

## 2.6 Chairing the ISKE Conference Series (2006-2011)

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To promote international cooperation of the research on intelligent systems and knowledge engineering, Prof Da Ruan, together with Profs Etienne E. Kerre (Belgium), Guoqing Chen (China), Yang Xu (China), Geert Wets (Belgium), Jie Lu (Australia), Yongsheng Ding (China) originated the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Intelligent Systems and Knowledge Engineering (ISKE). It was based on the 4<sup>th</sup> bilateral project of international cooperation between China and Flanders which title is “Intelligent Systems for Data Mining and Information Processing: Methods and Applications”. It aims to cover the-state-of-the-art research and development in all aspects related to intelligent systems for knowledge engineering. The 1<sup>st</sup> ISKE conference was successfully held in Shanghai at April, 2006 and hosted by Donghua University, China. There were nearly 200 researchers, professors, and students from 12 countries and regions participating in ISKE2006 and communicating through a total of 16 regular sessions, 3 keynote lectures and 2 featured lectures.



*Prof. Da Ruan at the banquet of ISKE2006, Shanghai, China*

Now ISKE series conference has been evolved as an annual international conference. The current conference of ISKE2011 (Shanghai, China, December, 2011) is the 6<sup>th</sup> in a series of conferences on Intelligent Systems and Knowledge Engineering, following the successful 1<sup>st</sup> ISKE conference in Shanghai April 2006, 2<sup>nd</sup> conference in Chengdu, China, October 2007, 3<sup>rd</sup> conference in Xiamen, China, October 2008, 4<sup>th</sup> conference in Hasselt, Belgium, November 2009, 5<sup>th</sup> conference in Hangzhou, China, November 2010. In the meantime, the 7<sup>th</sup> ISKE conference has been planned in Beijing, China in 2012. Lots of researchers have participated in the academic event. Table 1 shows the statistics of submissions and accepted papers of ISKE conferences from 2006 to 2011.

During the process of preparing every ISKE conference, Prof Da Ruan helped a lot to make ISKE conference a success. He not only assisted on the preparation of the conference, *e.g.*, the notice for call for papers and invitation of PC members, but also took care of selection of accepted papers and the program of every ISKE conference. In addition, he worked hard with the local organization of ISKE conference on the issues of proceedings' publishing. Under his effort, the proceedings of the ISKE conferences were successfully published by IEEE press, World Scientific, Springer and Atlantis press. Papers in the proceedings of the past ISKE conferences have been indexed by EI or ISTP.

**Table 1.** The statistics of ISKE conferences

ISKE	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Submissions (Countries and regions)	198 (14)	797 (19)	549 (22)	152 (26)	317 (22)	605 (26)
Accepted papers (Countries and regions)	119 (12)	284 (16)	270 (19)	108 (22)	134 (19)	261 (23)

Prof Da Ruan carefully selected the keynote speakers for international series of conferences on ISKE. He tried his best to make the ISKE conference more attractive by researchers. Many distinguished professors, *e.g.*, Prof. Lotfi A. Zadeh (USA), Bo Zhang (China), Ruqian Lu (China), Ronald R. Yager (USA), Hans Juergen Zimmermann (Germany), Witold Pedrycz (Canada), Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier (France), Qiang Yang (China), Hugo de Garis (China), Jie Lu (Australia), Fuchun Sun (China), Zhi-Hua Zhou (China), etc, have been

invited by Prof. Da Ruan to deliver keynotes in ISKE conferences. He was very happy that their excellent reports benefited a lot for participants of ISKE conference from around the world.

These international series of conferences on ISKE were supported by many universities and institutes in the world, e.g., Southwest Jiaotong University, China, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre, Belgium, Tsinghua University, China, Donghua University, China, Xiamen University, China, Zhejiang University, China, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, Ghent University, Belgium, Hasselt University, Belgium, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, and California State University, USA. The international journals, including Knowledge-based Systems, Soft Computing, International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems, have published the special issues of ISKE conference, respectively. This is credited to the continuous efforts of Prof. Da Ruan.



*Prof. Da Ruan delivered a speech at ISKE2007, Chengdu, China*



*Prof. Da Ruan delivered a welcome speech at ISKE2010, Hangzhou, China*

However, he told his friends that “Though the ISKE conference had become one of important international conferences and had a significant influence on the research of future intelligent systems and knowledge engineering, we have put a step forward but still have a long way to go” at ISKE2010, Hangzhou, China.

He worked tirelessly for international series of conferences on ISKE until he passed away unexpectedly on July 31, 2011. His colleagues will continue his effort to make ISKE conference more successful, promote the study of intelligent systems and knowledge engineering in the future and make a greater contribution to humanity.