

14 December 2022

Dear **iarigai** Member,

What a relief! As far as Corona is concerned, we are now almost back to normal.

In September 2022 we had our annual conference in Greenville S.C., USA, organised by Clemson University (thanks again to the great Clemson team!), without feeling any major impact of the pandemic. Hopefully it will stay that way.

It was again a joint iarigai/IC event, and it works so well that we look forward to organising at least the next two annual conferences in this way.

The iarigai board meeting was held in Wuppertal, Germany, in November. We left the meeting impressed by what a beautiful venue it will be and with the level of dedication of the organisers, we can expect an excellent conference in September 2023. Just think of the world famous and unique suspension railway in Wuppertal. A ride on it is a must!

As each of us experiences today - rising prices, high inflation - austerity measures are coming more and more into focus. In 2022, the financial result of our organisation was a slight loss, but the outlook is not too bad, and we have initiated measures to reduce expenses further.

Our journal is also improving visibly. Although we could clearly have more contributions (please advertise for it in your network!), we are gaining recognition in the scientific world.

My very special thanks go to the iarigai 'activists' who do not operate so much in the limelight but more in the background. First of all, Branka Lozo, the Secretary General, whom I would like to thank for her tireless work in running the organisational business, and of course, Gorazd Golob for compiling and editing the conference proceedings and our journal supported by Markéta Držková.

Finally, as every year, I would like to extend my best Christmas greetings to you, all iarigai members and friends, and we all look forward to hopefully seeing you again before or at the latest at the 49<sup>th</sup> iarigai conference in Wuppertal in September 2023!

*Gunter Hübner*  
President of **iarigai**