

4.10 To Da Ruan, Our Friend Forever

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Our academic cooperation with Professor Da Ruan began in 2004, when our mentor Prof. Yang Xu from Southwest Jiaotong University asked Professor Da Ruan to help us modify our research paper "Extracting a complex linguistic data summary from a personnel database via a linguistic aggregation of simple ones" which was submitted to Information Sciences. Professor Da Ruan accepted the invitation and helped to modify the paper word by word, meanwhile he also provided a lot of valuable advices. With his help and advices, the paper was quickly accepted by Information Sciences in a Special Issue. This is our first English scientific journal paper. Professor Da Ruan's knowledge and enthusiasm deeply impressed us. In 2007, we co-authored "Handling linguistic information over the internet based on a multi-agent system" in the International Journal of Intelligent Systems, where he put much effort to improve the quality of the paper in terms of writing and technical aspects and the paper was also published soon after. He has helped us to improve our English writing skills for scientific papers many times.

In 2006, Professor Da Ruan was appointed as Guest Professor at Xihua University when he came to our university for guest lectures. He deliberately left out the time to discuss with core researchers of our School of Mathematics and Computer Science to share the experience and skills in academic papers writing, research faculty-building and other issues. At the same time, he exchanged experience with the editor of the Journal of Xihua University on how to enhance the academic level of the journal. At this point, we built up strong cooperation relationship with Professor Da Ruan. On May 12, 2008, Sichuan Wenchuan earthquake happened, the first e-mail we received was sent by Professor Da Ruan. Just after the earthquake, Professor Da Ruan went to Chengdu to visit us and brought us great care and his support from different aspects which indeed made us feel much warm and grateful. In addition, every time of his visit, he brought us Belgian chocolates, we can feel his care and he is such a nice person with great kindness!

Mediated by Professor Xu Yang, in 2009 we published a monograph with Professor Da Ruan. For Xihua University, this is the first monograph in English. For this monograph, Professor Da Ruan invited me (Zheng Pei) to visit SCK in Belgium. During this one month visit, we discussed the manuscript's content and determined the framework of the manuscript. Professor Da Ruan polished the manuscript further in great details. Our monograph "Linguistic Values based Intelligent Information Processing: Theory, Methods, and Application" was published in December 2009 by Atlantis Press & World Scientific. In May 2009,

Belgium was slightly cool, but my heart was warm. Professor Da Ruan arranged my accommodation and welcomed me by nice Chinese food at home at the first day. Conventionally (all Chinese friends who came to Belgium, Professor Da Ruan have always invited them to his house for a meal). I went to Professor Da Ruan's house, saw the vegetables, fruit trees and the caged chickens in the yard. Indeed as Prof. Jie Lu from the University of Technology Sydney, Australia said, Professor Da Ruan's home is simply a farm yard, he was such a person who was both a knowledgeable scholar and who knew how to enjoy the beauty of life.

When we were looking forward to further collaboration with Professor Da Ruan, he suddenly passed away and left us, like a bright meteor in the sky to illuminate our hearts at the same time left us endless regret! When looked up at the sky, we always think which star will be Professor Da Ruan?