President's Message

M. D. Agrawal

From: president@csi-india.org
Subject: President’s Desk
Date: 1st November, 2011

Dear Friends,

I welcome your participation in the technical deliberations and discourse at the 46th Annual National Convention at Ahmedabad, CSI 2011 – ict 4 u and Annual South East Asia Regional Confederation Conference in Mumbai SEARCC 2011 - i Growth.

These conferences will provide excellent opportunity for technical updates and networking.

Through technical programs and events, abundant opportunities are being provided by CSI for sharing technical knowledge and providing rich platform of deliberations and debates on facets of ICT, its implications and impact, thus weaving a networking bond among participants. CSI organizes over 100 technical workshops and seminars in a year in different parts of country, thanks to the endeavour of our passionate members.

CSI Promotion for best usage of ICT for Masses: CSI has embarked on recognition for excellence in ICT and promoting mission of rightful use of ICT for betterment of society by motivating individuals and leaders in their pioneer role in deploying ICT for empowerment and transformation of society. CSI took great pride in conferring "CSI E Ratna" award to Gujarat State Chief Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi at the inaugural function of E-Governance, twin E-governance International Conferences ICG-2011 and KSS-2011, jointly held by Gujarat government and CSI at Ahmedabad on 17th Oct, 2011. Mr. Modi, in his speech, vividly presented his good knowledge about power of ICT and E-Governance and his leadership role in bringing about transformation in government administration through ICT and E-governance solutions. As in corporate, leadership at Top matters, so is the case for Government, matters for bringing good benefits for Business, Customers and Citizens. With introduction of CSI E Ratna award for implementation of ICT & E government projects for societal and administrative transformation especially with winning track of more than 2 CSI E-Nihilent award. Our appreciation of the pioneering role of Mr. Ravi Saxena, Additional Chief Secretary and team of Dr. Nita Shah, Dr. Ashok Agrawal & Dr. Bagga for organizing these twin international conferences.

Centre of Excellence of e-Governance: Government sector is a big implementer of ICT solutions. Proposals have to be considered to offer short-term and mid-term education programs related to subjects of e-Governance and ICT solutions for inclusive growth. CSI can play a major role in building knowledge repository and social networking chain on promoting standards and good practices of e-Governance projects being undertaken by different States and solution providers. I am pleased to inform you that our e-Governance SIG has started exploring idea of Centre of Excellence. Collaboration with National e-Governance – ngep plan of Ministry of IT and institutes like NISG can also be explored. My special thanks to Dr. Bagga and Mr. Mohan Datar for starting a working group. I foresee, with e-Government, programs, chapters will have opportunity of new type of programs targeting government segments. We need to form a dedicated expert group to work out a plan.

Innovation Impact: Scientific innovations and discoveries create new knowledge base for development of new products, solutions and services for transforming life of masses and providing a world of living in comfort with new technologies. Computer World recently lost two great scientists - Steve Jobs, and Dennis Ritchie both known for their pioneer research and pursuits of innovative product developments. Dennis Ritchie along with Ken Thomson developed operating system Unics (later Unix), kernel of which became base system for many other innovations and developments like Apple OS X distribution of Unix, built on Berkeley 4.3 BSD – the operating system that now powers every Apple product. Steve Jobs developed products right from ipods to ipad2, one of the finest embedded devices offering new meaning to using technology in business and personal life. Success of these great scientists is a result of individual genius and support from industry for their creativity. We salute to them for their grand motivation and the achievements. CSI programs shall promote research and innovation likings among youngsters.

During discussions in last ExecCom, it was decided to design special workshops to promote research as career. I suggest, success stories of these great scientists shall be part of these symposiums for motivation and mentoring to youngsters. Proposals may be invited for formation of a group of volunteers, who shall work for these programs. I would request Director Education setup to initiate this exercise. Already Director education is involved in providing assistance for selected mini research projects.

Organizing of Olympiad in collaboration with Government Research organization is another good avenue. DST proposal of drafting a white paper for development of research eco system in IT, shall address these aspects. I am hopeful of study started under guidance of Prof. Shyamsunder, Our Publication Committee chairman for drafting this report.

Industry Academia workshops: There is good opportunity of building alignment between industry and Academia. Industry experts shall be involved in teaching at education institutions and imparting technical programs on subjects of industry use, academicians shall be invited by Industry to impart quality education upgrades. Joint Phd Programs with industry by education institutions is also a good option.

Last year, we had commenced a special drive of organizing industry focus programs for students and faculty development programs for a section of faculty. A list of 15 nos. of technical workshops was finalized by Prof. Mini, convener of skill development cell at CSI. We had entered into MOUs with Microsoft Corporation, CDAC, DOEACC, PMI and with few other organizations for organizing joint programs and workshops. Implementation of these Industry academy interaction programs require meticulous planning and coordination. Director Education shall form plans with help of Student co-ordinators & Industry. Developing a pool of 1000 speakers will help this task.

First success news about industry academia interaction programs came from Karnataka state-level Student Co-ordinator, Mr. Sabapathy, who with the help of industry, meticulously planned and organized faculty development programs and technical workshops at each student branch. My hearty congratulations to Mr. Sabapathy and team in Karnataka for this
dedication and focused. Already more than 12 no. of workshops have been organized and many more are in the pipeline. Role of all India student co-ordinator, Mr. Ranga Raj Gopal has also been very helpful. We shall get similar success stories from other student co-ordinators. Director Education holds an important role in this exercise of co-ordination and arranging back-office support for maintaining continuity and growth. In the forthcoming months, it is necessary to put in dedicated efforts in realizing better implementation of these schemes.

**Start of CSI Certification Programs** : Mumbai Chapter has initiated a study panel and formed academic council of seniors for designing CSI certification programs. Mr. Srinivas Eranki, project consultant, informed that first certification program will be based on Industry requirement for IT service management. A 5 day program capsule is being designed by a core team of Industry specialists under guidance of Mr. Venkat Rajaraman, Vice President of NSE.IT. The plan is to have certificate at stream level called CSICP-CSI Certified Professional with specialization in a particular stream. 8 IT and Business streams are being designed. To begin with team intends to start first IT Infrastructure Management Stream and the first module (out of total 7 modules and 60 hours of teaching) being piloted on subject of IT service management (8 hours teaching) which will cover providing IT Support to users effectively. First pilot workshop is likely to be conducted on 20th Nov, 2011.

There is no shortage of quality resources, it is just a matter of building an organization structure and development of a sustainable model based on industry needs. World wide Professional bodies like ACS, BCS, SCS offer similar kinds of certification programs. These are also good source of revenue and help professionals to upgrade their skills at affordable price. Similar exercise can be started at other chapters where experts from local institutes and industry shall get involved in designing of CSI certification courses. There is a need to define CSI standards for these programs. A beginning is done by Mumbai Chapter. Many hearty good wishes to Chapter committee for supporting this initiative.

**Membership to Professionals and Corporates** : Offering kind of professional oriented certification courses and technical workshops, there is good scope of membership growth. A new scheme is being introduced whereby an attendee who is not CSI member, will be offered membership after attending CSI paid programs. This scheme will help for growth of membership and generate loyalty among participants for CSI.

**Support from Past Presidents & research veterans** : CSI is grateful for the continuous support from our Past Presidents. Recently Dr. F C Kohli (Chairman on the Board of Governors of COEP) devised a methodology for up-gradation of undergraduate engineering education for promoting IIT like standard education at other Tier I institutes of India. Three-tier approach involves comparison and gap analysis with IIT, Mumbai curriculum, training of faculty by faculty of IIT Bombay and live lectures by IIT Mumbai using 2 MBS leased link for 3rd and 4th year engineering students.

College of Engineering at Pune was chosen for the Pilot. Gratifying result that this year around 600 students graduating at college of engineering, Pune, will be equivalent in knowledge and performance to that of IIT Bombay. Outcome of study is being shared at CSI web site. Pune Prototype is now ready and can be considered for implementation at other 50-60 colleges at State and National level, whereby the country can produce 30000 to 40000 world class undergraduates instead of 3000-4000 (at present) produced by IITs and some other similar institutions.

For helping education standards in India, CSI may get involved in promoting of this methodology with the help of industry and premier institutes. Our Student branches network will be a great help in execution. Dr. N L Sarda, Div. Chairman Education & Research has already written to IIT Bombay to make available their online lecturers to CSI student branches. We need to form a core committee to draft an approach paper and seek Dr. Kohli’s help for wider acceptance from Ministry and industry.

Dr. Rattan Datta, Past President is promoting IFIP Seminars; he has already motivated few individuals to organize IFIP seminars. Mr. Vineet Kumar, Crompton Greaves, Dr. Pardarsani, IFIP TC 5 chair, Dr. Swarnlata, DIT have written to me for initiating few workshops and seminars.

Our Research Committee Chairman, Prof. Rajeev Sangal has already initiated process to have collaboration of organizers of 8 no. research conferences of academic community and industrial research applications. I am quite hopeful of good impact of these initiatives. This calls for a good organization and back office support by CSI.

Soon we need to start appointing Regional Managers, who can be involved to support these initiatives in execution. We need to develop a good revenue model to sustain and grow. A class chapter shall attempt to organize a National level seminar on subject of importance and help to generate additional revenue for organization built-up. Surplus out of events and seminars from regions and chapters shall be used to support these additional expenses.

**End of Year** : November & December 2011 are high activity months for CSI. National Elections, Multiple National and International conferences (about 10 nos.) ,AGM, Awards and Recognitions. This calls for good synergy and effective governance. Some of the on-goings projects and plans elaborated in my last month’s message shall also see light of the day. I am hopeful that in the coming months, with your support and involvement, CSI will see good vibrancy and interests among stakeholders.

I welcome Mr. Deepak Aghinotri who has recently joined CSI HQ as Chief Operating Officer. He shall help for putting foundation of a good governance structure at HQ and help to build good membership base. We need to start dedicated plans for membership growth and to know our new members. It may be good idea to use principles of CRM.

Let us enjoy the journey of building CSI as a vibrant professional body with a strong mission and vision. Your support will be invaluable.

Jai hind!

With love,

M D Agrawal