Almost Three Decades of IOI in Iran

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Iran started participation in Olympiads in 1987 by sending a team to International Olympiad in Mathematics in Cuba. International Olympiad in Physics was the next and Iran joined in 1987 by sending a team.

In 1991, Dr. Yahya Tabesh was an observer in International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) in Athens, Greece. In 1992, Iran sent a team of four high-school students to IOI'1992 in Bonn, Germany (Fig. 1). Dr. Tabesh was the team leader and I was the deputy. Our participants got two silvers and two bronze medals which was quite good for our first participation.

Next year in 1993, I was the team leader in IOI'1993 in Mendoza, Argentina (Fig. 2). Our team obtained one gold (full mark), one silver, and two bronze medals. If we unofficially rank the participating teams based on the sum of the scores of the team

Fig. 1. IOI'1992, Bonn, Germany.

Fig. 2. Team of Iran students in IOI'1993, Mendoza, Argentina.

Fig.3. Team of Iran students in IOI'2000 Beijing, China.

members, our rank in IOI'1993 was 4th, which was our best such ranking until 2016, that we obtained two gold medals and two silvers and ranked 3rd.

Since 1993, we have participated in all IOI's, except in IOI'2004 in the US, and in IOI'2008 for the reasons of visa problems. So far, Iran has participated in 23 IOI's with 93 team members (IOI'95 in the Netherlands invited 5 mixed-gender members). and obtained 21 gold medals, 49 silvers, and 23 bronze medals (sums to 92) medals.

Graphs in the following figure (Fig. 4) depicts the number of participating teams and the unofficial rank of the Iranian team for each year.

IOI has had great impacts both on the high schools that work on sending kids to Olympiad camps and on universities that absorbs the IOI team members.

We have several rounds of competitions and camps each year to select our IOI team members. Usually 10,000 to 15,000 high school students in second and third grades par-
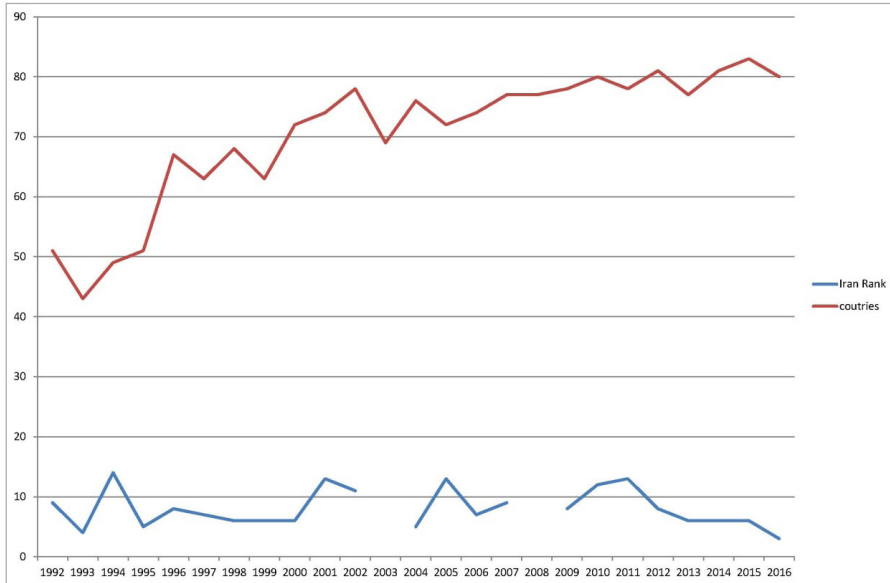
Fig. 4. Number of participating teams and the unofficial rank
of the Iranian team for each year

ticipate in the first round nation-wide exam each year. This exam contains about 50 easy
multiple-choice tests. The top 500-1000 of this exam go to a 2nd round harder exams
(both multiple-choice and written) from

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tee (1999–2000). Founder of the ACM/ICPC in Iran and director of
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ments Award in 2016 and ACM/ICPC, Asia Outstanding Contribution
Award in 2010.