



From the President



“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in....”

Second Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln

“What Lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Dear Professional Colleagues,

When I sat down to write out my first communication as the President of this prestigious Institute, there are mixed feelings in me - my delightfulness has been overshadowed with tremendous amount of responsibility, I have to shoulder and I am also equally conscious of the fact that in the process, the trust that I have to hold in secure with all the stakeholders. I am humbled by the confidence reposed on me by my esteemed colleagues on the Council and the wishes which I have received from the members across the country, for which I am beholden.

My illustrious predecessors who have passed through this chair over the years, have laid down the path, therefore, treading on this path would be comfortable for me at the same time it also reminds me that I should not be complacent, of course, I will try my best to keep up the momentum and tradition. I fully appreciate the

expectations and aspirations of the stakeholders and that the task is enormous and it calls for pragmatism and excellence. At the same time, as a professional body, it is my duty to ensure for collective wisdom, common vision, shared aspirations as well as varied views and opinions from the stakeholders.

With all pride and legitimacy, we call ourselves as governance professionals. As we progress, our thoughts, actions and deeds have to be as per the dictum of lofty ideals and values. Values provide an in-built standard of reference and judgement of our actions. Thus they are integrally tied to choice and action and to our constant process of self appraisal. It cannot be said that we uphold a value unless our actions are influenced by it. Our beliefs and attitudes can easily be suspended, rationalized or contradicted in action and ignored in self-evaluation, but not so our professional values, because our professional



values give distinct identity and position to us. Let me extend little further my thoughts, often, we are saddled with the burden of choosing between 'right' and 'wrong', which we come across in one's professional life. I find that Robert Paul Wolf, the greatest American Philosopher, puts so eloquently, '*Faced with a choice between doing what we think right and what we think wrong, of course we ought to do what we think right. This, though true, is not much help. What we need to know is, not whether we should do what we decide to be right, but how we should decide what is right.*'

Bygone year 2013, a number of new initiatives were taken. As the profession takes new dimension, the Institute is also equally attuned itself to the situation. Introduction of Strategic Action Plan [SAP] was significant step for settling goals, addressing the priorities, introducing certification programmes for capacity building and suggesting corrective measures in sync with mission and vision statement of the Institute. A number of thematic programmes on financial sector, investor education and the Companies Act were held.

Students are the edifice of our profession. Reorienting the students in line with the market demands and challenges is the onerous duty of the Institute. Sensitising this, we have already taken a number of steps in this direction through revamping the syllabus, strengthening training schemes, leveraging technology as a channel for not only registering but also for virtual learning and evaluation process, creating adequate infrastructure. When education becomes one of the most competitive global services, in the recent times, the Institute is quite aware of it and it is making structural adjustment by revamping its course material in the light of new legislations and developments, which includes the Companies Act, 2013. In short, we would like to see our students as change agents, with the motto *learn, lead and leap*.

Members who are entering the profession require encouragement. It is my endeavour to push forward their interests and also at the same time adequately equip them through knowledge sharing. Demographic dividend of India, comprising of substantial percentage of youth, would be great advantage for our profession too.

Institute's presence is felt across India more by its Regional Council and Chapter Management Committees. I still recall when I started acquainting myself with the Institute's activities, the Chapters used to be called as the grass root level organisations of the Institute, which continue to be so, even now. Strengthening of infrastructure at Chapter level will be given due attention. The interaction between various constituents of the Institute, viz., Regional Councils and Chapter Management Committees would be further strengthened.

I am happy to record that Shri Sachin Pilot, Hon'ble Minister for Corporate Affairs laid the foundation for The Centre for Excellence at Ajmer on 28th January 2014 at an impressive gathering of the members of all the three premier professional Institutes of India - the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India. I am sure that this Centre of Excellence will serve as a catalyst for knowledge sharing, through their innovative programmes for the benefit of professionals and members.

Before concluding, I would like to record my sincere appreciation to CS S. N. Ananthasubramanian, my predecessor, who through his creative urge, unbridled commitment and chronic enthusiasm, brought sea changes in every spectrum of Institute's activities in the past year.

Since I have to rush my page to the press for the "Chartered Secretary" to meet the printing schedule, I have not touched upon some of the issues which require depth or some of the issues, I might have skipped, which I will be doing so in my next communication onwards, of course, with equipoise. However, I look forward to receive your views and expectations.

Regards,

Chennai

09th February, 2014

Yours sincerely,

(CS R. SRIVIDHARAN)
president@icsi.edu