



Minutes, WITSA Board of Directors Meeting

08:30-16:20

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Venue: MRG 0.05 and MRG 0.06

Ground Floor; Hyderabad International Convention Centre

Hyderabad, India

Chairman, Ms. Yvonne Chiu

Present:

1. Yvonne Chiu (CISA)	Chairman	Taiwan
2. Raul Colcher ((ASSESPRO)	Deputy Chairman	Brazil
3. Omar Ansari (NICTAA)	Director	Afghanistan
4. Anibal Carmona (CESSI)	Director	Argentina
5. Alexander Yesayan (UITE)	Director	Armenia
6. Binod Dhakal (CAN Federation)	Director	Nepal
7. Dele Ajisomo (ITAN)	Director	Nigeria
8. Yannis Sirros (SEPE)	Director	Greece
9. Woo-Keon Park (FKII)	Director	Rep. of Korea
10. Sabur Khan (BCS)	Director	Bangladesh
11. David Wong (PIKOM)	Director	Malaysia
12. R. Chandrasheker (NASSCOM)	Director	India

In Attendance:

1. Levon Babayan	UITE
2. Karen Vardanyan	UITE
3. Shivendra Singh	NASSCOM
4. Debjani Ghosh	NASSCOM
5. Sangeta Gupta	NASSCOM
6. Kuntala Karkun	NASSCOM
7. Ramma Luthra	Lexcon PR Management Service
8. Dominique Tu	HKITF
9. Chihiro Aiki	JISA
10. Junko Kawauchi	JISA
11. Ganesh Kumar Bangah	PIKOM
12. Olutayo Adeniyi	ITAN
13. Jungsuk Jung	FKII
14. Colin Hsu	CISA
15. Paul Chuang	Juiker

16. Suzzan Tsai	WITSA
17. Simon Spier	techUK
18. Jeff Lande	The Lande Group LLC
19. Jim Poisant	WITSA
20. Anders Halvorsen	WITSA
21. Cathryn Rose	WITSA
22. Suzzan Tsai	WITSA

	BLOCK 1: STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
1.	<p>Finance Committee Anibal Carmona/Dr. Jim Poisant</p> <p>Mr. Carmona and Dr. Poisant opened the Finance Committee meeting and announced that Mr. Taha was unable to join us for the meeting due to scheduling conflict.</p> <p>Dr. Poisant stated that WITSA has successfully positioned itself to be in the best financial condition in over 40 years.</p> <p>Jim reviewed WITSA’s cash flow analysis for 2017 – 2021. Mr. Simon Spier inquired as to why WITSA’s cash flow was decreasing. Dr. Poisant explained that the WCIT 2022 rights had not been sold to date, reflecting the decrease. Once WCIT 2022 is sold, the cash flow analysis will reflect an upward trend; however, WITSA will eventually run out of WCIT hosts, causing the organization to seek alternative sources of revenue.</p> <p>Mr. Carmona explained that while the WCIT is an enormous revenue maker, WITSA must consider alternative revenue sources for the future. Mr. Colcher reiterated Mr. Carmona’s suggestion and added that the Chairman and BOD elections will be held soon, offering a platform for new suggestions.</p> <p>Dr. Poisant closed the meeting by asking if anyone had additional suggestions or comments regarding WITSA’s finances.</p> <p>Ms. Chiu, Mr. Carmona, and Dr. Poisant thanked everyone for their participation.</p>
	COFFEE BREAK

BLOCK 2: BOD MEETING/INTRODUCTION & REPORTS	
2.	<p>Chairman's Welcome - Ms. Yvonne Chiu</p> <p>Ms. Chiu thanked and welcomed WITSA's Directors and guests to India and the Board meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Self-Introductions / Roll Call - Anders Halvorsen</p> <p>Please refer to attendance records above.</p>
4.	<p>Welcoming Remarks/ NASSCOM President, R. Chandrashekar/Status on WCIT 2018</p> <p>NASSCOM President, Mr. Chandrasekhar welcomed everyone to India and WCIT 2018. He then introduced his BOD successor, Ms. Debjani Ghosh, as he is stepping down from WITSA after this meeting, and from NASSCOM as of April 1st. Mr. Chandrashekar shared his sentiments and great appreciation for the wonderful work that WITSA has and continues to do as a leader and global voice of the ICT industry.</p>
5.	<p>Call to Order / Approval of Minutes - Dr. Jim Poisant</p> <p>Dr. Poisant called the meeting to order and requested the approval of minutes. The minutes from the previous BOD meeting were seconded and approved.</p>
6.	<p>Treasurers Report - Dr. Jim Poisant / Tarek Taha</p> <p>Dr. Poisant reviewed the Treasurers Report due to Mr. Taha's absence. Dr. Poisant recapped the Finance Committee meeting (specifics found above in BLOCK 1 under Finance Committee minutes). Additionally, Dr. Poisant reviewed WITSA's <i>Financial Summary Statement</i> as of December 31, 2017, <i>Summary of Activity</i> for the year ending in December 31, 2017, and the status on WCIT Licensing fees. As reviewed, India 2018 was paid in full, Armenia 2019 is on schedule with 150K received, Malaysia 2020 is on schedule with contract signed, and Bangladesh 2021 paid 238K to date.</p>
7.	<p>Update Nizar Zakka - Dr. Jim Poisant</p> <p>Dr. Poisant delivered an unfortunate and alarming update on WITSA's former BOD member, Mr. Nizar Zakka. Mr. Zakka was arrested in Iran while participating in a</p>

	<p>conference in Tehran. The following updates were shared regarding the current status on Mr. Zakka’s imprisonment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On July 26, 2017 the US Congress passed Resolution 317 calling on Iran to “unconditionally release Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Karan Vafadari, Afarin Niasari, Nizar Zakka and any other US citizen, legal permanent resident alien, or foreign national being held in Iran.” • January 27, 2018-for more than 800 days Nizar had been subjected to physical and mental torture at Evin Prison Tehran). Nizar was quite ill and was not allowed medical care. His family and legal counsel had requested assistance from Lebanon (his place of birth) and the US. • The UN Secretary General had been asked to intervene on Nizar’s behalf. No results thus far. • February 7th 2018 Iranian authorities ignored potential cancer and denied any medical treatment • Nizar’s family had asked for financial contributions to offset legal expenses. WITSA (members) were specifically requested to donate at www.globallibertydefense.org
8.	<p>WITSA’s Business Plan and Budget – Dr. Jim Poisant</p> <p>Dr. Poisant shared that the 2018 Business Plan and budget had been approved following communication with the BOD in January. The objectives of the business plan were summarized in a Gantt chart, which was made available. For review of the budget, please see: https://witsa.org/membersonly/</p>
BLOCK 3: DISCUSSION	
9.	<p>1) Status on WCIT 2022 Bids</p> <p>Dr. Poisant mentioned that three (3) countries had potential interest in bidding on WCIT 2022. While Australia has expressed interest, there were no representatives available to inform the BOD of their current status. Dr. Poisant said that while Korea ultimately decided not to bid for WCIT 2022, Minsk, Belarus were expressing an interest in the event and was considering a bid. He concluded by requesting that BOD members please continue to keep the Secretariat updated on any other interests.</p> <p>2) World Congresses/Status on Future World Congresses – (2019/2020/2021) - Dr. Jim Poisant/Host representatives</p>

The status of Armenia WCIT 2019, was presented by Mr. Alek Yesayan. He shared that the Armenian government continued to support WCIT in the planning stage. The project team was currently working on inviting speakers to the event. Dr. Poisant informed the BOD that both he and Ms. Chiu had visited the project office in Yerevan and that WITSA will continue to support the congress to ensure its success.

Malaysia, WCIT 2020, presented by Mr. David Wong. Mr. Wong said that this will be the second WCIT held in Malaysia and that planning is moving forward. Currently, they were working to confirm a location and to hire staff.

Bangladesh WCIT 2021, was presented by Mr. Sabur Khan and Dr. Poisant. Dr. Poisant said that the former head of the Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) had recently been appointed as the nation's IT Minister. He also mentioned that the association was in the early stages of the planning process and that he would be making a trip to Dakar soon to offer further planning support. Mr. Khan said that the host was currently on-schedule and working towards a successful 2021 WCIT.

3) ASOCIO/WITSA 2018- David Wong

Mr. David Wong requested funding of \$40,000.00 for a new research report in 2018, following the successful launch of the inaugural WITSA/ASOCIO report at WCIT 2017 in Taipei. Dr. Poisant discouraged the BOD from requesting funding after the annual budget had been approved as it would negatively affect WITSA's long-term outlook. However, the funding request was approved.

Dr. Poisant the urged the BOD to refrain from considering financial requests in the future that were not directly contributing to WITSA's operational functions.

4) WITSA's Association Corner/B2B Portal Program - Sabur Kahn/Cathryn Rose

Ms. Cathryn Rose updated the BOD on the status of Association Corner. Currently, 14-member associations had registered, though only 5 had fully completed the profile. Based on the increased interest from members since Taiwan's BOD meeting in September 2017, the Association Corner would remain active. Members were requested to visit: <http://witsacorner.org/> to complete their Association Corner profiles.

Mr. Sabur Khan provided a brief update on WITSA's B2B Portal. He mentioned that the portal was now operational and he requested that members access the site and contribute to its population to ensure its future success. He also said that while in the

initial stages of the portal population, the B2B portal would remain available at no cost to our members. Once established and a critical mass of subscribers obtained, WITSA would develop a fee-based structure as a revenue source.

WITSA's B2B portal had three (3) sections:

1. **Portal** / website for visitor
2. **Admin section** for WITSA
3. **Member's** panel

Members were requested to visit the portal/website: <http://witsab2b.org>. The (3) searchable methods were available to help subscribers locate potential business matches, including searching by company name, line of business and Country.

An announcement to all WITSA members would be made shortly, requesting their help in promoting the portal widely to their corporate members.

5) *Update Taiwan Office - Dr. Jim Poisant/Chairman Chiu/*

The new WITSA office, subsidized by the Taiwanese Government was currently operational, explained Dr. Poisant. The office was expected to play an important role in supporting the WCIT events primarily in Asia, as well as in enhancing WITSA's brand globally and in acting as an aggregator for members. Dr. Poisant thanked Taiwan for the successful opening of the new office and the support it was providing WITSA.

6) *Juiker Presentation – Dr. Paul Huang*

Ms. Chiu introduced Dr. Paul Huang from Juiker (Taiwan). Dr. Huang explained that Juiker was a popular and well-regarded B2B-focused cloud communications platform provided by LoFTech, a Taiwanese firm. Currently they had nine (9) operators with an expansion goal of 60 by 2019. Several large companies were using Juiker to manage customer clients, both in Taiwan and globally.

Dr. Paul Huang presented a proposal to the WITSA BOD for WITSA to adopt Juiker as its preferred platform for internal communications. Juiker requested an opportunity to work with WITSA, supporting communications globally. The service would be provided to WITSA free-of-charge.

A few Directors had concerns over WITSA not having vetting/considering other such platforms and suggested surveying all WITSA members for similar offers as a matter

of due diligence.

Dr. Poisant agreed to issue a request for proposals which would be communicated to all members soon. A BOD discussion and decision would be arranged at a later date after WITSA Secretariat have had a chance to poll WITSA members for similar offers.

7) Central Asia, IGF and ICANN - Mr. Omar Ansari

Mr. Ansari said urged WITSA re-connect with the IGF and ICANN by attending and participating in their events and meetings. He suggested that WITSA propose workshops on key topics at such events, and that WITSA representation at these events would solidify its brand and recognition as the voice for the global ICT industry.

Mr. Halvorsen stated that cost has been a prohibitive factor in WITSA's ability to stay active at ICANN and IGF over the past few years. It was agreed to continue this discussion at the GPAC meeting later in the afternoon.

8) Membership Recruitment Update Action Plan

The WITSA Membership Recruitment Plan was not discussed. It would however, be taken up at the next BOD meeting in Fall of 2018, to be held in Yerevan, Armenia.

9) Open Discussion- Association Management (Association Revenue Sources)

David Wong/Dr. Jim Poisant

Mr. David Wong shared the experience of how ASOCIO members created revenue sources. The main areas of revenue sources were: membership, conferences, and government projects. Dr. Poisant requested that Mr. Wong share some of the government projects with WITSA members as they may be of interest and would provide an additional value of WITSA membership.

Mr. Wong mentioned that membership fees in emerging countries generally generated very low revenue. As much as 50% of revenue was generated by membership fees, followed by 30% from conferences and lastly by government projects. Government projects included grants, funding, and awards. Governments heavily relied on industry associations for standards and information on future trends.

PIKOM's most valued revenue source had for a long time been *PC Effect*, a major Malaysian IT conference and exhibition. However, this event no longer was

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	<p>sustainable and had been cancelled. PIKOM as a result continued to seek ways to recover from this major financial loss.</p> <p>Dr. Poisant requested that Mr. Wong help WITSA create a report consisting of Revenue <i>Sources</i> for WITSA members to be published in the next few months. Mr. Wong agreed.</p>
	<p>COFFEE BREAK</p>
	<p>BLOCK 4: BOD DECISIONS</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>DIRECTOR REPLACEMENTS</p> <p>1) ARMENIA-Replace Mr Hayk Chobanyan with Mr. Alexander Yesayan</p> <p>WITSA’s BOD voted and approved Mr. Alexander Yesayan as the new Director from Armenia for the remainder of the 2016-2018 term.</p> <p>2) NIGERIA-Replace Mr. Dele Ajisomo with Mr. Olutayo Adeniyi</p> <p>Mr. Olutayo Adeniyi did not attend this portion of the meeting, due to travel delays</p> <p>WITSA’s BOD voted and approved Mr. Olutayo Adeniyi as the new Director from Nigeria for the remainder of the 2016-2018 term.</p> <p>Mr. Ansari requested information on obtaining flights and visas to attend meeting when embassies are not available to process.</p> <p>3) WITSA Business Certification Program/ Dr. Jim Poisant</p> <p>Dr. Poisant proposed that WITSA establish a new program offering member-affiliated corporations certifications based on yet-to-be determined best business practices. These certificates would then provide each recipient with a competitive edge, incentivizing association membership and participation.</p> <p>He mentioned that the program would be self-regulating with input from customers and oversight from WITSA’s country members, and a WITSA’s Accreditation Program Office, to recognize excellent companies. The possessor of the accreditation (SEAL CERTIFICATE) would enjoy the rights and privileges granted by WITSA for one year (renewable annually). WITSA Accreditation would be a privilege—not every business would qualify.</p> <p>The program would add credibility to WITSA’s brand, add value to its members and would create a new revenue source which would be shared between WITSA and all participating member associations.</p> <p>To create the program, the following steps would need to be initiated: Step # 1-WITSA and Association members would prepare marketing material after fully vetting the program.</p>

	<p>Step# 2 -WITSA and Association members would need to recruit members via an application process.</p> <p>Step# 3 -Upon acceptance of applications the applicant’s customers (listed in the application) would be contacted and asked to participate in the program via two (2) surveys a year. (minimum 3 customers).</p> <p>Step# 4 –Surveys would need be sent to each customer regarding specific business practices of the applicant.</p> <p>Step#5 – Assuming positive feedback on surveys, applicants would be granted a <i>WITSA Business Excellence Certificate</i> for a 12-month period</p> <p>Cost \$99.00 Per year</p> <p>The program was discussed by the BOD and the majority gave their approval to move forward with the program. Mr. Simon Spier from the UK and Mr. Alexander Yesayan volunteered as Pilot WITSA members to support and oversee the program.</p> <p>Mr. Yesayan asked how quality control be maintained if the revenue generated was not sufficient to support the program. Dr. Poisant responded that WITSA would create a survey and then rely on member associations for support, as opposed to assuming all cost for the programs’ operations.</p> <p>If approved by the BOD, WITSA would share the survey with the BOD and open it for their suggestions. Another concern was expressed by Mr. Carmona (Argentina) regarding possible legal implications that it could bring to WITSA. RC (India) believed this issue could be solved through a validation process and reliability. The reputational implications would need to be worked through for success of the project.</p> <p>Dr. Poisant asked the BOD for a vote. The majority agreed to a Pilot program. Dr. Poisant asked to two (2) volunteers to oversee the Pilot. Mr. Yesayan from Armenia and Mr. Spier from the UK volunteered. WITSA would generate guidelines and send to all members for review and recommendations.</p> <p>4) EITESAL EGYPT Proposal - Tarek Taha</p> <p>Mr. Taha was unable to present the proposal due to a schedule conflict.</p>
	<p>LUNCH</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Summary of 2018 Membership Survey - Mr. Anders Halvorsen</p> <p>Mr. Halvorsen reviewed the results of WITSA’s annual membership survey as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eighteen (18) members completed the survey as of January 5, 2018 • Members expressed strong support for the WCIT, but requested financial incentives and discounts to boost member and country participation in future events • Very little support was offered for WITSA’s Global Partner program and WITSA’s Advisory Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations transparency received 100% support • Room for improvements: One to one calls with larger countries to review public policy issues <p>The following areas were ranked as the most important value to members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy Support 2. Innovative Thinking Support 3. Sending expert speakers to member events 4. Match making and joint projects with international organizations; 5. Meetings through digital platforms. <p>These areas translate into establishing a closer relationship between all members.</p> <p>Mr. Halvorsen discussed the survey findings on policy topics. He mentioned that WITSA members have a diverse set of public policy priorities. International trade, Data protection and privacy, Digital Transformation, Global Skills gap were mentioned; however, all were previously covered in 2017.</p> <p>WITSA's future policy topics requested were: Globalization (<i>pending</i>), Future of Work / A.I. Education, Policies & Regulations related to ICT emerging technologies (e.g. IoT, Blockchain), Ongoing Threats to Net Neutrality (<i>pending</i>) and Taxation for Global ICT companies.</p>
12.	<p>WITSA ICT Excellence Awards - Anders Halvorsen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status 2018/2019 WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards - Call for members: Awards Review Committee <p>Mr. Halvorsen reviewed the group of winners to be honored during the WCIT India 2018 Award Ceremony and thanked members for their participation. He also requested members' support for future nominations and the Awards Selection Committee for 2019 and announced that a review of the award categories would be undertaken ahead of the 2019 awards.</p>
13.	<p>WITSA MoU with Inclusite - Anders Halvorsen/Jim Poisant</p> <p>Dr. Poisant described the rationale for WITSA signing an MoU with Inclusite.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote awareness of the importance of digital inclusion in achieving <i>Universal Connectivity</i> for everyone, including those who continued to be left out due to physical or mental disabilities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MOU aimed to enable and broaden the participation of the entire workforce in the digital economy while increasing business opportunities, global integration, personalized experiences, autonomy and empowerment for everyone regardless of age, ability, physical, mental or socioeconomic status. - The MOU was aligned with WITSA’s vision of “<i>Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age</i>” - It was also noted that Inclusite won WITSA’s 2017 Emerging Digital Solutions Award in Taiwan. <p>WITSA’s partnership with Inclusite would include the creation a new Web Site which would be more accessible to the visual impaired. A video demonstration played at the meeting and made available at: https://www.dropbox.com/s/dj5spr84szuyv3d/WITSA%20Intro%20WEB%20Pagemp4?dl=0</p>
14.	<p>WITSA MoU with ITU - Jim Poisant/Yvonne Chiu</p> <p>Dr. Poisant announced that WITSA signed an MOU with the International Telecommunications Union, (ITU). The MoU would strengthen the contribution of SME’s in the work at ITU and WITSA, jointly promoting outreach activities with SMEs globally, creating leverage within WITSA association, explore potential joint activities, work together to organize seminars, workshops and other events and explore joint research opportunities.</p> <p>The following planned activities have resulted from the MoU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WITSA to write Article for ITU News (March; topic TBC) • SMEs to participate for free in a pilot project for study group participation plus ITU TELECOM, which had some specific activities for SMEs; September (2018) in Durban, South Africa (<i>info to come</i>)
15.	<p>Standing Committee Update - Mr. R. Chandrashekar/Anders Halvorsen</p> <p>GPAC</p> <p>Mr. Chandrashekar thanked WITSA for the opportunity to lead the organization’s policy activities through the Global Policy Action Committee over the past several years. He expressed satisfaction with much of the important work that WITSA had undertaken, with recent policy papers completed including privacy and cybersecurity, digital transformation, international trade, cross-border data flows, the global skills gap, Internet governance and women in IT.</p> <p>Mr. Chandrashekar emphasized that WITSA now must take policy to the next level, redoubling efforts to achieve the recognition and impact that is expected of a global</p>

policy leader. Increasingly, policy will be pivotal to the future of WITSA as well as driving the WCITs.

Mr. Shivendra Singh informed members that a detailed policy action plan had been approved in the 2018 Business Plan, providing specific steps needed to achieve the overall objective to be the “Recognized Voice of the ICT industry, by 2020”. The policy plan focused on the following three key areas:

1. Production of quality policy and research papers espousing policies and recommendations on important ICT policies, positions and recommendations endorsed by respected, relevant stakeholders.
2. Effective communication of WITSA’s positions and policies to inform its stakeholders of its policies, principles and recommendations.
3. Measuring the effectiveness of WITSA’s communications, by 1) policies being affected by WITSA’s work. 2) WITSA’s work being referenced (quoted). 3) WITSA members utilizing WITSA’s works to assist or facilitate their government policy efforts.

Mr. Singh stressed that WITSA must increase its visibility at important meetings and fora where key stakeholders are present to present policy findings and to participate in and organize workshops to increase WITSA’s visibility and recognition. Both WITSA staff and members should join resources and work closely together to achieve maximum exposure at these events.

Singh also mentioned that the 2018 had allocated only \$5K USD for outside subject matters expert consulting services and cost to conduct policy workshops. Due to the relatively strong financial health of the organization, Mr. Singh strongly urged WITSA to consider allocating substantially more resources for such initiatives to compliment the work managed within the organization.

To provide members with the methodology of completing the myriad of tasks and functions necessary to fulfill the 2018 Business Plan, Mr. Singh announced that a detailed Gantt chart had been published which listed tasks, time and responsibilities of all critical as well as dependency functions. The Gantt Chart was intended to be a “living tool”, tracking day-to-day progress of the actionable initiatives from the Business Plan.

Mr. Singh announced that several new policy papers should be expected this year, including on globalization – which was a very important topic in light of the current highly protectionist and anti-trade climate environment threatening the industry worldwide. Other anticipated work to be undertaken in the current year included future of work, broadband and net neutrality, access and sustainability and e-government.

Finally, Mr. Singh requested that WITSA form a core group of members committed to engage regularly with WITSA on policy matters, including regular calls,

	<p>Anders Halvorsen proposed that WITSA also produce a paper on digital inclusion, focusing on people with disabilities and exploring initiatives for promoting universal digital connectivity. This paper would build on the MoU between WITSA and Inlusite and aim to enable and broaden the participation of the entire workforce in the digital economy while increasing business opportunities, global integration, personalized experiences, autonomy and empowerment for everyone regardless of age, ability, physical, mental or socioeconomic status.</p> <p>A set of draft policy principles and calls to action were presented. Mr. Chandrashekhar requested that the Secretariat invite members to participate in a drafting group and present a paper for approval.</p> <p>In concluding the GPAC, Dr. Poisant thanked Mr. Chandrashekhar for his leadership and support of WITSA over many years.</p>
16.	<p>INDIA-Replace R Chandrashekar with Ms Debjani Ghosh - Remarks</p> <p>(R Chandrasekhar receive Special Recognition award from WITSA called the Lifetime Achievement Award.)</p> <p>WITSA’s BOD voted and approved Ms Debjani Ghosh as the new Director from India for the remainder of the 2016-2018 term.</p> <p>Mr. Chandrasekhar was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Dr. Poisant and Ms. Chiu for his dedicated work with WITSA.</p>
17.	<p>A special formal signing took place at the WITSA BOD meeting between the Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE) and Lexicon PR Management Service for delivering Armath Robotics engineering laboratories for Indian schools.</p> <p>Those present for the signing were: Ms. Ramma Luthra, Managing Director, Lexicon PR Management Service Mr. Alex Yesayan, UITE President/Chairman Mr. Karen Vardanyan, UITE Executive Director</p>
BLOCK 5: MEETING CALENDAR & ADJOURNMENT	

18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall 2018, Yerevan, Armenia (General Assembly) October 4, 2018 • Spring 2019, Minsk, Belarus (Dates to be Determined) • Fall 2019: In connection with, the October 1-5 WCIT in Yerevan, Armenia.
19.	<p>Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Poisant would like to increase Chairman Emeritus engagement due their vast experiences and industry contacts. Mr. Colcher suggested that they be offered to sit on WITSA's Advisory Council. • Mr. Yannis Sirros extended an invitation to WITSA's BOD and reviewed the following details. <p>SEPE and TIF-HELEXPO have the pleasure to inform you that the 83rd edition of the Thessaloniki International Fair (T.I.F), will be organized by the National Exhibition Organization TIF-HELEXPO, from 8-16, September, 2018.</p> <p>First held in 1926, the Thessaloniki International Fair is the largest commercial tradeshow in Southeast (SE) Europe and enjoys significant international appeal. It is held annually in September in Thessaloniki, which is the second largest city in Greece and a foremost administrative, cultural, and business hub of SE Europe. TIF attracts a large number of exhibitors, visitors, professionals, and business representatives from across Greece and the neighboring countries., that represent a market of 100.000.000 consumers.</p> <p>This year the United States are returning in the Thessaloniki International Fair as the honored country at the most dynamic exhibition in southeast Europe that will bring together government and business leaders, "doers", influencers and 300.000 buyers and professionals. The theme of the U.S. presence will be <i>"Harnessing the Power of Innovation and Creativity"</i>, aiming at showcasing America's leadership in driving ingenuity and creativity in a variety of sectors from technology to education.</p> <p>The U.S President, Donald J. Trump announced at the White House on October 2017 during a joint Press Conference with the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Alexis Tsipras <i>"I am proud that the United States will be the "Honored Country" at next year's International Fair in Greece. This historic business and trade exhibition will showcase American technology, enterprise, and innovation on the world stage. We look very much forward to sending a high-level delegation to attend this wonderful event"</i>.</p> <p>In this framework, and in our effort to create high profile events, we would be more than willing to host the next WITSA meeting in Thessaloniki, as world leaders in the technology sectors will be present either directly or through their representatives in Greece and other neighboring countries.</p> <p>We would highly appreciate it if you considered our invitation for participation positively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Chiu requested members participate in the World Telecom Conference on Smart Cities in Taipei in September 2018. Members were requested to contact Ms.

	Chiu directly for further information.
20.	Adjournment Dr. Poisant thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and then called the meeting to a close. The meeting adjournment time recorded was 4 pm on February 18, 2018.

