SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY
COL. A. BALASUBRAMANIAN

To the Seventh Annual Conference of the Society on 12th March '72
at the Homi Bhabha Auditorium, TIER, Bombay

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it a great privilege indeed to address you this evening as the President of the Computer Society of India and add my word of welcome to Prof. M. G. K. Menon and other distinguished guests and delegates to this, the Seventh Annual Convention.

2. This Society has been holding these annual conventions at various cities in the country, the choice of the venue being dictated by the developed state of computer activities in that region or the potential for further growth of such activities. Having gone around the country the society's choice of Bombay as the venue this year has been dictated by considerations different from those of the earlier conventions. The City of Bombay is perhaps the one City in India which makes the most impression on you without your making the least impression on the City. This is also true in a limited sense with regard to the growth of Computer activities here as compared with the rest of the country. This inauguration is significantly taking place in the portals of the Institution that was the pioneer in indigenous design of computers in the country. The TIFR AC Computer and also houses the largest computer system that has helped in supporting computational activities in the first decade of large scale computer usage in the country. In the matter of usage of computers in Management this city has been very much in the lead, and the Design and Development agencies, the institutions that teach computer technology and computer based management sciences, the manufacturing agencies, active consultancy groups - all these have contributed to the charm which this multifaceted city holds to the computer scientists who are assembled here for this convention.

3. The Convention Committee whilst planning for the coverage had adopted the theme “Challenges of Computerisation - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow” for this Convention. Whilst one can let the problems of yesterday slip by as bygone excepting to draw any lessons for the future, the Convention Committee perhaps did not anticipate the fourteen day war that intervened with the holding of our
convention as originally scheduled in end of December 1971. This war even more significantly, has merged the problems and challenges of tomorrow into those of today and calls for considerable shifts in our National priorities. A reformulation of our means and methods for tackling the problems is now called for. The accent on “Self-sufficiency” which is the topic for the panel discussion at this conference may well now be adopted as the theme of this conference.

EVENTS OF THE LAST YEAR

Technical Conferences

6. Some of the events of significance abroad in the field of computer sciences in the last year have been the Jerusalem Conference on information technology of August 1971 and the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Congress and exhibition held in Yugoslavia in August, 1971. The former conference was concerned with the use of information technology in accelerating development of developing countries. The proceedings at the conference highlighted some of the problems we are currently faced with in our countries, some sources at an operational level are by extending the depth of computer systems awareness developed in the last decade, by catalyzing indigenous capabilities in Hardware and Software Design to meet the national requirements, and by improved applications to science, engineering management and by adopting advanced techniques as Timesharing and Teleprocessing. The exhibition at the IFIP Congress, reported to us, was a pointer to the growing state of technological development in computer systems and peripherals in a number of countries particularly in Europe. I am sure these aspects would be further highlighted, during this convention by some of the delegates, who attended these conferences.

ELECTRONICS COMMISSION

5. On the home front, the event of most significance in the field of computers, has been the formation of the Electronics Commission of the Govt. of India on 1 Feb. 1971. The Commission, as one aspect of its functions, would be concerned with the formulation of policy, implementation of all measures promotional and regulatory with regard to computers in the country. The need for such a national body to take care of all aspects of computer planning and development in a coordinated manner has been voiced by the members of this society at the earlier conventions of this society and at other forums such as the National Conference of Electronics (May 1970). This Society looks forward to the lead the Electronics Commission would give in the matter of enabling the country to organize and develop computational activities to meet the national requirements with due priorities.

REGIONAL CENTRES

6. This society has been advocating even since 1965, the setting up of Regional Computer Centres based on large scale computer systems to cater for the information processing needs of the country. It is gratifying that the new Department of Electronics in the Govt. of India has been making an assessment of the needs of the different regions in the country to enable provision of required facilities. The Regional facility during the fifth annual convention at Madras in January 1970, has reached a stage of a selection of a suitable system and may be the first of such centres to come up. It is to be expected that such facilities alone could augment the computer power per capita most specifically and economically and in facilities, and would fill up the existing and anticipated gaps.

7. Another significant feature is the increasing numbers of projects of indigenous design in the field of computer electronics, such as processors, analogue computers, calculators, measuring instruments, teaching aids and software that are being absorbed for meeting our requirements in various fields of application.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

8. At the end of our first decade of experience with the computer the present situation in the country is to be viewed with some alarm. The growing user community in the country feels discouraged by the lack of suitable facilities for more significant applications and lack of guaranteed facilities for enlarging the scope of routine applications. This situation should get remedied for a large number of users when the Regional facilities are set up. As is true with the implementation phase of tackling any problem in large dimensions, fears have been expressed in some quarters regarding the management problems of large-scale computer facilities in a multinational environment and also regarding requirements of skilled manpower. More availability of a large system and right techniques would not be adequate, social, mental, financial and institutional proceedings are to be ensured to enable these regional facilities to carry out their functions which are integral to the country’s development. There is no doubt that with the active support of all these engaged in the computer field in the country, it could be ensured that these Regional Centres would, apart from meeting the requirements for data processing of the user community would also offer possibilities of systematic growth and training and also help in upgrading levels of competence in the field.

9. With the prospect of the Regional Centres becoming available, the small users may be inclined not to rush for hardware for their requirements in consideration that cost of running a centre may be twice as much as the rental. They should prefer to start as a sophisticated user of a large system.

10. It may yet be several months before our Regional Centres are established. To provide for the interim period, we have to ensure that the available computational power in the country is fully harnessed. All computational facilities should basically be considered as national assets and it would not be ethical to under-utilise any of these systems, for any reasons as long as there is a requirement, as currently, for solving a large range of problems in the country.

11. A number of current installations have the problems of living with overloaded and outmoded systems and do not see an immediate prospect of changing over to an enlarged and improved system for their current applications with normal growth factors. As compared with contemporary hardware, the existing systems are uncompetitive in usage. Though Integrated Management systems, theoretically made possible by computers, may not be easily and immediately achievable in practice as may be claimed of contemporary systems, there is no doubt that the systems currently in use have limited applications to very routine data processing.

12. The educational sector continues to be handicapped for want of suitable systems within the limited budget this sector operates in.

13. In the field of development, several factors amongst which the primary one is rapid obsolescence of electronic devices, the need for a high technology environment, and economics of scale on manufacture, determine the ability of the indigenous product becoming viable in the competitive market.

14. In the field of applications, there is scope for developing an almost unlimited range of programs and the decentralized nature of such a wide range would call for decentralised approach to development of such applications software to support the indigenous systems. Competent user groups could be entrusted with the task in the fields of their specialisation.

15. In the matter of manpower, it is to be expected that trained talent in particular areas - say systems analysis for information systems - would be scarce and such expertise would tend to drift to the highest bidder in a competitive market. This would deprive certain areas of national importance from being able to draw on the desirable level of expertise. This situation would call for establishment of a special cadre of service for information Technologists particularly in the Government Sector.
14. The problems are varied and numerous. I have outlined a few and I am sure many more would get highlighted during this Convention. There is a definite need for a deliberate formulation of national policy governing development and application of Information Technology in order that our problems of today would find a solution in the immediate future. The members of this Society would have an important role to play in supporting such a policy and make it workable in the larger national interests.

SOCIETY'S ROLE

17. Whilst each one of the members of the Society would be involved in some aspect of the national effort of building up the Information Processing Activity in the country, there are particular areas in which the society could play an active role as a professional body.

18. One such area is evolving National Standards in the field of Information Processing. Currently standards in the field are being evolved by organisations as the International Standards Organisation and the International Electro-Technical Commission. For an orderly and coordinated growth of Information Processing activity ranging from Research, Design and Development to Applications, it would be essential to adopt our own standards covering various aspects as Terminology, Hardware, (Processors, peripherals, ancillaries) Software (Programming language, 'graphic' languages, non-numeric languages), Communications (Data Transmission), Computer Education.

19. The project can be undertaken by this Society and chapters of the Society entrusted the responsibility of drawing up 'Draft Standards' in the areas above based on the expertise available in the particular Chapter. These could then be processed through the Indian Standards Institution for acceptance and dissemination as per current procedures.

20. The Society could also undertake an even more active role as a professional body in dissemination of information in the field of Information Technology. It is no more a technology in words, to say that information organisation and dissemination is most ill organised in the field of Information Technology more than in any other field. A dissemination service of Computer Literature on Information processing (CLIP), was offered as a pilot effort by the DELHI Chapter of the Society for benefits of the society. Such efforts have to be reinforced and established as a regular feature of the activities of the Society.

21. The society has also to maintain a national inventory of application programmes and enable the user-community to utilise such programmes. This could also avoid duplicity in effort on a national basis in developing programs.

22. Three issues of the Journal of the Society have been published in the last 18 months. The technical content and quality of the get up have received acclaimation all round. It may sound as a paradox that whilst there is no dearth of contributions of merit for inclusion in the journal it is only the factor of cost that hampers the journal becoming a quarterly feature.

23. I need hardly add that the Society could undertake any studies of problems of national importance that may be required or be involved in any evaluation or analysis to bring to bear an objective approach in keeping with the highest ethical traditions of a professional body.

24. I would express our thanks to the authorities of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and NITIIS for making their facilities available for this Convention. The Society held its first meeting ever - the summer meeting of June 1965 in this institution. The late Lord Homi Bhabha in whose memory this auditorium has been preponed and that of Vikram Sarabhai memories of whose characteristic dynamism at many a conference in this auditorium are still fresh, are connected with the foundations for the growth of computer activities in the country and the Society pays homage to them.

25. I would now request Prof. Menon to inaugurate the Convention. I would also assure Prof. Menon that the delegates assembled here who represent the cross-section of those engaged in Information Processing activity in the country who have built themselves into this professional body - the Computer Society of India and are dedicated to pooling their skills in the furtherance of national objectives in our field. We would be grateful for any lead and encouragement he would give in our pursuits.

7th Annual Convention of The Computer Society of India

A MEMORABLE CONVENTION OF COMPUTER ENGINEERS

T. V. BALAN

(Article Published in 'Engineering Times' dated 6th April 1972)

The Seventh Annual Convention of the Computer Society of India (CSI) was held in Bombay from 12th to 15th March 1972.

The Convention Committee consisted of the following Members:- Dr. P. V. S. Rao, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bombay. (Chairman) Mr. T. V. Balan, The Associated Cement Cos. Ltd. (ACC), Bombay. (Secretary); Mr. F. C. Kohli, Tata Consultancy Services, (TCS), Bombay (Chairman, Chapter of CSI); Mr. P. Joyant, Air-India (AI), Bombay. (Secretary, Bombay Chapter of CSI).

In the first bulletin brought out in August 1971, giving details of this Convention, the Convention Committee claimed that this Convention would not be one of those usual Conventions but an 'exhilarating experience' and the large number of delegates who attended this Convention felt this was not at all a tall claim.

INAUGURATION

The Convention was inaugurated by Prof. M. G. K. Menon, Chairman, Electronics Commission and Indian Space Research Organisation, on Sunday the 12th March 1972 at the Homi Bhabha Auditorium of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

The Convention proceedings commenced with an invocation song by Mrs. Tikekar whose mellifluous voice permeated through the length and breadth of the auditorium. This was followed by the 'Welcome Address', by Mr. F. C. Kohli, Chairman of the Bombay Chapter and the 'Presidential Address' by Col. A. Balasubramaniam, President of CSI Parent Body. The 'Inaugural Address' was then delivered by Prof. Menon in which he detailed the Governmental policy to support and allow the growth of an indigenous self-reliant computer industry.

Dr. P. V. S. Rao, Chairman of the Convention Committee, narrated the highlights of the Convention programmes and as Secretary of the Convention Committee, Mr. T. V. Balan proposed a vote of thanks.
The Inauguration Programme ended with High Tea on the west-side lawns of TIFR thanks to the courtesy of Ratan Tata Institute, Volga and Precision Printers.

INVITERS

The Chief Executives of all the Computer Installations in and around Bombay, and the V.I.P.'s of Maharashtra State Government and Central Government offices in Bombay were invited for the inauguration. The response was very good and the total attendance was around 469 including the delegates.

DELEGATES

472 delegates from 12 States of the country and including three overseas delegates from the USA and USSR attended the Convention.

Special mention should be made of the big contingent of delegates from the Indian Army, Navy and Airforce who took active part in the Convention proceedings.

Statewise Analysis of Delegates for the Seventh Annual Convention - Bombay. (Figures in brackets indicate the number of delegates.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andhra Prad.</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Assam</td>
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<td>Bihar</td>
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<td>Delhi</td>
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<td>Gujarat</td>
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<td>Marathwada</td>
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<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Total - 469 Overseas USA = 2 USSR = 1 Grand Total: 472.

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

The Technical Programme of the Convention was held from 18th to 26th March 1972 at the picturesque campus of the National Institute of Training in Industrial Engineering (NITIE) overlooking Powai and Vihar Lakes.

A fitting start was given to the Sessions by two Keynote Addresses by Mr. Sharov R. Rangarek and Dr. P. V. S. Rao on the theme of “Challenges of Computerisation” in the Commercial and Scientific fields respectively. Prof. E. B. Kelkar, Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Powai, was the Chairman of this Session and Prof. N. S. Ramaswamy, Director NITIE welcomed the delegates to the Technical Sessions.

Sixty four papers were presented at the Convention on Numerical Techniques, Hardware, Software, Commercial Applications, Scientific Applications, Management of Computer Centre and systems. Out of this, 26 papers were from Educational Institutions, 22 from Commercial Establishment and 11 from Research Laboratories.

The Concurrent Sessions were held in rooms named aptly after the architects of computerisation — Charles Babbage, Ludwig Boltzmann and John von Neumann.

The illuminating talk by Dr. Jagjit Singh, the well-known Popular Science writer and Kalinga award winner, on Operations Research was one of the highlights of the programme.

Group discussions were held on topics entitled “Computer Centre”, “Computers Science and Computers Users”. The participants exchanged thoughts on their experiences. The gist of the opened discussions are as under:

I. COMPUTER CENTRES: ORGANISER: Dr. Moinuddin Ali, Allaghar Muslim University ALIGARH.

It was felt that the CSI and/or for Computer Centre should compile and circulate lists of available software which would raise the standards of usage and avoid duplication of effort. Further, an organi-

sation entrusted with the responsibility of maintenance of Computer Centres should be established at the national level. Such an organisation should also be capable of installation and advising modernizing/expanding of the centres. Also many institutions did not have adequate training facilities. National and Regional Centres/University Grants Commission should offer easier terms and provide practical experience. CSCI could evaluate the instruction/training given by an organisation and offer accreditation.

With regard to planning regional centres with time-sharing facilities, both scientific and commercial applications must be catered for. But the need for small computer by certain users must not be overlooked. Organizations that were in the process of acquiring computer equipment must be prevailed upon to arrange for training of staff ahead of the arrival of equipment so that wastage of computer time was minimum.

II. COMPUTER SCIENCE: ORGANISER: Dr. C. R. Mudukrishnan, Indian Institute of Technology, KANPUR.

It was important to offer computer science education at various levels, indentifying clearly the purpose of such education. Brief introductory courses should be followed by elective courses in five streams viz. theory, numerical analysis and scientific applications, hardware, software and commercial applications.

It was pointed out that the choice of theory in a curriculum was quite critical but nevertheless an overwhelming measure of it was included without adequate motivation. With regard to the role that annual conventions had in computer science education it was suggested that convention record must be given to participants and invited tutorial, survey papers would encourage people to get involved in new areas. Many felt that a widely available low-level course in computer science for non-specialists was very desirable.

III. COMPUTER USERS: ORGANISER: Mr. M. A. Ashraf, South Central Railway, SECUNDERABAD.

Data Bank, so essential for O. R. Applications, took two to three years during which period the top management did not perceive the benefits of computerisation. It must be impressed that cost benefit equations should not be pondered at each stage of computerisation as it would only retard progress. It was debatable if benefits at all could be exactly and explicitly assessed. It was suggested that associating staff from various disciplines in the system analysis, formation of departmental committees to recommend computerisation of various procedures, publicising the work being done by EDP to all the staff in their organisation and attachment to general management instead of a functional department would go a long way to overcome resistance at all levels. It was felt that the Apprentices Act should be extended to Computer Centres so that trainees with aptitude could be taken and given professional experience. The requirement of programmers should, in general, be met to a large extent from within.

The last session in the Technical Programme was a lively Panel Discussion on the controversial subject of "Can India be self-sufficient in Computers?" Col. Balasubramanian was the moderator and the panelists were: (I) Mr. G. G. Ravi, IBM, Bombay who spoke on 'Computer Systems Present & Future'; (II) Prof. N. S. Ramaswamy, NITIE Bombay — who spoke on 'The Use Requirement for Self-sufficiency'. (III) Dr. P. P. Gupta, ICL, Bombay — who spoke on 'A meaningful goal for self-sufficiency' (IV) Dr. S. Rikanathan, ECH, Hyderabad — who spoke on 'The potential for development of hardware to achieve the goal.' (V) Dr. Mathai Joseph, TIFR, Bombay — who spoke on 'Software potential and self-sufficiency' and (V) Mr. F. C. Kehle, TCS, Bombay — who spoke on 'Self-sufficiency in Management and system analysis'.
EXHIBITION

A well arranged Exhibition was part of the Convention. There were 7 Exhibitors and their exhibits mentioned in brackets.

1) M/s Singer Sewing Machine Friden Division, 267, D. N. Road, Bombay-1. Flexowriter, Calculators 2) M/s Hindustan Services Pvt. Ltd., 59/A, Narsapura Road, Bombay-6. Features of range of Computers and Oscilloscopes. 3) M/s Precison Printers P. Ltd., 77-A, Nehru Road, Vile Parle East, Bombay-87. Continuous Stationary and range of Pre-printed Stationary. 4) Blue Star Ltd., Band Box House, Prashadwadi, Bombay-26. (Calculators) 5) M/s Kore (Indif Ltd., Plot No. 10, Off Dr. Veer Road, Worli, Bombay-18. (Computer Ribbons etc.) 6) M/s Allied Publishers P. Ltd., Y, Graham Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay-1. (Latest Books on Computers, Operations, Research and Management) 7) M/s Eastern Insulations, 2nd Floor Sanmava Chambers, Sir P. M. Road, Bombay-1. (Details of Dust proof housing for computers)

The Exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. P. K. Kelkar, Director, I.I.T. Powai, Bombay.

'Computer Art' was also exhibited and the best contribution was 'Mons Lia' from EDP department ACC, on IBM 1401 Computer.

BOARDING & LODGING

112 Delegates stayed at the hostels of the NITIE campus during the Convention. The food arrangements were taken care of by the Lady Volunteers from ACC and Mrs. Sita Balan. The banquets received by the delegates were held at the Besant Nagar, Maroli, Bhavani, and Nileshwar. The banquets were held at the Mithila Hotel, Parel, and the Golden Tulip, Mumbai. The banquets were held at the Mithila Hotel, Parel, and the Golden Tulip, Mumbai.

The high point of the social activities was the gala dinner at the Annual General Body Meeting. The Colourful lights illuminated the large hall and set the mood for the festivities. The banquets were held at the Mithila Hotel, Parel, and the Golden Tulip, Mumbai.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING: The Annual General Body Meeting was held on the 13th March 1972 at NITIE, Powai, Bombay.

The following were declared as office-bearers for the Year 1972:

- PRESIDENT Prof. N. S. Ramaswamy, Director, NITIE, Powai, Bombay-87
- SECRETARY Dr. S. Natarajan, Engineering College, Guindy, Madras-25
- COUNCIL MEMBERS Dr. Asghar Husain, Regional Research Lab., Hyderabad; Mr. T. V. Balan, Associated Cement Co. Ltd., 121, Mahabali Kere Road, Bombay-20; Col. A. Balasubramanian, Officer-in-Charge EDP Systems Cell, Defence R & D Organisation, Room No. 6, B. Block, New Delhi-11; and Dr. R. R. Sankar, National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore-17.

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Minutes of the General Body Meeting held during the Seventh Annual Conference of the

COMPUTER SOCIETY OF INDIA

The meeting commenced at 6.00 p.m. on March 13, 1972, at NITIE, Powai, Bombay, Col. A. Balasubramanian, President of the Society, and the meeting was attended by 189 members.

Secretary's Report for the year 1971 was presented by Dr. S. Natarajan.

The Society has in the year 1971 recorded an increasing measure of involvement through the intense activity of the 7 chapters at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Jamshedpur and Hyderabad.

Membership

The institutional and individual memberships have increased from 96 to 124 and 614 to 965, respectively.

News Letters

News Letters (Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28) have been circulated in April/July, August, October, November 1971 and March 1972.

Accounts

The accounts of the Society have been audited up to June 30, 1971. The audited balance sheet is circulated to members under News Letter 28. The assets of the Society are a little over Rs. 33,500. This includes a sum of Rs. 15,000/- in fixed deposit.

Seventh Annual Conference

Is being held at NITIE, Powai, Bombay which is being attended by 472 delegates. This is a remarkably significant record of participation. Delegate registration at the three previous conferences were 100, 125 and 175.

Journal

Another issue of the Journal has been published and work on the next is well under way.

New Chapters

Bangalore Chapter was formerly inaugurated in October 1971. Dr. R. Sankar and Dr. E. V. Krishnamurthi are the President and Secretary respectively. The Council consists of, besides the President and the Secretary, Messrs. Raman (Jt. Sec.) Kallat (Treasurer), C. S. Subramaniam, K. V. Ramachandran and V. G. Thilakar.

The Madras Chapter is due to be inaugurated shortly. Prof. S. Sampath and Mr. K. S. Narasimhan are the President and Secretary respectively. The Council consists of Miss. Ravathi Srilakum, Messrs. Madhavan, Kunalram, Natman and Kewatan.
MINUTES AND ACCOUNTS

The minutes of the last general body meeting held at Bangalore which were circulated in News Letter 24 were approved (proposed by Dr. Pattawadhan and seconded by Mr. T. B. Subramanian).

The balance sheet for the period ended June 30, 1971, circulated under News Letter 26, as well as at the general body meeting was approved (proposed by Mr. Kumar and seconded by Mr. G. S. Sankaran).

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1972

As announced in News Letter 26, one nomination each was received for the offices of President and three Council Members. These nominations were duly elected. Two nominations, that of Mr. T. V. Balan and that of Dr. S. Natarajan, were received for the Secretaryship. Mr. Balan explained some of his professional commitments for the forthcoming year and withdraw in favour of Dr. Natarajan, who was then declared elected. The list of office bearers is as follows:

President: Prof. N. S. Ramaswamy
Proposed by: Mr. R. Vasanthakumar
Seconded by: Mr. T. V. Balan

Secretary: Dr. S. Natarajan
College of Engg., Guindy, Madras
Mr. S. Jairam
Mr. S. Panchapakesan

Councillor Members:
Mr. T. V. Balan
RDP Manager, ACC, Bombay
Mr. S. M. Jaya Rao
Mr. N. H. Dabash

Dr. R. Sankar
National Aeronautical Lab., Bangalore
Mr. S. Appulingum
Mr. A. M. Natarajan

Dr. Anil Kumar
Regional Research Lab., Hyderabad
Mr. K. A. Chandrasekaran
Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao

VENUE FOR EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mr. T. K. Ramaswamy of Delhi chapter proposed Delhi as the venue for the next conference. This was unanimously agreed to and approved of by the members. January or February 1973 was suggested as possible dates depending upon local circumstances.

Discussion

The next phase of the meeting was devoted to discussion of several subjects relating to the functioning of the society. Many members participated in the discussions and expressed thoughts and suggestions. Chapter representation on council, quick processing of applications, etc., were provoking views and valuable suggestions covering a range of topics such as conference programs, preparation of a list of available software for the information and use of the various installations was suggested by Mr. M. Ali.

Mr. P. V. S. Rao expressed the view that (i) the major organisational work should be given to the host chapter (ii) screening could be spread out to various specialists. Regarding the current year, he said that the views of various referees were accommodated and that papers which were bordering on certain areas were classified as per the suggestions of the referees.

Dr. Muthukrishnan felt that the author may be asked to give the section in which his paper is to be presented.

Mr. Jayant examined the setting up of a Programme Committee which will, within the next 3 days, decide on the subjects for the next convention.

Mr. Ramasubramanian advised the forming of a group of 2 or 3 referees in each subject for screening. They can be from different organisations or regions as the case may be.

Commenting on Mr. Jayant's suggestion as good, Mr. Balan, however, said that there are lots of limitations in the practical working and narrated several situations from his experience.

Mr. Ramaswamy felt that a committee set up now will unduly bind the host organisation without their knowing.

Messrs. H. Singh and Jathania said that a questionnaire should be given at the end of this conference seeking comments and suggestions.

Dr. Pattawadhan suggested that the subject of programme may be left to the incoming council.

Prof. Mukherji added that the way for suggestions would remain open and that any member can write, even at a future date, his suggestions regarding programme details and organisation.

Summarising the views expressed, Col. Balasubramanian said that this subject can be left to the organising committee and the host chapter. This was agreed to by the participants.

Turning to Technical Presentation

Mr. H. Singh pleaded for the provision of more discussion time for "Review of a field".

Stressing the need to screen the speakers, Mr. J. L. Gupta advised that the author should speak in their own chapters before presenting their papers at the annual convention.

Awards of incentives were advocated by Mr. M. S. V. Rao as a means of upgrading the quality of papers.

Preparations and distribution of a list of available software for the information and use of the various installations was suggested by Mr. M. Ali.

Dr. Muthukrishnan desired that a list of referees be published.

Commenting with a clear and critical analysis of the topics of technical presentations, Dr. V. Krishnan argued for having a substantial number of survey papers.
Focussing on Rules, Procedures, Council Membership

Mr. Jayant dwelt in detail on the following aspects: (i) updated rules and regulations (ii) delay in accepting applications (iii) collection of subscription by chapter (iv) effective communication between parent body and the chapters (v) chapter may organise the convention (vi) chapter budget may provide a portion of the budget for convention.

In the discussion that followed, Shri Ramaswamy, Col. Balasubramaniam, Chandrasekharan, J. L. Gupta, Balan, Sankaran, Khobi, T. R. Subramanayam, M. Ali, Dr. Pattaswathan and Dr. Krishnan participated.

Summarising the discussions, and crystallising the spirit of all suggestions, Col. Balasubramaniam placed the following points for the consideration and approval of the house: (i) Add such time as the constitution is revised formally, the council be enlarged and one member from each chapter be coopted into the enlarged council. The quorum and voting regulations may remain as they are at present. (ii) Chapters may receive and process applications and forward a list of prospective members to the members of the Council for approval. A time limit of 1 month may be prescribed so that, in the absence of a negative reply from any of the council members during this one-month period, the chapter can automatically assume the list as approved. (iii) The chapter may also collect membership subscription in one unit and forward to the parent body its portion of the subscription.

The Chairman also recollected the discussions of the members during the 6th annual conference at Bangalore which spent a considerable time on a revised draft of the constitution. He also pointed out that our present constitution lays down the necessary broad guide lines and allows us sufficient scope for carrying out what the members feel and decide as right.

On the subject of Collaboration with other Societies

Prof. Sampath advocated the establishment of close links with OR Society and suggested that the council may consider ways and means of fruitful interaction with OR Society.

In the Concluding Phase of the meeting

Prof. N.S. Ramaswamy expressed his appreciation for and thanks to the outgoing committee for their effort and time during the last year. He strongly felt that, besides formal channels of expression, we should also resort to informal mechanisms of collecting opinions and channelising them to our President who is also a member of several national committees.

Prof. Ramaswamy explained the background of NITIE's proposal and efforts to have, in December 1975, a World Productivity Conference at NITIE. The theme of the conference will be Productivity Science for Progress and nearly 1000 delegates from all over the world are expected to attend the 5-day conference. He also said that the collaboration of ORS, CSI and other similar organisations will prove highly beneficial.

Col. Balasubramaniam proposed a vote of thanks and concluded the meeting.

CHAPTER NEWS

Hyderabad Chapter

Under the auspices of the Hyderabad Chapter, Computer Society of India, a course in FORTRAN Programming was conducted from April 2nd to April 22nd, 1972 for the Officers of the South Central Railway at Secunderabad. Twelve Senior Officers attended the course, which included besides lectures, practical sessions at the Computer Centres of South Central Railway as well as the Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad. The course was conducted by Dr. Jagdish Haranag and Shri J. S. Reddy.

Under the auspices of the Hyderabad Chapter, a lecture on Modern Trends in Computer Applications was delivered by Dr. S. B. Dhami, Head of the Computer Division, Electronic Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad. The lecture was highly informative emphasising the function and importance of real time computers; it was well attended.

STUDY TOUR REPORT AND SUGGESTION FOR IIMC

By Rishi Kumar

August 1972

In a Working Paper submitted to Computer Centre, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Mr. Rajib Kumar reports on his tour to the U.S.A. and England on deputation from IIM, Ahmedabad.

The purpose of this tour as envisaged by Prof. J. G. Krishnayya, Chairman, Computer Committee was:

(1) to gain a better insight into the HP software system with a view to be able to design and develop new software systems and modify the existing HP software to IIMC needs.

(2) to undergo ASR-33 teletype maintenance training. The necessity of this training arose from the fact that IIMC has 18 ASR-33 teletypes and Blue Star Ltd. do not have any responsibility to maintain them.

(3) to visit Dartmouth College, Sloan School of Management and Harvard Business School with a view to learn about the data Structures, File Organisation, Simulation models and management games.

(4) to explore the possibility of software export.

Mr. Kumar's tour has covered a study of range of institutions and systems as per the suggestions and advice of Prof. Krishnayya. In his 2-part 27-page report, the author begins by summarising the highlights of his visits to and participation in the following 13 institutions, systems and programs:


In the second part of his report, the author draws upon the first-hand knowledge and experience gained in the tour and crystallises his suggestions under the following heads:


The report has special value in that it is based on updated information, latest trends and above all on the author's direct observation of and involvement in the various systems. It is a safe prediction that the computing profession will find this report very valuable in their sustained efforts to make our computer centres increasingly useful and productive.

Members interested in further details are requested to contact Prof. J. G. Krishnayya, Chairman, Computer Committee, IIM, Ahmedabad.

EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Preparations for the Eighth Annual Conference are well under way. The Organising Committee under the Chairmanship of Col. A. Balasubramaniam is working out all the details and further intimation to members will follow.

UPDATING LIST OF ADDRESSES

This Newsletter is being posted to Members as per addresses we have on record. A copy is being posted to each of the nominees of Institutions. Members are requested to intimate the Secretary about the change of addresses if any.
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<td>Hindustan Steel Ltd.</td>
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<td>The Ballapur Paper and Straw Board Mills Ltd.</td>
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<td>The Coca-Cola Export Corporation</td>
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<td>Shri S. V. N. Murthy</td>
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<td>Computers India E-16 South Extension Part I New Delhi-14</td>
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<td>Central Bureau of Investigation, 400 M. V. Road</td>
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<td>Shri N. C. Mahapatra, Shri P. P. Vakil, Dr. P. B. Singh, Shri P. N. Sharma, Shri V. S. Seshadri</td>
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