

Editorial: Memorabilia of the establishment and development of grey system theory (1982–2021)

In 1982, Professor Julong Deng has published the first paper on Grey System Theory in *Systems and Control Letters*.

In 1984, the first national academic conference on grey system theory and applications which was chaired by Professor Julong Deng was held in Taiyuan.

In 1985, Wuhan grey system consulting department was established.

In 1985, Professor Julong Deng has published the first book on *Grey System Theory* by National Defense Industry Press (in Chinese).

In 1986, the course of grey system theory is included in the postgraduate training plan at both Huazhong University of Science and Technology and Henan Agricultural University.

In 1987, Wuhan (National) Grey System Research Association in which Professor Julong Deng served as the president was established.

In 1989, the first Journal of “*The Journal of Grey System*” which was edited by Professor Julong Deng was released by “Research Information Ltd” in the UK.

In 1990, a research direction for training doctoral students in the field of grey system theory has been set up at system engineering discipline of Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

In 1991, the grey system research office which Professor Julong Deng served as the director was established in the automation department of Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

In 1996, the 9th National Grey System Academic Conference attended by scholars from both sides of the Taiwan Strait was held in Wuhan.

In 1997, the Regional Grey System Society of Taiwan was established.

In 2000, with the approval of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics has established a doctoral degree authorization point for management science and engineering in which grey system theory is listed as the first leading research direction.

In 2000, Institute for Grey Systems Studies was established at Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

In 2002, the first Doctor’s Forum on Grey System Theory was held in Nanjing.

In 2004, both the number of publications on grey system theory and the number of citations of IGSS at NUAA are ranked No.1 in Web of Science.

In 2005, the Grey System Society of China, CSOPEM, was approved by the Chinese Association for Science and Technology and Ministry of Civil Affairs, China.

In 2006, for the first time, the national grey system academic conference was supported by China Higher Science and Technology Center in which Professor Tsung-Dao Lee served as the director.

In 2007, the first IEEE International Conference on Grey Systems and Intelligent Services was held in Nanjing.

In 2007, the Technical Committee of IEEE SMC on Grey Systems was established.

In 2008, the course of grey system theory of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics was rated as a national excellence course.



In 2009, Xuesen Qian, the first winner of the National Highest Science and Technology Award of China, sent Professor Sifeng Liu and Dejin Song a letter to encourage their research work.

In 2010, the team with Professor Sifeng Liu as the chief expert was rated as a national excellence teaching team of China.

In 2010, the Journal of “Grey Systems: Theory and Applications” which was edited by Professor Sifeng Liu was launched by Emerald Group in the UK.

In 2012, the course of grey system theory of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics was selected as a national excellence sharing course of China.

In 2012, the first Workshop of European Grey System Research Collaboration Network chaired by Professor Yingjie Yang was held at De Montfort University.

In 2013, Professor Julong Deng, the founder of grey system theory, passed away.

In 2013, the 2013 IEEE International Conference on Grey Systems and Intelligent Services was held in Macau.

In 2013, Professor Sifeng Liu was selected for a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship (FP7- PEOPLE- IIF-GA-2013-629051) of the European Union.

In 2014, an international network project entitled “Grey Systems and Its Applications” (IN-2014-020) directed by Professor Yingjie Yang was funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

In 2014, a book series of *Grey Systems* in Chinese which was edited by Professor Sifeng Liu was launched by Science Press.

In 2015, the International Association of Grey System and Uncertain Analysis (GSUA) was established.

In 2015, the first International Congress of GSUA was held in Leicester, UK.

In 2017, Polish Scientific Association of Grey Systems in which Dr. Rafał Mierzwiaik served as the founding president was set up.

In 2017, the 2017 IEEE International Conference on Grey Systems and Intelligent Services was held in Stockholm, Sweden.

In 2017, the book *Grey System: Theory and Application*, which was authored by Prof. Sifeng Liu and published by Science Press, is identified as the No.1 top cited books in the pandect of natural science of China.

In 2017, Professor Sifeng Liu has been selected to be one of the top 10 shortlisted promising scientists in the MSCA 2017 Prizes.

In 2018, the course of grey system theory of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics was selected as a national excellence online open course.

In 2018, Grey Systems Society of Pakistan was established.

In 2019, Turkish Association of Grey Systems Theory in which Professor Erdal Aydemir served as the founding president was established.

In 2019, the 2019 International Congress of GSUA was held in Bangkok, Thailand.

In 2019, Angela Dorothea Merkel, then German Chancellor, praised Professor Julong Deng, the founder of grey system theory, and Professor Sifeng Liu, a developer of grey system theory.

In 2020, the 2020 International Congress of GSUA was held in Nanjing.

In 2020, the course of grey system theory of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics was selected as a national first class offline course.

In 2020, the course of grey system theory of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics was selected as a national first class online course.

In 2021, a book series of *Grey Systems* which was edited by Professor Sifeng Liu was launched by Springer Nature Group.

Sifeng Liu