President’s Message

Dear Members

At the outset, let me thank you all for providing me a great opportunity to serve as the President of the Computer Society of India at the time the society is in its Golden Jubilee period. For me, it has been a long journey from being a student member during my studies at IIT Madras way back in 1973. In fact, I literally grew with CSI throughout my career in the field of Information Technology. While I have been in touch with you through various columns of the CSI Communications over the last several years, from this month onwards, I will be sharing my views and interacting with you through this exclusive column – President’s Desk.

I had the rare opportunity of being directly mentored by a number of past presidents of CSI, several of whom hail from Chennai. These include Major General A. Balasubrahmanian, Prof. S. Sampath, Prof. H. N. Mahabala, Prof. C.R. Muthukrishnan, Mr. S. Mahalingam and the immediate past president Prof. S.V. Raghavan. My association with CSI for a little over 40 years as a member and 30 years in various capacities, with the Chennai chapter and at the national level, had provided me with excellent volunteering and networking opportunities. It also provided me with a chance to interact with eminent academicians, industrialists, professionals, and government officials across the country who had served in various roles and nurtured the growth of CSI. Let me also state that I may be one of the very few who had the opportunity to work with 13 out of 27 past presidents of CSI directly and two more indirectly - a rare opportunity to learn from their expertise and management style in creating opportunities, mentoring & supporting young talents, strategizing and handling tasks, organizing events, and building relations. All of these had given me the strength and adequate confidence to carry out my responsibilities as your president this year. With the continued support and guidance from them along with the volunteering spirit and cooperation of my executive committee members, the chairs of the CSI chapters, student branch councilors & coordinators across the country, and the staff at the CSI HQ and CSI Education Directorate, I hope to steer the CSI ship to new lands and ensure a safe & enjoyable journey. I look forward to serving a heterogeneous group of members, numbering over one lakh in this Golden Jubilee period.

As you are aware, the role of CSI and its mode to serve its members have changed significantly over the years and so have the expectations of the members. The majority of our current members is from academia and constitutes a young student community who would require mentoring, guidance, support, and skill development during their academic period and, opportunities for their entry into job market and in establishing their entrepreneurship ventures. A small proportion of professional members look forward to inputs and updates in the fast developing world of Information and Communication Technologies to sustain, excel and grow in their current position. Another segment of our members who have superannuated from their service should be engaged productively. This means, CSI has to adopt diversified strategies to achieve these varying expectations. I seek valuable inputs and suggestions from all of you in this regard.

Our strength has been in organizing technical meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences, conventions in all areas of ICT and creating awareness, updating on the emerging trends and opening research opportunities. However, the advent of the Internet and its vast information sharing capabilities propel us to go beyond. The consumerisation of IT and penetration of mobile technology have changed the way businesses are started, run, managed and expanded. We need to focus our attention in these aspects and give our members a share in the global opportunity.

CSI has several MOUs and established associations with organisations such as CDAC, SETS, ISACA, PMI, Media Lab Asia, international societies such as IFIP, IEEE & IEEE CS, SEARCC, BCS, SCS and national associations such as NASSCOM, MAIT, CII, FICCI and government agencies such as DEITY, STPIs, State IT Depts. DST, DOT, AICTE, UGC to name a few. We need to fully utilize these collaborations so our members receive utmost benefits.

As the chair of Conference Committee during 2013-14, I am happy to inform that the year has been eventful. A list of activities held by the CSI is being complied and presented at http://goo.gl/EnUqXE. A significant milestone is the commissioning of the student portal at http://studentportal.csidiscoverythinking.com/, which we expect to grow and be used by a large section of our members. The month of March 2014 has been extremely busy with a number of activities including several conferences, student conventions, programming contest, Alan Turing quiz contest, YITP awards etc. The RVPs, division chairs, national student coordinator supported by a team of state student coordinators, and awards committee all deserve a sincere appreciation.

I would like to place on record the excellent work done by the outgoing team led by Prof. S.V. Raghavan for providing us the directions to move forward.

I welcome my new executive committee members. Mr. Bipin Mehta and Mr. Sanjay Mohapatra are joining as Vice President and Hon. Secretary respectively. Mr. Ranga Rajagopal continues as the Treasurer, working hard to balance the accounts and sensitizing the chapters with the compliance aspects in the context of Govt. rules and regulations. Mr. S. Ramanathan, steps out as the Hon. Secretary after steering the administration of CSI for two years. Prof. S.V. Raghavan will be with us as the immediate past president and chair the awards and academic committees.

There are several new initiatives being planned during this Golden Jubilee period. The new executive committee in its first meeting will deliberate, brainstorm, and determine an action plan and share it with you to seek your support in executing them. In this process, we would like to have your involvement in a proactive way right from the planning stage to execution of plans as volunteers. Let us work together collaboratively for the growth of CSI and its mission to be of service to the masses.

With regards
H R Mohan
President
Computer Society of India

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

H R Mohan