President’s Message

Dear Members,

I am happy to inform that the National Final Competition for Young Talent Search Computer Programming 2014 was successfully conducted at the Rajalakshmi Engineering College (REC) on 31st Aug 2014 with CSI veterans Mr. G. Ramachandran, Mr. S. Venkataraman and Ms. Lakshmi Ramesh as judges. Ten teams selected out of 200+ from the prelims conducted at 21 centers across the country participated in the finals. While the team from St. Jude’s Public School & Junior College, Kotagiri stood first, the team from Rush Valley School (KFI), Madanapalle was the runner up. I could witness the keen & competitive interest of the teams participated in the contest. Cash awards along with trophies were presented to both the winning teams who will represent India in the SEARCC ISSC-2014 to be held at Chennai during October 2014. Let us wish these teams all the very best in the ISSC-2014. Our thanks to the management of REC for supporting the contest for several years and also for consenting to host ISSC-2014.

The Div IV supported International Conference on Innovations in Computer Science & Engineering – ICIICS 2014 took place at Gurunarain Institutions at Hyderabad during 8-9 Aug 2014. The conf. attracted about 200 papers of which 60 were presented in parallel sessions. The conf. proceedings of the papers presented and the souvenir with the abstracts of all the papers submitted have come out very well and they are being added in our reference library at CSI ED. Dr. H.S. Saini & Dr. D.D. Sarma and their team had run the conf. in a splendid manner and this has given us the confidence that the Student library at CSI ED. Dr. H.S. Saini & Dr. D.D. Sarma and their team had run the submitted have come out very well and they are being added in our reference library at CSI ED. Dr. H.S. Saini & Dr. D.D. Sarma and their team had run the.

Hyderabad witnessed one more event supported by CSI – a National Workshop on Big Data – BDA2014 which was held during 22-24, August 2014 at CR Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science. This intensive workshop inaugurated by the CSI President had invited talks on various aspects of Big Data from seasoned academic and professional community such as IITM, IISc, UOH, BITS, AIMSCS, CDAC and hands-on sessions at Centre for Modelling, Simulation and Design at Univ. of Hyderabad. Dr. Saumyaapati Pyne, the key anchor for this workshop has in principle agreed to run similar workshops and also an online course for CSI through the proposed special interest group on data science and analytics or joining with the existing SIG data.

Dr. Bagga and Dr. Ashok Agarwal, who were veterans who have played major roles in organizing few highly successful CSI annual conventions at Hyderabad had organised a brainstorming session at IITM on 22nd Aug in connection with the 8th Governance Track and Knowledge Sharing Summit during CSI 2014. It may be noted that CSI eGovernance State/Project Awards are being given during annual conventions for the last 12 years and the SIG eGOV has been spearheading the major activities in sharing knowledge in eGov domain in Knowledge Sharing Summits. Along with the President, CSI 2014 team and the eGOV awards team consisting of Dr. Surendra kappor, Dr. Harish Iyer and Mr. Vijaya Sekhar deliberated on the modalities and the events to be organized in the context of divided Andhra. All the teams were sensitized to organize a great eGov awards event at CSI 2014.

The CSI ED supported Golden T ech Bridge event held on 9th Aug was a great success and it has made a significant impact among the public at large. Over 60 institutions organized this programme which was attended by housewives, retired people, people from lower strata including shopkeepers and auto drivers. Apart from providing basic computer skills and knowledge, the participants were taught how to use various eservices of the Govt., railway ticket booking, online banking etc. The reports received from the institutions highlight the appreciations by the participants and the demand to run similar events at regular intervals. This is a great step towards bridging the digital divide. While we have a long way to go. I am sure with the support of our SBs we can achieve our objectives.

In the EXCO of the SEARCC held at Colombo on 28th Aug, the possibility of hosting the SEARCC 2014 by Malaysia was discussed. As MNCC had expressed their inability to host the event in 2014 and the possibility of organizing it during Feb 2015 only, it was decided to run SEARCC 2014 in online mode with few online video streaming sessions covering technology trends and country initiatives presented by SEARCC member countries. India, Australia and Sri Lanka have come forward to take this initiative forward and make it a standard feature to share the knowledge among its members. The undersigned suggested that these online sessions relating to SEARCC 2014 may be organized in the first week of Dec 2014 to coincide with CSI 2014 at some convenient time to suit all the SEARCC economies. Few divisions and SIGs may plan for these SEARCC 2014 online events. Depending on the success of this initiative, it was deliberated whether we can make SEARCC conf. an online only event involving other economies also to make them participate to start with and facilitating them to become members of SEARCC subsequently. As the World Computer Congress WCC-2015 of IFIP is being held in South Korea, the SEARCC 2015 may become the first full-fledged online conference.

On the invitation from the Computer Society of Sri Lanka, the undersigned attended and presented a session on “ICT growth and challenges in India” in their annual flagship event National Information Technology Conference NITC-2014 held prior to SEARCC EXCO during 25-27 Aug 2014. The inauguration ceremony of the NITC-2014 was held at the Main Conference Hall of the Bandaranainke International Conference Hall (BMICH), Colombo and was attended by about 800 participants. The conference had 15 international speakers including Mr. Leon Strouss, IFP President, Mr. H.R. Mohan, CSI President, Ms Brenda Aynsley, ACS President, Prof. Tim Unwin, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation & Unesco chair in ICT4D, Mr. Tim Greisinger, Vice President, IBM, Mr. Anthony Ming, Adviser (Informatics), Commonwealth Secretariat, Dr. Nick Tate, Imm. Past President, ACS, Mr. Yohan, Secretary General, SEARCC. Considering the relevance of CHOGM 2013 theme “Growth and Equity: Inclusive Development”, NITC 2014 was positioned as an ICT forum for commonwealth nations organized by the Computer Society of the CHOGM host country to create a platform to deliberate on the role of ICT in citizen centric development in the commonwealth beyond Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of which deadline reaches in 2015. The conference agenda has focused on discussions on topics relevant to commonwealth countries on developing a collaborative and connected commonwealth to share ICT knowledge and resources to synergize efforts to advance the social development.

As the revenues from IT services are under stress, the only way to achieve our projected growth in IT revenues is by innovation and IP development. In this context, it is a timely initiative by CSI Kochi to start an innovation hub on an experimental basis with the support of Startup Village at Kochi. Mr. Santosh Kumar, Secretary of CSI Kochi is taking the lead in this initiative. Based on its success, we would like to replicate it in other chapters.

I am happy to note that the newly formed SIGs – Indic Computing and Technology Enhanced Learning are coming out with their newsletters – “Indic News” and “Title” respectively. Thanks to Dr. B. Kannan and Dr. M. Sasikumar for their sustained interest in SIG activities. Members may look forward to receive them soon.

Digital India, the dream project of our PM, announced in Aug 2014 will be the umbrella programme for the government’s initiatives in the area Digital Literacy for all and transparent eGovernance and will entail an expenditure of Rs 133 lakh crore in existing and new plans. More about Digital India initiatives in the next month.

Let us promote the individual life membership in CSI at a 15% discount being offered for a limited period from 1st Aug to 31st Dec 2014.

With best regards

H R Mohan
President
Computer Society of India

H R Mohan
From : President’s Desk:: president@csi-india.org
Subject : President’s Message
Date : 1st September, 2014