

ACTIVITIES OF CSI EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

I) Functions & Historical Background of NSTPC/NS Examinations

In 1979, CSI started the National Standard Test in Programming Competence (NSTPC), at a time when formal university and other computer courses were not available. It was to fill in the need to give a certificate for competence in using the then popular computer languages - COBOL and FORTRAN for problem solving, learnt by the practicing professionals by self-study. In course of time the NSTPC gained acceptance among the professional community.

In the eighties when micro computers started proliferating the market, shortage of trained manpower began to be felt keenly. A large number of training institutions were started and those trained in the commercially motivated institutions needed an independent examination system to testify to their knowledge content to get into the coveted profession. Entry level examinations in BASIC and COBOL were thus introduced. This was followed by advanced modules in these languages and then in topics. ---- DBMS, DCN, OS, DTSC, ISAD, Office Automation, Object Oriented Programming with C++ and Web Programming with Java. The evolution of CSI's examinations, has thus been catering to the changing needs of the professional requirement.

The standards set by the CSI in drawing up the syllabus for non- formal training programmes, in devising the testing methodology, bringing out the hands-on-experience through written examination, the logistics of conducting the examination nationwide as per strict standards and the evaluation procedure laid down - all earned credibility for the quality and standards as well as popularity in respect of relevance to professional practice.

With increasing publicity of the examination system and improvement in the financial resources of the CSI, over the years, it was decided to set up a separate Examination Secretariat for conducting the examinations and increase the scope and variety of the topics offered for the examination. A whole-time Director (Education) was appointed in 1985 and he functioned from Hyderabad. The examination had however been conducted from 1979 itself from Hyderabad.

The construction of its own building in Chennai in a plot generously granted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, enabled CSI to use it for furthering its educational activities by shifting the Education Directorate to Madras in 1987.

In addition to designing an introductory level examination for the run of the mill students, CSI also concentrated in the area of conducting examinations in advanced topics for the benefit of the Management Systems, Operating Systems, Data Communications, Data Structures & C Language. In all, by 1989, the CSI Education Directorate was conducting examinations on nine subjects once in every half-year. In addition Pascal and Fortran, were conducted once a year.

The examinations were conducted twice a year in January and July in sixteen different subjects. Wide publicity was given i) by advertisement in English and some selective Regional Language newspapers and ii) by sending information posters to educational and training institutes borne on our mailing list. National Standard Examinations and syllabi were approved by the AICTE (CEP), Bangalore since March '96 examination. These examinations were conducted in January & July every year. These examinations are not being conducted since January 2008 due to lack of response.

II) Certification in Software Testing

The Examination : Candidates for certification must pass a two-part written examination in order to obtain certification.

- The duration of the examination will be 3 hours
- 40 marks for objective type questions.
- 60 marks for descriptive type questions.
- The minimum marks for pass will be 50%
- CSI, Education Directorate will evaluate the answers.
- The certificate will be issued by CSI, Education Director, Chennai
- Questions will be set by a panel of professors and professionals organised by CSI, Education Directorate

The examination tests the candidate's knowledge and practice of the skill areas defined in the SQTA Body of Knowledge.

It is offered in English language only.

The examination sets out to identify whether a candidate has acquired the knowledge defined in the syllabus and whether the candidate can apply that knowledge in a practical setting.

Candidates who do not successfully pass the examination may re-appear for the examination up to two times by submitting the application for examination re-appear and paying all required fees. Subsequent additional examination efforts require reinitiating the entire application process.

Please Note: The Body of Knowledge for certification is affected by new technologies, policies, and the changing dynamics of manufacturing and service industries. Changed versions of the examination based on the current Body of Knowledge are used at each offering.

Examination Dates : Last Sunday of every month.

Examination Results : Notification of examination results will be sent to each candidate typically about 2 weeks after the examination date. Notification is sent via the Postal Service within 2 weeks after the examination. Results are not available by telephone, e-mail, or fax.

Candidates who do not pass the examination will need to retake the examination.

Examination papers are not returned to the candidates. Specific discussion concerning an individual's exam results is prohibited by the policies and practices of the CSI Software Certifications. Original exam papers are destroyed three months after the exam date.

Certification Credentials : Successful candidates will receive a letter of notification and certificate.

Examination Fees : Rs 1000/- per candidate

The fee once paid is non refundable

Software Testing Examinations are being conducted from July 2004.

These examinations were being conducted in Mumbai & Pune regularly. From May 2005 we are conducting them in Bangalore also. We can conduct these examinations covering most parts of India, **subject to availability of minimum number of candidates.**

The following institutions are authorized by CSI to coach the students appearing for the Software Testing Examinations. Students desirous of undergoing training for Software Testing may contact any one of these Institutions :-

<p>SQTL Integrated Solutions Pvt. Ltd. "Daya-Prabha" House Opp : Sulzet House, ITI Road Aundh, Pune – 411 007. Phone :+91-20-2588 0911/6603 3456 E-mail : admin@sqtl.com</p>	<p>Qualisoft Technologies Ground Floor, Narayan Niwas Old Canara Vabj /cinoiybd Ajanta Cinema Lane, Borivali (West) Mumbai – 400 092 Phone : +91-22-2290 9117 E-mail : info@qualisofttech.com nimish@qualisofttech.com</p>
<p>Spear Tech Solutions 104 – 106, First Floor, Corporate Avenue Sonawala Road Next to Udyog Bhavan Near Railway Station, Goregoan (East) Mumbai – 400 063 Phone : +91-22-2290 8932/ 4036 5999 40365921 E-mail : mahesh@speartechsolutions.com</p>	<p>PQR Software Flat No.309 Ansal Forte Apartments 16/2A, Rupena Agrahara Hosur Road, Bangalore – 560 068 Phone : +91-80-4131 1505 Mobile : +91-94481 21434 E-mail : anirbanbasu@qualityplusindia.com</p>

Note : “Software Engineering” is now added for certification as above.

III) National Level Student Software Competition and SEARCC International Student Software Competition

As the premier body of computer professionals in India, CSI is an active participant of SEARCC International Student Software competitions organized by a duly nominated SEARCC Country every year.

CSI Education Directorate commenced these National level Student Software Competition and SEARCC International Student Software Competition from the year 1990. This International Software Competition is being conducted in every year in any one of the SEARCC member countries.

Usually circular letters are sent to various schools in all over India well ahead inviting entries of a team of three students under the age of 17 years on the 1st January of the competition year. First Level Regional Competition are held on a particular date covering most part of the country in some specified centres. About 10 top teams are short-listed from among the first level participants. They take part in the final national level competition to be held in Chennai. The first two qualifying teams in the order of merit will be eligible to compete in the SEARCC International Student Software Competition which will be held in any one of the SEARCC member countries. These two teams are given orientation and exposure in preparation for the International Software Competition.

IV) DOEACC `O' and `A' Level examinations

DOEACC “O” and “A” level examinations were conducted by CSI Education Directorate from July 1991 to January 1995.

V) Examination for Maharashtra State Electricity Board Candidates

At present we are conducting this examination for Nagpur Chapter for the employees of Maharashtra State Electricity Board. Nagpur Chapter is conducting courses for them. Education Directorate is conducting examination once in three months for these candidates.

VI) British Computer Society Professional Examinations

Examinations are being conducted in April/May & October every year from 2003. CSI Education Directorate is conducting these examinations in India through CSI Chapters.

VII) Victoria Memorial School for the Blind, Mumbai.

Every year examinations on WORD & EXCEL are being conducted for the blind students of Victoria Memorial School, Mumbai. This examinations are being conducted by CSI Mumbai Chapter on behalf of Education Directorate.

VIII) R & D funding for minor projects.

Computer Society of India will provide financial assistance to Permanent College Teachers (age below 45 years), in the fields of Computer Science/Information Technology, who are Members of CSI, working in an Institution which is an institutional Member of CSI for developing innovative techniques and learning methods in the area of Computer Education. Students studying at post-graduate level for developing innovative techniques in computer applications with relevance to hardware under approved supervision. This is being implemented by Education Directorate. Please see "R & D Projects" for details.

a) Operational Features : Teachers as above or PG students who wish to avail of financial assistance under this CSI research scheme are required to submit the research proposal to the CSI Education Directorate Chennai. through his/her College. The project proposals are considered by the CSI (Research Committee) once a year.. and final decisions are taken by the CSI ExeeCom keeping in view the recommendations made by the Research Committee and the availability of funds for the scheme.

b) Level of Assistance : The following will be the level of assistance for Minor Research Projects:

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| i. Projects involving development of hardware | : | upto Rs.50,000/- |
| ii. Projects in software development | : | upto Rs.30,000/- |

Assistance is available for items like equipment, books and journals , field work, and contingency expenditure including printing of questionnaire, computation work and preparation of Project Report.

c) Duration of Implementation : The duration of the project will be ten months from June to march of the next year

d) Release of Funds : The amount sanctioned for the project under the scheme would be released as under 50% on approval ; 25% on completion of 3 months, accompanied by the progress report and Statement of expenditure for the 1st installment ; 25% on completion of project, on getting the Project report along with statement of expenditure and utilization certificate.

d) General : All assets in the form of equipment or other items will become the property of the host institution on completion of the project. Books and Journals purchased with the CSI's assistance may be retained by the Investigator after the completion of the project.

Assistance will be available to a teacher / PG student for only one Research Project in a period of five years.

Prior approval of the Computer Society of India will be necessary for publishing the results of the study on the project supported by the CSI. In all such cases however, the Investigator should acknowledge the support received from the CSI.

The researcher is required to submit two copies of the final report along with an abstract of research in standard format within two months of the end of the tenure of the project, which will be part of the academic auditing.

The applications should be forwarded through the Director / Principal of the Institution.

IX) Student Membership.

Membership fee collected from the students can be deposited at the Axis Bank nearest to your town/city in **SB account No.082010100395144 - Name of Account "Computer Society of India"** as membership fees (new membership as well as renewal). While depositing cash at Axis bank Account, bank will not levy any cash deposit charges. Please send the deposit details along with completed membership application forms and bonafide certificates of the students to CSI Education Directorate to the address given below.

The Director (Education)
Computer Society of India
Education Directorate, National Headquarters
C I T Campus, Taramani, **Chennai – 600 113.**
Phone : +91 – 44 – 2254 1102/2254 1103/2254 2874
Fax +91 – 44 – 2254 2874
E-mail : student.membership@csi-india.org

Alternatively, if Axis bank does not have a branch in a particular town or city the Demand Draft or **payable at par** at all branches cheque favouring "**Computer Society of India payable at Chennai**" may please **be sent to CSI Education Directorate, Chennai** along with completed application forms to the **address given above**. Application forms can be downloaded from "**Membership**" in this website.

X) Institution Membership (Academic Institution)

Please deposit the requisite amount at the Axis Bank nearest to your town/city in **SB account No.082010100395144 - Name of Account "Computer Society of India"** as membership fees (new membership as well as renewal) of **institutional members (Academic)**. [NOT for individual and (non-academic) institutional memberships]. While depositing cash at Axis bank Account, bank will not levy any cash deposit charges. Please send the deposit details along with completed membership application forms to CSI Education Directorate to the address given above in Sl. No. IX.

Alternatively, if Axis bank does not have a branch in a particular town or city the Demand Draft or **payable at par** at all branches cheque favouring "**Computer Society of India payable at Chennai**" may please **be sent to CSI Education Directorate, Chennai** along with completed application forms to the **address given above**. Long term membership fee is Rs.20,000/- for 7 years and Rs.55,000/- for 20 years are also available. Application forms can be downloaded from "**Membership**" in this website.