

Cooperation in ACM ICPC Training Camps Organization

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In 2010 St. Petersburg University of IT, Mechanics and Optics (SPbSU ITMO) and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) organized three training camps for students together. The camps were held at ETH Zurich and coaches were from SPbSU ITMO. Each of the camps lasted for eight days (so, we called these training camps *trainingsweeks*) including one day of arrival, five working days, one day off and one departure day. Each working day consisted of a five hour training contest and problems analysis. On one or two days a lecture about problem solving on programming contests was also presented.

First trainingsweek was held on 16–23 March, 2010. Trainingsweek consisted of four contests and two lectures, seven ETH students participated in it, they were divided into three teams. Coaches were Fedor Tsarev and Maxim Buzdalov from SPbSU ITMO. Problems were from NEERC quarterfinals and NWERC semifinals. First training was personal; its results were used to divide students into teams. After that three days were team trainings and one day was a lecture day – two lectures (“Problem Solving on ACM ICPC” and “Contest Tips and Tricks”) were presented. Problem analyses were done only if requested by students; there were no slides for problem analyses. A local trainingsweek web-site was set up; test data and judges’ solutions for all problems were available for download right after the end of each contest. Problems were available for upsolving for two hours each day after the analysis.

Second trainingsweek was held on 05–12 June, 2010. Trainingsweek consisted of five trainings for teams, nine ETH students participated in it, and they were divided into three teams. Coaches were Fedor Tsarev and Maxim Buzdalov from SPbSU ITMO. Problems were from NEERC quarterfinals and semifinals. Problem analyses with slides were presented for all problems after each of the trainings. A local web-site similar to the site of the first trainingsweek was set up. Problems were available for upsolving for two hours each day after the analysis.

Third trainingsweek was held on 17–24 October, 2010. Trainingsweek consisted of five trainings for teams. Coaches were Fedor Tsarev and Andrey Stankevich from SPbSU ITMO. Students from three Universities took part in this trainingsweek: SPbSU ITMO (3 students, 1 team), ETH Zurich (8 students, 3 teams), Ecole Polytechnique Federale Lausanne (7 students, 3 teams). Problems were from Petrozavodsk training camps and from St. Petersburg high school team Olympiads. Problem analyses with slides were done for all problems after each of the trainings. A web-site available on the Internet (<http://neerc.ifmo.ru/trains/zurich/>) was set up, tests and solution were available for download only after the end of the trainingsweek. Upsolving was available round the clock via the Internet.

As a result of these trainingsweeks ETH Zurich team has won South-Western European regional contest for the first time in its history and has advanced to World Finals also for the first time in its history.

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