WITSA Welcomes Home Mr. Nizar Zakka After Nearly 4 Years of Captivity in Iran

June 11, 2019: WITSA Fairfax, VA: The World Information Technology and Services (WITSA) welcomed the safe return of Mr. Nizar Zakka, a Lebanese-born internet freedom advocate living in the U.S., who had been imprisoned in Iran for 1,350 days.

According to Mr. Zakka’s legal counsel, Mr. Jason Poblete, Nizar looks forward to reuniting with family and friends. Nizar expresses his sincerest thanks to those who never forgot him. Nizar also wants to remind those who can help that there remain many Americans, US Legal Permanent Residents, and other foreigners in Iranian prisons. Nizar grew close to some of these men; they need help and want to come home.

Mr. Zakka served on WITSA’s Board of Directors and was its Vice Chairman for the Middle East and Northern Africa region. Mr Zakka did not return from Tehran after participating in the Second International Conference & Exhibition on Women in Sustainable Development on September 18, 2015. Mr. Zakka, who had been sentenced to ten years in prison for spying for the U.S. government, was on his way to his native Lebanon on Tuesday, Mr. Poblete said.

Mr. Zakka is also one of the founding members of The Arab ICT Organization - IJMA3, which was formed to represent a regional alliance of ICT organizations across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Today, the member organizations represent 18 ICT organizations, across 14 countries. In addition to being an advocate for the ICT industry, IJMA3 works on projects in the field of ICT for Development (ICT4D), which aim to promote income generating opportunities and improved livelihoods for people across the MENA region, particularly youth.

WITSA had continually reached out to many relevant parties, condemning the unjust imprisonment to the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Congress, and the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and to seek Mr. Zakka’s release.

Dear WITSA Colleagues, following our previous reminder, several members requested a final extension of the deadline to submit nominees for the 2019 WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards. We are hereby granting a final extension until Wednesday, July 17th. We encourage all members to take advantage of this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know as soon as possible. The award program overview and nomination form can be found on the WITSA web site at https://witsa.org/2019-global-ict-excellence-awards/.

We also would like to take this opportunity to thank members for many excellent nominations already received! Thank you very much for your support of this important WITSA initiative.

World Congress on IT

The preparations for the World Congress on IT (WCIT 2019) in Armenia were presented in Minsk

[March 29,

BUY 5 TICKETS
GET 2 FREE

WCIT 2019: Buy 5 Tickets, Get Two Free!

WITSA has joined with our Armenian member UATE to offer WITSA members a special free ticket offer to attend WITSA's 23rd WCIT in Yerevan, Armenia (October 6-9, 2019) Click here for more information!
WCIT 2019: For a LIMITED TIME ONLY all WITSA members are eligible to purchase WCIT 2019 Admission tickets at a special Early Bird Discount

We are very pleased to announce that you can now purchase your admission tickets ONLINE for the 23rd World Congress on Information Technology to be held in Yerevan, Armenia from October 6-9, 2019.

As WITSA members, our host WITSA member UATE is extending three incentives for you to register:

1. An Exclusive Member ticket discount offer
2. Limited time Early Bird discount
3. Two (2) Complementary free tickets for each five (5) registrations from your association.

WCIT 2019 Yerevan: Meetings in Silicon Valley
Alexander Yesayan, president of the Union of Advanced Technology Enterprises, was in the United...
States from June 11-16 to meet with representatives from start-up and successful IT companies, and members of the committee developing content for the 23rd World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT 2019) to discuss agenda topics and the list of speakers.

**WCIT 2019 was presented to Asian businessmen**

Based on the invitation of WITSA Chair Yvonne Chiu, UATE President Aleksandr Yesayan presented the preparations of the WCIT 2019 and participation opportunities to the leaders of more than 60 Asian companies. The president of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) has paid a visit to Armenia in March this year with the group of businessmen, during which discussions were also held around the Yerevan conference.

Several topics were discussed at the meeting in Taipei organized for the businessmen: the opportunities for participating in the Digitec 2019 Expo in Yerevan in October, presentation of the country's IT industries in unified pavilions, the opportunities of listening to the world leaders of the industry.

"We notice a great interest from the Asian companies in the 23rd World Congress on Information Technology to be held in Yerevan. By bringing WCIT 2019 to our country, our main goal was to put Armenia on the IT global map to raise interests of investors and entrepreneurs. Our contacts with businessmen in different countries in recent months proves our hypothesis is actually in process," noted Alexandr Yessayan, President of the UATE.
YEREVAN, MAY 29, ARMENPRESS. Armenia will host the World IT Forum on October 6-9. It is the second largest international event to be held in Armenia after the Francophone Summit in Yerevan last year. Thousands of professionals, hundreds of journalists from dozens of countries have expressed their desire to be present at this global gathering. Armenpress interviewed Nouvell D'Armenian, the President of the IT World Conference, with Alexander Yesayan, a Public Television of Armenia, a correspondent for WCIT-2019 Francophone countries and media head Hasmik Arakelyan, as well as WCIT-2019 public relations director. With the support of Armine Udumyan. "Nouvelles d' 'magazine answers the questions" WCIT 2019 "IT World Conference and President of Advanced Technology Enterprises ( ATDZM , UATE ) President Alexander Yesayan.

YEREVAN, May 15, 2019. - Secretary General of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) James Poisant is on a visit to Armenia to check on the progress of preparation for the World Congress on Information Technology 2019 which will be held in Yerevan on October. In an interview with Armenian News-NEWS.am, Mr. Poisant spoke about his expectations from the event and elaborated on Armenia's IT sector.
He believes information and communication is affecting nearly every aspect of the real life. "Its potential impact on any society is great in terms of any aspect of your life: medical, transportation, environment," Poisant said, adding that this year's organizers are doing a great job.

According to him, the biggest benefit of bringing it to Armenia is to put spot on Armenia, to show the strength of the country, the beauty of culture and hospitality in order to attract investments in Armenia.

WITSA Secretary General expects that around 2,000 participants from more than 60 countries will attend the Congress. “The aim is to get more people involved and benefit from WCIT,” he concluded.

Member News

U.S. resident Nizar Zakka, freed by Iran, denounces "arbitrary detention and a show trial" [CBS News, June 11, 2019] Beirut -- A U.S. permanent resident and Lebanese businessman who was released from Iran following several years imprisonment said Tuesday that he was subjected to “kidnapping, arbitrary detention and a show trial.” In his first statements following his release, Nizar Zakka, an internet freedom advocate who was arrested in 2015, said he was more determined than ever to fight for freedom of expression.
US resident freed by Iran describes ordeal

[AP, 12 Jun 2019] A Lebanese man and permanent US resident who was released after years in an Iranian prison issued an emotional message to President Donald Trump and other Western leaders on Wednesday: "Please get back your hostages from Iran." In an interview with The Associated Press, Nizar Zakka said he was subjected to "all kinds of torture", both physical and mental, during his detention in the notorious Evin prison in Tehran, including standing on one leg for hours, extended periods of interrogation and lack of food.

"Nobody on earth deserves such suffering," he said in the 30-minute emotional interview during which he broke down in tears at one point.

New Zealand Launches Revised 2019 Cyber Security Strategy

Currently, there is quite a lot happening in the world of Government regarding to tech. Tomorrow morning the revised 2019 New Zealand Cyber Security Strategy is launched by Minister Faafoi.

After a budget commitment of $2 million it will be interesting to see how it will be spent. In October, NZTech is hosting the New Zealand Cyber Security Summit where we will be hearing more detail form both Government and private sector on evolving cyber risks and approaches.

NZTech: Nearly half of tech industry’s female leaders experienced gender bias at work

"With the launch of the MYOB study about gender bias and diversity issues in the tech sector last week, I am pleased to be able to say that NZTech has been actively working with our members to improve diversity and inclusion. The establishment of a focused Diversity and Inclusion sub-board that is tasked with addressing the challenge is a great step forward. We will be making sure that enabling and promoting inclusion is core to everything we do as an organisation, and ultimately hope to stimulate the same across the tech ecosystem. Using research and evidence to help identify where we are and where we want to be will help measure progress of the many initiatives employed." - Graeme Muller, NZTech

ASOCIO Meets in Singapore!

See posts.
A successful event must be remembered and cherished. What better ways but to show the various images captured with intense expressions and emotions at the right moments. ASOCIO would like to share these moments with you! 😊 SGTECH was a great Host that made it happen! 😊 Thank You!
WITSA Chairman in Singapore: ""Soft Power is changing the world ""
Nguyen Thi Thu Giang is with Yvonne Chiu at Carlton Hotel Singapore.
June 18 at 12:31 AM · Singapore

“Soft Power is changing the world”

A very encouraging for women’s leadership in ICT when Yvonne Chiu is elected to be The Chairperson of WITSA- The World IT Services Alliance for the second term. She is The most powerful woman in ICT world. She’s very active to “Connecting The World”, going to many countries to support ICT industry development in economy members. So happy to receive her book about the soft power, with her signature and wishes. “Make Dream Real” and for the “World Peace”. Thank you very much Yvonne!

Blockchain: protagonist in the Panorama of the Digital Transformation of Business organized by CESSI
Blockchain: protagonista en el Panorama de la Transformación Digital de los Negocios organizado por CESSI.

Muy contentos de haber realizado una nueva edición de ...

See More

Blockchain: protagonist in the panorama of the digital transformation of business organized by cesi

Very happy to have made a new edition of our panorama event, with an enriching debate on the implications and opportunities of blockchain and digital transformation.

With panels of excellent speakers we discuss how the blockchain, this digital pulse of confidence is beginning to revolutionize all business models, can allow us to protect our rights in an immutable way, create a true shared economy without intermediaries, reduce the high cost of transfer Money, allow citizens to monetize their data, etc. Were some of the paradigms that we discuss that will change with the blockchain.

We also dialogue with Miguel Acevedo, President of the Argentine Industrial Union (Uia), where he addressed the enormous opportunities that are open with the joint work of both institutions within the framework of the new law establishing the regime of promoting the economy of the economy Knowledge, where they talked about initiatives that may arise from the needs and opportunities offered by industry 4.0.

On behalf of cesi, thank you huge to the more than 300 participants, authorities, speakers, moderators, institutions, the whole network of entities, poles and clusters of the country that accompanied us, and of course to the sponsors who helped us to solve And promote the great opportunities for Argentina by the hand of the software industry to achieve a vibrant knowledge economy.

Rate this translation
It is a monthly event organized by the Chamber of Technologies, Information and Communication of Costa Rica, \textbf{CAMTIC}, which has the presence of a high-level reference, exposing topics of interest to all. The event brings together entrepreneurs, executives, and references in order to generate networks of contacts and promote new projects within the sector.
PROPIEDAD INTELECTUAL EN LA ERA DE LA INTELLIGENCIA ARTIFICIAL

EXpositoras

Cristina Mora
Abogada en el área de Propiedad Intelectual desde el 2010.
Amplio conocimiento a nivel nacional e internacional en temas de marcas, derecho de autor, patentes.
Además, posee conocimiento en disputas legales tanto judiciales como administrativas.

Karla Corrales
Más de 10 años como abogada en las áreas de propiedad intelectual, derecho farmacéutico e informático, así como derecho corporativo e innovación.
Amplia experiencia en materia de marcas, nombres comerciales, signos distintivos y señales de propaganda, tanto en asesoría a diversas empresas como en el proceso de registro.

Temas a tratar:

1. Reconocer de manera rápida y efectiva cuando hay presencia de propiedad intelectual.
2. Analizar la irrupción PI en las nuevas tecnologías.
3. Comprender la regulación legal de inteligencia artificial, era digital, y TIC.

18 Junio
5:30 PM
Hotel Hilton Garden Inn
La Sabana

Inscríbase aquí
techUK Supports New Government Technology Innovation Strategy

Commenting on the strategy, techUK's Head of Central Government, Henry Rex said: "We were delighted to support GDS with industry input as they were developing this strategy, and they have produced a document which contains a lot to cheer the tech supplier community.

techUK in Japan ahead of G20 Ministerial - Digital Priorities

On June 7, 2019, ahead of the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy JEITA, ITI, DIGITALEUROPE, and techUK convened senior government and private sector representatives in Tokyo to discuss global collaboration on digital policy issues, including artificial intelligence (AI), data free flow with trust (DFFT), and the role of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Digital transformation breaks down national barriers and fosters a collaborative approach, which is needed to deliver prosperity, growth and benefits to citizens across the world.
ITAN CURRENTLY IN NCC SESSION ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH AND ICT INNOVATION FORUM.

DEVELOPING NIGERIA'S TECH ECO-SYSTEM: Imperative for Improving Local Content.

Inset: The President Nigeria Computer Society, NCS Prof Aderounmu, and the Internet Society Nigeria's Adebunmi Akinbo A. A. Cornerstone
DIGITALEUROPE Elects Yannis Sirros of SEPE to Its Board of Directors
June 5, 2019; A member of the Board of Directors of the European Association of Digital Technology Industry - DIGITALEUROPE for the two years 2019-2021, Mr. Yiannis Syrros, General Manager of SEPE, was elected in the framework of the General Assembly of the Organization held on 5 June 2019 in Brussels. DIGITALEUROPE is the leading Link, which shapes the pan-European vision for digital Europe by promoting the digital transformer. See SEPE press release.
Drawing on the useful advice of Douglas Adams, the "Hitchhiker’s Guide to Cross-Border Data Flows" is designed to be an indispensable companion to all those who are keen to make sense of trade in an infinitely complex and confusing digital era. Though it cannot hope to be useful or informative on all matters, it has the words "DON'T PANIC" inscribed in large friendly letters in the title, reassuring trade policy makers across the universe that everything is going to be OK.

Trade war could wipe $455 billion off global GDP next year, IMF warns
June 5, 2019: The IMF said there had been some recovery in capital flows thanks to central banks slowing their monetary policy normalization. However, the expected recovery came with downside risks. It said trade tensions could persist or further escalate, Brexit may end up being disorderly and China’s recent stimulus measures could delay any move to a more sustainable growth pattern in the world’s second-largest economy.

USCIB Statement on WTO e-Commerce Negotiations
USCIB has issued Recommendations on the WTO e-Commerce negotiations, reflecting member priorities and goals for the negotiations, which had their first round in May. The recommendations are being shared with relevant government officials and stakeholders.

EU Publishes Ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI
On April 8, 2019, the High-Level Expert Group on AI presented their ethics guidelines for trustworthy artificial intelligence. This follows the publication of the guidelines’ first draft in December 2018 on which more than 500 comments were received through an open consultation.

OECD Publishes Principles on Artificial Intelligence
The OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence promote artificial intelligence (AI) that is innovative and trustworthy and that respects human rights and democratic values. They were adopted on 22 May 2019 by OECD member countries when they approved the OECD Council Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.

OECD Report: How’s Life in the Digital Age?
The main insight from the report is that digital technologies can improve the lives of those who have the skills to use them but, at the same time, they can create a digital divide, meaning that those that don’t have the skills find themselves left behind. Making digitization work for people’s well-being requires building equal digital opportunities, widespread digital literacy and strong digital security.

OECD Report: How far are OECD countries from achieving the SDGs?
When aggregating the distances to the SDG targets at the goal level, the study finds that OECD countries are on average closest to achieving the goals on Cities, Climate and Energy (goals 7, 11 and 13), and are furthest away from reaching those on Gender Equality, Food, and Reducing Inequality (goals 5, 2 and 10).
WTO DG Azevêdo: A system of rules-based trade is essential for growth and development
In an address to the French National Assembly in Paris on 21 May 2019, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said that the multilateral trading system has proven to be essential for supporting growth and development globally.

Ghana is producing more female entrepreneurs than any other country
The rise of women in entrepreneurship is not necessarily associated with the pace of their country's wealth and economic development as this latest Index on women's entrepreneurship has shown. The second edition of Mastercard Index of Women's Entrepreneurship (MIWE) revealed that some of the least wealthy and developed economies have higher women business ownership rates than their wealthier developed peers.

GDPR Penalties Prove Why Compliance Isn't Enough-And Why Companies Need Clarity
The legal uncertainty created by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is becoming so common, it's starting to go unnoticed. See TechDirt May 8, 2019 article.

GDPR, USA? Microsoft says US should match the EU's digital privacy law
May 28, 2019: As the first anniversary of the Europe Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) approaches, a senior lawyer at Microsoft has called for US Congress to adopt a parallel set of EU-style federal privacy laws. See the ZDNet article here.

ITIF Publishes Principles and Policies for "Data Free Flow With Trust"
The foundation of the global digital economy is showing cracks. Countries that support an open, rules-based global trading system need to agree on a common framework. Read the key takeaways here.

'4-Year Degree Not Necessary For Coding,' Says Apple CEO Tim Cook
June 1, 2019: Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, has long been an advocate for the need to learn to code from a very young age. He also had suggested during his tour to France in October 2017 that students should learn to code than learn English as a second language. See the TechWork article.

Big Tech loves Europe's ideas for ending internet freedom
May 14, 2019: This week, representatives from Facebook, Google and Twitter joined with French President Emmanuel Macron, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and other world leaders to launch a chilling proposal to curb free speech across the internet. Americans should be alarmed. European elites are fast extinguishing internet freedom on the Continent. How long will it survive in the US? See the New York Post article.

ICANN Organization Publishes First Human Rights Impact Assessment
On May 15, 2019, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) published its first Internal Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA). The report, which was developed by Löning - Human Rights and Responsible Business, assesses the human rights impacts of ICANN's daily operations. See the ICANN press release.
Partner News

UNCTAD and COMESA partner on €3 million project to speed up trade
For developing countries, and especially least developed countries - a category to which most COMESA members belong - full implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement could reduce trade costs by up to 15%.

UNCTAD, IIRC to help companies report performance on global goals
UNCTAD, which is responsible for addressing enterprise accounting and reporting issues in the UN system, has been active in assisting countries to develop a strong corporate reporting system to facilitate investment through its intergovernmental working group of experts on international standards of accounting and reporting.
UNCTAD on Trade Wars: The Pain and the Gain
The study underlines that bilateral tariffs would do little to help domestic firms in their respective markets.

**ITU News**

*Why we need '5th Generation ICT Regulation'*

ITU News, June 24, 2019: A new age of regulation. Regulation has entered a new age. As mobile phones become the portals to an ever-growing array of online services, regulators are being forced to grapple with a host of new challenges that span once-disparate sectors - from digital identity to data protection and privacy, blockchain, the implications of artificial intelligence (AI), and much more.

Business as usual, where stable, transparent regulatory frameworks were almost all that was required to ensure the market did the work of connecting people, won't work in this new era. What's more, with ICTs so critical to economic growth, getting the right regulatory frameworks in place has become vitally important to every country's future. See the [article](#).

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