Dear Friends

Annual Report & Road Ahead:

There is good possibility of knowing facts and cause effects by applying Reality Check on ongoing situation and understanding limitations and prospects. Mr. Knavel Rekhi, founder of Tie advocated this as best way to judge and decide next course of action.

47th AGM of CSI will be held on 1st Dec, 2011 at Ahmedabad. Highlights of Financial results and activity report for the year 2010-11 is published on CSI web site www.csrf-india.org, which will also be tabled for acceptance and comments at the ensuing AGM. Last Year may be considered as “Turn Around Year”, when new directions for events, membership benefits and organization built up were initiated.

Executive Committee takes pride in informing its members about the overall growth, both at activities front and at membership front. Worth mentioning is, about 66% growth in membership of Students and Education Institutions (about 66,000) during year 2010-11 as compared to last year.

About 130 no. of events, seminars, workshops and conferences were organized during the year. National Annual Convention CSI 2010 held in Mumbai generated highest surplus of Rs. 34 Lakhs in the history of CSI. Some of the other significant highlights are organization of 10 no. of National Seminars, PC Quiz competition for school children, CSI Excellence Awards and introduction of more than 8 new SIGs. This growth is the result of commitment and hard work of ExecCom members. Chapter committees, Regional Student co-ordinators and organizers of events and seminars with support from Industry and Members. Few Steps were also taken to strengthen setup at HQ and ED. Portal was used for promotion of events. I find a renewed sense of vibrancy and competition among members in initiating and participating in future activities. I anticipate better results in the year 2011-12.

There is still a very good scope for development of membership among educational institutions; especially in population of more than 6 Lakh Engineering students. Though, Corporate and Government sector are also our key stakeholders, growth of Corporate membership and individual membership during last couple of years could have been better. IT industry employs more than 2.5 Million IT professionals and has more than 16% CAGR. Our member count in these categories is below 20,000; which includes life members, some of whom are retired. There is a good scope for enrolling 5% of these professionals as CSI members in next 3-4 years time by offering them value added services in their education and career needs.

We all know that growth has direct correlation with the benefits we offer to the members. Mumbai Chapter scores largest membership base, as they offer regular quality workshops. IT Industry Growth depends largely upon skill and quality of professionals. We need to align our ‘services and delivery’ objectives in accordance with the overall industry dynamics to realize exponential growth in membership.

NASSCOM reports that the industry has set an ambitious vision for 2020 – “Transform Business, Transform India” with following key aspirations

- 30 Million urban employment (direct and indirect)
- ICT as the key enabler for delivery of public services
- Innovation hub driving additional GDP contribution by 2020, new segments (SMBs), new verticals (Defense, Public sector, Healthcare, Utilities, Printing and Publishing) and new geographies (BRIC) will account for 50-55% growth in the addressable market

These new segments would offer excellent opportunity for building skill competency at National level. Since the Industry overall is short of trained and productive man-power, there is a great opportunity to evolve a strategy of collaboration with industry and create competency centers at our Chapters, which would offer training and education programs. CSI enjoys good infrastructure and associations with academicians and experienced industry professionals, who can be pursued to take role of resource persons. Recently, Mumbai chapter successfully completed a pilot project on ‘IT Service Management’ on which they received very good feedback. In next 3 months, CSI shall offer a short term Diploma/ Certification course covering 8 modules of IT Infrastructure Management. One can look for similar programs for industry verticals and SMBs.

During my interactions at an IT Defense conference, I suggested that our Bangalore Chapter and SIG Data security could start a Centre of Excellence for promotion of Cyber Security Awareness and Education. These types of initiatives may help in developing strong bond between CSI and Corporate and Government and open up new arena for membership as well.

We shall also have a monitoring mechanism at HQ level for promoting and ensuring sustainability of all these types of new initiatives.

Financial Results and Growth Potential: As per the Annual Report, as compared to growth of student memberships and events, there is no substantial growth of revenue and assets, while recurring expenses are increasing on account of salaries and establishment cost. There is a need to take serious call to optimize operation and work out new source of revenues. Always, Events and Publications are good source of revenue for professional bodies apart from membership.

Although number of activities are numerous, the net contribution in generating income is far from satisfactory at HQ and ED and in most cases nearly nil income is realized from most of chapters, though they are important constituents of CSI. Some of the chapters like Mumbai and Bangalore have developed their revenue model of generating surplus from workshops. Other Chapters shall follow this trend. As I elaborated in earlier columns, there is a need for serious thinking of development of share income formula between Chapters and Head Quarters on fronts like membership and income from events and workshop. I am sure, National council in Ahmedabad will deliberate on this issue and evolve a strategy so that overall income and financial health of CSI shall improve, which will help in overall growth. Development projects like portal and expenses toward establishment could
thus there is a need to Re-imagine IT. Year 2012 will attract planning or Infrastructure planning or Business Alignment and there is a definite shift in IT strategy; which is not limited to ERP these big opportunities. some concrete steps will be taken by our members to embrace lab sessions may be considered. I am sure in coming months, and online facilities of conducting examinations along with short growth. Modern techniques of deliveries through web presence for skill enhancements will function as catalyst for membership requirements. There is a need to involve Industry and Government experts along with the academicians.

These policies of offering affordable education, training for skill enhancements will function as catalyst for membership growth. Modern techniques of deliveries through web presence and online facilities of conducting examinations along with short lab sessions may be considered. I am sure in coming months, some concrete steps will be taken by our members to embrace these big opportunities.

Re-Imagine IT and CSI Plans: As per recent Gartner research, there is a definite shift in IT strategy; which is not limited to ERP planning or Infrastructure planning or Business Alignment and thus there is a need to Re-imagine IT. Year 2012 will attract about $350 billion investment in IT. 2/3rd of worldwide CEOs believe that IT will make a greater contribution in this decade. A New paradigm of IT around Cloud, Social Media and Mobile Computing with Central place as Information is becoming key elements of IT strategy. These four important ICT Cluster builds are revolutionizing Business and Society. Now IT is transforming society and culture. Cloud is considered as Industrialization of IT, Social media is for mass customer, mass citizen and mass employees in enterprise. There is need to include social media as part of corporate strategy, and information shall be used in Analytic combustion engine for business. Mobile tablet growth will touch 918 million sold so far. By year 2016, every 8th citizen will have a Tablet or Akash. Technology is changing our living and business.

Much more is yet to happen. We shall study these definite trends and design our events and programs to promote these technological developments and their impact on economic and society.

I would like to recommend formation of a cluster of Think-tanks at various CSI chapters for deliberating and promoting these new directions. I dream of building a Grid of these sorts of knowledge clusters, which shall generate energy of new IT knowledge and its application and community at large shall take advantage. There is need for consolidation and fast dissemination.

IT literacy and Language processing are still big challenges in our Country for successful deployment of IT for inclusive growth. IT industry shall take this as a definite call and involve good research and product developments. Can we think of a CSI agenda around these trends and Social challenges? A good idea to start a social media group on Face book or LinkedIn and connect new ideas and create discussion forums of professionals and enthusiasts. We may find new members through Social media gateways.

Collaboration is Key: CSI will be hosting South East Asian Regional Confederation of Computer societies SEARCC 2011 - iGrowth in Mumbai on 12th and 13th December, 2011. Conference theme is “Collaboration for Inclusive Growth”. We hold important responsibility in generating interest in the use of ICT for inclusive growth. Usage of ICT for inclusive growth may be different than what we find in corporate and conventional implementations like BFSI.

SEARCC 2011 has attracted participation from 11 countries, thanks to support extended by Mr. Anthony, President of SEARCC and ACS. Both our MoS Ministers, Mr. Sachin Pilot and Mr. Milind Deora confirmed their participation. Innovative programs have been designed by program committee consisting of Prof. Shyamasunder, TIFR, Dr. Atanu Rakshit, IIM Rohtak, Dr. Sane, VJTI, Mr. Manak Singh, TIE Mumbai, Dr. Piyush Gupta, NISG and Mr. James Joseph, Microsoft. They have developed a unique structure of plenary and track sessions covering various facets of ICT strategy and host of other subjects of interest. I am sure; SEARCC 2011 will set a new benchmark and enthuse collaboration among SEARCC member countries. Personally I fully enjoyed conceptualization and putting brick model of conference. Who is who of Indian IT industry and thought leaders will share their insight in 50 sessions. 15 no. of IT companies have extended their partnership support.

I invite all of you to visit www.searcc-2011.org and register for SEARCC 2011.

Recently, I was happy to be part of 8th National conference - IT in Defense in Bangalore, which was attended by more than 300 delegates. My great appreciation for continuous hard work being put in by our ExecCom member Dr. Chakraborty in organizing this conference year after year and also to all the volunteers and contributors, who made this a grand success.

Prof. Mini, Convener Skill Development cell, launched pilot of Conference management and Digital library. Both these initiatives have immense potential for strengthening activities of CSI towards Strong Knowledge society. My hearty good wishes.

Looking for new directions: On 1st Dec, 2011, inauguration of CSI 46th annual convention will take place in Ahmedabad. Our team under leadership of Prof. R P Soni has put an interesting 3 days program. On side of convention, we would take the opportunity to think through for CSI future policies, plans and improvements. ExecCom, National council and President Council, Think-tank, and statutory committees shall open-mindedly deliberate new directions for CSI so as to make CSI the most vibrant and wanting professional body. New Directions will be decided, I am sure.

I also consider this as an excellent opportunity for networking and friendship. Let us co-create CSI for the service to the Nation and set goals and targets for benefit of our members. New growth is awaiting …

Today I remember famous quotes by Harold R. McAlindon

Do not follow where the path may lead.
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Jai hind!
With love,
M D Agrawal