Dear Readers,

It is a privilege for me to join a team of motivated and efficient officials in an internationally acclaimed organization such as NIELIT, as its Chief Executive Officer, designated as Managing Director on 06.08.2012, after having spearheaded RajCOMP (a Society of Government of Rajasthan) as its Managing Director for more than five years and RajCOMP Info Services Ltd., a fully owned Government of Rajasthan Company as its Director for more than a year.

NIELIT has made efforts to establish standards in the areas of IECT and has developed market oriented courses in the emerging areas as per needs of the IT and the electronic industry, besides providing training and certification related activities in established schemes and programs, both, in the formal as well as the non-formal sector. As the Managing Director, I shall not only endeavor to maintain the high standards that this organization has set, but would also strive to steer this organization to greater heights and glories. We are also in the process of aligning our courses with NVEQF (National Vocational Education Qualification Framework); a framework designed and developed by the AICTE and MHRD that envisages a nationally integrated education and competency based skill framework which will provide for multiple pathways both within vocational education and between general and vocational education.

I look forward to the support of all stakeholders and welcome you all in a meaningful relationship with NIELIT. I also take this opportunity to solicit your contributions by ways of success stories and innovative write-ups on IECT for publication in the future issues of the revamped NIELIT Newsletter.

Dr. Ashwini Kumar Sharma
NIELIT NEWSLETTER REVAMPED

NIELIT, erstwhile DOEACC Society, previously published some issues of Newsletter, highlighting the accomplishments of the organization. However, the said activity had got stalled after 2005. It has now been decided to revive this activity and re-launch the NIELIT Newsletter on quarterly basis. The Newsletter is perceived as an important business tool to showcase the achievements of NIELIT as also to refurbish the ‘brand-equity’ of NIELIT amongst its stakeholders. Future issues of the Newsletter is expected to carry contents under four sections comprising of: (a) NIELIT and its activities; (b) Electronics & IT education for masses; (c) New technologies and trends; and (d) DeitY’s concessions and facilities for the Electronics & IT sector as also NeGP projects. Efforts are on to upload the Newsletter at the NIELIT website (http://www.nielit.in) with a provision for an individual to subscribe/un-subscribe the future issues of the NIELIT Newsletter by submitting their e-mail id. Happy Reading!

REGISTRATION TO ‘O’, ‘A’, ‘B’ AND ‘C’ LEVELS OF COURSES IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Registration is a mandatory pre-requisite for appearing in the O/A/B/C level examinations conducted by NIELIT twice a year in the month of January and July. At any point of time, a candidate can hold a valid registration for one Level only. Registration is open throughout the year; however cut-off dates are there to submit the application forms for a particular examination. Candidates fulfilling the prescribed qualification may apply for registration through Accredited Institutes. Working professional may also apply for Registration directly based on prescribed criteria pertaining to qualifications and work experience. So far, more than 8.9 lac students have registered for the different level of courses since inception. The graph at the left pictorially represents the level wise registrants, who have registered either as a direct candidate or as a candidate through an accredited institute.

CERTIFICATION IN ESDM SECTOR

NIELIT is a known standard for human resources in the area of IT and ITES. Our certificates namely, O, A, B and C as well as CCC, BCC, etc., have tremendous brand value. Several State Governments and Government Organizations have prescribed these certificates as necessary criteria for recruitment and promotion purposes. Recognizing the growing demand for skilled human resource in the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) arena, NIELIT has decided to develop equivalent certifications in this area as well. Drawing members from academia and industry, a committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Prof. N. J. Rao of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITB), Bangalore to formulate a National Level Scheme to provide training in ESDM verticals like, Electronics Manufacturing Services, Solar Photovoltaic & Smart Grid and Embedded Design. Under this scheme it is proposed to provide O, A, B, C level certifications, on similar lines as are offered in case of IT training by NIETL (under the DOEACC Scheme). The Committee is likely to come out with the modalities of this scheme and the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) shortly.
SPONSORED PROJECTS, CONSULTANCY AND OTHER INITIATIVES BY NIELIT

- **Digitization of National Population Register (NPR):** NIELIT was designated as the Nodal Agency, on behalf of DeitY for executing the NPR project in both urban as well as rural areas of nineteen (19) States and two (2) Union Territories of India, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh. The demographic Data Digitization work in urban areas has already been completed and the Data Digitization work in rural areas is in progress.

- **National Technical University (NTU):** This world is likely to see more “meta-universities” located in cyberspace rather than brick-and-mortar institutions, as well as an increase in collaborative research across schools and countries. NIELIT is in the process of preparing a road-map for adopting appropriate pedagogy for metamorphosing NIELIT into a NIELIT University envisaged as an **Institute of National Importance**.

- **Agriculture Census and Input Survey project:** NIELIT is also successfully executing the Agriculture Census and Input Survey project under which tabulation of about 10 crore data records have to be done.

- **SC/ST Training Projects:** New training projects have been identified and initiated which are aimed at improving the employability of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates at remote places such as Ladakh, Samba, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Fatehpur etc. Many Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates including students from other backward classes are now gainfully employed as a result of the training efforts being made by NIELIT with the support of DGE&T.

- **Capacity Building and Skill Development:** NIELIT Centres are also training twenty five thousand (25000) Panchayati Raj functionaries in Basic Computer Course (BCC) with the support of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, besides training of about one lac rural candidates in IT skills/ITES-BPO/repair of electronic equipments under three projects sponsored by DeitY and training of one lakh CSC operators/VLEs in CCC which is also sponsored by DeitY, in support with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, popularly known as ‘CSC-SPV’

- **The National Skill Development Policy** of the Government of India has a target of skilling 500 million manpower by the year 2022. As per the IT Skill Development roadmap, NIELIT has to train one crore manpower by the said year. New initiatives, especially in the area of e-learning are being planned and NIELIT is expanding to achieve these targets.

- **e-Governance initiatives:** NIELIT is in the process of web enabling its core activities pertaining to registration by students; filling up of examination application forms; application for accreditation of courses; and online empanelling of Experts associated with the various activities of this organization, besides renewing marketing efforts and placements of qualifiers. Having successfully conducted examination in the conventional format, NIELIT now plans to establish a world class online examination system, aptly supported by e-contents, not only for its own courses, but also for supplementing the efforts of other Government departments in the country.

**DIT IS NOW “DEITY” AND DOEACC SOCIETY IS NOW “NIELIT”**

The Department of Information Technology (DIT) has been renamed as the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) on April 19, 2012 to reflect the increasing focus of the Government on the electronics sector. The Department’s name in Hindi now is इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं इन्फोर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी विभाग.

Also, the DOEACC (Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses) Society has been renamed as National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology on October 10, 2011. The name of the organization in Hindi is राष्ट्रीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं इन्फोर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी संस्थान. The new Logo of NIELIT is being finalized and the same shall be notified soon.
CCC – COURSE ON COMPUTER CONCEPTS

Under the IT Literacy programme, NIELIT has been conducting a Course on Computer Concepts (CCC) since the year 1999. As on date more than 5.5 lac students have successfully completed the CCC programme, examinations of which are being conducted online, for the past several years. Many States Governments / Government Organizations have made CCC certification as a mandatory pre-requisite for recruitments and promotions. NIELIT has also developed CCC e-content in all the constitutionally recognised Indian Languages (except Santhali). The e-contents of CCC have also been developed in Indian languages such as Mizo and Kokborok.

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON CYBER FORENSICS AND E-SECURITY FOR DELHI POLICE

The law enforcement agencies are experiencing new challenges in dealing with cyber crimes. The tools and technologies for securing the information on any computer network needs to be put in place. Insofar as illegal activities such as unauthorized access, modification/alteration in user profiles/data are concerned, it is important for the agency to gather and analyze suitable evidence with the help of computer forensic tools so that such evidences are admissible in the court of law and the perpetrators of the crime are booked based on the evidences. NIELIT is likely to take up the activity of training of personnel of Delhi Police so that they are well trained to meet the new challenges in the area of cyber crimes.

SHORT-TERM TRAINING PROGRAMS & WORKSHOP BY VLSI DESIGN GROUP, NIELIT CENTRE – CALICUT

RTL Design for Programmable Logic: The NIELIT Centre – Calicut conducted a short training programme on RTL Design for Programmable Logic in collaboration with IEEE in April 2012. The participants were provided with intense training on digital VLSI design with emphasis on Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs). A customized onsite training programme on VHDL was also organized in June 2012 at Sahrdaya College of Engineering & Technology, Thissur, Kerala. This programme was attended by about 100 participants, who have also critically acclaimed the expertise available with the NIELIT Centre – Calicut.

IEEE-NIELIT Workshop on LaTex: A workshop on LaTex was also conducted successfully in July 2012 at NIELIT – Calicut Centre in technical collaboration with IEEE Malabar subsection, under the IEEE Kerala chapter. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from people drawn from the academia and industry, specially the members from the R&D field. Apart from a focus on computational linguistics, syntax and semantics, the workshop provided a ‘Do-It-Yourself’ facility to the participants for hands-on training on the use of LaTex, a de-facto standard for documenting technical and scientific literature.
MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF NIELIT CENTRES

The 15th Meeting of the Directors of NIELIT Centres was organized on August 23, 2012. Dr. Ashwini Kumar Sharma, MD, NIELIT presented a brief roadmap on his vision of the growth path. He emphasized the need for capacity building in the area of IECT. The Centre Directors were extolled to be more proactive in their liaison with the respective Secretary (IT), Secretary (Panchyati Raj) and Secretary (Social Welfare) of their state on regular basis to collect/monitor details related to capacity building and close pending issues at the earliest. In the meeting MD, NIELIT sought the active cooperation of all Centre Directors to renew activities of national interest; especially those connected with the welfare of the student community. During the course of the meeting, Ms. Rita Teotia, the then Additional Secretary to the Government of India in DeitY also chaired a session on NPR to review this project with all NIELIT Centre Directors wherein, Mr. Dinesh Tyagi, CEO-SPV and Mr. Gaurav Dwivedi, Director DeitY were also present. MD, NIELIT thanked Ms. Teotia and other officers of DeitY & CSC-SPV for their participation and guidance provided to the Centre Directors for the successful implementation of the NPR project.

NEW COURSES IN ASSOCIATION WITH BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR MARATHWADA (BAM) UNIVERSITY, AURANGABAD

NIELIT Centre – Aurangabad proposes to introduce three new courses in association with Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada (BAM) University, Aurangabad. These courses are: (a) B.Tech (Electronic System Engineering) (b) integrated M.Tech/MS in Electronics and Design, and (c) part time M.Tech in Electronic Design Technology. Recently, the Vice Chancellor of BAM University, Dr. V.M. Pandharipande held a meeting with Dr Ashwini Kumar Sharma, MD, NIELIT and discussed prospective plans for conducting various courses in the field of electronics and information technology. The University has also agreed in principle to provide more space to NIELIT Centre – Aurangabad, which is housed within the vicinity of BAM University campus, to construct a Girl’s Hostel for its students on the university campus.

NIELIT PROVIDES IMPETUS TO THE NORTH EASTERN REGION OF THE COUNTRY

With a view to enhance training facilities in the area of ICET, the six NIELIT Centers and two Extension Centers in the North Eastern region are being upgraded to cater to greater capacities by constructing permanent campuses and setting up of new extension centres. The new Extension Centres located at 12 interior/remote locations of the NE region, namely ‘Passighat’, ‘Tezu’, ‘Kokrajhar’, ‘Jorhat’, ‘Silchar’, ‘Dibrugarh’, ‘Turu’, ‘Lunglei’, ‘Senapati’, ‘Churachandapur’, ‘Chuchuyimlang’ and ‘Tezpur’ are being set up to bring the training facility to the doorsteps of the disadvantaged section of NE region. Through this the training capacity of the NE Centres is expected to increase from the present capacity of 3300 candidates to 14400 candidates per year. Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for upgrading of NIELIT centres located in the North Eastern region at a cost of Rs. 388.68 crores over a period of five years with funding support from DeitY.
WHAT ARE CSCs?

Common Services Centres (CSCs) are ICT-enabled rural service delivery points for Government To Citizen (G2C) and Business To Consumer (B2C) services. CSCs constitute one of the three building blocks of the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) that aims to deliver government services to citizens closer home; available any time and at affordable costs. This scheme - approved by the Government of India - proposes to provide support for establishing over 100,000 such centers in over 600,000 villages of India. The objective is to develop a platform that can enable Government, private and social sector organizations to align their social and commercial goals for the benefit of the rural population in the remotest corners of the country through a combination of IT-based as well as non-IT-based services.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTION FOR EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN THROUGH E-LITERACY

In the 21st century, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are changing the way we learn, communicate, manage our livelihoods and access health, financial and government services. The inability to use ICTs raises barrier towards employment, economic growth and social development, which are often accentuated in the case of rural citizens, due to differential access to education, communication assets and opportunities for learning. However, while the rural population is slowly joining this revolution, women and girls remain marginalized, excluded from taking advantage of ICT knowledge based services.

One of the Millennium Development Goals is to promote gender equality and empower women with the goal of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2015. Community ICT Centers are an effective vehicle to help women acquire digital literacy skills that can enable them to further their education, gain employment, help start and build their own businesses, secure their livelihoods and become socially and politically active.

Under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) formulated by the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY), Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India, the Common Services Centers (CSCs) were conceptualized as ICT enabled, front end service delivery points at the village level, for delivery of Government, Social and Private Sector services in the areas of agriculture, health, education, entertainment, FMCG products, banking and financial services, utility payments, etc and also become an effective channel for promoting digital literacy in the rural areas of the country, especially women.

The Scheme for ‘Empowering Women in Rural India through Digital Literacy’ envisages training of 25,000 women on course designed and administered by NIELIT in rural India across 10 States - 1) Assam, 2) Bihar, 3) Jammu and Kashmir, 4) Madhya Pradesh 5) Maharashtra, 6) Rajasthan, 7) Sikkim, 8) Tamil Nadu, 9) Uttar Pradesh and 10) West Bengal. About 2500 women will be trained in each of the 10 States.
NIELIT Centre – Srinagar/Jammu is functioning as a remote centre of IIT Bombay under CDEEP – Centre for Distance Engineering Education Program to receive online lectures directly from IIT Bombay through CDEEP’s Video Conferencing / Video on Demand (VOD) facility. A Workshop on ‘Introduction to Research Methodologies’ was held at NIELIT Centre, Srinagar/Jammu from 24.06.12 to 04.07.12. The workshop provided an introduction to research for scientists and engineers. The objective of this workshop was to take a researcher through the various aspects and steps of a research project.

Dr. Ashwini Kumar Sharma, MD, NIELIT in discussions with the Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Professor Talat Ahmad and Professor A.M. Shah, Dean (Academic), University of Kashmir, wherein Shri A.H. Moon, Director, NIELIT Centre – Srinagar/Jammu is also present. A meeting was held on 25.09.2012 to discuss new initiatives for promoting academic and R&D tie-ups between NIELIT and the University of Kashmir.

With the setting up of the NIELIT Ajmer Centre, NIELIT has further widened its repertoire of own centres spread across the country. With this addition, NIELIT now has sixteen (16) Centres in the country located at Aizawl, Agartala, Ajmer, Aurangabad, Calicut, Chandigarh (with branch offices at Shimla, Lucknow & New Delhi), Chennai, Gangtok, Gorakhpur (with Eastern Regional Office at Patna), Imphal, Itanagar, Kolkata, Kohima/Chuchuyimlang, Srinagar/Jammu, Shillong and Tezpur/Guwahati with its Head quarters at New Delhi. NIELIT is also well networked throughout India with the presence of its about 900 Accredited Institutes.
UPCOMING EVENTS

- Cut-off date for receipt of filled-in Examination Application Forms (by-hand or through post) at NIELIT, Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, New Delhi – 110 003 (NIELIT shall not be responsible for any postal delay)
- Filled-in Examination Application Forms may also be accepted along with a Late Fee of Rs. 100/- per application form.
- Cut-off date for receipt of filled-in ‘O’ Level Registration Application Forms from individual candidates, to appear in July 2013 Examinations
- Cut-off date for receipt of filled-in ‘O’ Level Registration Application Forms from Institutes accredited with NIELIT, to appear in July 2013 Examinations
- Cut-off date for receipts of filled in forms for CCC (Course on Computer Concepts) and BCC (Basic Computer Course) – December 2012 examination at respective Regional Centers
- Cut-off date for receipts of filled in forms for CCC (Course on Computer Concepts) and BCC (Basic Computer Course) – January 2013 examination at respective Regional Centers
- Commencement of CCC and BCC – December 2012 (first Saturday) examination
- Commencement of CCC – December 2012 (third Saturday) examination
- Commencement of CCC and BCC – January 2013 (first Saturday) examination
- Commencement of CCC – January 2013 (third Saturday) examination
- Cut-off date for receipt of filled in forms for February 2013 CCC Examination in respect of candidates through approved institutes (without Late Fees)
- Cut-off date for receipt of filled in forms for February 2013 CCC Examination in respect of direct candidates (without Late Fees)
- Commencement of CCC – February 2013 examinations