Maciej Koutny 60: Congratulations!

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Abstract. This Festschrift celebrates Maciej Koutny's 60th birthday in September 2018. I'm very happy to contribute to this wonderful event and I would like to congratulate Maciej and thank him for his scientific achievements, service to the community, and friendship. In this brief contribution, I reflect on his career from two angles: (1) research in Newcastle and (2) service to the Petri net community.

1   Petri Net Research in Newcastle

Thirty-three years ago (i.e., in 1985) Maciej Koutny joined the Computing Laboratory of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne to work as a Research Associate. He was the key person to turn Newcastle into stronghold for Petri net research. In 1986, Maciej became a lecturer and later got a readership position. Since 2000, Maciej Koutny is a Professor of Computing Science in the School of Computing at Newcastle University. Maciej belongs to a generation of smart scientists that moved from eastern Europe (Poland, Russia, Roemania, etc.) to western Europe.

Maciej worked on concurrency and formal methods, often using Petri nets as a representation. He was one of the key persons in the development of Petri net algebra, opacity of transition systems, priorities in nets, net unfoldings, box algebra, and framed temporal logic programming. He greatly contributed to a better understanding of the relationship between temporal logics, Petri nets, and process algebras and studied Petri net based behavioural models of membrane systems.

DBLP shows about 100 conference and workshop papers and around 80 journal papers covering the areas mentioned above. Maciej collaborated with many scientists all over the globe, these include Jetty Kleijn, Ryszard Janicki, Marta Pietkiewicz-Koutny, Lukasz Mikulski, Raymond Devillers, Victor Khomenko, Hanna Klaudel, Alex Yakovlev, Eike Best, Grzegorz Rozenberg, and many others.

2   Supporting and Leading the Petri Net Community

Next to his research efforts, Maciej played and still plays an important role in the Petri net community. He is the chair of the Steering Committee of the International Conferences on Application and Theory of Petri Nets and Concurrency. He followed in the footsteps of Kurt Jensen and Grzegorz Rozenberg. He is also the editor-in-chief of the LNCS Transactions on Petri Nets and Other Models of Concurrency (ToPNoC). He chaired ICATPN'01, ACSD'08, CHINA'08, MeCBIC'10 and CONCUR'12 and was

co-director of the 5th Advanced Course on Petri Nets held in 2010. In 2001 the Petri net conference took place in Newcastle.

In 2011, the Petri net conference was planned to take place in Kanazawa, Japan. However, due to Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, and the tragic events that followed, the conference had to be relocated. Maciej decided to bring the conference to Newcastle upon Tyne for a second time and organized a wonderful event despite the short time to prepare. This shows great leadership and commitment to the community.

I would like to thank Maciej for his great work in supporting and leading our wonderful Petri net community and I'm looking forward to host the next Petri net conference in Aachen in June 2019.