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Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/MCI.2019.2901074

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## Cashless Society



As you might know, I am working for a new university in China. I live on campus, but my office is off campus. Numerous campus buildings are still under construction (see the photo below). I am excited about moving to a new building with my fellow CIS colleagues: Xin Yao, Yuhui Shi and Ke Tang. In the last two years, the number of faculty members of the computer science department has grown from 10 to 30. The university continues to create new departments every year. Everything is changing so fast. The sense of time passing is totally different from Japan.

Another large difference is the handling of cash. In Japan, I use cash every day. In China I rarely use cash. In fact, I have not paid by cash at all this year. I always use my campus ID card for restaurants on campus and my smartphone at convenience stores. Thanks to our IT technologies, my life is much easier in China than expected. However, when I saw a small boy in an elevator of my apartment, I started to reminisce. I started to think about some negative aspects of cashless societies. The boy looked very happy. He had some coins in his hand with a big smile. When the door of the elevator opened, he dashed to our convenience store. He reminded me of my good old times when I was a small boy. I still pleasantly remember when I used to go to my candy store with coins in my hand. We may lose these and other memorable experiences as we progress towards a cashless society for convenience and efficiency. I hope that computational intelligence will help us create a warm human-friendly society going forward.

The feature topic of the current CIM issue is “Computational Intelligence for Affective Computing and Sentiment Analysis.” Affective computing and sentiment analysis are hot research topics, which are indispensable for creating a human-friendly society. I hope you will enjoy all the articles in this issue.



My walkways and campus buildings under construction.

*Hisao Ishibuchi*

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/MCI.2019.2901075

Date of publication: 10 April 2019