President’s Message

Dear Members,

I am happy to start this month message with two pleasantries. First, let us congratulate Dr. S. Ramani, our Fellow and Past President for having been included in the Internet Hall of Fame Global Connector. Dr. Ramani, who served as the coordinator of activities under the Education and Research Networks Project from its inception in 1986 till 2000, had set up an Internet Gateway and brought the first Internet connectivity to India. It was largely due to his leadership, vision and initiatives that finally led to the creation of the nationwide ERNET in India. We are proud of him as he is the first Indian to get this honour.

Secondly, I am delighted to report that Mr. S. Ramadorai, our Fellow, Padmabushan awardee and the Adviser to the Prime Minister of India in the National Council on Skill Development, Government of India was felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest in CSI during the inaugural function of the Round Table Seminar of ‘Next Generation Networks’ which was organised by CSI jointly with Indo-French Centre for Advanced Research on April 5, 2014 at New Delhi. He has been awarded for his significant contributions to the IT Industry as well as several other positions.

The CSI-2014, the flagship event of CSI on the theme, “Emerging ICT for Bridging Future” is being hosted by the CSI Hyderabad Chapter this year in December in association with Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad and Defence Research & Development Organisation, Hyderabad. Mr. J. A. Chowdary, a seasoned IT professional is the Organising Committee Chair of this, one of the CSI@50 Conventions being held during the Golden Jubilee period of CSI. A team including Dr. A. Govardhan of JNTU, Mr. Gautam Mahapatra of DRDO and Mr. Mr Raju J. Kanchibhotla, our RVP-S with eminent members drawn from various organisations and institutions has already started working on this crowning event of the year. I am sure that CSI-2014 will be rich in content and memorable. The call for papers & participation appears elsewhere in this issue.

I am happy to inform that in the execom meeting recently held at Delhi, detailed discussions were held regarding the series of Golden Jubilee events to be held across the country. In line with the curtain raiser event held at Delhi last year, in major chapters of CSI, associating the nearby chapters, we will be organizing events which will trace the history of CSI and also focus on its future, involving the fellows, past presidents, senior members, industry and academic experts as resource persons. CSI Bangalore has announced that it will hold the first of this kind of meeting in June 2014 and Chennai is planning to have one in the first week of July.

A formal review of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) was done at the execom based on the inputs received from the conveners. Out of 27 existing SIGs, 20 were active and have organized some events during the period under consideration and it is concluded that the rest of them have met the objectives of its formation and being wound up. There has been suggestions to combine few SIGs such as SIG-SE and SIG-DS as one and merge SIG-DATA with SIG-BIG DATA, a newly proposed SIG. Additionally, requests received to form two more SIGs, SIG-Formal Methods and SIG-Indic Computing have been approved. Recently, one more request has been made to form a SIG on Technology Enhanced Learning. In the context of growing adoption of eLearning, widespread launch & enrollments in MOOCs and need by the professionals and faculty to get updated through structured online courses, it is considered that this SIG-TEL will be of immense use and is being recommended for approval. The conveners of the all new SIGs proposed are very enthusiastic and we wish them all the very best and the final beneficiaries are our members.

At the execom, one of the many activities discussed to be initiated as a Golden Jubilee activity is the formation of CSI Student Clubs at the schools. The penetration of Internet and mobiles has resulted in a large no. of children at school level turning into tech savvy and at the same time needing proper guidance. With this as the main objective and to nurture their creativity, safeguard them from cyber security related problems, promote safe surfing and steer and teach them to use the Internet productively, the clubs are proposed. These young minds are capable of creating Intellectual Property which alone will facilitate our Country to retain its supremacy in the IT field since the IT services market is shrinking. Formal guidelines to start these clubs and extend support through the chapters / student branches with our senior and superannuated members as mentors will be made available shortly. Our target is to have at least 500+ school clubs in this year – at par with the no. of student branches.

For our request to share material for the CSI History project, we have received some inputs though not to the extent we expected. These are available for viewing at http://tiny.cc/tpl84ex We are renewing our request to all our members and readers to provide us with whatever information they have related to CSI. Please send them in the digital form to csi.history@gmail.com and the physical items to the Education Directorate, CSI, CIT Campus, 4th Cross Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600113. Be a part of capturing CSI History.

Dr. T.V. Gopal, the immediate past chairman of Division II on Software has left a mark of his own by organizing a no. of high profile events during 2013-14. Our other division chairs have also been equally vibrant in terms of events organized by their divisions which are captured and viewable at http://goo.gl/EnUqXE

The growing need for IP addresses with no spare IP addresses available in the APNIC region in which India is a part, is forcing us to migrate from IPv4 to IPv6. In this context, ERNET has been organizing the IPv6 Road Shows across the country and CSI is partnering with them. In one of such Roadshows held at IIT Madras, has resulted in forecasting the registrations within four days of its announcement since over 300 – much higher than the auditorium capacity have registered. We thank our past president Prof. S.V. Raghavan for linking CSI with ERNET in this initiative. It may be of interest to note that through Education Directorate and CSI Bangalore, we have recently launched the IPv6 training initiative with the support of Matrabyte.

CSI is now fairly active in Social Media with its recently launched Facebook site. Our readers may get to know the latest happenings at CSI through this avenue. Thanks to Ms. Nourine Bhimani assistant manager at CSI HQ, Mumbai.

We are now enjoying the Digital version of our monthly CSI Communications (CSIC) due to the initiatives of Mr. Ranga Rajagopal and the team at Cyber Media, the publishing partners of CSIC. The App for CSIC for on Android and iOS was also recently launched making CSIC accessible anywhere, anytime by anyone.

While I have a lot more to share in this column, due space constraints, I end this month’s message now and catch up with you next month.

With regards

H R Mohan
President
Computer Society of India