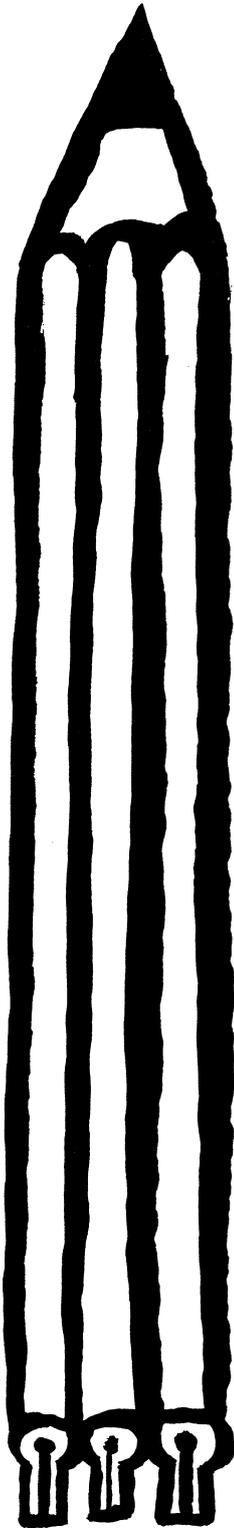


Dear Reader,

Three years have passed since I started writing this letter, during which our president was Luca. You probably know an exercise game (mostly for kids) called a three-legged race. We often say here like "we did a good job with three-legs." I am not sure if this phrase is also common in Europe, but it is particularly common in my country to express a close cooperation between two people. All supports given to me by Luca in the past three years made possible our collaboration exactly suited for this phrase. Thank you very much, Luca! He worried about possible too much interference in my editorialship and often asked me if he was going too far. No, no, I greatly appreciate his "interference," without which I am not sure if I could have done this job without big problems. (By the way, the team game itself, three-legged race and its extensions, is very popular here. There is even a national championship game for 29-people-30-legs race for high school teams. The idea is of course good teamwork which is an important base of this country. I was in Barcelona this summer and went to la Merce. Among others, Castellers (human towers) was especially impressive to me in the same idea.) I am not sending any specific message to our new president, but Paul, your interaction, interference, or whatever, if you want, would be always welcome and equally appreciated.

This is an October issue with a full of pieces including several reports of ICALP and EATCS matters. Regular stuff (technical columns, reports of several



kinds, PhD thesis abstracts, book introduction, etc.) is also rich as usual, my sincere thanks to column editors and all the contributors.

One thing I have been thinking is a possible enhancement of technical contributions in general. As you know, we have plenty of journals for publishing original results and the role of our Bulletin is probably different. Note that we have technical columns for surveys of wide range of different topics that are invitation-base. So, if a submission is a (good) survey, I can forward it to a most suited column editor. In fact I have done this several times, which were mostly successful. A possible challenge is to invite more original contributions that are of high quality but may not be very much suited to existing journals. One example is short but cute papers often appearing in, e.g., IPL (I was in its editorial board and came across quite a few such papers), giving simpler and easier-to-read proofs of existing theorems. Or I am wondering if we can even accept write-ups of already published results from a bit different angle emphasizing their basic ideas by the same authors. I would like to discuss with Paul about this matter as soon as possible.

We are heading for a cold and dark season (well, sorry, I am a bit biased, I mean for many of us...). I love this season for many reasons; one of them is of course, outdoors in snow. I hope you will also have a good holiday season and a very nice new year.

*Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto
October 2016*