

4.5 A Personal Tribute to Our Dedicated Friend Da Ruan

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Dear Da:

It was on Monday, August 1st, 2011, that I received from our friend Prof. Tianrui Li the following heart-breaking E-mail message:

'Our best friend Prof. Da Ruan (Chair of FLINS and ISKE) suddenly passed away yesterday (Sunday, July, 31st, 2011)'

My young charming friend Da, first I did not believe it - how it can be possible with you because only a few days ago I received an E-mail from you, but subsequent phone calls and E-mail messages confirmed that this 'impossibility' is true!! Sadly, yes, our friend Da you have left this earthly home for your heavenly abode and we do not have any choice but accept this reality.

Da, perhaps you will recall our *first meeting* in July 1996 in San Francisco at the 13th IFAC World Congress (June 30 –July 5, 1996) and the *last one* this year again in San Francisco during the World Conference on Soft-Computing (May 23-26, 2011). During our first meeting you introduced to me your newly founded international research forum on Fuzzy Logic and Intelligent Technologies in Nuclear Science (FLINS) and the conferences under the umbrella of FLINS. Since then I have had the opportunities to actively participate in six FLINS (1998 *Antwerp*, 2000-*Bruges*, 2002-*Gent*, 2004-*Blankenberge*, 2006-*Genova* and 2010 - *Chengdu*) for presenting my research work and tutorials in the field of fuzzy logic and neural networks. These FLINS conferences gave me an opportunity to renew friendship with my many old friends, such as Prof. Dr. Etienne E. Kerre, Gent, Belgium, and make many new ones. During these visits to Belgium, I have had the very delightful opportunity of meet with your charming wife Greet, and two talented young sons Alexander and Nicolas as well.

*Dear Da:
 In your smile,
 we saw a glimpse of Applied Computational Intelligence!
 And your laughter
 used to warm our hearts with fuzzy joy!
 Still you are in our hearts and
 will remain so for ever.*

*You were the light of Greet's life, your charming wife,
 and two bright sons Alexander and Nicolas;
 I am sure they will always keep their path shining,
 the path of intelligence that you have laid down
 for them over the years.*

*You became the life guide for nuclear reactors
 through the mathematics of 'intelligent control' and
 the language of 'fuzzy logic!'*

*Da, you were the driving force behind the founding of
 'The International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems (IJCIS)', and
 Fuzzy Logic and Intelligent Technologies
 in Nuclear Science (FLINS) and,
 for your innovations in these fields,
 the international research community will always remember you.*

*Da, having a friend like you
 always brought a special joyous feeling in our breath!
 May the pleasure and joy of 'computational intelligence'
 that you have left with us
 may continue to be a driving force for the generations to come!*

*Da, now you are in your heavenly abode,
 but the seeds of 'intelligence in nuclear industry'
 that you have planted, will always give us some nourishing fruits.*

*Da, your smiles & teachings will always remain
 with us in our hearts and neurons!
 Dear Da, your fuzzy work will always give us some strength
 for the betterment of this technological world.
 In conclusion, Da, goodbye to your physical existence but
 not to your everlasting soul, smiles & teachings!!*

Your friend & admirer:

