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Hisao Ishibuchi
Southern University of Science and Technology
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Shenzhen, Guangdong, CHINA
Osaka Prefecture University
Department of Computer Science
Sakai, Osaka 599-8531, JAPAN
(Email) hisaoi@cs.osakafu-u.ac.jp

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Hisao Ishibuchi
Southern University of Science
and Technology, CHINA
Osaka Prefecture University, JAPAN

One Year in China



Since April 2017, I have been working in China. I live in an apartment on the university campus. When I moved to China last year, I knew only two Chinese words, “ni hao (hello)” and “xie xie (thank you)”. Surprisingly I have yet to learn any other Chinese words. I rely on my secretary’s help which I am very thankful for. My biggest achievement in China has been the success in my weight loss. I have lost more than 10 kg! I eat three meals a day at the university’s canteen. It opens seven days a week but only for five hours a day: two hours for breakfast, one and a half hours each for lunch and dinner. Due to this, my daily schedule is clock work around the canteen’s opening hours. Also the large and hilly campus lets me exercise regularly for my weight control too.

Recently I visited Xiamen for a conference. Three undergraduate students came to see me at the high-speed train station with a large name board (see the photo below). I enjoyed dinner and a one-hour metro ride to the conference hotel. Thank you to the student who brought back the name board to the university. On the last day in Xiamen, they took me to the train station and gave me some local cakes and nuts. One of the students spoke excellent Japanese. Her Japanese was much better than my English. When I received a phone call from her before meeting them, I thought that the call came from Japan. She was in Japan for one year when she was a high-school student. I was so impressed by her language learning ability while comparing it to my progress with Chinese after one year. Also the other student showed me her amazing photos of her hometown about 600 km north of Xi’an. She told me that she often enjoyed camel rides when she was a small girl. Next year, we will host the IEEE SSCI 2019 conference in Xiamen. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and those students again.

The feature topic of the current CIM issue is “Bioinformatics and Bioengineering.” This has been an interesting and challenging application field for CI techniques. I hope you will enjoy all of the articles in this issue.



With three first-year undergraduate students in Xiamen

Hisao Ishibuchi