President’s Message

Hope this finds you witnessing vibrancy in CSI activities. Thanks to CSI activists and our committee members for their efforts and passion.

**A New Era for ExecCom:** CSI statutory committees on Research, Publication, Conference & Finance had deliberations in Bangalore on 23rd July, 2011 during which they came up with innovative strategies and made various recommendations to ExecCom, which was planned immediately thereafter on same day. ExecCom reflected and deliberated on key thrust areas namely, promoting quality education, plans for introduction of short term training programs thereby improving competency level of students, faculty & professionals, promoting fundamentals and research careers through symposiums, partnering with other organizations for organizing research conferences and promoting research journal and transactions. Partnership model for CSI certification programs is another initiative, wherein already four proposals are under progress. Research veteran, Prof. Shyam Sunder, Chief Editor, CSI Computing Journal, has taken the overall responsibility of Chairman of the Publication Committee.

ExecCom members presented detailed future plans. Worth-mentioning contributors are Past President, Prof. Thrimurthy on Academics and Awards, VP - Mr. Satish Baboo, Convener, Research Committee - Prof. Rajeev Sangal, Publication Committee Chairman - Prof. Shyam Sunder, Div. II Chairmen - Dr. Gopal, RVP VII - Mr. Ramaswamy, RVP VI - Shekhar Shastrubudhe, RVP I - Dr Vyas, RVP V - Dr. Sarma, RVP VIII - Mr. Jayant Krishna, RVP II - Dr. Dipti, ASC - Mr. Ranga Raj Gopal, Hon. Secretary - Prof. Vishwakarma, Hon. Treasurer - Mr. V L Mehta, progress on constitutional amendment by Mr. Sawhney, progress on revival of defunct chapters by Dr. Bhatia, RVP III - Mr. Anil Srivastava for CSI IT awards and new thrust in his region, Mr. Bipin Mehta on YTIP awards and Prof. Mini on skill development initiatives. Mr. Mahalingam and Prof. Raghavan briefed ExecCom progress on CSI transactions. On the part of ExecCom meetings, thanks to Mr. Ramasamy, Region V and VII regional meetings were also organized to decide plans for these regions. Sincere gratitude to all members for their zealous efforts and painstaking participation in discussions so as to envisage a pristine CSI. We need to build a vibrant team structure with resourceful and committed CSI activists for continuity of services to members. We witness now a new vibrancy in activities of Bangalore Chapter. My special thanks to Team & Chairman Bangalore Chapter.

**India Shines:** It seems befitting of CSI to participate in its limited capacity in effective use of ICT for Nation building exercise and to address socio-economic issues.

More than a decade ago, during Mr. Atal Vajpayee’s Government, IT task force made around 29 recommendations, the most important in context being the call for a national campaign for universal computer literacy which talks about countless schemes that will help students, teachers and schools procure computers and promises to have computers and Internet in every school by 2003. The report talks about strengthening IT programs in various universities and about starting SMART schools in each State. Still a good progress is to be realized in this important area. We may have thrust in our plans to promote Computer literacy under our Social commitment, this will be fitting contribution of CSI for society and a good success will add pride for CSI Golden Jubilee celebrations in year 2014. Government is in the process of study and formation of the 12th Five Year Plan. Innumerable committees and sub-groups are engaged in defining suitable policies and plans on various aspects of growth and prospects in Information Technology and telecommunication sector. After my interaction with few senior directors at Ministry level, some interest has been shown, to know CSI’s view points especially on policies and plans for E-Innovation and R&D.

Current study group for 12th Five Year Plan under R&D calls for recommendations in areas like: 1) Mechanism/strategies - to promote R&D for design-led manufacturing of products, packages and services, and also to suggest mechanisms to widen the R&D base in the country; 2) Strategies - to support technology start-up companies and to promote innovation in academic and R&D institutes leading to eco-system for product development; 3) Kinds of incentives and mechanism - for enhancing creation and protection of intellectual property and to identify possible mechanism to increase contribution of R&D exercises carried out in the civilian sector towards specific applications in defense, atomic energy and space. Education and R&D remain still the major thrust areas for growth of ICT industry. Our competitors China and western world is much ahead.

We shall consider forming few study groups to explore these areas of thrust and come out with recommendations for government and industry and try to extend help in limited way. An effective collaboration between IT industries, academic and financial institutions and Government agencies may perhaps form the basis for these plans. One option could be that IT industry being the real beneficiary of opportunities in last two decades and availing benefits of good education outreach in India, could come forward to invest heavily in R&D and development of Quality Education. Under leadership of Mr. K V Kamat, Infosys already announced apart from IT services thrust on New Product developments. CSI events shall include necessarily one session on one of these Key issues.

Corporate sector is also seeking new directions & advice for effective deployment of technology and for deciding IT Governance Policies and practices. Similar are the requirements for SMEs. Government is on the lookout for effective E-Governance initiatives. It seems feasible to study these sorts of requirements and thus create a repository of Best Practices, which can be a good reference for new entrants. CSI plans on Digital library will meet these aspirations. Thanks to efforts by Prof Mini. Our CIO members shall be requested to share best practices and successful implementations for benefit of others. Knowledge Management & sharing shall become Key thrust area.

**SIGs and Divisions:** Friends, as mentioned in my previous letters, for determining and designing the future plans of CSI and for generating better interest in CSI activities and membership.
our plans need to be synchronized with Nation’s priorities and stake holders aspirations and needs. Our E-governance SIG has taken some lead in creating knowledge repository of successful E-governance initiatives. Similar attempts may be done by other SIGs. We shall first decide the relevant list of subjects for starting SIGs. We need to invite few more experts and resourceful persons to direct various special interest groups which shall promote subjects of relevance and start working on policies and standards in respective areas. Truly, healthy functioning of SIG holds a great significance for CSI growth and we need to identify groups and experts to lead these SIGs. These SIGs should invite members from premier IT companies like IBM, TCS, Wipro, Cognizant, Microsoft, premier institutions like IIT, IIITs, major corporate and joined with expert faculty working in Tier II institutes. All our 5 Divisions shall form sub-committees of experts from respective areas and deliberate on new developments and their relevance to industry and thus promote the same through independent on-line publications for benefit of members. My sincere appeal to our Vice President to assist in this matter.

CSI Clusters for Education & Research: CSI is having good infrastructure at Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkatta, Delhi, Coimbatore, Pune, and Ahmedabad. At every place, we have quite a few energetic & knowledgeable members, who would like to contribute for CSI. We shall thoughtfully identify potential areas where each centre can concentrate, design and develop education plans, publications and promote research. It is essential to evolve suitable revenue and partnership model on case to case basis. We shall strive to utilize resources at each location to develop education schemes for respective member segment and plans, which can be replicated at other CSI centers. Our Director Education and HQ shall provide framework and policies for these alignments. By this, load of development could be distributed at various centers. Currently, since Mumbai is running various corporate level workshops, it shall endeavor to develop well structured courses leading to certifications for professionals and corporate users. Other chapters who are involved in similar exercise can collaborate to develop central repository of corporate level courses. Today a definite gap exists for quality education for corporate users and IT professionals. CSI shall fill this Gap. Management and Project plan needs to be put in place. Chennai and Coimbatore Chapters may like to get involved in development of courses for students and faculty. We need to work out schemes for each Chapters and, after discussing with members, equally formulate mechanism and practices for effective governance and control. There are many areas of excellence for these kinds of developments viz. Mobile Computing based courses, especially for inclusive applications, Publications on different subjects, incubation centers, workshops for SMEs, Government etc.

Some of the Chapters, the premises of which are located far from the vicinity of industry, it may be worth coming up with plans for relocation in the vicinity of IT industry, so that IT professionals find convenient to attend CSI programs, to be held in CSI premises. For each place, a building committee shall be formed and proposals shall be invited. We have seen benefits of this in Mumbai, where proximity of premises to IT industry attract good participation to technical programs.

CSI Plans for Youngsters: Ethos and passions of youngsters has difference. They live in the most contemporary world of new technologies and facilities. We need to capture their interests so that they develop interest in CSI membership. I suggest that at each chapter, we should have a sub-committee of members of below 30 years of age and this sub-committee should be given a mandate to design programs for youngsters. A portion of budget in each chapter may be made available to this sub-committee. This approach is common in most of the other professional societies. Benefits may be immense in future. we would be happy to prepare new leaders for CSI.

During the last 3 months, 8 no. new chapters came into existence. My hearty good wishes to members over there. Elections for 52 no. of Chapters were completed. Dr. Bhatia and RVPs deserve appreciations for their hard work.

My hearty good wishes to Kochi & Trivandrum Chapter for hosting ACC-2011: International Conferences on Advances in Computing and Communications.

Head Quarter in Mumbai will be moving to its new premises shortly at MIDC, Andheri with new facilities of seminar and meeting rooms. This new premises will give a boost to brand image of CSI and offer a corporate and professional environment to our staff and members. We need to invest more in branding and promotion activities. Excellent efforts were put by team: Mr. M R Datar, Mr. Suchit, Mr. Ashish, Ms. Shruti and Mr. Koshy Abraham to bring up this facility. A corner for CSI library shall offer a distinctive look to facilities. Thanks to Mr. F C Kohli for this nice suggestion.

I am happy to share the news that ExecCom has nominated CSI Fellow Prof. N L Sarda, of IIT Mumbai, as Divisional Chairman - Education & Research. He has been a staunch supporter of CSI events and programs, and I am sure that with his vast knowledge and involvement, CSI education and research initiatives shall get a new meaning. We whole-heartedly welcome him in ExecCom.

Friends, let us look forward to creating a co-vision for CSI and making CSI a vibrant professional body at service to the nation and members at large. Your suggestions, involvement and support will be highly appreciated.

Jai hind!

With love,
M D Agrawal