I knew Prof. Da Ruan in 2007. At that time, Prof. Da Ruan was invited as a keynote speaker of 2007 International Conference on Life System Modeling and Simulation (LSMS2007) organized by Shanghai University. The conference was held on September 14-17, 2007, Shanghai, China. I was in charge of contacting keynote speakers as one of program committee members. I had many contacts with Professor Da Ruan by email. Prof. Da Ruan always replied me in time. Sometimes he replied me within one minute after I sent him an email. I felt he was energetic and was always working beside his laptop, which gave me a deep impression. Though he had not attended the LSMS2007 because of a conflict with another conference, he gave us a lecture titled “Lessons learned from computational intelligence applications in complex systems” on September 24, 2007 after the conference. Since then he was kindly engaged as an adjunct professor of Shanghai University because of his great achievements, talent and intelligence. The abstract of the lecture “Lessons learned from computational intelligence applications in complex systems” was as follows:

In recent years there has been a growing interest in the need for designing intelligent systems to address complex engineering problems. One of the most challenging issues for the intelligent system is to effectively handle real-world uncertainties that cannot be eliminated. These uncertainties include sensor imprecision, instrumentation and process noise and disturbances, unpredictable environmental factors, to name a few. These uncertainties result in a lack of the full and precise knowledge of the system including its state, dynamics, and interaction with the environment. Computational intelligent techniques including fuzzy logic, neural networks, and genetic algorithms etc., as complimentary to the existing traditional techniques, have shown great potential to solve these demanding, real-world problems that exist in uncertain and unpredictable environments. These technologies have formed the foundation for intelligent systems. An overview on computational intelligence in control and decision making for complex systems will be given over the last four decades. Some real-world cases on power plant operation, information-driven safeguards, cost estimation under uncertainty for a large engineering project, and decision support for long-term options of energy policy will be illustrated for the potential use of computational intelligence related techniques in complex systems. Essential steps on implementing computational intelligence related techniques in industry will be presented via R&D, demonstration, and commercialization. Challenges and future research directions will be concluded in this talk.
As an adjunct professor of Shanghai University, Prof. Da Ruan gave us a lecture titled “Elementary guidelines for preparing an SCI journal article” on May 20, 2008. Many master students, Ph.D students and teachers were fascinated by his wonderful lecture. He answered many questions that were a concern for all researchers patiently and carefully, which obtained a warm applause. His lecture was very helpful for many researchers to write a high quality paper. He also gave us a lecture titled “Intelligent decision analysis support under various uncertain information in perception based complex systems” on July 16, 2010. In addition, he was also invited by Prof. Fei Minrui of Shanghai University to make some informal talks. He proposed many useful suggestions for our conference LSMS2010. He created many chances and brought some cooperation between Shanghai University, China and Hasselt University, Belgium. He did a lot of work and contribution for Shanghai University.

The abstract of the lecture “Elementary guidelines for preparing an SCI journal article” was as follows:

Advancement in science and engineering is frequently tied to publication of research in refereed journals (e.g., SCI indexed ones). Only with journal publication, your contribution to a field is no longer informal. The validity, the originality, and the fine-writing of your work are the key successful indicators for your future SCI journal publications. This lecture will guide you some elementary rules for preparing an SCI Journal article.

The abstract of the lecture “Intelligent decision analysis support under various uncertain information in perception based complex systems” is as follows:

Humans have a remarkable capability to perform a wide variety of complex decision tasks under various uncertain data and/or information based on perceptions. Decision support systems (DSS) with such perceptions often involve the use of traditional mathematical tools and modern artificial intelligent techniques. Due to the potential difficulties of dealing effectively with perception based risk assessment and management, information (or data) obtained by any means will be of very different nature. It may be heuristic or incomplete or data that is either of unknown origin or may be out of date or imprecise, or not fully reliable, or conflicting, and even overloaded. To allow an adequate interpretation of the information and to reach a conclusion by both traditional mathematical tools and modern artificial intelligent techniques, an integrated intelligent DSS that is able to deal with various uncertainties in real time is urgently needed. Hence, it is considered advantageous to have a sound and reliable mathematical framework available that provides a basis for synthesis across multidimensional information of varying quality, especially to deal with information that is not quantifiable due to its nature, and that is too complex and ill-defined, for which the traditional quantitative approach (e.g., the statistical approach) does not give an adequate answer.

I am doing post-doctoral research in Belgium. Prof. Da Ruan ever told me that we could go to Shanghai together to attend the ISKE2011 conference which was held on December 15-17, 2011. He was also invited by Prof. Fei Minrui to have a discussion when he was in Shanghai during the ISKE2011 conference. However,