President’s Message

Dear Members

Let us all congratulate on behalf of Computer Society of India, Sri Narendra Modi, who has been recently sworn as the 15th Prime Minister of India. It is a known fact that he is widely acknowledged as a champion of India’s competency in technology, innovation, e-governance, use of technology in education, and turning India a global hub of technology. CSI was proud and privileged to confer upon Sri Narendra Modi the “CSI e-RATNA” Award in recognition of his services to State and citizens at large through e-Governance and ICT projects, on the occasion of e-Governance Knowledge Summit and International Conference on e-Governance in Oct 2011. Sri Mod while addressing the IT professionals at the Nasscom India Leadership Forum had stated that the use of IT can put India on the road to fast and inclusive growth. He further, envisages the role of IT as a change agent which will empower, connect and can bind isolated parts of India and create harmony and can join people with governments, bridge the gap between demand and supply, and can bring all closer to knowledge. He had also coined the popular phrase: IT + IT = IT (Indian Talent+ Information Technology = India Tomorrow).

Modi’s vision is to create a Digital India a knowledge-based society and economy using IT as the growth engine. He also believes that E-governance, with increased use of technology to bring empowerment, equity and efficiency to the economy and will be a great problem solver for people in India and emphasizes that “E-governance can bring minimum government and maximum governance,” All the above, has set a high expectation by the Indian IT Industry to look forward to the next phase of growth in IT in the country which will be beneficial to all of us.

As the demand for electronics and the hardware gadgets is set to increase from $55 billion in 2014 to $400 billion by 2020, and in order to conserve the foreign exchange, an ambitious electronics manufacturing policy focusing on information access devices and value added knowledge products such wearable computers and devices is expected by the industry. Further, industry sources believe that distributed smart manufacturing using 3D printing technology will become the main stream in the near future. Further, the IT-BPO sector by 2020, expects its market size to grow to $300 billion from the current $110 billion. These initiatives are likely to create millions of new jobs and societies like CSI have a major role in developing the manpower to meet these requirements.

In the EXCO meeting of the SERACC (in which CSI is a member) held in Apr 2014 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Prof. Dong Yoon Kim from South Korea presented the plans for the IFIP World Computer Congress WCC-2015 in Daejong, South Korea and requested SERACC to consider hosting SERACC Conference or a workshop at WCC-2015. While it was debated that whether SERACC conference could be held in a non-member country, considering the IFIP’s WCC being held at South Korea and the possibility of interacting with the other country apex computer bodies from Japan, China, Singapore, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Myanmar on their joining SERACC it was in principle agreed by EXCO to host SERACC-2015 in South Korea instead of having it in India as confirmed in the earlier EXCO. However, the final decision will be made in the next EXCO being planned at the SERACC-2014 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. As decided earlier, CSI India will host the SERACC International School Software Contest for the year 2014 in India. The CSI Education Directorate (CSI ED) has already planned the related activities. In the EXCO, it was also decided to cross promote the events organized by the SERACC members to facilitate wider participation. International Young ICT Professionals Group (InterYIT), a part of IFIP which has objectives such as being the umbrella organisation for all Young ICT professionals around the world, fostering communication between Young IT Groups and promoting representation of young professionals in the computer societies as well as within IFIP desires SERACC members to participate in this initiative. It was informed to EXCO that the YITP Awards, what we at CSI have annually has similar objectives and CSI can work with InterYIT objectives.

Considering the reported information that a significant percentage of the Indian authors indulge in plagiarism, to sensitize our researchers and academic community on the risks of plagiarism including losing out their jobs, a one day workshop was held in May 2014 at Chennai with resource persons drawn from IEEE CS Editorial Board, IIT Madras and a professional author. It was well attended with over 95 participants. The participants while providing an excellent feedback, desired workshops in Research Methodologies and Communication Skills to be organized to help them further. The chapters interested to organize the workshop on plagiarism in other parts of the country may pl. get in touch with CSI ED.

I am happy to report that the open page article “An opportunity seized but not fulfilled” by Dr. S. Ramani, our past president, published in The Hindu which can be accessed at http://bit.ly/1gV6OKI has attracted considerable amount of feedback and initiated a debate. We look forward to similar thought provoking writings from others to brainstorm and progress further.

After training about 300 special educators in software packages for the Integrated Assessment, Evaluation and Programming of Mentally Challenged Children by partnering with Media Lab Asia and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), CSI ED has taken up a pilot initiative in training the Mentally Challenged children / student trainees in the basic operations of computers and introducing them to the productivity software such as MS Office and additionally train in the basics of accounting and package such as Tally which would be of use to them in pursuing a career is also provided. A brief report appeared in The Hindu at http://bit.ly/1kytXj had received queries from entrepreneurs on scaling up this initiatives and few organizations seeking trained people for potential employment. Our appreciation to the CSI ED staff for their effort.

CSI ED has proposed to organize the “Golden Tech-Bridge” Programme in Aug 2014 as an intervention of the organization, aimed at introducing computers and its advantages to the unexposed sections of society at 50 locations across the country with the support of our student branches. We look forward to its success.

The CSI Bangalore chapter is gearing up for the first Golden Jubilee Celebration meeting in the year 2014-15. The meeting scheduled on 14th June 2014 is expected to have most of the 16 Fellows (inclusive of four presidents) of CSI at Bangalore to participate and share their impressions and the growth of CSI in the past and brainstorm on the future of CSI.

CSI has a scheme through which financial grants to the extent of Rs. 25,000/= is being made available for international travel by research students to present their papers. In a year, eight such grants will be provided. Those interested in availing this grant may get in touch with the research committee chaired by Dr. Anirban Basu who is also the chairman of Division V.

A number of events on current interest topics which are either organized or support by CSI are listed in the calendar of events and I am sure that our members will make use of the opportunity in presenting papers and participating in them.

More in the next month message.

With best regards

H R Mohan
President
Computer Society of India