

## 4.22 A Cherished Memory of Prof. Da Ruan

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I came to know Da fifteen years ago in a very beautiful city, Prague when we both attended the 7th International Fuzzy Systems Association World Congress (IFSA 1997). It was my great pleasure to meet some Chinese colleagues, especially Da, in Prague as it was still relatively rare to see Chinese academics in Europe back then. At our first meeting, Da impressed me with his sunny and pleasant smile. After chatting with him, I was even more impressed with his kindness and generosity. Da graciously offered me a ride for sightseeing around Prague as he drove to the conference from Belgium. After learning that I was a doctoral student of Professor Hideo Tanaka, he commented that they share a great colleague and good friend, Professor Zimmermann and we belong to an extended academic family. He went even further to promise assistance whenever such a need arises. From then on, I always feel and cherish his brotherly care and support.

In 1999, I sent Da an inquiry email about the possibility of conducting postdoctoral research in Europe in case that I could not find a suitable position upon my graduation next year. He immediately responded with an affirmative answer. He was truly a gentleman who was always ready for helping others. This proposed trip did not materialize as I successfully secured an academic position at Kagawa University upon obtaining my Ph.D. degree in 2000. Nevertheless, I still greatly appreciate Da for his generous offer.

In 2001, I attended the 2001 European Operational Research Conference in Rotterdam. I brought him a bottle of Japanese liquor as a gift. He was very happy and mentioned it at different occasions for several years. Da was such a considerate man who always remembered what you had done for him, no matter how negligible it was.

In 2004, I experienced a nightmare while attending the 6th International FLINS Conference in Blankenberge: my suitcase was robbed around the Bruxelles-Central station. I lost virtually everything such as my passport, credit card, and wallet. Da gave me numerous invaluable help, and his remarkable care and kindness alleviated the torment caused by that terrible incident.

Recently, I had the distinguished pleasure to meet Da in several International Conferences on Intelligent Systems and Knowledge Engineering held in Chengdu (ISKE2007), Xiamen (ISKE2008) and Hangzhou (ISKE2010). We greatly enjoyed each one of these gatherings. We usually held parties with other Chinese friends and Da was always an incredible mood-maker. His enthusiasm, sincerity, wisdom and humor always created a perfect atmosphere for everyone to enjoy the party. At these pleasant gatherings, we shared academic ideas as well as life

feeling and experience. Such talks often continued beyond midnight and I have learned tremendously from him. Everything imprints in my mind and still seems to me as happenings yesterday.

The time I spent with Da was always blissful. I am deeply saddened for losing a most respectful friend and a caring brother. I cannot help shedding tearing in thinking of you. Da, I greatly cherish those sweet memories of you and will miss you forever. May you rest in peace.



*Prof. Da Ruan with Peijun Guo at the 2008 ISKE Conference, Xiamen, China*