GUEST EDITORIAL

Editorial note

Gerard J. Chang · Hung-Lin Fu · Xuding Zhu

This special issue consists of a selection of papers arising from the CTS Conference on Combinatorics and its Applications in honor of Frank K. Hwang's 65th birthday. The conference was held in the Department of Applied Mathematics, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, on May 19–21, 2005.

Frank made important contributions to a number of areas in combinatorics and its applications including combinatorial designs, graph theory, networks, computation biology, group testing, Steiner trees and optimization. The highlight of his research dated back in 1992 when he and Dingzhu Du proved the Gilbert-Pollak Conjecture on Steiner Trees. Besides publishing many notable papers, he also holds ten patents on communication networks and has been an editor for a couple of publishing companies and several research journals. Currently, he is a Chair-Professor of National Chiao Tung University.

In this conference, many outstanding researchers, including his coauthors, friends and students, take part in contributing talks at the conference and research work to the proceedings. Therefore, we hope that this issue, though covers only a few of the areas mentioned above, is a fitting tribute to honor Frank's 65th birthday.

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<div align="right">Guest editors</div>