

I was really surprised to discover that Yuri will celebrate today his 70th birthday. It is a long time that we know each other, working together in T2K. I was considering him much younger not only because of his physical aspect but for his energy and enthusiasm. This was particularly true during this last year, when despite the pandemic Yuri led, with the strength of a young researcher, the design and the construction of an innovative detector (SuperFGD) that will be a key element in the upgrade of T2K.

Yuri loves Italy and we were always happy to invite him in particular in my region Puglia that he visit several times. The last time was in June 2019 for WIN2019. As chairman of the conference it was a pleasure for me to host him.

I am convinced that Yuri will continue to surprise us in the future with new scientific achievements. So I profit of this opportunity to invite him already now to join NOW2022 next year to spend some great time together!

