students of MIPT in 1997 and second prize among all students in 1998 and 1999.

There is an established tradition that students who have won the IPhO in previous years work as instructors in the sessions of the succeeding IPhO teams. Ivan Ivanov is one of such students. Being the leader of the training team I highly appreciate Ivan's activity. Of course, guidance and experience of those who themselves have got through both these sessions and the IPhO are extremely useful in our work. Ivan has offered numerous theoretical problems and designed several labs which were used in training of the team. I hope that the time spent for the preparation of Russian teams gave him an excellent teaching practice.

Also I have to mention Ivan's participation as a member of the Board of the Russian school Physics Olympiad in 1997. He was responsible for conducting and grading experimental round among 9th-grade students. He showed great proficiency in managing with both equipment and students.

Working at MIPT for many years I can compare Ivan's abilities with those of other MIPT students. For the last 7 years I have been knowing several students like Ivan quite well. For example XX and XX (now they are graduate students at MIT), XX, XX and XX (Harvard), XX (Cornell), XX (Yale), XX (Princeton). All of them participated in the USSR Physics Olympiad and IPhO brilliantly, had extremely high intelligence, persistence and potential for future scientific work. I think that Ivan Ivanov and these students belong to the top 2% of MIPT students.

I'm deeply convinced that students displaying such talents as Ivan's, are able to study at graduate level successfully. Thus I strongly recommend Ivan Ivanov for further education at your university.

Sincerely,
Dr. Petr P. Petrov
Professor of Physics,
Deputy Chairman of General Physics Chair,
Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology,
Leader of the Russian IPhO Team.

141700, Institutsky p.9, MIPT Dolgoprudny, Russia.

Tel.(Fax) 7(095)555-55-55

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