

Dr Franco Nori
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 Wako, Saitama, Japan

Dear Prof. Nori,

When I was visiting the University of Michigan in the USA in 2001, you offered me the opportunity to join a new research group that you were going to start at RIKEN. Actually, I had never expected to work in Japan before your suggestion, but after arriving at RIKEN, I liked it very much. The green and peaceful campus impressed me. Particularly, when the many cherry blossoms on campus were in full bloom, I was astonished by their beauty. I had never seen before so many pretty flowers in one place.

In addition to its attractive and peaceful campus, RIKEN is also doing great research in many areas of science. In fact, it has attracted top scientists, and I was fortunate to join one of them there. Though I was the first member in your group at that time, I did not feel lonely, because I could often discuss with you and other top visiting scientists you invited. Because of that exciting international environment around me, with many seminars involving heated and insightful discussions, I extended my initially planned one-year stay at RIKEN to nearly three years. Indeed, this allowed you and I to complete several projects on quantum information processing with superconducting circuits. Also, I witnessed the growth of your group from a small team to an internationally famous research center on superconducting quantum computing.

In 2004, after I became a professor at Fudan University in Shanghai, China, I visited your group on several occasions, sometimes with one of my students. This helped my group at Fudan to attract smart students because there were not so many opportunities there to study abroad. Moreover, these visits also helped me produce important academic results, including our highly cited feature article in *Physics Today*.

My collaboration with you is the longest for me, started over 20 years ago, and also the most fruitful one. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to have worked with you over the past two decades, and I look forward to visiting your group again.

Best regards,

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