Dear Members

I am happy to inform that Mr. M. Pramit, our past RVP - Region 8 & Mr. Balsubbaraman Guruswamy of CSI BC now in US have participated in the Community reception to the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi organized by the Indian American Community Foundation at Madison Square Garden which appears to have been attended by over 18000. Mr. Modi in his address had impressed the participants by speaking about “development, information technology and demographic dividend”.

While talking about IT, he had jovially remarked that India has turned from a country of “snake charmers” to a nation of “mouse charmers”. Highlighting on the development & good governance, PM wanted the people of India to be the partner in the country’s development. We can be sure and expect a lot of collaborative developments in the ICT field from US sub-continent after this historical visit.

“Digital India”, a programme recently launched by the PM hopes to transform India into digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The official document claims; “Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely: Broadband Highways, Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, Public Internet Access Programme, e-Governance - eForming Government through Technology, e-Kranti—Electronic Delivery of Services, Information for All, Electronics Manufacturing, IT for Jobs, and Early Harvest Programmes”.

Out of nine, four are about the Internet and access, which also means that universal web access, must be a human right. It has been reported that this $17-billion government program, plans to build massive digital infrastructure to over 800 million rural citizens by 2019. Under this programme, the Govt., will create an enabling platform that will aid in delivering government services to citizens as well as services in education, healthcare, entertainment and e-commerce. “Public services like land records and caste certificates will be made available online on demand online,” in conjunction with state governments, 20-hour e-literacy training programs in local languages will be conducted in 200,000 community service centers across the country. It is quite evident that this initiative relies on ICT to a large extent and all of us - professionals, academicians and society as a whole have a role to play in making India a truly digital country by improving Digital Literacy. Many organisations, including Google India, IBM, TCS, CTS, HP etc., have come forward to partner with the Govt., in this initiative. CSI through its wide network of chapters and student branches across the country has the potential to get associated with this initiative at the grass root level.

While the recently launched “Make in India” initiative designed to transform India into a global manufacturing hub has identified 25 focused sectors which include “Electronic Systems” and “IT and BPM”. To excel in the “Make in India” programme, innovation and creating intellectual property are the key principles and are very much applicable to all sectors. Out of the above ICT will have a major role to play in progressing in this initiative, CSI too participate at different levels.

CSI recognizes our members, professionals and volunteers contributed to the growth of ICT and society at large at annual convention. In this context, our chapters and student branches have been requested to coordinate with the RVPs and RSCs & ED to identify the society volunteers to be recognized. As the deadline for this activity is nearing, I am sure that necessary actions have been initiated by all concerned.

I am happy to inform that our Education Directorate with the support of Media Lab Asia and CDAC had recently conducted the Punarjani programme, a training the trainers programme dealing with the assessment tool for the mentally retarded at Pune. I wish to thank the CSI Pune Chapter chairman Mr. Anand Joglekar and Mr. Chandrashekhar Sahasrabudhe, past RVP-Region 6 and their teams for their timely support in the conduct of the programme. We have requests to run similar programmes at different parts of the country and ED is working on this.

With the advancements in the ICT field, to retain our lead position by creating Intellectual Property, there is a growing need to promote research. CSI, in a small way has been supporting research projects, presenting awards to best researches annually. Now the CSI Chennai chapter has come forward to organize research symposiums at least two in a year to provide opportunity to the research and PG students of CSE & IT to present and share their research findings with peers. The first one is being planned in Nov/Dec 2014. I suggest similar symposiums are organized by large chapters at different parts of the country to support the researchers. In this context of doing research, I am happy to inform that CSI ED is popularizing the Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics and IT, a scheme of Department of Electronics and Information Technology to enhance the number of PhDs in the Electronic Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT enabled Services (ITES) sector by providing support to our educational institutional members and individual members interested in pursuing research.

In an initiative towards empowering IT students beyond the regular diplomas and degrees, CSI through its ED has launched professional certification programmes to certify them for direct employment in niche fields. After the recent tie-up with the Open Group for TOGAF Foundations Certificate to students in the graduate engineering stream, CSI is partnering with InfoComm International of USA, a 75 year old nonprofit association serving the professional audio video communication industry worldwide. InfoComm University education supported by CSI would offer those Indian students from the IT stream pursuing diplomas as well as degree, would now be eligible for qualifying with “AV essential technology specialist”. Initially, a pilot programme that would open around 200 vacancies for successful certified students will be made available by InfoComm will be spearheaded by CSI Mumbai. After its success, it will be extended to other chapters.

I wish to thank Prof. Bipin Mehta and his team for deploying a Mobile App for CSI Who’s who book for the year 2014-15 which was officially launched recently with features of easy access and maintenance. Our desire is to have more such digital initiatives in the near future.

I wish to inform that CSI has partnered with the organisers of CeBIT exhibition in India at Bangalore in Nov. 2014 which will entitle visibility to CSI through a free stall at the show and special invites to our members.

While some developments relating to CSI Journal of Computing, Major conferences, CSI-2014, CSI Golden Jubilee Celebration will be discussed in the next month message, let me remind you all to promote the individual life membership in CSI at a 15% discount being offered for a limited period which will end by Dec 2014.

With best regards

H R Mohan
President
Computer Society of India

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