



Minutes WITSA Board of Directors Meeting

09:00-14:30

Sunday, March 5, 2017

Venue: Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu, Nepal

Conference Dial-in: *Instructions on page 5*

Arch Room (2nd floor)

Chairman, Yvonne Chiu

Present:

1. Yvonne Chiu (CISA)	Chairman	Taiwan
2. Raul Colcher ((ASSESPRO)	Deputy Chairman - remote	Brazil
3. Tarek Taha (EITESAL)	Treasurer - remote	Egypt
4. Dr. Boris Komrakov (InfoPark)	Vice Chairman, Europe (Non-EU)–	Belarus
5. Graeme Muller (NzTech)	Director	New Zealand
6. Binod Dhakal (CAN Federation)	Director	Nepal
7. Kee Wong (AIIA)	Director - remote	Australia
8. Sabur Khan (BCS)	Director	Bangladesh
9. David Wong (PIKOM)	Director	Malaysia

In Attendance:

1. Dr. Mike Wu	Taiwan
2. Frank Wu	Taiwan
3. Grant Son (FKII)	Korea
4. Hempal Shrestha (CAN Federation)	Nepal
5. Dele Ajisomo (ITAN)	Nigeria
6. Ali Ashfak (BCS)	Bangladesh
7. Subrata Sarker (BCS)	Bangladesh
8. Dr. Jim Poisant (WITSA)	United States
9. Anders Halvorsen (WITSA)	United States
10. Cathryn Rainey (WITSA)	United States

	BLOCK 1: INTRODUCTION & REPORTS	
1.	<p>Call to Order / Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Dr. Jim Poisant called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the previous BOD minutes. Sabur Khan motioned for the minutes to be approved and Graeme Muller seconded the motion for approval.</p>	

2.	<p>Welcome Remarks from CAN Federation, Nepal (10 min.)</p> <p>Mr. Binod Dhakal thanked everyone for their participation and welcomed everyone to Nepal.</p>	
3.	<p>Update on Nizar Zakka https://globallibertydefense.org/home/about-the-fund/mission/</p> <p>Dr. Jim Poisant presented the update on Nizar's Zakka's situation in an Iranian prison. Dr. Poisant informed the board that he had received two phone calls from Nizar in February wherein Nizar requested continuing support to have him released from prison.</p> <p>Dr. Poisant requested of Nizar's legal counsel that all future contacts go through legal Nizar's counsel for safety reasons due to the calls most certainly being recorded by the Iranian government.</p> <p>The board unanimously agreed that financial support from WITSA's funds not be granted as an organizational precedent. It was agreed however, that WITSA continue to support Nizar's efforts by continuing to support his release by communicating with government officials, as it has in the past. It was agreed that WITSA will send emails to its members requesting financial support for Nizar's legal fees through a designated link.</p>	
4.	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>Dr. Jim Poisant presented and reviewed the financial reports. Please refer to the following link for a full review: http://witsa.org/financials/</p>	
BLOCK 2: BOD DECISIONS		
5.	<p>1) WCIT 2022 (Rescind award to Kenya, Africa)</p> <p>Dr. Jim Poisant asked for a vote to rescind WCIT's award to Kenya as discussed at previous BOD meeting in Brazil. The board unanimously rescinded the award due to lack of funds and commitment to host the WCIT 2022 congress.</p> <p>Kee Wong volunteered to take an action for AIIA to make a bid for 2022. Dr. Jim Poisant requested that they consider making the WCIT 2022 bid in Taiwan at the next meeting (September 2017).</p>	

2) Proposal on Updating WITSA Dues Structure

Dr. Poisant and Anders Halvorsen presented new criteria for the proposal for updating WITSA's dues structure reasoning the change for a more equitable formula in determining dues for WITSA members. Currently the structure penalizes the large emerging and developed countries.

The new due structure will be based on readily available data and updated every three years. The criteria proposed for determining fees will be based on the following:

- Dues levels based on two sets of data:
 - a) U.N. country income classifications (High Income, Upper Middle, Lower Middle, and Low Income)
 - b) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ranking

The dues will rank the following:

1. \$5,000 (High Income classification and GDP Rank #1-5): USA, Japan, U.K.
2. \$2,500 (High Income classification and GDP Rank #6-12): Canada, R. of Korea
3. \$1,000 (High Income classification and GDP Rank #13-40)
Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain
4. \$500 (Upper Middle Income & High Income/GDP Rank <#40)
5. \$250 (Low Income & Lower Middle Income classification)

Kee Wong felt that the dues were too low for a worldwide association. Dr. Poisant agreed, however stressed that membership dues are not a large source of income for WITSA and to reach our desired level of membership, this dues structure should create a broader opportunity for more countries to join WITSA.

Dr. Poisant asked if there were any objections to the new dues proposal. A vote was taken and the measure was unanimously approved. The new structure will be reflected in the 2017 Membership Dues.

3) Suggested Uses of WITSA funds

Dr. Poisant and Ms. Yvonne Chiu discussed using a portion of WITSA's budget to support the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for a research report from ASOCIO/Asia. David Wong requested 25K for a WITSA-ASOCIO research collaboration for the Asia Oceania region and an additional 25K to market the research in order to achieve maximum effect. Please see detailed project slides at: http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/witsa-bod-related-meetings-march-4-5-2017-kathmandu-nepal/ <p>Raul Colcher requested that in the future there be more vetting of such initiatives prior to voting on them, however he felt the was a good idea.</p> <p>It was also discussed adding additional research in the future based on the success of Asia Oceania region.</p> <p>This initiative was voted on and unanimously accepted by the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Poisant discussed the benefit of allocating 50K of WITSA’s budget to WCIT emerging country support. This funding would increase support and attendance of government officials as well as individuals who could not afford to attend from emerging countries. This will also allow an allotment of tickets to be given to members who may not otherwise have the ability to attend. Dr. Poisant requested a vote and the board unanimously approved the request. WITSA Emerging Digital Solutions (WEDS) was introduced as a new program at the 2016 WCIT Brazil. This program recognizes early-stage or veteran companies whose IT solutions presented are new, and scalable to other locations throughout the world. Companies are selected for their innovative digital solutions, capable of transforming the well-being, prosperity, connectivity or productivity of others around the world. This program was a great success in Brazil and was highly endorsed by Dr. Vint Cert. The program was discussed and unanimously approved by the board to continue supporting it with a 50K allocation of WITSA’s funds used for travel, marketing and administrative support. 50K was requested to improve WITSA’s global brand marketing. Graeme Muller discussed the benefits of improving WITSA’s marketing. The possibility of changing WITSA’s name in the future was also discussed. Dr. Poisant agreed, however changing the brand and name would be quite difficult. The creation of a future task force was discussed and approved to handle this in the future. 	
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	The allocation of 50K was voted on and unanimously approved by the board.	
	COFFEE BREAK	
	BLOCK 3: DISCUSSION	
8.	<p>1) Association Corner</p> <p>Sabur Khan explained the new WITSA program and Dr. Poisant informed the BOD it will be launched at the end of March. He also mentioned that the plan was incorporate the <i>Soft-Landing Zone</i> into the program prior to launch.</p> <p>2) Status WITSA B2B Portal</p> <p>Sabur Khan will continue working to complete the B2B platform.</p> <p>3) Sponsoring Smaller WITSA Events</p> <p>Dr. Poisant explained the benefits of supporting smaller WITSA member hosted events. Upon request, WITSA would allow members to use its logo enabling higher brand recognition for WITSA members as well as WITSA.</p> <p>4) Navigating WITSA's WEB Site/Resources http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/</p>	

9.	<p>Status on WCIT</p> <p>2017 – Taiwan</p> <p>Dr. Mike Wu reviewed the readiness of WCIT 2017 (please see PP presentation at http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/witsa-bod-related-meetings-march-4-5-2017-kathmandu-nepal/)</p> <p>2018 – India – not available</p> <p>2019 – Armenia – not available</p> <p>2020 – Malaysia - David Wong reviewed</p> <p>2021 – Bangladesh – Ali reviewed</p> <p>Host Country Representatives</p> <p>Dr. Poisant reviewed WCIT licensing fee payments. He thanked the board for all WCIT support. Dr. Poisant would like to work on branding the WCIT's.</p> <p>Dr. Poisant reiterated the importance of keeping the theme the same for WCIT's-<i>Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age</i>.</p>	
10.	<p>Inaugural Ceremony of WITSA Meeting 2017</p> <p>A special Inaugural Ceremony was presented by the Master of Ceremony Nepalese CAN Federation member and Chairperson Hempal Shrestha.</p> <p>Welcome remarks by Er. Binod Dhakal, President, CAN Federation; Mr. Mahendra Man Gurung, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Communication, GON; Mr. Birendra Kumar Mishra, Director General, Department of IT, GON; Ms. Yvonne Chiu, Chairperson, WITSA; Mr. David Wong, Chairman, ASOCIO; Dr. Jim Poisant, Secretary General, WITSA; and Mr. Bishwo Ram Balami, General Secretary of CAN Federation</p>	
11.	<p>2016 Membership Survey Summary</p> <p>Anders Halvorsen reviewed the results of the 2016 Membership Survey. Please review full survey results at: http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/witsa-bod-related-meetings-march-4-5-2017-kathmandu-nepal/</p>	
	<p>LUNCH</p>	

12.	<p>1) Membership Recruitments (Proposed Goal)</p> <p>Regional Vice Chairman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa (1 new member) • Middle East and North Africa (1 new member) • Europe – (EU) (1 new member) • Europe (non-EU) (1 new member) • Latin America (1 new member) • North America (ITAC Status) • Asia Pacific (1 new member) • Caribbean (1 new member) <p>2) Approach Alternatives to Membership Recruitment</p> <p>Dr. Poisant and Cathryn Rainey discussed a 2017 membership recruitment plan approach with the direct involvement of WITSA’s Vice-Chairpersons. A <i>Prospect Report</i> form was established and will be circulated with a detailed prospect instruction package designed new membership development.</p> <p>The goal is to obtain one new member per region (Not applicable to N America as it already has maximum number).</p> <p>It was requested that all VC’s give a follow-up report on the progress of the initiative at our next BOD meeting in Taiwan.</p>	
13.	<p>Standing Committee Update</p> <p>1) Finance Committee Dr. Jim Poisant</p> <p>2) Education & Training Committee Dr. Boris Komrakov</p> <p>3) Global Trade Committee Sabur Khan</p> <p>Please see Standing Committee minutes for complete overview at Link provide once done</p>	

14.	<p>Status on Nominations and ICT Excellence Awards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2017 & 2018 WITSA Awards, Eminent Persons Awards b) Eminent Persons Award / Discussion on the Process for Future Nominations and Selection c) Discuss time frame for WCIT 2018 <p>Anders Halvorsen reviewed the six award categories and request the assistance of all WITSA members to nominate well-qualified candidates. Each member is allowed to nominate a total of six (6) candidates. All members are invited to participate in the <i>Awards Selection Committee</i> which will be established shortly for Taiwan.</p> <p>The call for 2017 award nominations will be in March 2017 and the 2018 call for nominations will be held in September of 2017.</p> <p>Graeme Muller suggested Steve Wozniak and Buzz Aldrin as Eminent Persons awardees.</p>	
15.	<p>Follow-up Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WITSA as an association will not support Nizar’s legal fees. WITSA will send an email requesting that members support on a humanitarian and individual level. • WITSA would renew its efforts to contact governments and individuals encouraging the immediate release of Mr. Zakka. • Kenya WCIT 2022 was unanimously rescinded. • Australia (AIIA) is considering a 2022 bid in Taiwan-add to agenda for BOD meeting. • New Dues structure was supported and adopted for 2017. Anders to circulate new dues schedule. • Association name change (committee will be formed by Kee, Graeme, Hempal, and Raul Colcher). • Follow-up with members regarding the membership survey participation. • Circulate membership recruitment information to the VC’s. • Eminent person nominees request needs to go to al members. 	
BLOCK 5: MEETING CALENDAR & ADJOURNMENT		
16.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall 2017 meeting: September 2017 in Taipei, Taiwan in conjunction with WCIT 2017 (September 9-10 Congress is from 11-13th. (Welcome Reception on the 10th evening) • Spring 2018 meeting: March 9-10 2018 in Hyderabad, India, in 	

	<p>conjunction with WCIT 2018 (Congress is from 11-14th)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall 2018, Prague • Spring 2019, Armenia • Fall 2019: In connection with the October 1-5 WCIT in Yerevan, Armenia. 	
	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Dr. Jim Poisant adjourned the meeting and thank everyone for their participation. A special thank you to the CAN Federation of Nepal for hosting.</p>	

Conference call dial-in information

Please join the meeting at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/668393837>

(Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) - a headset is recommended)

2. Or, call in using your telephone (all available numbers listed below):

United States: +1 (312) 757-3126; Australia: +61 2 9087 3604; Austria: +43 7 2088 0034;
Belgium: +32 (0) 28 93 7018; Canada: +1 (647) 497-9350; Denmark: +45 69 91 80 05; Finland:
+358 (0) 942 41 5778; France: +33 (0) 170 950 593; Germany: +49 (0) 692 5736 7313; Ireland:
+353 (0) 14 845 976; Italy: +39 0 699 36 98 80; Netherlands: +31 (0) 208 908 267; New
Zealand: +64 9 442 7358; Norway: +47 21 03 58 96; Spain: +34 911 23 0850; Sweden: +46 (0)
313 613 558; Switzerland: +41 (0) 435 0006 96; United Kingdom: +44 (0) 20 3713 5028

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For time conversions, click [here!](#)

NOTE: In order to optimize the call experience next week, we have developed the following guidelines for your kind attention:

- Connect digitally (not by phone), if possible: The best experience is where all participants use a digital connection, that is, a USB headset, connected to a computer. If a USB headset is not available, then a headset that connects via a 3.5mm audio plug but bear in mind, this is an analogue connection and may be subject to some interference.
- Connection using a mobile device, such as an iPhone/iPad or Android phone/tablet, and the GoToMeeting app, with an earpiece also works very well. NB: wireless Blue Tooth earpieces can sometimes add a delay to the call.
- If connection is via a computer, using the computer's speakers and a separate microphone, or a phone/tablet without earpiece, it is critical that participants mute their microphones at all times except when speaking. It is also important that participants using just a laptop or PC without headset do not use their keyboard for typing during the call, as their keyboard activity affects all participants
- Participants should try to locate themselves in a relatively quiet environment for the duration of the call, if possible.
- Connection using a conference phone on loud speaker, or any desk telephone on loudspeaker will, unless correctly configured, introduce interference and echo to the call, affecting the experience of all participants. Use of this connection is to be avoided.