



Dear Reader,

I just came back from a 6-week stay at ETHZ. I have been to Zurich several times, but it is for the first time to stay this long. My apartment was a bit far from the campus and I commuted by wanking on Sihl River. The path on the bank is nice but shared with bikes. The ratio is something like one (pedestrians) to nine (bikes) and bikes are very fast, even scary sometimes. In a week or two after I started the commute, I noticed something strange in a traffic signal. That is at a T-shaped cross-street near the campus. I cross the horizontal part of "T" everyday, but the green light for me is not always the same; I occasionally need to wait much more time than usual. What I figured out was the tram on the horizontal street. If one is coming at a subtle timing, the green light for the vertical street is "skipped," the complete cycle for my side is gone. To be honest, this is the most impressive thing about the city. Of course I am not blaming their tram system, which is just great, probably No. 1 in the world.

Also impressive was the height of the ceilings in the CS building, which is about 6 meters high in the standard office! I didn't know but "high ceilings enable creativity" seems to be a popular idea in Europe. In fact high ceilings at least need some considerations: For instance, glass windows of similar height is impossible; in the case of the office I used, there are two stories of windows. Lights on the ceiling are too high, so ours hang, more than 2 meters down, from the



ceiling, etc., etc.

After I came back to Kyoto, I received an email from ACM SIGACT, which is about "the final report of the committee to address harassment in our community." See <https://www.ics.uci.edu/~irani/safetoc.html>. I have one thing to comment: At the end of the report, there is a list of conferences and organizations the report should be distributed. Unfortunately the list is limited to those based in North America and Europe, in particular Asia-based organizations are completely dropped. I talked to my colleagues and reached the agreement that we, ToC researchers in Asia, should have been more involved in this recent movement. I believe there must be issues specific to ToC/CS/Math communities in Asia.

Usually October Issues are thick. Unfortunately, this one does not seem to follow the practice very much. I have run call for submissions on a couple of active mail lists related to ToC. We know that we have a huge number of journals/conferences/archives out there and the role of our BEATCS is obviously different from that of those conventional ones. One possibility is abstracts of one's recent work that has been published or accepted for presentation. Our Technical Contribution section welcomes rather long abstracts (or "surveys" of their own work), which would be a nice publicity for young authors. Please encourage possible submissions of students/postdocs around you.

*Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto
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