President’s Message

Dear Members

I am happy to announce that the first chapter Golden Jubilee Celebration meeting for the year 2014-15 was organized on 14th Jun 2014 in a grand manner at Bangalore in which three past presidents – Dr. R. Srinivasan, Dr. S. Ramani, Mr. M.L. Ravi and 13 fellows of CSI including Prof. V. Rajaraman, the CSI Life Time Achievement Award recipient and the industry veteran Mr. Ashok Soota participated and shared their experiences, thoughts and views on CSI. Dr. Sarat, Executive Director, CDAC, Bangalore was the chief guest at the meeting. He praised the role of CSI in promoting IT literacy in the country along with updating professionals on the developments in the fast changing IT field. He also highlighted the relationship of CDAC with CSI and assured that it will be further strengthened in meeting the objectives of both the organizations. After a brief address by the president on the contributions of CSI Bangalore chapter, Chander P Mannar, chairman CSI BC highlighted the achievements of CSI BC and outlined its activities plan for the year. Our hearty congrats to the CSI BC team behind the organization of this memorable event which has been captured in pictures at http://goo.gl/0bJlMK

CSI Chennai is gearing up to conduct a similar programme in Jul 2014.

I am happy to announce and thank Dr. Swarnaalatha Rao, CSI Fellow from Bangalore for having donated a sum of Rs. two lakhs as corpus for instituting an award in the memory of her late husband Mr. A.V. Ramachandra Rao. She had desired cash awards of Rs. 10,000 & Rs. 7500 on a yearly basis to be given to two best papers presented in the CSI conferences in the Hardware area. The programme committee chairs of various CSI conferences may pl suggest the list of papers eligible for this award to the awards committee.

ICANN (The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), is a non-profit public benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policies on the Internet’s unique identifiers. Through its coordination role of the Internet’s naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet.

In its 50th meeting (ICANN50) held in London during 20-26, June 2014, the undersigned had the opportunity to participate as the representative of one of the four At Large Structures from India. Thanks to Mr. Satish Babu, our past president for facilitating. This meeting was the largest in the history of ICANN with 180 participants from all over the world representing Governments, both profit and non profit organizations, business community and at-large members had over 215 sessions. It was the testimony for the advancement of the multistakeholder model and its exclusivity to protect the digital human rights of the Internet users across the globe. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. India and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Rt. Honorable Carwyn Jones, First Minister of Wales and Lu Wei, Minister of Cyberspace Affairs Administration of China participated and addressed at the inaugural session. The UK Government hosted a High Level Government Meeting during ICANN50 which was attended by ministers, ambassadors and senior government officials from over 100 countries in which India was represented by Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Electronics and Information Technology, Dr. Govind, CEO, National Internet Exchange of India and officials from CDAC. This ICANN50 meeting was significant in the context of the U.S. Commerce Department’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announcement of its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community and to support and enhance the multistakeholder model of Internet policymaking and governance. ICANN being as convener of the process had to develop a transition proposal and has made available the tools and resources to facilitate the discussion and capture the views and comments of the global multistakeholder community. It was an experience to see how stakeholders with conflicting interest coming together in framing guidelines for the future in the areas of Internet Governance, Net Neutrality and protecting the Internet user’s digital human rights. CSI was profiled as an At Large Structure of ICANN through an interview by the president of CSI which can be seen at http://goo.gl/Xe0KXN With over 150 million internet users, India is one of the major internet user community in the world. CSI has a role in educating the users on their rights in the Cyberspace. Along with the Indian Government agencies CSI can partner and promote awareness. ICANN encourages every internet user to become its at large member through Internet Society (ISOC) currently which is free. It is strongly suggested that our members visit http://goo.gl/VPfMcP to join ISOC and participate in its activities and benefit.

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) is organizing the National IT Conference (NITC) of Sri Lanka similar to that of our annual CSI convention. The NITC-2014 on the theme “ICT for Inclusive Development” will be held on 22-23 August 2014 in Colombo. His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Chair in Office of the Commonwealth has been invited as the Chief Guest of the Conference. During NITC-2014, after a dialogue among ICT professionals across the commonwealth it is proposed to finalize a declaration ‘ICT for Inclusive Development beyond MDGs: Policy Objectives and Targets for Vision 2020 in the commonwealth’ and submit the recommendations to Chair in Office of the Commonwealth. The CSSL, a member of SEARCC is desirous of strengthening its relationship with CSI and has requested a greater participation from India.

CSI Div III is joining hands with CR Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science (AIMSCS) and Centre for Modeling, Simulation and Design (CMSD), University Of Hyderabad in organising a national workshop on Big Data Analytics (BIDA) 2014 during 22-23, Aug 2014 at Hyderabad. This workshop is a timely one in the context in which the ever-increasing volume, velocity and variety, massive datasets pose new challenges, and increasing demands, on computational analysis and data management. The organizers who have proposed a special interest group on Big Data under CSI are desirous of formalizing the SIG during this workshop and popularize the Big Data concepts among our members.

CSI Education Directorate had organised a two days programme during 26-27, Jun 2014 on Minimalist Object Oriented Linux (MOOL), a Linux Operating System that enables the Device Driver development in C++ and the localisation at Console level which are not available in any other flavour of LINUX. The Operating System BOSS-MOOL is created by integrating the MOOL Kernel with BOSS - Bharat Operating System Solution (BOSS) developed by CDAC, Chennai, is a Linux operating system, derived from Debian, and customized for the Indian environment. CSI has partnered with IIT Madras and CDAC in this initiative. Thanks for the support of Prof. D Janakiram of IIT Madras and CDAC, Chennai team who are also keen that CSI runs this programme in other places too. CSI also plans to create Student Hubs at the colleges, to be the local support and help centres in the understanding and deployment of the technology. CSI seeks intense participation from the colleges in achieving the goal of wide-spread usage of the technology, and be a part of this mission.

CSI Education Directorate with the support of the Student Branches has planned to conduct “Golden Tech-Bridge” Programme aimed at introducing computers and its advantages to the unexposed sections of society. This programme will be conducted on 9th Aug 2014 at over 60 SBs across the country, with at least 50 participants each to mark the 50thyear of CSI’s services. We wish the programme all the very best.

The SEARCC International Schools Software Competition 2014 (ISSC 2014) will be organized at Chennai during 9-13, Oct 2014. All the chapters and RVPs are requested to publicize this to get maximum participation.

More in the next month message.

With best regards

H R Mohan
President
Computer Society of India