President's Message
M. D. Agrawal

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

Dear Friends

My hearty good wishes on the eve of Navaratri and Dassera. The current Executive Committee completes six months on the auspicious day of Navaratri. As I look back, I enumerate below some of the key achievements of last 6 months, on different fronts– HQ, ED, Regions, Divisions, SIGs, Chapters, Student Chapters.

New Initiatives of Knowledge Management & Publications:

2. Introduction of Online CSI Communications Magazine for all members.
3. CSI Computing Journal: Launch of Online Research Journal with efforts of Prof. Shyamasundar, Publication Committee Chairman.
4. CSI Student Wiz Kid: Monthly Online Magazine for student community: Thanks to team associated with Education Directorate and all editors.
5. CSI Monthly E Newsletter: continuous efforts of our senior member Mr. H.R. Mohan.
6. Formation of separate company “CSI Publication” under section 25 for CSI Transactions, thanks to Shri Mahalingam & Prof. Raghavan.
7. CSI Knowledge Portal started getting many more hits and visits, thanks to proliferating no. of news and submissions.
8. Upgradation Project of CSI KM Portal and Development of new membership software: Likely to complete in next 2 months by HQ team.
9. Digital Library feasibility study completed, thanks to Prof. Mini.
10. Introduction of mass e-mailing facility at HQ and setting up of SMTP server.

With all the above developments, CSI infrastructure and Publications are ready to serve better interests of members and to avow, as it is, a prime professional body fostering knowledge network and offering quality technical publications & helping members and industry with knowledge of new developments.

New Premises for HQ in Mumbai:

After allotment of 3800sq feet floor space by MIDC last year and after stringent planning & architect work, CSI HQ corporate office is now completed. The new premises provides artistic ambience, has additional facilities of seminar/auditorium, two meeting rooms and library as well.

Growth of Education & Training Programs:

1. New policy of partnership & subject-based centre of excellence, was announced, for setting up centers with education institutions and other organizations for joint technical and certification programs and it is being implemented by ED.
2. As a result of this policy, Education Directorate succeeded in introducing certification program on E-Waste Management, in partnership with M/s. ERG and is also likely to launch following further certification programs:
   - Network security in partnership with MIEL Academy
   - Smart Phone Application development in partnership with Nokia
3. Partnership program with IIT Mumbai Spoken Tutorials www.spoken-tutorial.org, on subjects like PHP, Linux, MySQL. Pilot has been completed successfully by our ASC and 50 students got CSI - IIT Joint certification at Coimbatore. These programs have the capability of offering certifications on important ICT subjects to students & professionals. A policy needs to be firmed up by us on this front to offer these certifications to all students & professionals.
4. Education Directorate endeavor for making available a basket of 15 no. standard workshops for Education institutions and Chapters. Prof. Mini, as convener of Skill Development Cell, is helping Education Directorate to develop standard catalogue of workshops. Project of building a list of 1000 no. of Speakers as CSI Talent pool, will go a long way in helping to run above workshops and many other short term assignments.
5. Thanks to local teams, many Chapters including Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Mumbai, Pune, Kolkatta have started offering technical workshops on emerging subjects. Successful Experiences of these may help to replicate workshops at other chapters, provide a good growth of workshops.
6. Mumbai chapter started a study project for developing framework for CSI industry focus workshops leading to certifications. An industry survey of selected corporate and IT companies shows strong need of quality programs for their staff. There may be an incubation period of 3 months to 6 months.
7. For membership drive for education institutions and creation of student branches a dedicated satellite office at Coimbatore Chapter was started, under guidance of Mr. Ranga Raj Gopal. This decision helped to create many new members & student chapters.
8. Mr. Ranga Raj Gopal, ASC, lists out following key achievements at student activity fronts:
   - State student conventions held at Goa, Tamilnadu, Kerala, U.P
   - National student convention at GIET, Rajahmundry under CSI Vizag chapter
   - Special Membership drive - reached out to over 1000 colleges nationally
   - About 50 new student branches expected to start through this drive
   - FDP Workshop on cloud computing with support from Ms. Mini
   - Pilot of spoken tutorials of IIT- Mumbai, conducted on 26th-28th September at PSG College of Tech., Coimbatore
   - Microsoft FDP held at Bengaluru/Pune
- Seminars/Workshops on Cloud Computing / Testing & Automation/Android conducted in Bangalore

National seminars / workshops: Six National / International Seminars were concluded including International conference of IFIP TC 5, at Goa, 3 national student conventions and many seminars and workshops.

CSI Awards & Recognition:
Recognition and Awards are considered one of the prime objectives of any professional body. Next 3 months will witness numerous activities and cheers with launch of following CSI Awards. I convey my gratitude to organizers and members of award committees.

- **Education Excellence Awards:** 10 no. of special awards for education sector have been newly introduced by Director Education. - YITP 2011 Awards have been launched by Mr. Bipin Mehta and all team members, after complete restructuring & with better professional look. Hon. Treasurer, Mr. V L Mehta, assisted in getting initial funding.
- CSI IT Excellence Awards were re-introduced last year with efforts of Mr. Anil Srivastava, RVP. This year 2 new categories of awards have been added.
- CSI SIG E Governance Awards have set high standards in our country. Thanks to Dr. Bagga & his team.

Organizing of these awards at all-India level requires lot of coordination and leadership acumen. I am sure all our four teams will do their best and bring new laurels to CSI.

**New Chapters:** Four new chapters like Gurgaon, Varanasi, Jhansi, & couple of new student chapters were added to our list and many defunct chapters were revived.

Friends, I desired to share some good moments with members with a consolidated list of key happenings & achievements of teams during last 6 months but unable list out full list due to paucity of space. These shall be considered as strengthening of foundation for the next level of activities. Activists should use list of achievements for promoting CSI Brand among corporate, Governments and other society segments and shall attract their attention to get involved in CSI programs.

Now, a thoughtful exercise is needed to maintain sustainability and growth. For financial viability and self sustenance, these activities require proper planning and good secretariat & managerial support. There are always demands from members for a good quality of service. For effective planning, effective governance, execution of initiatives, an urgent need is felt to recruit a senior person in rank of Chief Operating officer at HQ for all India coordination. Administration in hand of senior person shall also help to develop schemes for new source of revenues & optimize expenses. He shall also help to take special measures toward CSI membership enrolment among corporate and individual professionals working in IT companies.

Our SIGs and Divisional activities also need better attention, I am hopeful in coming months new initiatives will be taken by respective chairpersons.

**CSI Chapter Organization & Forthcoming Elections:** We have a decentralized structure. At chapters, a great amount of autonomy of operations is available. It is being noticed in large number of cases, issues are getting surfaced with formation of chapter committees, continuation of old committee members and lack of interests among new members to contest chapter positions. There is need to attract suitable representations from all category of stakeholders especially from corporate, academics, Government including presence of youngsters, CIOs, women members.

This situation calls for a serious effort, on one side amendment of Byelaws to fill gaps and also on the part of nomination committees to identify suitable candidates and also at times function. Now elections are being announced for National executive and chapter committees. NC has a crucial role to play in selections, invitations and nominations. All seniors and fellows are requested to help local chapters and National NC by extending their help in identification and pursue them to file nominations for various leadership positions. My hearty good wishes to Chairman NC, Prof Nayak, Mr. Rangaswami and Mr. Mohanty for taking this responsibility at National level.

**CSI Research Focus:** Research promotion is considered CSI’s key agenda item.

On 5 th sept, 2011, we had a meeting with DST Secretary, Shri Ramasami. Prof. Shyamasundar and Dr. Om Vikas were also present. Secretary strongly expressed that CSI should help the Government in improving Research ecosystem in the field of Computer Science and ICT. Secretary called upon the Society to bring out a White Paper on Research and Education in CSI and play a proactive role in framing policies and arriving at mechanisms for implementing the same. He also stressed that this will aid the government in taking concrete steps in the coming 12th Five Year Plan in the area of Computer Science and Engineering among the public institutions through private partnerships.

We have requested research veteran & Publication Committee Chairman, Prof. Shyamasundar & Dr. Om Vikas to spare time for taking suitable action in preparation of this report. As per him,CSI roadmap must provide strategy to transition from “Catch-up Phase” to “Competitive Phase” and also develop technologies to place India in “Commanding Phase”. We shall consider this an good opportunity.

To achieve this sort of tasks & other opportunities in research we shall invite and nominate seniors with strong background of academic and industrial research in our committee, as and when opportunity arrives. They will be helpful to strengthen our research programs and in promoting csi research promotion mission.

In next 3 months, CSI Team will be involved in the mammoth task of organizing major activities - Annual National Convention CSI 2011, SEARCC 2011, CSI National Awards, National and Chapter elections and others. These events call for a fair amount of synergy, mutual help, good back office capabilities to draw industry and institutions support & secretariat support and hard work by organizers. I am hopeful for good results.

Considering forthcoming opportunities and challenges, I recollect the words of Lord Krishna in Bhagwat Gita Sutra 38: "Treating alike victory and defeat, gain and loss, pleasure and pain, get ready for the battle, fighting thus will not incur sin".

I implore you to extend your wholehearted and continuous support.

Jai hind!
With love,

M D Agrawal