Dear Members,

The election for the year 2010 - 11 is over and the results (published elsewhere in this issue) were declared a day after the last date of polling. Let me offer my sincere thanks to all those who stood for election. There was contest for each seat and the contestants were all eminent people, who have many years of service to CSI behind them. The active involvement of so many capable professionals is a testimony to the growing interest in CSI. Going by the statement of interest of the winning candidates, I can visualize a period of hectic activity in CSI.

The Knowledge Management Portal of CSI will be launched by Mr. Sachin Pilot, Honourable Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology on February 16, 2010 at Delhi. While inviting the Minister to launch the KM Portal, I described its revolutionary intent in the following words:

“CSI, in the process of responding to the needs of a new generation of members, is revamping the interaction between the Society and IT professionals. With this in view, we are launching a virtual platform, built on Open Source Technology and hosted in a Cloud. This Knowledge Management System enables creation of Communities of Practices, provides Forum for discussions on issues and host Digital Library.

CSI’s services are being redefined through this State of the Art platform and this will enable it to play an even bigger tract in reshaping the professional development of IT professionals.”

Systems, unless used, will remain mere platforms. It is up to us to participate actively in this new attempt. We now have a powerful tool to help us in enlarging our contacts with other professionals and in learning.

Elsewhere in this issue, we describe the features of this portal, its architecture, the rigor of its development and the manner of its hosting. We have built these user friendly features on top of a highly advanced technological foundation. The development effort, its user acceptance, hosting approach and content development – all of these have involved large and painstaking effort, with exemplary dedication shown by those involved. Tata Consultancy Services and Zenith Computers have provided, at no cost to CSI, enormous resources to make this happen. We express our gratitude to them. In addition, MIEL and CDAC have provided specific help in key areas to make this a secure portal with interesting features. Ravi Raman took this task as his personal mission in the larger context of Membership Development and Service. We acknowledge their great contribution.

Another initiative where we have made good progress is on Publication. In order to bring the latest applied research material to IT Professionals, CSI will bring out five quarterly publications under the broad heading of CSI Transactions on ICT. The five quarterly publications will deal with Systems and Architecture, Software Design and Engineering, Cyber Security, Education and Health Care & Economics, Practice and Management. We have formed an Advisory Council made up of eminent people. We are in active discussion with a Publication organization to bring out the first issue in later part of this year.

This issue again is on a theme - that of Cyber Law. As computer usage becomes more pervasive, there is need for Regulation, Governance Processes and Investigation. Laws will deal not only with criminal activities, but also with issues such as privacy protection and intellectual property. The fact that CSI Communication is dealing with Cyber Law shows its intent to go beyond just technology. We are grateful to Mr. Pavan Duggal for his editorial as well as his direction.

I welcome the winners in this election to the CSI Execom. I place our collective hopes on the new team to carry forward the major initiatives of CSI.

S. Mahalingam
Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer
Tata Consultancy Services Limited