Greetings from CSI!

The months of April and May have been traditionally used by CSI for preparations for the year ahead, with activities usually starting in earnest by June. This year too, the ExeCom has been busy these months discussing policies and operational aspects of the current year, and constituting Statutory Committees that will take up much of the work of the Society for rest of the year. It is now time to convert the plans to actions.

Events
CSI, through its Division II (Software), took a lead role in organizing a two-day Workshop on "Secure Computing Systems" exclusively conducted for the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow, during 26-27 May, 2012. Several of our senior leaders, including our Vice President and the Divisional Chair, were among experts who conducted the workshop, which had a blend of foundational concepts and real-life case studies.

Membership and Member Services
We all are aware that, while the overall membership of CSI has crossed 90,000, the professional membership numbers have not kept pace with this growth. It is clear that still more attention needs to be devoted to this crucial issue of membership growth in general, and the need for bringing the younger generation of professionals into the CSI fold in particular.

For this, the visibility of CSI has to be enhanced and its image projected much better. It is desirable to ensure that CSI is present in all IT-related events in India. Moreover, we need to project CSI through IT magazines, other print publications, and related websites. The e-membership proposal, which is currently being refined for implementation, will help in acquiring new members in this way.

I request the RVPs to continue their efforts, together with other key stakeholders such as Chapter office bearers, institutional members, and our team of senior staff to drive the membership renewal and recruitment process through the three “Rs”: Retain (existing members), Recruit (new members), and Recover (bring back members who have discontinued their membership).

It is observed that some members have not renewed their membership for the current year of April 2012-March 2013. I appeal to all of you to renew your membership and consider recommending and persuading new members to join the society.

Financial Discipline
Financial Discipline is of prime importance in a Society like CSI, which has a nationwide presence. Some of our Chapters need improvement in their activity levels, while others who are active, sometimes lag in submitting their accounts in time. We also expect Chapters to generate surpluses in normal course of activities, even if a few specific events may not yield significant surpluses. At the same time, CSI has always been willing to allocate budgets for revival and handholding of weaker chapters.

As we have to consolidate and present our accounts to the statutory authorities in time, it is important that we follow all prescribed financial norms and that accounts are submitted well in time. I request the Chapter managements to consider these aspects early on in the year, so that they can prepare accordingly.

Awards
We will soon start the process of calling nominations for various awards. The Awards Committee, as per our Constitution, will be convened by the Immediate Past President. We have instituted awards for recognizing and rewarding outstanding professionals for their contributions. I appeal all of you to promote these awards in your respective domains.

Initiatives from the Educational Directorate (ED)
We are operationalizing several new initiatives directed at our Chapters, institutional members, and student members. To begin with, ED has been empowered to support chapters and student branches to conduct workshops and certification programs that are being promoted by CSI. Second, we would like to invite institutions to renew/become members of CSI and have operational student branches in the forthcoming new academic year to enjoy different benefits as specified at http://csi-india.org/web/CSI/benefits

Third, school students may be interested to know that the International Schools Software Competition (ISSC) organized by SEARCC for 2012 will be hosted by Computer Society of Sri Lanka at Colombo from 25-29 Oct, 2012. ED will soon be commencing the process of selecting school participants for Team-India.

Fourth, student branches may please note that the new version of the students’ convention manual has been released at http://www.csi-india.org/web/CSI/student-convention-manual for your reference.

Finally, student members may be happy to note that we plan to issue laminated student member identity cards soon. For more details on any these initiatives, please look up the ED website http://csi-india.org/CSI-edu

With greetings

Satish Babu
President