President's Message

Prof. S V Raghavan

From : president@csi-india.org
Subject : President’s Desk
Date : 1st February, 2014

Dear Members

New team has been elected. CSI is entrusting the leadership in the hands of another set of very competent people. My successor Mohan will have a nice team to work with during his term. My best wishes to all those who were elected to the respective offices.

CSI Hyderabad in association with Center for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), a society under the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India conducted a very successful event in JNTU Hyderabad. 1400 students attended and it was a sight to see! Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology presided over the function. It was all about spreading awareness about security in cyber space – a topic that has assumed global center stage after Snowden exposé. Dr. R. Rao, Vice Chancellor, JNTU was the Guest of Honor. I was the Chief Guest as well as the Keynote speaker. One could see and feel the enthusiasm of Young India. In fact, every region can do one such event in association with CDAC in their region. Shri Raju, our Vice President in that region and Dr Govardhan, Chapter Chairman, CSI Hyderabad did a fantastic job. It appeared as though they were rehearsing for CSI 2014, which is not far away.

We seem to have lots of Vice Chancellors helping us out! A month ago it was Andhra University and JNTU Kakinada and now it is JNTU Hyderabad. We must on our part think as to how can we recognize them. They are our support to reach our students in large numbers. They help our events with their infrastructure. Above all, they deliver inspiring speeches and show unparalleled commitment to the cause of CSI. Perhaps, we should honor such great men and honor ourselves, by making them “Honorary Members” of CSI. Execom and others may want to deliberate on this suggestion.

Time to reflect on what is happening to Internet Governance. CSI should produce a position paper on Internet Governance very soon. Not only every nation but also every citizen is worried about Internet Governance, especially in the post Snowden era. May I request each one of you to send your views to Suchit in HQ, who can then collate the ideas and present it to me for producing a White Paper? I am sure with the high quality professionals in our fold, we should be able to make a difference. This is an opportunity for CSI to make its presence felt!

Here is another opportunity for CSI, especially the Student members. Shri Raju is very vocal about “delivering value” to student members. I agree with him. May be Ms Mini Ulanat, NSC can organize region-wise videoconference with all the constituent educational institutions. It will help us “connect” to our student members. I plan to address all our student branches – region-wise – from this month. Shri Raju and Dr. Govardhan have volunteered for February 2014. Good Luck – RVP and NSC. My talk will be titled “Inspiration, Perspiration, and Innovation in Cyber Space”. It can also be streamed on the web simultaneously. It can be archived for later use as well. Every time I address a region, I will try to get a “surprise” Guest with me as well. Let us work together to make it an enriching and memorable experience for our Student members. Besides Ms Mini, we have two “activists” – Nadarajan and Renga Rajagopal – in our midst – their concern for student community is remarkable.

I hope you are familiar with National Knowledge Network (NKN). You may want to update yourself by visiting www.nkn.in. India is also establishing National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN). Visit www.bbnl.nic.in. Together, India will be reachable up to villages. I need ideas as to how CSI can play a role in this changing scenario. Besides, can student chapters with the help of their mentors study the impact of NKN and NOFN in their regions? Can they do some simulations to explain how education and health can be practiced in such ICT environment? Can we get our young members suggest innovative applications that can be developed with their help? As we generate enough data through actual ground studies and as we consolidate our ideas through academic analysis and understanding, we as CSI, with the help of a long list of renowned academic members and professional members, should convert them in to White Papers and present to Government. Such engagement, in my humble opinion, can position CSI to play a vital role in nation building.

Prof. S V Raghavan
President
Computer Society of India