SECRETARY’S REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

(December 2010 – November 2011)

(To be presented in the General Body Meeting of TSI at IIT Roorkee on 08 December 2011)

Respected Mr. Chairman, my colleagues on the Executive Committee, fellow TSI Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you a brief report of activities carried out by the Society during the period (December 2010 – November 2011). As you are aware, the present Executive Committee took charge on 3rd December 2010 after conclusion of the last General Body Meeting at RDCIS – Ranchi during the ICIT-2010 Conference. I am happy to report that, based on the groundwork done by the preceding EC (2009-2010), we have been able to make substantial progress in the activities of TSI and have also launched several important initiatives. I would like to give you a summary.

1) Organizational aspects

- In view of the increased level of activities and several new initiatives launched, we have strengthened the TSI Headquarter Secretariat. Mr. A. K. Mehta, who has served with distinction as a full-time Executive Director during 2009-2011, has kindly agreed to offer his continued services to the Society. Accordingly, Mr. Mehta has been reappointed as ED (TSI) for a further period of two years, from April 2011 till March 2013. He has been instrumental in streamlining the activities of the Society and implementing the important action plans formulated by the EC. We wish to record our appreciation for his valuable contributions.

- As you are also aware, with the patronage and continued support of Indian Oil R&D Centre, the TSI Secretariat has been operating from the premises of IndianOil R&D Centre, Faridabad. TSI puts on record its sincere thanks and gratitude to IOCL – R&D Management for such patronage and continued support.

- We are now also employing a full-time Office Assistant to carry out day-to-day office work, documentation and other duties.

- The TSI Secretariat, under the guidance of ED (TSI) has streamlined all regular activities, correspondence, documentation and record-keeping in a systematic and timely manner, thus improving our efficiency and productivity. We have also achieved a reasonably high
level of activities, with 4 very productive EC Meetings taking place during the past one year.

2) **Membership Affairs**

- With sustained efforts from ED (TSI) in collaboration with local chapters, we have updated the membership database with complete details of our existing active members and newly joined members. Membership records have been arranged region-wise and these have been attached to respective local chapters. This has greatly helped us in reaching out to TSI members and involving them effectively in Society’s activities.

- As a result of our initiatives and outreach programs (such as Summer Schools and STLE Education Programs), we have been able to create a steady increase in our membership over past three years and more and more individuals are coming forward to join TSI. Membership certificates are being issued to all active members in a timely manner. We are also receiving constructive suggestions, comments and ideas from many new members.

- Based on the feedback received from various organizations, Local Chapter Chairpersons and some of our Life Members, the present Executive Committee has approved the creation of two new categories of Membership, namely, **Corporate Members** and **Institutional Members**. Membership privileges have also been redefined in keeping with current needs.

- Membership fees for Life Members and Group Student Members have been revised with effect from 15th April 2011 with due approval of the Executive Committee. The fees and privileges for the two new categories of Memberships, namely, Corporate & Institutional Members, have been approved by the EC and will be notified soon. All membership-related information and application forms will be hosted in TSI Website.

- In order to keep our membership records updated on a regular basis and also to understand the profiles, expertise and areas of interest of our members, the EC has approved a scheme of “Sustaining Life Members” whereby active members will be required to update their contact data and profiles once in 3 years through TSI website or emails. Membership privileges are liable to be withdrawn for members who remain untraceable even after repeated attempts.
3) **Registration & Taxation Issues of TSI**

- As you are aware, the previous Executive Committee had proposed to relocate the TSI Registered Office from BHEL (R&D), Hyderabad to IOCL (R&D), Faridabad to facilitate our administrative activities and effectively support the new TSI initiatives. This was duly approved by the General Body and the necessary legal processes were initiated in 2010.

- I am very happy to report that, with untiring efforts of Mr. A. K. Mehta, ED (TSI) and his team, we have successfully registered TSI as a not-for-profit Society in Faridabad in December 2010. We have also obtained the Income Tax PAN for TSI in December 2010. The TSI Team at our Headquarters has also successfully obtained Sec. 12A Registration as a “Charitable Society” under Income Tax Act in October 2011. This is a great achievement for TSI, as we will not be liable to pay income tax on our earnings. This will significantly help in building our corpus funds. We expect to obtain the approval soon.

- We have also applied for registration under Sec. 80G of Income Tax Act, by virtue of which organizations making donations to TSI will be able to claim tax exemptions for themselves. This will also help in raising funds for TSI initiatives.

- I am also happy to report that we have consolidated our accounts of past five years. All our transactions and records are being maintained in full compliance with the law. The Accounts for Financial Year 2010-2011 will be shortly presented to you.

4) **Local Chapter Activities**

- In order to streamline the activities of Local Chapters, we have circulated detailed guidelines for formation and operation of TSI Local Chapters, along with procedure for conducting election of office bearers. Subsequent to the formation of new TSI – EC, fresh elections have been held in the Local Chapters and new Office Bearers have been elected. The details are available in our website.

- We have made sustained efforts to increase the level of activities in local chapters. Several local chapters such as Karnataka, Delhi and Mumbai have organized different programs and events during the past year. However, there is a scope for increasing the level of activities in other Local Chapters as well and the Executive Committee will like to request all the Chapters to make concerted efforts towards this end. TSI Headquarters will continue to extend all possible support to local chapters in fulfilling their aspirations and objectives.
Several organizations have also expressed their interest in starting Student Chapters or Local Chapters. We shall continue to encourage such efforts and process such requests with due care, after examining the merits of each case.

5) Revision of TSI Constitution

- As you are aware, the previous Executive Committee had taken up the task of revising the TSI Constitution (Memorandum of Association) in line with the current organizational structure and new initiatives of the Society. A Constitution Review Committee formed by the EC for this purpose had developed the draft of revised Constitution, incorporating the inputs from many senior TSI Members. The draft Constitution has been reviewed and discussed in several EC Meetings during this year.

- The Executive Committee, in its Meeting dated 5th November 2011 has ratified the draft Constitution and recommended that it be placed before the General Body for approval and adoption.

- Accordingly, the draft document has been circulated to all Members and the same will be put up for your approval during this Meeting.

6) New Initiatives

The previous Executive Committee had launched several commendable initiatives. I am happy to share with you that the present EC has made conscious efforts in continuing these activities and making improvements. This has resulted in significant enhancement of our visibility and brand image both in India and Abroad.

TSI Summer School in Tribology

- In keeping with our commitment to promote Tribology education and awareness, we have started the TSI Summer School in Tribology. The objective is to train the faculty members from our engineering colleges, so that Tribology education in our UG and PG courses gets a significant boost in coming years. These Summer Schools are also providing excellent platform for industry – academia collaboration.

- Continuing the tradition of two very successful TSI Summer Schools in 2009 and 2010, we have organized the 3rd SST in June 2011 at IndianOil Institute of Petroleum Management, Gurgaon. Like the previous two events, this year’s Summer School also received overwhelming response and generated surplus funds, which have improved the TSI corpus. A notable feature of this year’s event is the sanction of Rs. 4.0 Lakh sponsorship by the
Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. This proves that the TSI Summer School has assumed a truly National status. We are committed to continue this important Annual TSI Event.

**TSI – STLE Collaboration and Joint Education Courses**

- As you are aware, in order to accelerate our professional growth, we had entered into a pioneering collaboration agreement with the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers (STLE), USA in 2009. The collaboration covers Tribology education and training, professional certification courses and collaborative publishing. The response from STLE has been extremely positive and there has been regular correspondence at the highest levels of both the Societies.

- As part of this collaboration, we had conducted the 1st TSI – STLE Joint Tribology Education Course in February 2010 at IIPM – Gurgaon. Continuing the success story, we have conducted the 2nd TSI-STLE Joint Tribology Course in February 2011 at the same venue, with two faculty members from STLE. The program received very encouraging response. This has offered a golden opportunity to Indian Tribologists to get the benefit of world-class education in India at highly affordable costs. As per agreement, the net earnings from the course have been equally shared between TSI and STLE.

- A notable feature of this year’s event was the use of web-based lecture, through which one session was conducted on-line by the speaker from the USA. This opens up the possibility of leveraging the current technology for conducting more such enrichment programs with much lower investments.

- I am happy to inform you that the TSI team of Prof. Satish Sharma, EC Member and Dr. C. S. Ramesh, Chairperson of Karnataka Local Chapter, participated in this year’s STLE Annual Meeting in May 2011 at Atlanta. They made a presentation on TSI initiatives to the STLE Board, which received much appreciation. Subsequently, Mr. A. K. Mehta, ED (TSI), visited STLE Headquarters in July 2011 and had very fruitful interactions with the entire STLE Team.

- As you know, our current collaboration agreement with STLE has ended in November 2011. In view of the significant future opportunities and benefits of such collaborative efforts, both the Societies have agreed to renew the relationship. I am very happy to report that the TSI Executive Committee has approved the renewal of our agreement in August 2011. Subsequently, the STLE Board has also ratified the renewal in October 2011.
The TSI-STLE Collaboration Agreement now stands renewed for a four-year term, till December 2015.

- We are in discussion with the STLE Team to plan out the next year’s activities. It is proposed to conduct the first STLE Certification Examination for Certified Lubrication Specialist (CLS) along with a 3-day tutorial course in April 2012. The 2012 TSI-STLE Tribology Course is proposed to be conducted during our ICIT-2012 Conference at Pune in December 2012. We shall keep you posted about the final plans.

**ICIT-2012 Conference**

- During the ICIT-2010 Conference in RDCIS Ranchi in December 2010, it was announced that the next event, ICIT-2012, would be organized in the Western Region (Mumbai / Pune). Accordingly, the Executive Committee had constituted a Core Committee to start preparing for the Conference and identify the venue. The core committee has had several meetings and has also conducted a detailed survey of possible hotels in Mumbai / Pune to select the venue.

- I am happy to announce that, based on the recommendation of the Core Committee, it has been decided to hold the ICIT-2012 event at The Westin Hotel, Pune during 7 – 9 December 2012. Booking arrangements are being finalized with the Hotel and the preparatory activities are being started in full swing. The first Announcement Brochure for ICIT-2012 will be released soon.

- The EC would like to request all TSI Members to come forward and actively participate in all aspects of this Conference to make it a grand success.

**Collaboration with Asian Tribology Council (ATC)**

- As you know, TSI has been playing a key role in ATC. We had drafted the ATC Constitution which was adopted in our GBM of December 2008 at Delhi. A delegation of Tribology professionals from India also participated in the ASIATRIB-2010 program in Australia in December 2010. In this event Mr. Ajay Kumar, current Joint Secretary (TSI) and Prof. Satish Kailas, EC Member, put up a strong case with our offer to host the ASIATRIB-2014 event in India.

- It is a matter of great pride and happiness for all of us that TSI has been entrusted with the prestigious task of hosting the ASIATRIB-2014 in India. This will be merged with our own ICIT-2014.
• The TSI Executive Committee has constituted a Core Committee to start preparatory work and make an Action Plan for this event. The Core Committee is working under the able guidance of Prof. S. K. Biswas, who has been playing a key role in ATC.

• The EC would like to call upon all of you to come forward and participate whole-heartedly in the organization of ASIATRIB-2014. This grand event will not only bring international recognition for TSI but will also be a great achievement for India.

Revamp of TSI Website

• During the past few years, we have realized that, in order to have a vibrant and visible TSI, we need to develop a versatile website for TSI. This will provide a common platform for interaction and collaboration among members and external agencies. We had engaged a professional web designing consultant to upgrade the website to our requirements and also to implement all value-added features, as and when required. Mr. A. K. Mehta, ED (TSI), has been playing a key role in this initiative.

• As you all must have seen, the TSI website now has a very attractive appearance with a host of user-friendly features. The website is being extensively used by us to announce all our events, receive membership queries and applications, upload announcements about important events and a host of other features. It also has a “hit meter” to monitor how many people are using it.

• We have also developed a “Members Forum” exclusively for our members. Members can log in to this zone using passwords. All membership related announcements and documents will be hosted here. The guidelines for access and use of “Members Forum” will be circulated soon. Going forward, there are plans to incorporate value-added features such as expert advice or technical interactions on various Tribology-related issues.

• We have also received some suggestions for implementing on-line advertisements through our website, dealing with products, services and agencies related to Tribology. Apart from enhancing the popularity of our website, this will also create revenue generation for TSI.

• I urge all members to please visit the website regularly and make the maximum use of the excellent features we are building into it.

TSI Journal & Newsletter

• The Indian Journal of Tribology published by TSI is brought out at six monthly intervals. During 2008-2009 under the editorship of Dr Harish Hirani and with active contribution from members of the editorial committee, the journal achieved significant success and also received good response from members of academia and industry. However, we were
occasionally facing difficulties in procuring advertisements to make the journal publication financially self-sufficient. This has led to some disruption.

- Recognizing the need for focused attention in reviving the Journal, the Executive Committee has constituted a Core Team with senior EC Members. The team has proposed a list of new members for the Editorial Board and Editorial Committee, which will be finalized shortly. Efforts are also on to procure advertisements to bring out the next issue as early as possible.

- The Executive Committee is conscious of the importance of our Journal. It is also committed to making the best efforts to achieve the set targets, i.e., to convert this Journal into a peer-reviewed journal of global standards in five years’ time and also to implement a fully electronic format.

- As you know, the fully revamped TSI Newsletter is now being brought out under the able guidance of Dr. Har Prashad, VP (TSI), with active support of Mr. A. K. Mehta, ED (TSI). The first issue of the new-look Newsletter was brought out in June 2011 and the December 2011 issue has just been launched. The Newsletter is being circulated to all of you in electronic form and it is also being uploaded in our website. The Newsletter has been very useful for showcasing the activities and initiatives of TSI and its local chapters. We are also circulating printed copies to leading institutions, industries and organizations.

**TSI Awards for Achievements**

- As you are aware, TSI had launched its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Awards during the ICIT-2010 Conference in December 2010. These awards, to be given biennially during ICITs, will enable TSI to recognize and honour outstanding contributions of Indian Tribology professionals. This initiative by TSI has been widely appreciated.

- Based on the suggestions and ideas contributed by several members, we are also planning to launch “TSI Tribologist of the Year” award, to recognize the achievements and contributions of Tribologists from industry, academia and research organizations. An “Award Committee” constituted by the EC is currently working on developing the guidelines for this award. Details will be shared with all members once the proposal is reviewed and approved by the EC.

**TSI Collaboration Initiatives**

- Over the past year, we have been actively networking with several national organizations and institutes to promote the cause of Tribology. I am happy to report that this year two such agencies, namely, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) joined hands with us to organize programs.
In March 2011, TSI Delhi Chapter collaborated with BIS to organize a seminar on “Standardization in the field of Tribology” at IOCL (R&D), Faridabad. The event evoked keen interest and was attended by senior officials from BIS and IOCL.

In October 2011, TSI partnered with CII as a Sponsor for the IMX-2011 Expo and Seminar at Pune. TSI put up a stall in the Exhibition, which received enthusiastic response and was also visited by the Secretary – Heavy Industries, Government of India. During this event Secretary (TSI) also took part in a Panel Discussion on “Trends in Reliability & Condition Monitoring”.

We hope to partner with many such organizations in coming years to take part in events of national importance.

7) Organization of NTC-2011

As you are aware, TSI has launched the National Tribology Conference (NTC) this year in response to popular demand. These events will be organized in alternate years at premier educational institutions and will focus on research work. The NTC will effectively complement our biennial ICIT events, which are mainly focused on industrial applications of Tribology.

We are currently in the midst of the very first NTC-2011 event here in IIT Roorkee. We hope you are enjoying the Conference and will fully utilize the professional opportunities for learning and networking that it offers to us.

We record our sincere appreciation for the Organizing Committee and Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, IIT Roorkee for taking up this responsibility and organizing such an excellent event.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you for your support and encouragement. I would also personally like to thank all my colleagues on the EC for their unstinted support, valuable guidance and advice, which made my job much easier. I call upon all of you to come forward and actively contribute to the initiatives of TSI. We all share our common passion for the subject of Tribology. Let us together make TSI a truly great and internationally acclaimed professional society.

Thank you.

Dr. Barun Chakrabarti
Secretary - TSI