Dear fellow members,

My name is Rui Gu, a J@TS member from Dalian, China. I'd studied under the direction of Professor Kunihiko Higa at Tokyo Institute of Technology and received my Ph.D. in 2008. Then I returned to my homeland and resumed my teaching career at Dalian Maritime University.

Dalian is one of the most beautiful cities in China. She locates at the tip of the Liaodong Peninsula in North-East China. Dalian has a natural deep-water and ice-free harbor which promotes her ocean shipping business. The highest temperature in summer is usually under 30℃ and the average temperature in winter is around -1 to -5℃.

A lot of Japanese companies setup their branches or headquarters in Dalian. In consequence, Japanese is one of the most popular foreign languages. There are flights from Dalian to major Japan cities everyday. The direct flight from Tokyo Haneda airport to Dalian city airport is under planning. If it becomes true, s/he may fly to Dalian/Tokyo in the early morning and return in the late afternoon and leave enough intervals to do his/her business. The world of humans is getting smaller by faster transportation—while the world of individual is greatly widened by telecommunication. Supports and concerns from academy, public, private businesses, and government indicate telework a
promising and inspiring working style in the future of Japan. In China, some primitive types of teleworking are being practiced by many leading companies in software-outsourcing businesses, although the term "telework" is still new for most Chinese. In a word, telework has begun in China, but it is basically passive and not fully recognized.

My research interests include telework management and infrastructure, e-commerce, and mobile commerce. Currently I am especially interested in online communications. I have just started research on implementing instant messaging in enterprises and organizations. In my opinion, instant messaging has not been properly defined and implemented at enterprise level; therefore, it is generally regarded as the synonym of instant-messaging-based software and confused with many other communication tools. Telework is both a way and a target. To my understanding, telework related engineering is the way, and telework based management is the target. So you see, I am on the way.

I would like to have some words about my small wishes: I hope J@TS could accept credit card payment for membership fee. It is inconvenient for me to pay since I am not living in Japan now. Meanwhile, I strongly suggest setting up online forums and publishing e-journals, which I think is more suitable for a teleworking academic community than paper journals. I believe the journal of J@TS may attract more scholars, especially those from China, if it could be indexed by EI (Engineering Index / Compendex) or SCI (Science Citation Index). According to my experience of studying in Japan, these two indexes are perhaps not so important for most Japanese scholars. So I provide a little more information about these two indexes just in case you are unfamiliar with these indexes.

EI is published by Elsevier. It is a large comprehensive engineering bibliographic database with a long history. Please refer to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Engineering_Index for more details. SCI is owned by Thomson Reuters. It is famous of the impact factor which bases on citations. More information can be found from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_Citation_Index.

The wide coverage and rich content of EI attract universities and organizations to buy access to the database; and to be indexed by SCI usually means high quality of paper. On both accounts, papers are more likely to be read and cited by other scholars. As you might know, the easiest way to make a paper indexed by EI or SCI is to submit the paper to a journal that is marked as the source of these indexes. Unfortunately, J@TS journal is not in the source list. If you want J@TS journal to become a candidate, you could fill the recommendation form at EI or SCI (ISI) website. The more a journal is recommended, the more likely it might be indexed.

EI and SCI are helpful in evaluating the achievement of scholars in China. They are used as objective indicators to evaluate contributions and usually are the key for promotion. The large population and short history of national-wide higher education lead to the shortage of eligible teachers and researchers in China. Therefore, peer evaluation alone is not enough. The evaluation system for Chinese scholars has to adopt unbiased indicators to minimize partiality. In consequence, although imperfect, EI and SCI take on an irreplaceable role in China’s academy. I believe the strong influence of EI and SCI will last for a very long period of time.

Thank you for spending time reading this letter. I am sorry for writing in English because my Japanese is not good enough. But I think it is not a problem for J@TS members to read. Anyway, English is one of the official languages of J@TS, isn’t it? ☺ If you have any interest to contact me, please do not hesitate to send an email.

So long and best wishes for you all and our J@TS.

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This illustrates one of important parts of a ship. DLMU originated from a marine school, therefore we have representative items on ships. Many former students of DLMU are holding important positions in marine related companies and government department. So these carvings are part of their memories in school and are somewhat irreplaceable, although DLMU is now a large comprehensive university.

Teaching buildings in east campus. These buildings were built in 2003. They were built partly upon a former playground, only a few old and small buildings are torn down. The two campus was separated by a river, which has no water in most days year round. The west campus was built mainly upon unused/preserved land as a result of the expanding of DLMU.
The picture were taken on the university ship named "YuKun". My colleagues and I, together with some master students were on the quarterdeck of the ship. The background is the Dalian harbor. YUKUN is a new training ship for students of naval navigation and marine machinery related majors. It is 116m long, 6000 tonnage, completed in 2008. My teaching work does not related to the ship but the university will arrange students of my major to visit the ship every year. The longest voyage was from Dalian to Hainan Island of China, it was more than 3000 kilometers. As for foreign countries, YUKUN had visited two universities in Korea. A circumnavigation plan has been delayed by the unpredictable risks in Somalia area. But I think I do not have a chance to take the trip.

The university sports meeting was held in west campus every spring, usually in the middle of May. The 4 buildings with sharp roofs in the back were residential buildings outside of the campus (all other buildings visible in the picture belongs to DLMU). The price of family condominium of these buildings is about 7000-10000 RMB per square meters, but this was the price about 2 years ago. By now, the price is about 10000-15000 RMB. The rent is usually 3000-5000 per unit per month (60-100 square metres). The rent does not rise so fast as the price of the building.

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