[Members-Only] Participate in WITSA’s Association Corner Program!

On behalf of the WITSA Board of Directors, I wish to thank all of the WITSA members who have participated in WITSA’s newly launched Association Corner program. For those WITSA members who have not participated we ask that you please do so right away.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the new program, Association Corner was created due to member requests for a program to share ICT Associations’ management experiences and practices in order to strengthen WITSA member organizations.

Mr. Sabur Khan and his team (BCS Bangladesh), rose to the challenge of creating an outstanding platform; spending months, at no cost to WITSA creating a comprehensive tool to respond the member requests called Association Corner. As I am sure you will agree, the best source for the gathering of information about ICT association management is from the best run ICT associations in the world—our WITSA member associations.

The Association Corner questionnaire concentrates on four (4) major topic areas:

1. Association Profile (Administration/Operations)
2. Financial Profile (Revenues/Budgets)
3. Lessons Learned/Best Practices (Establishment/Operations/Growth)
4. Challenges and Opportunities

Needless to say, the quality, comprehensiveness and success of this resource tool will be heavily dependent on the amount of response we receive from our members.

If you have any questions, need clarifications or have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Cathryn Rose at: crose@witsa.org.

We would like to thank our member associations who have already contributed to the success of this outstanding asset to benefit your association. Thanks again to all of the members who are participating in this new program and thanks to all of you who are just joining.

Best Regards,
Jim
WITSA Signs MoU with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
WITSA has signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), aiming to establish a high-level framework of cooperation in order to strengthen ITU/WITSA SME global cooperation.

The MoU will seek to strengthen the contribution of SMEs in the work of ITU and WITSA, including global events such as ITU TELECOM, WITSA’s World Congress on Information Technology, the WSIS Forum, as well as various other global and regional events and activities. WITSA and the ITU will also jointly promote and reinforce outreach activities with SMEs around the world by leveraging WITSA’s SME experience and knowledge plus ITU’s membership of governments, industry and academia.

Both parties will explore potential joint activities to leverage the expertise of SMEs to assist ITU Member States, work together to organize seminars, workshops and/or other events, where feasible market and/or promote each other’s event and invite speakers/panel members from each organization to participate in meetings and conference programs, as well as jointly produce research and papers relative to SME’s, innovation, and employment.

WITSA Asia Office Officially Opened!
April 2018: WITSA is proud to have opened its first Asia WITSA Office in Taipei, hosted by Information Service Industry Association of Taiwan (CISA)
WCIT2017 Opening Ceremony Speech by WITSA Chairman Yvonne Chiu
See WITSA Chairman Yvonne Chiu's opening remarks at the 2017 World Congress (WCIT 2017) in Taipei on September 11, 2017 [here](#).

See WITSA Chairman's WCIT 2017 Gala Dinner Speech!
On September 12, 2017, WITSA Chairman Yvonne Chiu delivered a speech at the Gala Dinner, the event's peak event. See the speech [here](#).
Additional WCIT 2018 Media coverage can be found [here](#).

**WITSA's Global Public Policy Corner**

**ITU News**

**WITSA Article Featured in ITU News: How to foster digital transformation to support small and medium sized enterprises**

[April 12, 2018] Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) play a critical role in creating jobs and promoting economic growth, especially in developing countries - as the vast majority of businesses in low-income countries and more than half of all formal jobs worldwide stem from SMEs. The economic impact of SMEs to the information and communication technology (ICT) and mobile sectors are particularly important, and they play an increasingly critical role in addressing development challenges, such as sustainability and service delivery. See the full article [here](#).

**World Congress on IT**

**Survey**

**Complete the new World Congress on IT 2019 Survey!**

Please complete a new survey from WCIT 2019 which will provide important input into the planning of our event in Yerevan next year. Your support is much appreciated! The survey can be found at: [https://annatovmasyan1.typeform.com/to/T9Bf8r](https://annatovmasyan1.typeform.com/to/T9Bf8r)

If you have any questions or difficulties completing the survey, please contact:
Member News

Zakka family praises US bill denouncing Iran detainment
[April 30, 2018. The Daily Star - Lebanon]
The family of Nizar Zakka, a Lebanese man detained in Iran, Monday praised the United States House of Representatives for passing a bill last week that imposes sanction on Tehran for "politically motivated" detentions of U.S. citizens.
Read the full article here.

Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri to Condemn Iran for Kidnapping Nizar Zakka
[The Global Liberty Alliance, April 30, 2018]
Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri will issue a statement before May 6 condemning Iran for "kidnapping" Lebanese Citizen and U.S. Legal Permanent Resident Nizar Zakka, Mr. Zakka's brother, said in a statement Saturday. The announcement comes a few days after the U.S. Congress voted 410-2 to approve the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act that called for increased international cooperation in resolving several cases of unlawfully detained persons held in Iran, including Nizar Zakka.
See the full article here.
[techUK] Supercharging the Digital Economy, Manchester Oct. 18, 2018

Following two exceptional annual events in London, techUK is bringing our flagship conference, Supercharging the Digital Economy, focused on digital technology and adoption to the birthplace of the first industrial revolution - Manchester.

techUK AI Week to look at the opportunities and benefits of AI (techUK)

All this week techUK will be bringing you articles and blogs by industry leaders looking at AI across different sectors and issues including public sector use of AI, ethical issues raised by AI, and how to prepare the UK’s workforce.

AMETIC: Digital Skills Awards Spain 2018

AMETIC announces the 1st Edition of the “Digital Skills Awards Spain 2018” in the framework of the “Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition” initiative. The “Digital Skills Awards Spain 2018” identify, value and recognize the best projects and experiences in the field of the development of the enabling talent of industry 4.0, digital transformation, smart cities, education 4.0 and training in digital skills.

NZTech Announces New Government Relations Manager

Late last year, we went to market for a new role, Government Relations Manager. Now, I would like to introduce you to Brigitte Morten. Brigitte comes to us from the office of the
Minister of Education and has worked within multiple agencies, both in New Zealand and Canberra. Based in Wellington, Brigitte will enable NZTech to continue to partner closely with the Government, as help make New Zealand more prosperous, underpinned by technology. Graeme Muller, NZTech CEO

AIIA Communique: Navigating Technology and the Jobs of the Future
How technology is impacting the work, the workplace and the worker of the future. On 22 March 2018, the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) hosted its 7th annual Navigating Summit conference, this year focusing on how technology is impacting the work, the workplace and the worker of the future. Specifically, the Summit examined impacts within the public sector - what work it currently does, what skills employees will need - and potentially how it will transform the way it operates.

PSC (USA): What are the Top 10 Risks for Government Contractors?
Few things are more complicated than doing business with the U.S. Federal Government. In this whitepaper, our team has highlighted emerging risks that span across the government contractor's risk universe that you need to keep on your radar.

**TOP 10 RISKS FOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS**

By Melissa Musser, CPA, CITP, CISA
Director, Risk Advisory
Aronson, LLC

April 26, 2018

[CESSI] The Argentine software industry achieved a historic record of exports during 2017
The 2017 has been a great year of recovery for the software industry with a historical record in exports and a large number of new jobs.

SEPE to Organize Digital economy forum 2018 in Athens, May 7, 2018
[NASSCOM] **8th Global Capability Centers (GCC) Conclave 2018**
April 26th and 27th, 2018, Mumbai. Leading the New Normal - Speed, Smart & Skill

[CESSI] **Commercial Mission visit from Brazilian software companies to Argentina**
CESSI had the honor of receiving Brazilian software companies on a commercial mission organized by sebrae (Brazilian support service for micro and small businesses), to generate alliances with our partners to address the Latin American and European market, in the framework from the early adoption of the agreement to avoid double taxation in services between the government of Brazil and Argentina.

[Brazilian strategy for digital transformation](May 2, 2018)
Join the coffee with you from Assespro-SP! Wednesday 02/05 at FIAP, 8:45 pm. We will have as guests: Tatiana Diniz Machado Moretta (how are the hiring models in the IT market with new CLT) and Adriano Mendes (understand the Brazilian strategy for digital transformation (E-Digital)-100 actions). Guarantee your participation! Subscribe: https://www.sympla.com.br/cafe-com-ti-da-assespro-sp_277541

Fedesoft Colombia: Blockchain applications and an intelligent contracts workshop

CAMTIC (Costa Rica) celebrates the tenth edition of the InterTICs Cup during the months of April, May and June
This 5-a-side football championship confronts companies in the Costa Rican digital sector through a tournament that promotes healthy competition, socialization and rapprochement among collaborators of technology companies. The games began on Saturday, April 7, 2018 with the participation of 20 teams. During the first phase each team will play a total of 4 games and one free day, the classified teams will go to the quarterfinals.

ITAC Canada: ICT Procurement Workshop (4/27/2018)
AGEXPORT Guatemala: Learn about some of the changes technology brings to work and education

SGTech Singapore Organizes TECH4Community Festival (April 28-29, 2018)
The Future of Work and the Disability Community

This is the first in a series of reports under the Social Enterprises of the Future initiative. Social Enterprises of the Future represents a new collaborative platform to shape the future of inclusion of people with disabilities in the United States labor market.

WTO: Strong trade growth in 2018 rests on policy choices

World merchandise trade growth is expected to remain strong in 2018 and 2019 after posting its largest increase in six years in 2017, but continued expansion depends on robust global economic growth and governments pursuing appropriate monetary, fiscal and especially trade policies, WTO economists said.

Until recently, risks to the forecast appeared to be more balanced than at any time since the financial crisis. However, in light of recent trade policy developments they must now be considered to be tilted to the downside. Increased use of restrictive trade policy measures and the uncertainty they bring to businesses and consumers could produce cycles of retaliation that would weigh heavily on global trade and output.

ICANN Focuses on Compliance of Registration Data and Privacy (USCIB)

[Registration Open] 2018 OECD International Tax Conference
June 4-5, 2018 Washington, DC

OECD Report: Transformative Technologies and Jobs of the Future

The G7 recently held a joint Employment and Innovation Ministerial meeting, focused on the theme of “Preparing for Jobs of the Future”. The joint meeting underscored that emerging technologies and the associated rapid changes in our economies and societies compel governments to better understand how industry and workers are affected and how they can thrive in the new world of work. The OECD’s background report on the impacts of digital transformation on jobs and productivity served as an input to discussion in the Innovation Ministers track of the meetings.

ITU AI for Good Global Summit

#AlForGood
The 2nd edition of the AI for Good Global Summit will be organized by ITU in Geneva on 15-17 May 2018, in partnership with XPRIZE Foundation, the global leader in incentivized prize competitions, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and sister United Nations agencies. The AI for Good series is the leading United Nations platform for dialogue on beneficial AI.

Do Algorithms Rule the World? Algorithmic Decision-Making and Data Protection in the Framework of the GDPR and Beyond - Economic and Policy Implications of AI, Blog Post #2

This paper was presented at the Technology Policy Institute Conference on The Economics and Policy Implications of Artificial Intelligence, February 22, 2018.

U.K. to sign world's largest cybersecurity agreement [Independent, April 17, 2018]

Theresa May will strengthen the UK's digital defences through a £15m online security pact with Commonwealth allies amid warnings over the growing threat of cyber warfare from Russia. Leaders from the 53-nation bloc are expected to sign the world's largest cyber declaration, pledging to join forces to combat criminals and hostile actors engaged in potentially devastating cyber attacks, and to support smaller nations to raise their security standards by 2020.

[Reuters April 17, 2018] Tech firms, including Microsoft, Facebook, vow not to aid government cyber attacks

Microsoft, Facebook and more than 30 other global technology companies on Tuesday announced a joint pledge not to assist any government in offensive cyber attacks. The Cybersecurity Tech Accord, which vows to protect all customers from attacks regardless of geopolitical or criminal motive, follows a year that witnessed an unprecedented level of destructive cyber attacks, including the global WannaCry worm and the devastating NotPetya attack. See the full article here.

The Impact of the EU's New Data Protection Regulation on AI

The EU's new data privacy rules, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), will have a negative impact on the development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) in Europe, putting EU firms at a competitive disadvantage compared with their competitors in North America and Asia. The GDPR's AI-limiting provisions do little to protect consumers, and may, in some cases, even harm them. The EU should reform the GDPR so that these rules do not tie down its digital economy in the coming years.

See the full report here.

Partner News

UNCTAD's eTrade for all celebrates first year with a bang

Since going online in April 2017, the initiative has seen its list of partners grow to 29 and continues to accompany developing countries on their journey to e-commerce-driven growth.

In just one year, the UNCTAD-led eTrade for all initiative has delivered impressive results, many of which took center stage at E-Commerce Week, the main global forum on the development opportunities and challenges of the digital economy.

First unveiled during UNCTAD's last ministerial conference, held in Nairobi in July 2016, eTrade for all become operational on 25 April 2017 when the online platform was launched.

See more here.
For this April edition, we will take you to the UNCTAD eCommerce Week, just as if you were there. The eCommerce Week has become over the years the leading global forum where public and private stakeholders, as well as civil society, engage in a conversation about the development implications of the digital economy. The 2018 theme, "Development Dimensions of Digital Platforms", was timely matched by the last revelations on the data-driven economy.

**ITU Telecom World 2018: Developing Markets, Smart Innovations, Global Stage**

Looking for the right global platform to highlight the tech and investment potential of your organization or country? To engage and share knowledge with policymakers, regulators, investors and corporates?

Then join us by exhibiting at ITU Telecom World 2018. We are the global event for governments, corporates and SMEs, organized by ITU, the United Nations specialized agency for ICTs. ITU Telecom World 2018 takes place from 10-13 September at Durban ICC, South Africa, with a focus on innovation for a smarter world.

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www.witsa.org