



## Minutes WITSA Board of Directors Meeting

**09:00-15:30**

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Venue: Room 401 in TICC (Convention Center)

Taipei City, Taiwan

Conference Dial-in: *Instructions on page 5*

**Chairman, Yvonne Chiu**

*Present:*

1. Yvonne Chiu (CISA)	Chairman	Taiwan
2. Raul Colcher (ASSESPRO)	Deputy Chairman	Brazil
3. Tarek Taha (EITESAL)	Treasurer	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 – remote	Nepal
7. Kazunori Hamano (JISA)	Director	Japan
8. Kee Wong (AIIA)	Director	Australia
9. Santiago Gutierrez (CANIETI)	Director	Mexico
10. Sabur Khan (BCS)	Director	Bangladesh
11. David Wong (PIKOM)	Director	Malaysia
12. R. Chandrasheker (NASSCOM)	Director	India

1. Dr. Mike Wu		Taiwan
2. Frank Wu		Taiwan
3. Suzzan Tsai		Taiwan
4. Steven Won		Taiwan
5. Grant Son (FKII)		Korea
6. Nancy Volesky (Remote)		Bermuda
7. Shivendra Singh (NASSCOM)		India
8. Lema Smirnova (IT Ukraine)		Ukraine
9. Iryna Grygoryeva (IT Ukraine)		Ukraine
10. Adeniyi Olutayo (ITAN)		Nigeria
11. Ichiro Kowaki (JISA)		Japan
12. Junko Kawauchi (JISA)		Japan
13. Ali Ashfak (BCS)		Bangladesh
14. Subrata Sarker (BCS)		Bangladesh
15. Chin Chee Seong (PIKOM)		Malaysia
16. Stan Singh (PIKOM)		Malaysia
17. Khaing Win (MCIA)		Myanmar

18. Myo Min Oo (MCIA)	Myanmar
19. Htin Aung Khine (MCIA)	Myanmar
20. Martha Dorris (PSC)	United States
21. Dr. Jim Poisant (WITSA)	United States
22. Anders Halvorsen (WITSA)	United States
23. Cathryn Rainey (WITSA)	United States

	<b>BLOCK 1: INTRODUCTION &amp; REPORTS</b>	
1.	Chairman’s Welcome Ms. Yvonne Chiu WITSA’s Chairman, Ms. Chiu welcomed everyone to Taiwan.	
2.	Roll Call Mr. Anders Halvorsen conducted roll call.	
3.	Call to Order / Approval of Minutes Dr. Jim Poisant officially called the BOD meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve Nepal 2016 BOD minutes.	
4.	Remarks Chairman Ms. Yvonne Chiu WITSA Chairman, Ms. Yvonne Chiu reported on several recent activities promoting WITSA, including at international events and meetings with senior government officials from numerous countries. (Please see Ms. Chiu’s PP deck for more specific information)	
5.	Update on Nizar Zakka Dr. Jim Poisant updated the status on Nizar Zakka’s unjust imprisonment in Iran. On July 26, the US Congress passed Resolution 31, calling on Iran to release Mr. Zakka along with four (4) other prisoners that are U.S.citizens or permanent residents. Days later, The White House issued a statement warning Iran that President Donald Trump was willing to consider further sanctions on Iran unless these prisoners were released. As of now, Senator Ted Cruz is working to obtain a Senate Resolution in support of Mr. Zakka. Unfortunately, Mr. Zakka’s health has been failing due to five (5) hunger strikes in the last several months; however, in light of recent actions taken by the US government, Mr. Zakka has agreed to cease any further hunger strikes. In August of 2017, the Iranian Court upheld its verdict of a 10-year imprisonment and 4.5 million dollar fine for his release at his “appeal” trial. WITSA continues to offer assistance and encourage its members to offer support in any way possible to obtain Nizar’s release.	
6.	Treasurers Report Eng. Tarek Monem Taha reported that WITSA is in line with the approved business plan. After reviewing WITSA’s 4-year Cash Flow Plan, Mr. Taha reviewed the importance of staying on a tight financial plan or increasing	

	revenue in other areas. (Please see financial slides for comprehensive overview)	
7.	<p>Update on WITSA-ASOCIO Collaboration for the Asia Oceania region</p> <p>Mr. David Wong and Mr. Ong thanked WITSA for its program collaboration and support for the new Asian country research report. Mr. Wong presented the key findings of the new report, which included data and forecasts through 2025.</p> <p>RC (India) congratulated Mr. Wong on the report and stressed that extensive online and physical document dissemination should be prioritized to ensure maximum impact.</p> <p>Please see the ASOCIO-WITSA report at: <a href="http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/press-releases/asia-pacific-economies-leading-in-digital-revolution/">http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/press-releases/asia-pacific-economies-leading-in-digital-revolution/</a></p>	
	<b>BLOCK 2: BOD DECISIONS</b>	
8.	<p>1) Director change request from Hong Kong IT Federation (HKITF): Ms. Irene Leung replacing Mr. Erwing Huang for the remainder of the 2016-18 term.</p> <p>The Board unanimously voted to have Ms. Irene Leung serve the remainder of the present term as the new Board member from Hong Kong IT Federation. This director change was requested as Mr. Erwing Huang is no longer the acting Chairman for HKITF. Ms. Leung had issued a written statement to the BOD that she was looking forward to attending future BOD meetings and apologized for not being able to participate in Taiwan.</p>	
	<b>BLOCK 3: DISCUSSION</b>	
9.	<p>1) Status on WCIT 2022 Bid (Rob Fitzpatrick/AIIA) Australia</p> <p>Mr. Kee Wong and Rob Fitzpatrick informed the Board that Australia has strong intentions to bid on WCIT 2022/2023, however, AIIA is not currently prepared to commit to a bid.</p> <p>2) Association Corner (Status)/Cathryn Rainey</p> <p>Dr. Jim Poisant thanked Mr. Sabur Khan and his team for their outstanding contribution in creating the Association Corner site. Due to the lack of critical mass by our members to complete the information in the database, Dr. Poisant recommended that WITSA close the portal.</p>	

	<p>Mr. Sabur Khan requested that the program be extended another 90 days. Ms. Cathryn Rainey will contact WITSA members and request for participation in the program.</p> <p>Dr. David Wong recommended a forum among the Association with the secretary staff to debate and share Association experience once per year.</p> <p>Mr. Sabur Khan requested that WITSA send out several reminders to members requesting their participation in the Association Portal. Mr. Santiago Gutierrez suggested that Board members help communicate directly with association representatives who are responsible for their association databases.</p>	
	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
	<p><b>TAIPEI CITY HALL</b> (photo opportunity)</p> <p>The WITSA Board enjoyed a photo opportunity while promoting Taiwan’s “SmartCity” through a UBike, bike ride <b>around</b> Taipei’s City Hall block.</p>	
	<b>BLOCK 3: DISCUSSION (Cont.)</b>	
9.	<p>3) Status WITSA B2B Portal (Status)/Sabur Khan</p> <p>Mr. Sabur Khan informed the board that the B2B platform was now ready to launch. He suggested that WITSA attempt to combine the launch of B2B with the Association Corner reminder.</p> <p>Dr. Poisant agreed. WITSA will determine a launch date and reach out to members to attempt to achieve critical mass in order to make the offering valuable to members,</p> <p>4) Update on WITSA’s <i>Emerging Digital Solutions Program</i> (WEDS) 2017</p> <p>Dr. Poisant reviewed WITSA’s Emerging Digital Solutions program which began in Brazil in 2016, backed financially by Memora Processos Inovadores S.A. and endorsed by Dr. Vint Cerf. The WEDS judging committee chose five (5) winners to attend the WCIT 2017 in Taipei, three(3) of which were present.</p>	

<p>The winners were offered a booth to showcase their solutions, five (5) nights of hotel accommodations and were honored with an award at WITSA's ICT Excellence Awards Gala Dinner. Through these company's innovative solutions, WITSA's goal is to continue contributing to making the world a better place with winning solutions chosen with the ability of making a global impact.</p> <p>Mr. Santiago Gutierrez recognized both WCIT Brazil and Memorma for their enormous impact on the success of the WEDs program.</p> <p>Dr. Jim Poisant gave special thanks to Mr. Tarek Taha, the other panel of judges, and Brazil for the success of this program. Dr. Poisant noted that the 2017 WEDS program was entirely funded by WITSA and cautioned that future WEDS programs would require cost-sharing arrangements with WCIT hosts.</p> <p>5) Update on WITSA's Fellowship Program /Cathryn Rainey</p> <p>At the WITSA BOD meeting in Nepal in March, 2017, the Directors approved the WITSA Fellowship Program. The intent of this program was to incentivize attendance from countries (WITSA member's members) that otherwise would be underrepresented at WCITs. Fellows were offered a three (3-day) pass to congress in addition to their (3) nights of hotel accommodations.</p> <p>Dr. Poisant stressed that most of the tickets were taken by association management rather than desired association members. The Board agreed that if the program continues, better oversight is required to ensure that the program benefits the targeted individuals.</p> <p>6) Part-time Marketing &amp; Communications Specialist Newsletters/Press Releases/ WCIT Marketing/WITSA Branding (20K Budget)</p> <p>Dr. Poisant announced his intention to improve the branding of WITSA, by hiring a marketing and communications specialist. A job description was made available . Dr. Poisant proposed 20K in the 2018 budget for this part-time position.</p> <p>Mr. Kee Wong suggested WITSA could add greater value to members by considering refocusing its scope of activities and engagement with the</p>	
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	<p>entire ICT supply chain and by embracing the whole ICT ecosystem. Dr. Poisant requested Mr. Rob Fitzgerald to share the work AIIA has been undertaking in this regard.</p> <p>7) Establishment of Taiwan Office -Yvonne Chiu</p> <p>Ms. Yvonne Chiu proposed the establishment of an additional WITSA office in Taiwan with government financial support. The BOD unanimously approved the proposal. Ms. Chiu subsequently expressed her intention to propose a local candidate for the WITSA marketing and communications part-time position.</p> <p>8) ITAC Debt Status (60K) Softchoice Membership Fulfilled</p> <p>Dr. Jim Poisant informed the board that a portion the ITAC debt (60K) had been paid.</p> <p>Status on North American Region -Santiago Gutiérrez</p> <p>Dr. Poisant welcomed Martha Dorris (PSC) from our newest WITSA member in North America (USA). Mr. Santiago Gutierrez welcomed Ms. Dorris, as well.</p> <p>Ms. Dorris introduced herself and shared her background in the industry and reviewed PSC’s vision within the industry.</p> <p>9) Membership Recruitment  Role of WITSA/ Role of Vice Chairmen  This matter was deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>10) Delegate Attendance at WCIT  Role of WITSA/ Role of Vice Chairmen/ Role of Members  Role of WCIT Hosts  This matter was deferred to the next meeting.</p>	
10.	<p>Status on WITSA’s World Congresses</p> <p>Status on Licensing Fee Payment 2017-2020</p> <p>Status on Future World Congresses</p> <p>2018 – India-R.C. Chandrasheker reviewed the progress of the upcoming WCIT 2018. Dr. Poisant was scheduled to travel to India in October to offer assistance to the WCIT’s 2018 team.</p>	

	<p>2019 – Armenia: On schedule</p> <p>2020 – Malaysia: On schedule</p> <p>2021 – Bangladesh: On schedule</p>	
	<b>LUNCH</b>	
10.	<p>Membership Recruitment Update Action Plan/Cathryn Rainey - Regional Vice Chairman (Open Discussion)</p> <p>Not discussed</p>	
11.	<p>Standing Committee Update</p> <p>1) Finance Committee Dr. Jim Poisant</p> <p>2) Education &amp; Training Committee</p> <p>Dr. Boris Komrakov reviewed two programs he is working on for the education committee and the positive impact they could have on global skill development. He would proposed that WITSA members take an active part in these IT-education Programs. Past attempts had not been successful, however Ms. Yvonne Chui offered to work with Boris in December 2017 in Taiwan. Dr. Komrakov agreed to travel to Taipei at that time in order to make a final review of the proposal to Ms. Chiu.</p> <p>Depending on the outcome of the December meeting in Taipei, Dr. Komrakov expressed his intention to arrange a side-event in connection with the fall 2018 BOD meeting in Prague around the proposed skills initiative.</p> <p>3) Global Trade Committee Sabur Khan B2B portal previously mentioned</p> <p>4) GPAC</p> <p>Mr. Shivendra Singh expressed the importance of increasing the effectiveness of WITSA’s policy work by improving outreach to and</p>	

	<p>engagement with stakeholders and members. Efforts to measure impact of WITSA's stated positions and deliverable was crucial to WITSA's branding as the voice for the global ICT industry.</p> <p>Mr. R. Chandrashekhar also reiterated the importance of leveraging WITSA's policy papers to make a greater impact globally.</p> <p>Mr. Anders Halvorsen presented a draft comprehensive global stakeholders list which would be used as a source of outreach in communicating WITSA's work and advocacy. He invited members input and updates as the would be appreciated.</p> <p>It was agreed to expand and re-define WITSA's policy working groups in order to increase member and industry engagement and to reactivate and expand the membership of the WITSA Advisory Council in order to improve interactions with key stakeholders.</p> <p>It was also agreed that WITSA should undertake periodic surveys among members and stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of WITSA's policy work, and that subsequent reports should be made to the GPAC and the BOD.</p> <p>A small group of members will work with the WITSA Secretariat in drafting a comprehensive action plan for WITSA policy action work, to be presented to the BOD.</p>	
12.	<p>Status on Nominations and ICT Excellence Awards (15 mins)</p> <p>a) 2017 &amp; 2018 WITSA Awards</p> <p>Anders Halvorsen informed that nominations for the 2018 awards would be announced in October.</p>	
13.	<p>Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The board approved the equivalent of one full months wages as 2017 bonuses for Dr. Poisant, Mr. Halvorsen, and Ms. Rainey.</li> <li>- The board requested that they review KPI's for future bonus consideration in future years.</li> <li>- It was requested that Committee meetings and BOD meetings are held on the same day going forward.</li> </ul>	

	<b>BLOCK 5: MEETING CALENDAR &amp; ADJOURNMENT</b>	
14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring 2018 meeting: February, 18 &amp; 19, 2018 in Hyderabad, India, in conjunction with WCIT 2018 (Congress is from 19-21)</li> <li>• Fall 2018, Prague (Dates to be Determined)</li> <li>• Spring 2019, Armenia (Dates to be Determined)</li> <li>• Fall 2019: In connection with the October 1-5 WCIT in Yerevan, Armenia.</li> </ul>	
15.	Adjournment	

**Note: call-in information on next page**

## **BOD Meeting, Taiwan 2017**

Sun, Sep 10, 2017 9:00 AM - 14:30 PM Taipei

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/629955765>

**You can also dial in using your phone:** United States: +1 (312) 757-3129

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**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.