

## 4.9 Eleven Meetings with Prof. Da Ruan

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From 2002 to 2010, I have met respected Prof. Da Ruan for 11 times in China, Belgium and France. Until now, the 11 times experiences of meeting Prof. Da Ruan are still vivid in my mind.

In the summer of 2002, I made acquaintance of Prof. Da Ruan in Southwest Jiaotong University, Chengdu, China. At that time, I was doing PhD research at Intelligent Control Development Centre, supervised by Prof. Yang Xu, just facing the challenges of writing and publishing academic papers. Prof. Da Ruan gave us lectures on how to write academic papers to help us get into state quickly. The second time I met Prof. Da Ruan during the spring of 2003 in Beijing, at an international conference in "Fuzzy Information Processing Theory and Applications". Prof. Da Ruan not only gave me a very suggestive guidance, but also guided the other young people attending the conference carefully. In the winter of 2003, I met Prof. Da Ruan again when I was attending the international conference "2003 China-France Conference on Sensory Evaluation with Smart Technology" in Shanghai, China, along with my PhD supervisor Prof. Yang Xu and my co-mentor Prof. Xianyi Zeng in France during my postdoctoral period. At that conference, I learned about the unique concept of intelligent information processing and Prof. Da Ruan's great consideration of young students. It was the third time when I met Prof. Da Ruan. When I was in my postdoctoral period, Prof. Xianyi Zeng, Prof. Da Ruan and I made a further discussion on a conceptual model of decision-making at Belgian Nuclear Research Center (SCK). In 2005, the international conference IMACS2005 was held in Paris, France. Because there were many Chinese scholars participating in the conference, Prof. Da Ruan has taken the role of translator and helped them quite a lot in communication with others. It was the fifth chance for me to meet up with Prof. Da Ruan. The sixth time I saw Prof. Da Ruan was when I visited his house in Mol, Belgium in 2005 and had a taste of delicious food he cooked to which I was very impressed by his cooking skills and his kindness. The next year, Prof. Da Ruan accepted my invitation to be a visiting professor and made a wonderful guest lecture in Southwest University for Nationalities where I was working. In 2007, I met Prof. Da Ruan again for the eighth time. At that time, he was the general chair for the international conference on "Smart Systems and Knowledge Engineering" held in Chengdu, China. His great efforts have made that conference very successful.

After the Wenchuan earthquake, it's the ninth time I met him in May 2008. The world is shocked by the huge casualties caused by the earthquake. According to the official announcement, the number of the deaths and disappearances was more than 80000. Now I still remembered that Prof. Da Ruan visited Chengdu according to the work plan, even though the earthquake just happened a few days

before. Influenced by the air traffic control and earthquake relief work, he could not do the teaching and research in the Southwest Jiaotong University and other places as usual. Then Prof. Yang Xu (being the Deputy Director of Sichuan Provincial Information Industry Department and being responsible for Supporting the Shuangliu International Airport Air Traffic) together with his students welcomed Prof. Da Ruan in a farm-house around the Shuangliu International Airport, and both of them had a deep discussion about earthquake relief and post-earthquake reconstruction. Even though the aftershocks and the situation were still unsafe, he insisted in working regardless of personal safety and did his best to support China's Sichuan earthquake relief. The next time we met each other was in Chengdu again in 2009, when he made an effort to help the cooperation between Southwest Jiaotong University, Southwest University for Nationalities and the universities in Belgium. At the same time, he proposed a professional report for the MBA students in Southwest University for Nationalities. The last time I met him is on the 9th International FLINS Conference on Foundations and Applications of Computational Intelligence (FLINS2010) held in Sichuan in 2010. The academic conference was created by him and had great international influence. As the general chair, he held a high-level academic conference successfully.

Memorizing our beloved Prof. Da Ruan, we can't believe his sleeping forever. At the same time, his pursuit of truth, serious attitude toward work, emotional ties to the spirit of our compatriots and overseas Chinese scientists made a good example for us. He will be missed and memories about him cherished forever!



*Da lecturing in Southwest University for Nationalities in Chengdu in 2006*