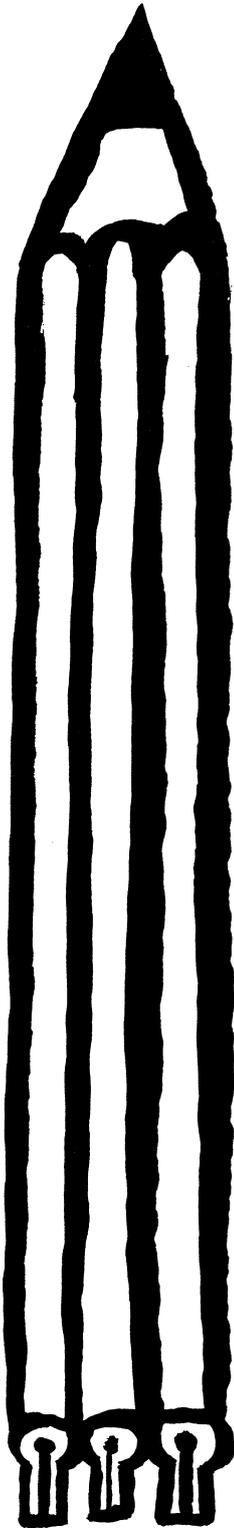


Dear Reader,

When I wrote this letter for the February issue, I just started my stay in Prague, when everything looked normal here; full of tourists and entertainers on the Charles Bridge. I am now finishing this stay; our flight back to Kyoto has been canceled three times already and I wouldn't be surprised if anything could happen to the current one, too. Thanks to the relatively early and comprehensive response to the Covid-19 by the Czech government, our damage seems to have been sort of minimum. Our daily life came back to normal (well almost) since a couple of weeks ago, but we didn't see yet the coming back of tourism the country heavily depends on. It's nice to see similar improvements in many European countries and I hope this momentum will continue in the rest of the year.

The Czech government shut down the country, including all schools, quite abruptly in mid March. Charles University immediately decided to shift to zoom classes. In the computer science department, a specific use of zoom was completely up to each instructor. Fortunately I had an iPad with me, so naturally ended up with connecting it to a Mac and using iPad like a black board. Since most materials could be written on the tablet in advance, it turned out to be even easier and more efficient, for both me and students, than real black-board classes. I was able to continue my teaching by canceling only one class and to finish the whole course as scheduled. I heard many cases in which both teachers and administrators suffered



from several difficulties, such as in too much work for preparation of teaching materials and in providing networking infrastructures in homes and/or schools. It's a good lesson to learn that we should not seek completeness or a unified approach all over the people involved, in such an unusual situation; speediness is more important.

I was prepared for a thin June issue in this pandemic. It's a wonderful surprise that we can publish roughly the same amount of articles as usual. Many, many thanks to the authors and especially to the column editors for their great job. ICALP 2020 will take place online; we have to give up in-person contacts that may be the most significant part of each conference, but I am pretty sure that we will be able to enjoy fruitful technical discussions even by exploiting an online meeting.

*Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto
June 2020*