President’s Message

Dear Members

I am happy to share that CSI Chennai chapter organised the Golden Jubilee Celebrations meeting on 13th Jul 2014 in which the past president Mr. Mahalingam and fellows Mr. G. Ramachandran, Mr. Ram Mohan participated along with six chapter patrons including the first patron Mr. Bhaskar Shah who had the distinction of having four CSI members in his family - a rarity and possibly the only one in the CSI history. It was a grand event of sharing experiences and thoughts and concerns on the future of CSI, Mr. Maha and Mr. Jayaramakrishnan briefed the gathering on the status of the CSI ED HQ land and are of confident for a positive outcome. Mr. S. Venkatakrishnan, who was instrumental in setting up the CSI Education Directorate at Chennai, recalled the initiatives of ED such as NSTPC Exams and the DOEACC scheme which had a major impact in the lives of a large no. of our members. After a brief address the President Mr. Mohan, the Chapter Chairman Mr. Pramod Mooriath outlined the special events being planned during the year at CSI Chennai. CSI Pune, CSI Gazilabad & CSI Hyderabad have indicated their plans to hold the CSI@50 events in the immediate near future. In this context, I wish to inform the chapter chairs that CSI HQ will financially support these events to the extent of 50% subject to certain limits based on the chapter category. Regional Vice Presidents may please interact with the chapters and organise similar events at their regions.

In the CSI-2014 review meeting recently held at Hyderabad, the OC Chair Mr. J.A. Choudary, PC Chair Dr. A Gowardhan, CSI Hyderabad Chairman A. Krishnan, & FC Chair Mr. Gautam Mahapatra along with their committee members briefed the CSI Apex Committee consisted of the four Office Bearers of CSI on the various arrangements being made for the successful conduct of CSI-2014. It is the first time in the recent past, the CSI Convention is being held in an academic environment (at JNTU Hyderabad) contest, quiz and modelled by the cluster of IT & IIES establishments. The convention venue, programme details along with the various CSI official events to be held during the convention were discussed at length. The members of all the committees including the CSI Hyderabad management committee are very enthusiastic and worked towards a memorable convention during the CSI Golden Jubilee period. The Apex Committee also visited Guru Nanak Institutions Technical Campus at the outskirts of Hyderabad, the venue for the two days exclusive student convention during CSI-2104 and met the Chairman Mr. T.S. Kohli and the Managing Director Dr. Raju Choudary and coordinated these fruit review meetings.

We had the 2nd Execom meeting of CSI at Kochi recently which facilitated the execom members to participate in the First International Conference on Information Security organized by the College of Engineering, Thrissur, sponsored by the Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) and supported by three divisions of CSI namely Div III, IV & V. Dr. K. Paulose Jacob, Pro-VC of CUSAT inaugurated the conference and highlighted the importance of creativity and innovations in research projects. The CSI President Mr. H.R. Mohan, who was the guest of honour in his address, suggested that CSI and Universities should jointly take up the matter of our Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) courses getting accredited in the context of India becoming a member of the Washington Accord which accredits all engineering courses except CSE for employment and other opportunities in various countries. In this conference which had eight technical keynote addresses and two parallel paper presentation sessions, Dr. Anirban Basu, Chair Div V and Dr. Durghesh Kumar Mishra, Chair Div IV delivered the keynote addresses while Dr. A.K. Naik, Chair Div III chaired a paper presentation session. Our thanks to Dr. P. Suresh Kumar, Prof. D.L. Manilal & Ms. Sony of CEC and Mr. Soman, RVP-VII & Ms. Mini, NSC for their leadership.

The recent high-profile data breaches have led to cyber security moving higher up corporate agendas. CISOs who have traditionally reported to the CIOs, are now either report directly to the CEOs or the board - and in some cases are actually get their own seat on the board. The salaries for senior cyber security professionals are also continuing to rise across the world. This is a clear indication that CISO should sensitize our members on security related issues and train them to meet the global shortage of over one million security professionals (according to the 2014 Annual Security Report of CISCO). In the recent past a series of programmes in this area have been organised by CSI and they include: Short Term Training Programme on Network Security at Viswayothi College of Engineering and Technology, Vazhakulam, Kerala Workshop on Cross Border Cyber Crime & Security at Chennai. Some of the forthcoming events include: National Conference for IT in Defence by SIG-IS at Bangalore; Hands on workshop on IPv6 Security at Bangalore & Mumbai; and a CSI Div IV and SIG-IS supported International Conference on Information Systems Security by Institute for Development & Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) at Hyderabad. Chairman of Div IV has also proposed a no. of events in Cyber Security related areas. ISACA with whom CSI has an MOU has recently launched Cyber Security Nexus (CSX), a new security knowledge platform and professional program, has shown interest in organising joint events with CSI. It may not be out of context to mention that one of senior life member Dr. Sriman Raghavan who has been working towards providing information relating to cyberspace and cybersecurity benefitting all professionals and students in CSE has managed to consolidate and present valuable information ranging from concepts to terminologies which are extracted from sources such as US-CERT, NIST, ITU, CERT-IN at http://www.securecyberspace.org/. Further, CSI has been invited to participate in the meeting of the Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee set up as per Section 88 of Information Technology Act 2000 under the Chairmanship of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister (Communications & Information Technology). We can represent the user and academic community and take things forward.

I am happy to share the information that in the prelims of national contest organized by the CSI ED on 27th Jul 2014, as a part of the SEARC International School Software Competition (ISSC), for the first time, over 200 schools participated in 21 centers across the country. The winners of the national finals will participate in the ISSC-2014 during Oct 2014 which will be hosted by the Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Chennai. Our association with the schools will go beyond the annual competition and we plan to see in terms of have them as our institution members and guide the school students in their studies & career planning, nurture their talents & creativity and ultimately enroll them as our members. I request the Chapter Chairpersons and RVPs to work closely with the CSI ED in this regard.

While a no. of initiatives to benefit our members are in the pipeline through CSI ED, which will be highlighted in this column next month, I wish to add that our Hony. Secretary Mr. Sanjay Mohapatra is working on various initiatives relating to membership development and administrative reforms at CSI whose results will be beneficial to members at large.

A committee headed by the Vice President Mr. Binip Mehta is working on the creation of a Documentary on CSI. I request all our members, to kindly provide information and share their inputs for this documentary which can also be useful in the CSI History Project for which we are looking for inputs from all for quite some time.

Before I close, I am happy to inform that a 15% discount is being extended on Individual Life Membership Fee for a limited period from 1st Aug to 31st Dec 2014 to facilitate more professionals and academic faculty to become Life Members of CSI. I request all our members to inform their colleagues and contacts and make them as members of CSI.

More in the next month message.

With best regards

H R Mohan
President
Computer Society of India