

CSI SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON e-Governance

Minutes of E.C meeting held on Thursday, June 5th, 2008
at IPE, OU Campus, Hyderabad

The following (EC members) attended:

Dr. Ashok Agarwal- Chairman, Dr. R K Bagga, Mr. Piyush Gupta, Prof.ML.Sai Kumar
Dr. Nityesh Bhatt, , Mr. Mohan Datar

Invitees:

Prof.BL Deekshatulu	Prof. DVR Vithal,	Mr.Surendra Kapoor
Dr. VP. Gulati	Prof. Sita Vanka	Mr. K.Sriram
Ms.Sridevi Ayaluri	Mr.Pranav Kumar Vasistha,	Mr. Yasovardhan,

The following members regretted their ability to attend

Prof. Sanjiv Vaidya, Mr. Suresh Chanda, Dr.Mahesh Chandra, Mr.Minoo Dastur Prof. MP
Gupta,

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1. Dr.Ashok Agarwal-Chairman gave a brief overview of the activities of CSI SIG e-Gov since the last meeting held in December 2007 during ICEG 2007. The salient features were:
 - a. Web Site of SIG e-Gov created. Responsibilities of management of site gave to M/s.Idha Soft and we expect the new design to be implemented shortly.
 - b. Executive Committee of the SIG formed as per the proposed structure by CSI. The list of members has been put up on the web site already.
 - c. Publications of SIG e-Gov in the form of Case Studies of Projects and Critical Issues on e-Governance have been put up on the Web site. The issue document was also mailed to 1200 professionals in Government, industries and academia .
 - d. Data base of e-Gov projects based on entries received in CSI Nihilent e-Governance Awards during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 has been completed and is in the process of being uploaded on the website.
 - e. Suggested that the quarterly update on e-Governance activities also be sent to CSI communications for wider dissemination
2. Planned Activities for the current year :

Based on the discussions held in the meeting the following decisions were taken.

 - a. Conduct e-Governance Seminar during December'08 which will include the CSI Nihilent e-Governance Awards Function.
 - Prof Nityesh Bhatt agreed to be Program Chair and Mr. Mohan Datar will provide support.

- Prof.MP.Gupta will be requested to be Organising Chair.
- b. It was agreed that fund raising to support SIG e-Gov structure on an ongoing basis as CSI Headquarters support will cease March 09. needs to be through sponsorship for the seminar /conference. Dr.VP.Gulati agreed to provide support in the process
- c. Curriculum Development on e-Governance:
- Mr.Mohan Datar will coordinate Prof.Nityesh Bhatt, Prof.DVR.Vithal, Prof.MP.Gupta, Dr.VP.Gulati, Prof.ML.Sai Kumar and Mr.Piyush Gupta will provide support.
 - It is expected to get the first draft recommendations in three months time frame.
- d. Some Academic Institutions may be encouraged to undertake research projects on the issues identified in “Critical Issues on e-Governance and go in more depth and share the same with various stake holders .
- e. Use “Critical Issues in e-Governance document” as a background material and have a panel in the proposed December’08 Conference to take these discussions further.
- f. Since the structure of SIGe-gov was defined recently, to suggest CSI Headquarters that the present E.C be continued for a full term of 2 years commencing from April’08 to March’10
- g. Mr. Lalit Sawhney interacted via audio-conferencing and wanted SIG to consider leveraging its expertise to link-up with SAARC/IFIP collaboration for participation and awards in following five points.
- SAARC/IFIP SIG e-GOV/TC membership to include members from India.
 - Extend the current national level awards to SAARC countries.
 - SAARC participation in ICEG-2008 at Singapore.
 - SIG e-GOV participation in 2009 in IMIT Vietnam event.
 - Collaboration with IMIT.

CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards 2007-08

1. Website and Database creation:

Dr Ashok Agarwal briefed the members on efforts to utilize IDHASOFT for updation and maintenance of the new SIG e-GOV website created by Ms Jyothi. The site is having the essential data and it is desired to include certain query modules. The site will be linked to CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards with a view to updating the same every year.

2. Convener, CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards report on status:

It was informed that the new web site www.csinihilent-egovernanceawards.org has been redesigned by IDHASOFT and has become operational on 31 May 2008

as mentioned in the hard copy brochure. Admin functions are being taken care by Mr.Piyush Gupta / Ms.Sridevi to ensure that we regularly get updated status as well as assistance in short-listing on receipt of all the nominations. Mr. Piyush Gupta demonstrated the new website using the registrations and login functionality.

3. Evaluation process:

Mr. Piyush Gupta informed the members present of various forms being used this year for evaluation of four categories of awards. The questionnaires to be filled on-line for distribution and detailed discussion on further strengthening our evaluation process took place. It was suggested that efforts be made to have clear criteria for short-listing and for subsequent evaluation during field visits and presentations.

4. Short-listing/field visits:

Convener informed regarding the financial constraint and the suggestions to involve CSI Chapters in different states to assist in giving first-hand grass-root information. Prof ML Saikumar shared his experiences and felt that the evaluation process will be by-and large subjective and the effort to normalize by the Selection Committee would be required. Maximum benefit of field visits can be derived to authenticate the information submitted by the agencies. The members present felt that there is a need to ensure large number of nominations by effective marketing by brochures, e-mails and personal contacts. Since this year, past two years awardees are not eligible, we may not get sufficient response. For e-District Awards also, being launched first time, there was observation whether we will be able to go through this year?

5. Preliminary report on research project on e-District: Convener informed the members of CSI extending the existing research project on e-Governance initiatives (RPEGI) completed last year by including the study of Districts to see how technology can be utilized? The project is of 6 months duration and will be completed by IIIT-H students in Sep 2008. Mr Pranav along with Mr. Yasovardhan made a detailed presentation of their pilot project visit to Chittoor district for two-weeks during May 2008. They interacted with large number of district officials, politicians as well as NGOs to ascertain their view on various governance issues which can be better handled by using e-technology. The efforts in Kuppam district of HPI community were highlighted. A detailed discussion took place on the focus of such a district level research study and it was recommended that a proper framework covering fundamental issues at district level in applying e-Governance be formulated for subsequent visits.

Conclusion:

Convener, CSI-Nihilent e-Gov Awards requested all members of SIGeGOV Executive Committee to make all-out efforts to ensure larger participation by online nominations from the stakeholders. He highlighted the efforts of setting up an efficient website mechanism as well as the Secretariat to ensure sustainability of CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards 2007-08 with change in Convener/Membership as part of the CSI policy.

Meeting ended with thanks to Prof. ML.Sai Kumar for hosting the meeting at IPE.
