Dear Friends

IT is relatively new field. Many new developments and benefits for mankind are yet to happen in field of ICT and by ICT as per study and predications by experts like Mr. Vint Cerf, TCP/IP inventor. First World War created a push for development of computing technology through electronic machinery. For many decades, development of computer technology was result of research by great companies like IBM and Digital. It was Sir Thomas J. Watson who laid the foundation of IBM some 100 years ago. All through this period, IBM with its innovative thinking, extensive research and new developments, impacted the society and the world at large by bringing about transformation through digital and electronic technology. During the Company’s Centennial Year, IBM designed a course of action to allow its employees, retirees, clients and business partners to donate their time and expertise towards technological development. 300,000 IBMers around the world — close to three quarters of its global workforce — are volunteering in more than 5,000 projects in 120 countries, meeting civic and societal challenges and serving millions in need. In the year 2015, CSI will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee to commemorate the completion of its colorful half-century service to IT Professionals and Stakeholders. On this occasion, let us seek learning by IBM’s community initiatives and thoughtfully conceptualize community plans and promotions with help of government and interested organizations for achieving nearly 100% computer literacy among all literates.

This occasion reminds us of the evolution of a new era in our civilization: Information Age, where companies like IBM and later other companies like Digital, HP, Dell, Netscape, Microsoft, Oracle, with their innovative products helped to change the landscape of living, the way we do. Rapid changes in technological development raise a question about the relevance of the well established Moore Law: Doubling of Speed of Processors every two years. Speed of change, being witnessed in IT technology is sometimes much faster. Mobile, Web and other social media technologies are helping to overcome problems of digital divide and are bringing the world on a single communication highway of cyberspace. We have taken up the challenge of incorporation of these new technological developments and its socio-economic impact on our plans & events. It would be worthwhile to create a repository of technological developments in our CSI website and make it accessible as a knowledge base to our members. I thus invite volunteers to contribute their valuable time in creating this site.

Service to Members: The mission of CSI is to facilitate research, knowledge sharing, learning and career enhancement for all categories of IT professionals, while simultaneously inspiring and nurturing new entrants into the industry and helping them to integrate into the IT community. We need to evolve policies and practice to offer maximum benefits to members by involving them in CSI programs and events. Members can seek benefit of their association with society by seeking opportunities for knowledge gain. Participation in CSI events and technical programs, rich technical forums and taking leadership role as Speakers and mentors for technical programs are rich source of value preposition. There is need to send an invitation to members to come forward with their plans and we shall create a data base of availability of members for various CSI events and roles. Membership software is being revamped by HQ.

Our various conferences have set benchmarks and helped members to reap good benefits from their association with us. However, all organizers are not conversant with quality standards. There is need to define quality and relevance standard for our events and technical programs and create a knowledge base of speakers and relevant topics. Considering investment and logistics and marketing efforts, a good secretarial support with help of conference manager at HQ and region will be helpful. Efforts shall be made to build a mini establishment at HQ and major chapters. There is need to recruit experienced staff for this role to maintain continuity and quality.

IT professionals aspire for certifications in various disciplines. Our MOU International partner, professional bodies, ACS, BCS, SCS, IEEE, all have leveraged these options for benefit of members and made a strong revenue base. CSI has great advantage of high quality all India infrastructure - HQ (now 5500 sq feet built up area), ED (about 5000 sq feet area built up and 1 acre open space), at various chapters like Kolkata, Bangalore, Delhi, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad (each about 1000 sq. feet area). Majority of our members are from academics and in the profession of consulting and IT business. ED is inviting proposals for setting up of Centre for excellence in partnership with education institutions or with IT organizations for designing and offering certification programs. Options of partnership with other prominent education providers at Chapter/National level with strict MOU terms shall also be explored. Certifications shall be decided as per market requirements. As per National Skill Development Corporation study, there is a great potential for certification programs in hardware and electronic courses. Our focus should be industry-specific, covering few groups of subjects and industry-specific expertise in software application development, hardware/electronics and IT Services & Management/Governance areas and also few certifications in Verticals and sectors like SME/Social. Students in the weaker section of Society will get highly subsidized certification and skill enhancement for better employment opportunities. Considering opportunities and management challenges and for an effective service, it is desirable to have a suitable administrative set up, at the earliest, at HQ and ED, headed by a senior, in the rank of Director Operation or Executive Director at HQ. We shall look out for a very suitable profile for this role, not by choice. Example of good administrative set up for running of society affairs are widely available, difficult to have sustainability and quality through volunteers only.

Student Conventions: We are witnessing a very good synergy among our RSC/SSC, RVPs and Chapters. A new variety of student activities are being planned. Thanks to hard efforts and leadership put in by Mr. Ranga Raj Gopal. I would suggest utilizing our student conventions platform for providing directions, mentoring the young ones and motivating them for entrepreneurship and research oriented approach in their career. A study shall be carried out
for selecting suitable topics, format and structure of all student conventions. Our Conference Chairman, Mr. Satish Baboo, can provide guidance on this matter.

**Annual National Convention at Ahmedabad:** Annual National Convention is the platform where CSI family members exchange their views on CSI plans and future course of activities. Technical programs conducted at the Convention give rich experience about new trends and developments and learnings from success stories of our peers and competitors. Awards and recognitions add value to CSI members and stake holders.

Recently, I had the privilege to meet our convention team, Prof. Soni, Dr. Nand Kumar, Prof. Bhatt, Mr. Bipin Mehta, Mr. Nikhil Jain and others in Ahmedabad along with our regional VP, Mr. Anil Srivastava. The convention is being patronized by Mr. Ravi Saxena, IAS, IT Secretary, Gujarat Government. This brings forth the commitment and importance the government is giving to this event. I am confident that our team efforts will add a new benchmark to CSI activities. I also had an opportunity to meet all the members at the AGM, wherein enthusiasm and eagerness to help each other loomed large. Chief Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi assured all help for success of this event. My hearty good wishes for all round success.

**CSI Computing Journal:** Prof. Shyamsundar and our Research Committee are finally launching the Research Journal online, the announcement of which is appearing in this issue. My good wishes to Prof. Shyamsundar and all fellow editors who agreed to give their valuable time for success of this event. This Journal will be fully supported by CSI staff, where Mr. Fahim Pasha will function as Research Manager.

Next year we would be witnessing the launch of CSI transactions.

Friends, CSI will play an important role in promoting research by making available such platforms and also by taking up initiatives for developing a rightful attitude and providing opportunities to our youngsters for a rich career. We shall arrange couple of research symposiums, research conferences and persuade our institutional members to promote research culture. Government may be approached for research grants and encourage participation of researchers in international conferences. Attempts are being made by our research committee to get help on this front. If you have some ideas and would like to contribute, please do write to us.

**Collaborations with Global organizations:** I was privileged to meet the President of Singapore Computer Society, Mr. Alphonssus Pang and his team during visit to Singapore recently. He & his team expressed their desire to work with CSI in the knowledge exchange programs, where SCS rich technical certifications can be offered in India under joint certification with CSI, and CSI technical workshops and certifications shall be made available to SCS members. An arrangement for joint membership for CSI members as well as SCS members shall also be explored. We shall have an understanding with all MOU partners of ACS, BCS and IEEE and approach them to revive understanding and activate mutually exchangeable programs. We need to create an establishment at HQ to execute these highly beneficial collaborations. We need to seriously decide how to leverage benefits with our association and membership with IFIP and SEARCC.

In the next few months, we shall try to strive hard to visualize a vibrant structure of administration and governance for smooth execution of CSI schemes and thus extend benefits to members. We shall create a proper revenue structure in CSI so that the source of income should not depend entirely on membership.

There will be other sources of income like workshops, conferences which shall be run in surplus mode enabling us to invest thoughtfully in development schemes. We shall try to employ a portion of our reserves both at Chapters and HQ for further growth and for extending benefits to members. It is not wise to keep funds in banks and allow to deplete its real worth in the face of inflation. CSR route of seeking finance is also a good option as you know all corporates are now supposed to invest 5% of their profits in CSR projects. CSI can devise a CSR scheme for attracting corporate bidding for CSI projects. NASSCOM and CII have already started similar programs.

**Winner of Tag Line competition:** I am pleased to announce selection of best suitable tag line for CSIC, submitted by Mr. Sanjiv Agrawal : “Knowledge Digest For IT Community” as Winner of Tag Line competition. Total 224 entries were received. It was really a big task to zero down on best possible choice as Tag line for CSIC, thanks to all suggestions received from editorial team. My hearty congrats to Mr. Sanjiv Agrawal. Members shall be invited to share ideas and suggestions for growth of society.

In a few days from now, ExecCom will meet to discuss the next the course of action. Nation is looking up at CSI for providing guidance and support to youngsters and IT professionals in the area of knowledge enhancement and for better growth prospects. There is a need to examine open mindedly the success factors and identify the road towards success. If necessary, to make task easy, we shall also look into the issue of bringing about constitutional amendments for which I look forward for your valuable support.

Jai hind!

With love,

M D Agrawal