



Dear Reader,

*This issue is the first one of BEATCS under the presidency of Artur. I am now starting to serve the third EATCS president, following Luca and Paul, my really greatest pleasure. I hope EATCS, and our Bulletin also, will be continuing its progress.*

*I have just read a NYTimes article about remote schooling in NYC. It is only about K-12 education: nothing is mentioned about a college education. However I think it is a good time to reconsider our university education, too, about the issue of remote classes. Of course, universities engage in both research and education, and for the latter, we have both undergraduate and graduate educations. So things are more complicated, but it is also true that we have a good number of universities and/or departments in there which depend mostly on lecture-style undergraduate education. I would not be surprised if some (high-ranking) universities would start an "e-schooling" course for half or even less tuition, after this pandemic.*

*It would benefit both universities and students. Universities need to provide a certain number of new courses, but probably need to hire very few new instructors; it appears ok that some of the existing professors are responsible for just one more class per week (for extra pay). Furthermore, they can repeat their lectures for in-person classes, so not a big load for them. Thus the extra cost for the university looks very small. Students also profit, who can save tuition, apartment costs, etc. and can manage time more*



easily for their part-time job. Some say exams are problematic. True, but I have already seen research on how to avoid cheating in e-exams. A simpler option is to use physical classrooms only in exams and e-schooling students can take the same test as in-person-class students. It might be interesting to see which performs better.

"Hybrid" is now not only for cars, but for our all activities, combining both in-person and remote ones.

Sorry, I am wasting space of BEATCS. But this Oct issue includes three articles in the Conference Report section, which are more or less about issues/experiences on holding remote meetings (including our ICALP 2020). I would prefer in-person meetings but these styles of virtual meetings will be getting more and more popular. Some of my colleagues say they want to hear just two or three presentations in a meeting, which will be available without a trip and almost for free, by remote meeting. Also, don't miss: This issue includes two regular columns; I liked both very much.

*Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto  
October 2020*