My history with Prof. Yamada
Radomir S. Stanković

The history begins as follows. From August 1999 to October 2016, I was working part time at the Tampere International Center for Signal Processing (TICSP), at the Tampere University of Technology, Tampere, Finland, spending there at about half of a year each year, but still keeping my position at the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, in Niš, Serbia.

TICSP was established in 1997 as a Center of Excellence for research in signal processing, supported by Nokia and Finish Academy of Sciences. The idea was to gather researchers from abroad to exchange the knowledge and experiences, especially in some particular areas related to signal processing. The director of TICSP was Prof. Jaakko Astola, the Head of Signal Processing Department.

- http://ticsp.cs.tut.fi/index.php/TICSP.html

A part of activities at TICSP was publishing; at the beginning these were research monographs and workshop proceedings.

In this series of TICSP Reports, we prepared with Prof. Sasao, at that time with Kyushu Institute of Technology, Iizuka, Japan, and presently at Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan, and Prof. Astola, a volume *Publications in the First Twenty Years of Switching Theory and Logic Design*, TICSP Report #14, August 2001, ISBN 952-15-0679-2.

- http://ticsp.cs.tut.fi/index.php/Contents-Report-14.html

Soon after this report was published, I received a message from Akihiko [we call each other by our first names] expressing his interest, especially since there were included some publications by Japanese scholars. This is how we started communicating.

In May 2007, it was concluded that it could be good to start another series of publications at TICSP under the generic title *Reprints from the Early Days of Information Sciences.* The idea was to provide information about some early publications in other languages than English, which are forgotten or less know to the research community. The publications should contain reprinted original publications in original languages, for example, Japanese and Russian, and then translations into English with corresponding comments and links to the present research topics.

- http://ticsp.cs.tut.fi/index.php/Publications.html
- http://ticsp.cs.tut.fi/index.php/Reprints_from_the_Early_Days_of_Information_Sciences.html

The second publication in this series was the TICSP Report #40, *Reprints from the Early Days of Information Sciences, Contributions of Akira Nakashima to Switching Theory*, 2008, ISBN 978-952-15-1980-2. Since we were reprinting original publications or selected pages from them, there were copyright issues, sometimes complicated, since publishers changed the name or do not exist, etc. Then, I asked help of Akihiko in both resolving copyrights and checking and controlling what we are going to say, especially in the case of publications in Japanese. His support and help were enormous. Besides a lot of communication by mail and e-mail, Akihiko even went to visit in person some important officials to explain what we are doing and provide copyright granted.

- http://ticsp.cs.tut.fi/index.php/Contents-Report-40.html

Akihiko used to explain to me many details and focussed my attention to numerous particular details. Then, I started collecting his e-mail messages with comments. This is how the booklet Comments appeared latter. Such things cannot be found in a book, they are accumulated knowledge from different areas by a great scholar as Akihiko and for me this was a treasure. Thus, I keep all his comments and used them in the work.

Then, in 2011, I was preparing with prof. Astola a history book *From Boolean Logic to Switching Circuits and Automata*, Springer, 2011, 987-3-642-11682-7. This was a kind of experiment in the way of writing, we attempted to present the topics in a form resembling the information offered at the Internet. The reason is that after years of work with students, we see clearly that the way of gathering the information presently is completely different than in the past, even recent past. Thus, we wanted to approach to this by experimenting in the way of writing. We presented reprints of selected pages and provide a way of thinking which can be further developed by the reader. For any case, we provided a post script writing at the end of the book.

The help of Akihiko and also Prof. Sasao by numerous comments was very important and useful in all this work. Thus, we had more comments to collect.

In 2012, with Prof. Sasao and Prof. Astola, we were preparing the TICSP Report #65, *Contributions of Yasuo Komamiya to Switching Theory*, 987-952-15-3453-9.

- http://ticsp.cs.tut.fi/index.php/Contents-Report-65.html

Again, as usual, the help of Akihiko was very useful and important. This work was recently continued and resulted in the paper at Eurocast 2019, Remarks on the Design of First Digital Computers in Japan - Contributions of Yasuo Komamiya, by Radomir S. Stanković, Tsutomu Sasao, Jaakko T. Astola, Akihiko Yamada

In 2012, I visited Japan, and Akihiko was a great host to my son, who is also in the computing area as a former PhD student and at that time a post-doc at TICSP, and me, guiding us through the Technical Museum in Tokyo and presenting unforgettable talks about many parts of the expositions. Prof. Yamada had some projects with this Museum and then many things were open to him there. Akihiko was so kind that he carried with him across Tokyo some original parts of the first parametron computer giving me a chance to see and have in my hand these unique exemplars that he is preserving. From this visit, there are some photos that I included in the Comments including photos of Akihiko with a trolley bag he used to carry the parts of a parametron computer to show me. During a lunch, he provided many explanations about various Japanese dishes and he was joking that he retired four times. After retiring in an institution, he moved to another, and repeated this four times.

The last publication in the series of TICSP reprints is from 2016, *Early Work in Switching Theory and Logic Design in USSR*, 987-952-15-3786-8. http://ticsp.cs.tut.fi/index.php/Reprints_from_the_Early_Days_of_Information_Sciences.html#TICSP_Report_ussr

The Tampere University of Technology is now merged with the University of Tampere, the TICSP does not exists any more, and I am afraid that web page of TICSP will vanish soon, and then all this work for 12 publications in history of computing that are freely accessible will just disappear. But this is the present situation with this work in which I had opportunity to enjoy great support by Akihiko.

In the meantime, we become friends, which I very much appreciate. He used to send some of his wonderful photos of the Fuji mountain and similar landscapes that I am treasuring. The most recent message of him was on January 8, when he informed me that on his recommendation Akira Nakashima was elected as an IEEJ Denki no ishizue award candidate, and will be formally awarded on March 12, 2020 during IEEJ National Convention at Tokyo Denki University in Tokyo.