

# JCDCG<sup>3</sup> 2022 Opening Address Jin Akiyama

Thank you for attending for the 24th Japan Conference on Discrete and Computational Geometry, Graphs and Games (JCDCG<sup>3</sup>). We are very sorry that COVID-19 prevents all participants to gather in Tokyo, so the conference will be held online.

Stella Adler said,

“Life beats down and crushes the soul and art reminds you that you have one”.

Under closed daily life caused by the pandemic, has mathematics reminded you that you have creativity and imagination which enable you to act freely and fly anywhere in mathematical world?

In JCDCG<sup>3</sup> 2022, the plenary speakers are the following:

## Plenary Speakers

**Prof. Edy Tri. Baskoro**

(Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia)



**Prof. Erik D. Demaine**

(MIT, USA)



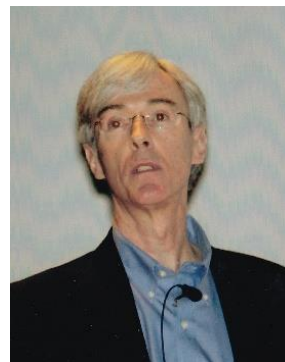
**Prof. Xueliang Li**

(Nankai University, China)



**Prof. Joseph O'Rourke**

(Smith College, USA)



**Prof. János Pach**  
(Rényi Institute, Hungary)



**Prof. Carol T. Zamfirescu**  
(Ghent University, Belgium)



Twenty five years, a quarter of a century, have passed since the 1st JCDCG was held in 1997. In cooperation with discrete mathematicians and computational geometers in Japan, the series of meetings was started. The purpose of the conference is to exchange our new results and share mutual idea in this research area.

The conferences in the series JCDCG<sup>3</sup> have been held annually except for 2008 and 2020. 2008 is the next year after the large scale conference in Kyoto. The members of the organizing committee had no energy for JCDCG 2008. Due to the pandemic, TJCDCG<sup>3</sup> 2020 in Chiang Mai was postponed to the next year. The places where meetings were held are Tokyo 12 times, Kyoto (2007, 2015), Kanazawa (2009), Abashiri (2006) in Japan, and Manila (2001, 2018), Bandung (2003), Tianjin and Xi'an (2005), Dalian (2010), Bangkok (2012), and Chiang Mai (2021, online). Since 1997, the total number of participants is over three thousand and post conference proceedings have been published by LNCS, CGTA, G&C, JIP and TJM.

After 25 years, we miss the fellow mathematicians who contributed significantly to JCDCG<sup>3</sup>. In Japan our departed colleague is thought to be still with us if we remember and talk about happy memories of them. We never forget the wonderful times spent with them. We would like to especially thank seven late researchers and recall them:

Gisaku Nakamura, Frank Harary, Jiří Matoušek, Godfried Toussaint, Michel Deza, Narong Punnim, Ferran Hurtado

## Prof. Gisaku Nakamura

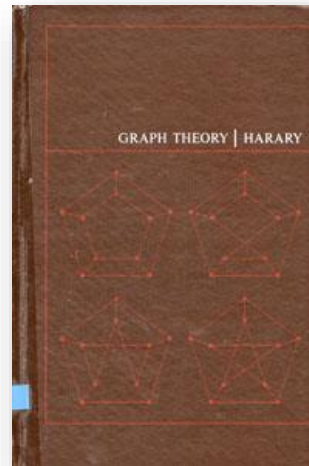


★ He was an all-rounder in mathematics and had a detailed knowledge of number theory, probability theory, statistics, graph theory, geometry, and particularly games and mathematical puzzle. He was known by the name of Japanese Martin Gardner.

★ He made it a principle to read the originals, for example, theses of Gauss in German, Pontryagin in Russian, Poincaré in French and so on. He did so because he thought that coming in touch with the original ideas of discoveres is much more important than just mastering the latest theories in a refined style.

★ He went his office by motorbike, even when he was around 80 years old. He often grilled fish in his office in the university for his lunch and sometimes caused a commotion since fire alarms in the building would go off. It is one of the memories dear to me.

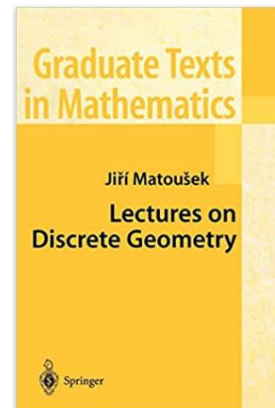
## Prof. Frank Harary



- ★ Frank was called an ambassador of graph theory and he spread graph theory all over the world. He published about 600 papers on graph theory. His motto was “Another day, another paper” .
- ★ The standard text on graph theory, “Graph Theory”, was one of his works and it was translated into many languages (I am one of those who was led to graph theory by this book). He was also known for founding the JCTB with W.T.Tutte, and the JGT.
- ★ He was a practical-minded person. The university cafeteria offered as much as one can dish up on a plate for a standard charge. Whenever he had lunch there, he heaped up so much food on his plate that every eyewitness burst into laughter! And Frank always demanded me to do the same, so my dish was also heaped up and I was very embarrassed.



## Prof. Jiří Matoušek

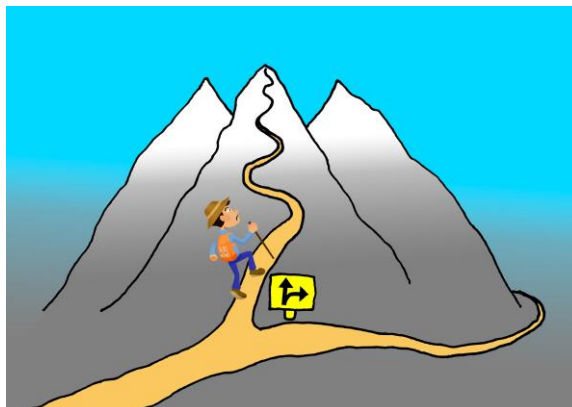


★ Jirka was a mathematician, computer scientist and full professor at Charles University, Prague, and ETH Zurich.

★ He was also an active writer and published eight books, including "Invitation to Discrete Mathematics" with Jarik Nešetřil (1998), "Lectures on Discrete Geometry" (2002), and "Thirty-three miniatures" (2010): those books have been translated into Japanese.

★ I heard the following episode from Yoshio Okamoto:

Jirka liked to spend his summer semesters in Switzerland, and liked to hike in the Swiss mountains. Whenever there are choices of hiking trails, he tended to select a challenging one.



## Prof. Godfried Toussaint



- ★ Godfried loved music with all his heart. He led the band called “Algorithm” and played the drums.
- ★ Yasuko Matsui studied at McGill University for a period of time and she told me the following anecdotes. On the door of his office he put up a poster of his band. His drum-playing was as professional as his mathematics. She experienced the sight of his playing the drum at a campus festival as a dramatic scene in a film.
- ★ At the food court one day, someone asked him to act as a model for a luxury retirement homes. Yasuko guessed it is because he was a fine gentleman with graying hair.



## Prof. Narong Punnim



- ★ Narong had perfect attendance in JCDCG<sup>3</sup> from 1997 to 2015. He was the Co-chair of TJJCCGG with Wanida Hemakul (The Thailand–Japan Joint Conference on Computational Geometry and Graphs) 2012.
- ★ He was given a royal decoration from The king Rama 10 (on behalf of the king Rama 9), since he contributed a lot to the math society in Thailand.
- ★ Narong was always the idol of his students, especially girls.



## Prof. Ferran Hurtado



★ Ferran had a very varied career. He was a painter before he became one of the leading mathematicians in Spain.

★ When he first came to Japan, he lost his passport and wallet. The staffs in the office of JCDCG were thrown into utter confusion. My secretary went to the office of American Express in a suburb of Tokyo to report a loss and prevent the usage of his credit card. Ferran bought a bouquet of cluster-amaryllis and he gave it to her as a token of his gratitude. A cluster-amaryllis looks very lovely, but most Japanese associate it with flowers in cemeteries. She wore an expression showing her mixed feelings.





## Prof. Michel Deza



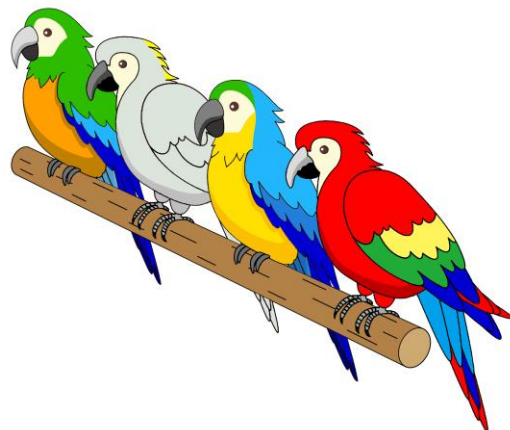
★ My friendship with Michel dates back to 1980. Over the 40 years, there were many occasions to meet him in conferences in Asia and Europe on my visits to Paris and his visits to Tokyo.

★ Antoine, his son, is a frequent speaker in JCDCG<sup>3</sup>, Michel himself may not have given lectures in JCDCG<sup>3</sup> conferences; Michel had often visited the conference venue and spent time drinking and eating with us.

★ Whenever I visit him in Paris, I stayed in his house. He had four big parrots in his house. They squawked loudly every morning so that I felt as if I was in a tropical island. And they spoke in three different languages in one sentence (French, Russian and English) because their master Michel did so.

Nous sommes birds, Spasibo  
(Спасибо).

We love chanter, Khorosho  
(хорошо).



In JCDCG<sup>3</sup> 2022, the following members will work for the organizing committee and / or the program committee.

## Program Committee:

**Wanida Hemakul** (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

**Takashi Horiyama** (Hokkaido University, Japan)

**Hiro Ito** (UEC, Japan; Chair)

**Mikio Kano** (Ibaraki University, Japan)

**Michael Lampis** (Universite Paris Dauphine, France)

**Stefan Langerman** (ULB, Belgium)

**Chie Nara** (Meiji University, Japan)

**Yoshio Okamoto** (UEC, Japan)

**Hiroataka Ono** (Nagoya University, Japan)

**Kenta Ozeki** (Yokohama National University, Japan)

**Toshinori Sakai** (Tokai University, Japan)

**Shin-ichi Tokunaga** (Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan)

**Ryuhei Uehara** (JAIST, Japan)

**Aaron Williams** (Williams College, USA)

## Organizing Committee:

**Hiro Ito**

(U. Electro-Communications, Japan)



**Mikio Kano**

(Ibaraki University, Japan)



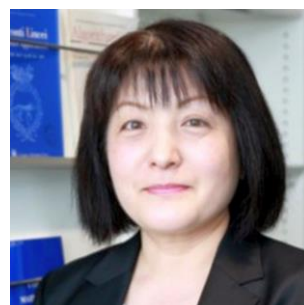
**Takako Kodate**

(Tokyo Woman's Christian  
University, Japan)



**Yasuko Matsui**

(Tokai University, Japan)



**Atsuki Nagao**

(Ochanomizu University, Japan)

**Toshinori Sakai**

(Tokai University, Japan; Chair)

**Akifumi Sako**

(Tokyo University of Science, Japan)

**Xuehou Tan**

(Tokai University, Japan)

**Shin-ichi Tokunaga**

(Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan)

