President’s Message

Dear members

Another year is upon us in CSI. A new team of leaders is taking charge of CSI at the helm, as a part of the periodic renewal process customary with every democratic organization. In this transition, our effort would be to maintain continuity as much as possible, drawing especially on the wisdom of the outgoing ExeCom members, and thereby boosting productivity of CSI as a whole.

CSI has been doing well in many areas, while there is significant room for improvement in others. I would like to request cooperation from my colleagues in the ExeCom, Chapters and members, as well as from our team of officers who are performing key functions in the HQ and Educational Directorate, in order to collectively deliver services on the expected lines to all our stakeholders.

Membership and Chapters: While our membership is close to 90,000 now, it must be kept in mind that the professional membership is less than 25% of this number. I would once again like to point out that we have a target of 100,000 members by the end of 2013-14, when CSI completes 50 years of operations, of which the professional membership should be over 25%.

Our RVPs and the Chapter Revamp Committee have done excellent work in the past year and has revived many defunct and dormant chapters; we have also started several new chapters. We have to continue the task of streamlining CSI chapters, ensuring that we are able to fulfill our potential by securing functioning chapters in all potential locations. We are also expecting a significant improvement in our international regional operations. The incoming team would like to strengthen RVPs as well as the Chapter Revamp Committee for ensuring vibrancy of our membership structures.

Our membership database is still an area of improvement for us. While the upgradation of software for the database is in process, this task cannot be completed without active participation from members and chapters. I earnestly solicit your cooperation in ensuring that your membership details are updated. For any clarification, kindly contact our Membership Helpdesk (022-29261723 OR helpdesk@csi-india.org).

Students: Students form the bulk of our membership at this time, with over 410 Student Branches (SBs) around the country. It is important for us to deliver such services to them as are of value to them, enhancing their technical skills as well as employability. The incoming team would like to encourage student activities structured through SBs at the cluster-, state- and regional-levels. I call upon the National, Regional, and State Student coordinators to request for any reasonable support they may require for enhancing the quality of membership services to students, including at the school levels that we have initiated.

Other Stakeholders: CSI has a diverse set of stakeholders in addition to its members, including the industry, the Government, the academic and research community, the user community, professional societies and fraternities, and the society at large. Our offerings for these stakeholders, especially the Government and academic/research community, are currently being strengthened. We hope to continue to work on this through the year, through a variety of programs including research support, CSI Communications, CSI Journal & CSI Transactions, Digital Repository, Centres of Excellence, nation-wide training programs, and linkages with international partners.

In particular, CSI Communications, as a product that is of value to a cross section of stakeholders within CSI, has to be supported and nurtured to maintain its current level of excellence and to go beyond. The newly launched CSI Journal holds much promise. We look forward to developments on CSI Transactions, as it is perhaps a very significant step that CSI has taken. Both the latter publications are important developments that we are targeting at the academic and research communities.

Kolkata National Convention: The National Convention for 2012-13 is being organized at Kolkata, a historic city with strong connections to the development of computing in the country. We have a team of stalwarts organizing a set of exciting programs for the National Convention. We look forward to another excellent convention in December 2012.

CSI Conferences: One of the most important class of offerings of CSI to our members, as well to other stakeholders, is Conferences. I request Divisional Chairpersons and SIGs Conveners in particular, and all organs of CSI in general, to ensure we do sufficient numbers of Conferences and other events, keeping in mind the need for excellence in quality. We would also like to build on the information artifacts generated through our events over a period of time, by maintaining an open access digital repository.

International Collaboration: CSI has been keen to add value to its members through collaboration with external bodies, both with international societies such as IEEE Technical Societies and ACM, as well as with domestic institutions. We will be constituting a new subcommittee under whose stewardship new partnerships could be created, and the implementation of old MoUs monitored.

Streamlining of Administration: Another area that the ExeCom will be devoting attention to during the year will be streamlining the administration at the HQ as well as the Educational Directorate. The Subcommittee on Administrative Reforms set up earlier would be submitting its report at the joint ExeCom in March-April, and all such measures which are approved by the ExeCom will be taken up for implementation. In particular, we would like to bring in better financial and administrative systems and improved accountability at all levels.

Overall, we are planning for a very productive year 2012-13 for CSI, where members as well as other stakeholders derive substantive value. If, in your opinion, there are any new activities or programs CSI can take up, or if you have any general suggestions in the running of CSI, kindly write to me.

On behalf of me and my colleagues in the OBs and the ExeCom, I wish you a very productive year ahead.

With Love
Jai Hind.

Satish Babu