Presidents Message

Dear Members

On behalf of the CSI Excom 2014-15, I am pleased to invite you to CSI-2014, the 49th Annual Convention on the theme “Emerging ICT for Bridging Future”. It will be held as a part of CSI@50 during 12-14, Dec 2014 at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Hyderabad. CSI-2014 is hosted by CSI Hyderabad chapter in association with JNTU and Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO). The Convention is spearheaded by Mr. JA Chowdary (OC), Dr. A Govardhan (PC) and Mr. Gautam Mahapatra (FC) and a dedicated team of CSI members, academic and industry professionals from Hyderabad. The arrangements for CSI-2014 are in full swing. The team is putting up an excellent programme which is under its final stage and will soon be available at the convention website www.csi-2014.org. I am sure that the sessions by a wide range of eminent speakers on a variety of topics will be a feast to all participants. Prior to the CSI-2014, the Annual Students Convention will be held on 10-11, Dec 2014 at GNIT campus. Under the theme “Campus to Corporate and Beyond”, the programme will focus on career opportunities and enhancements. It is hosted by Guru Nanak Institutions under the chairmanship of Dr. HS Saini. I look forward to the active participation by the members in CSI-2014 and student members in the student convention. As a heritage city, Hyderabad has a lot to offer first-time visitors. Please plan your trip well in advance and have a great time at CSI-2014. We will be delighted to see you at Hyderabad.

I was happy to be among the CSI veterans at Pune who had organized a meet as part of CSI@50 events along with the International Conference on Advances in Cloud Computing (ACC 2014) on 10th Oct 2014. Launched in 1972, CSI Pune has gained prominence by organizing a number of national and international events including two annual conventions. Incidentally, CSI-77 at Pune was my first convention as a regular member after I graduated in 1976. In the CSI@50 meet, after a briefing on chapter activities by Mr. Anand Joglekar, I shared my views on CSI and the way to move forward in the current context of capacity building and creating intellectual property. In a special talk, Dr. Mathar Joseph, a seasoned computer scientist, academic, researcher and one of the most respected members of the Pune’s software industry took us down the memory lane on computing in India from 1960s till now. He highlighted the growth as well the opportunities we had missed. Mr. Shekhars Sahasrabudhe, a former RVP-VI and past chairman of CSI Pune, made a lively presentation on past chairpersons of CSI Pune and their contributions to the growth of the chapter. A few other former chair persons and Dr. Deepak Shikarpar, former chairman of CSI Pune, and fellow of CSI, shared their experiences. The conf. ACC-2014, held under the Div V on “Education & Research” headed by Dr. Anirban Basu, was well attended with over 100 enthusiastic participants who had interacted actively with the speakers. The panel on “IoT – the present and the future” was the highpoint of ACC-2014. Dr. Rajesh Ingle and his team brought out an excellent proceeding with 13 papers, which will be available in the CSI Digital Library soon. The CSI Pune deserves a hearty congratulation for showcasing their organizing capacity once again.

Formal Methods (FM), a discipline in theoretical computing, plays an important role by applying mathematical techniques in the specification, development and verification of software and hardware systems. NCFM - the National workshop-cum-Conference on Formal Methods - recently held during 15-17, Oct 2014 in Bangalore was the first of its kind that brought together scientists and engineers who are active in the area of FM and are interested in exchanging their experiences in the industrial usage of these methods. The NCFM was organized by the new CSI SIG on Formal Methods whose convener is Ms. Bhanumathi Shekhar, along with CSI Bangalore and hosted by IISc, Dr. Ramaswamy Srinivasan, Global R&D Project Manager of ABB Global Industries, Bangalore in his inaugural address highlighted the growing needs in FM. In view of the fact that 400 out of 600 talent-starved R&D centers of international companies are now located in India and the role of CSI SIG-FM in creating awareness and motivating students to work in FM, the need to educate our students and working professionals in FM were the highlights of the special address by the President. The CSI BC Chairman Chandra Mannar and his team have spared no efforts in making this conf. a technically rich one with a lot of interactions and learning by the participants. While speaking to Prof. N. Balakrishnan, of Computer Education and Research Centre at IISc, it was given to understand that funding is available for research in the Formal Methods in Cyber Security and related areas, and that SIG-FM can work with them in popularizing Formal Methods among researchers.

While we at CSI are taking advantage of our association with IEEE & IEEE Computer Society in organizing a number of Distinguished Visitor Programme talks and tutorials at various CSI Student Branches, our own home grown Distinguished Speaker Programme (DSP) requires attention for its effective implementation. The growth in the number of engineering institutions has created a shortage of qualified teachers; DSP was initiated to rope in both experienced academic and industry professionals to supply an alternative stream of teachers who will help our students become industry ready. While it is quite easy to organize programmes with speakers from abroad, my personal experience in getting our senior members of academia and industry for talks is quite a mixed one. Some have been overwhelmingly responsive to our request but a few do not even acknowledge the request, left alone coming forward to speak at conferences organized by CSI.

I am happy to share some of the activities of our Education Directorate in their continued effort in service to our members which include: Signing of MoU with Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) for skill development initiatives in the Telecommunications domain; Conducting the SEARCC International School Software Competition ISSC-2014 at Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Chennai in which ROC Taiwan came first, followed by India (Team-B) and Sri Lanka (Team-A) in the second and third places respectively. The prizes were presented by Mr. HR Mohan, President, CSI, Dr. Thangam Meganathan, Chairperson, Rajalakshmi Group of Institutions, Prof. P Thirumurthy, Past President, CSI, Mr. S Ramanathan, Past Hon. Secretary and Mr. Bhaskaran, Vice Chairman, CSI Chennai; and Continuing its campaign on Open Source Technology, by organizing a free workshop for faculty members on BOSS MOOL at JNTU, Anantapur, Andhra, jointly with CDAC, IIT Madras. The workshop, attended by over 100 was inaugurated by Prof. Lal Kishore, Vice Chancellor, JNTU-A and facilitated by Prof. Ananda Rao.

I am happy to note that CSI Chennai in association with IEEE Computer Society and IEEE Professional Communication Society is organizing an Essay Contest for the school and college students on the topics “ICT for Digital India”, “ICT for Make in India” and “ICT for Clean India” which are the important initiatives of the Government of India. I wish all the best for their efforts and request them to share the views of the young minds to the PMO and DoT.

Due to space constraints, I will discuss some of the recent developments in the country such as eCommerce, ICT in manufacturing and other initiatives in the next month. While I conclude my message, let me once again remind you to enroll new members in CSI by letting them know about the 15% discount on Life Membership being offered for a limited period. This will end by Dec 2014.

Once again I extend my personal invitation to all for your participation in CSI-2014, the flagship event of CSI at Hyderabad. I eagerly look forward to seeing you at Hyderabad in Dec 2014.

With best regards

H R Mohan
President

Computer Society of India