Dear Friends

“Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration” is a timeless quote by Mr. Thomas Alva Edison. Real success, most of the time, comes from a long and hard journey of imagination, to impact.

Future Plans & Membership: I am very much impressed by the passion and hard-work of our beloved members, contributing their valuable time and energy to the noble cause and mission of CSI. During the past 2 months, a series of deliberations and planning exercises were carried out by Vice President, Hon. Secretary, Director Education, all-India Student Coordinator, convener of Skill Development Committee and Constitutional Amendment Committee with office bearers of Chapters, Student Co-ordinators, RVPs, Divisional Chairman and other Senior Members and industry experts. I appreciate their efforts which will go a long way in making CSI a vibrant and Service-oriented society. Acceptability of society programs and attraction for CSI membership shall depend upon relevance of CSI programs to today’s context and member expectations.

Important items for inclusion in our agenda may be contemporary issues like technology and solution for successful roll-out of Aadhaar, education programs to bridge skill gaps in software and electronic & computer hardware industry, knowledge-sharing summit on e-governance and organizing technical workshops for government officials on their plans. We have the advantage of access to best of class academicians as our members and loyalty of IT companies. As suggested by Jt. Secretary, DIT, Mr. Ravishankar, in one of the meetings, CSI shall orient its activities beyond technology programs and participate in strategy and planning process of government schemes. There is a good scope of inclusion of dedicated sessions on technology and business issues of Addhaar in our National seminars, Annual Convention and Student Conventions. Similarly, few of our seminars may arrange sessions on Skill development opportunities for IT industry, how CSI shall leverage a partnership model with entrepreneur and industry. There are many other state and central level issues, which are good candidates for our seminars and education programs.

Opportunities: As I had expressed in earlier columns, let us torch our energy with our nation’s priorities. As per national skill development statistics, there is a likely shortage of about 34 lakh engineers and technicians by year 2020 in hardware and electronic manufacturing sector, which is the backbone of computer industry, NKDC and Ministry of IT, both would like to seek CSI help. Recently, CEO and MD of NSDC, Mr. Dilip Chenoy, visited our ED in Chennai. As per estimate, contribution of hardware and electronic industry and a good electronic engineer and technician in terms of wealth creation is manifold as compared to software industry and a software engineer. I find this a great potential opportunity for CSI to enter into the domain of this industry with short-term and mid-term training and education programs. These may target to fill the gaps in standard of education and quality of output of engineering and polytechnic institutes. A study has been initiated to assess the scope and identify the areas where CSI can pitch in. I invite suggestions from members and experts.

Technical Committees and SIGs: Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide a rich platform for promotion of research and knowledge sharing on specific subjects. They help to bring together experts, create a forum for collaboration, provide learning and experience and promote research. With existing SIGs, so far, there is a mixed experience of their sustainability and desired quality, except few SIGs like SIG E-Governance & SIG SE, SIG Wireless. Platform of SIG provides a good option to form technical committees which can be a great source of defining standards, promoting research for industry application and creating a good knowledge base through discussion forums, case studies and publications. It may be a good idea, to form a mentoring network to strengthen culture and practice of SIGs. If necessary, we shall invite experts from ACM, IEEE to share their success stories. Success of SIGs for promoting technical and research excellence will create a good connects with industry, government and subject specialist members. Committee of SIG conveners under leadership of VP, shall explore best possible growth.

Loyalty from Corporate Members: During the last few years, despite holding industry focused National and International conferences, interest among Corporate for CSI association marked a deterioration. IT industry and Corporate IT community has increased manifold, however membership is stagnant. Corporate is our key stakeholder. CIOs and CTOs are an important power group. We shall study industry requirement and plan few dedicated programs. CIO has emerged as a profession; their required managerial and technological proficiency. CTO needs a good technical base for Security and Governance. A study shall be initiated on feasibility of CIO institutes, especially; new head of IT and Manager require variant skills and quality education. Collaboration with premier management, IT institutes, Industry and Global bodies like CIO executive council, Sloan Institute of Management will help. To begin with, this forum may offer short term programs and make available global knowledge base for CIOs and future Managers. Aligning our activities with CIO’s and CTO’s agenda, shall help to generate loyalty among corporate for CSI association and membership. Mumbai chapter with strong base of CIO club may take lead at this front.

Awards & Appreciation: Appreciation, Recognition and Awards are our important activities. Scheme and scope of Young IT Award under guidance of Mr. Bipin Mehta, convener for YITP and Hon. Treasurer, Mr. V. L. Mehta has taken good shape and is ready for launch with support from industry. Last year, similar exercise was done by Shri. Anil Srivastava to redefine scope of CSI IT Excellence Awards. Our E-Governance Awards are of industry standards, thanks to Dr. Bagga and Dr. Ashok Agrawal. I have requested Director Education & Chairman of Award Committee, Prof. Thirumurthy, as our presence among education sector has become manifold, we shall explore instituting CSI awards for excellence in Education & Research.

New beginning for CSI transactions: On 17th May in Taj Man Singh Hotel, Delhi, in a glittering ceremony, Mr. Mahalingam and Prof. Raghavan finally signed agreement with M/s. Springer for starting CSI transactions. My good wishes for the success of this endeavor.

Tireless efforts are being put in by Dr. Bhatia, Convener, Chapter Revival Committee, Hon. Secretary and RVPs for revival of defunct chapters. As the last count shared, 41 chapters had now proper committees. I expect in next 2-3 months, action shall focus for revival of the remaining non-functioning chapters. My hearty congratulations to the newly formed Varanasi Chapter, which was inaugurated by Prof. Thirumurthy.

Guidelines and suggestions on plan of activities listed in Chapter Manual are good source for planning and execution of chapter activities. There is a need to study new kind of workable and scalable model for our chapters with a focus on industry, government and academics. For running effectively programs of Education directorate, Events of chapters, Student branches and Other promotion activities, our major chapters shall try to employ Full time experienced Regional Managers. Model of Mumbai Chapter is Good learning.

In months to come, we shall see many more actions and achievements from various units and members. My Best wishes for success of these efforts.

Jai hind!

With love,

M D Agrawal

M. D. Agrawal

CSI Communications | June 2011 | 3