WITSA Elects New Leadership for the 2018-20 Term
At its General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings on October 4, 2018 the World Information Technology and services Alliance (WITSA) voted on a new slate of leaders for the 2018-20 term.
Ms. Yvonne Chiu, Chairman of the Information Service Industry Association of Taiwan (CISA) was re-elected WITSA Chairman; the first woman to serve as leader of the global industry group. Mr. Yannis Sirros, General Manager of the Federation of Hellenic Information Technology & Communications Enterprises (SEPE), was elected Deputy Chairman.
Eng. Tarek A. Monem Taha of the Egyptian Information Technology, Electronics and Software Alliance (EITESAL) was re-elected Treasurer of the organization for the new two-year term.
A total of 21 new Directors were elected by members at the General Assembly.
"On behalf of the WITSA Secretariat, I wish to congratulate the new Chairman and Board of Directors upon their successful election”, said Secretary General Dr. Jim Poisant. "I look forward to working with the new leadership to take WITSA to the next level".
A complete list of the newly elected WITSA leadership is provided here.
The World Information Technology and Services (WITSA) on September 20th renewed its appeal to the Government of Iran for the immediate release of Mr Nizar Zakka, a Lebanese-born internet freedom advocate living in the U.S.

Mr. Zakka served on WITSA's Board of Directors and was its Vice Chairman for the Middle East and Northern Africa region. He did not return from Tehran after participating in the Second International Conference & Exhibition on Women in Sustainable Development on September 18, 2015. Mr. Zakka was invited by the Government of Iran to speak at this conference by the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade.

On September 18, WITSA also issued a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, urging his personal intervention with the Iranian leadership to obtain Nizar's freedom, both as a humanitarian and a moral issue. WITSA also encouraged the U.S. Administration to condemn the imprisonment of Mr. Zakka, a U.S. Permanent Resident and Lebanese Citizen, in the strongest possible terms at the upcoming U.N. Security Council and General Assembly meetings.

See the full press release [here](#).
Nizar Zakka has been imprisoned by Iran since 2015. The leading worldwide association for information technology professionals is calling on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to speak out on behalf of one of their board members, who is imprisoned in Iran, during the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York this week. See the full article [here](#).

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**WITSA Chairman Yvonne Chiu to Foster Interactions from Philippine to the World**

Invited by Philippine's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), WITSA Chairman Yvonne Chiu visited Philippine from Sept. 9 to 12, to discuss the possibility of cooperation across nations, especially for the ICT industry. In this trip, Chairman Yvonne Chiu met with Rowel Barba, Undersecretary of DTI, executives from Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), and Angelica M. Cayas, International Investments Promotion Service Director of Board of Investments (BOI). They exchanged opinions on regional economies and urge for more effective collaborations through WITSA as a platform. In respect to such consensus, two initiatives were formed: Kaohsiung-GGLC (Global Gateway Logistics City in Clark) logistic center by sea or by land freights; and clinic services for Phil Chinese Charitable Association (Taiwan Weigong Hospital). See the full press release [here](#)!
WITSA Chairman Yvonne Chiu Delivers Opening Remarks at ASOCIO Smart City Summit 2018

ASOCIO Smart City Summit 2018 was held in Hanoi, Vietnam from Sept. 17 to 19, seizing the fast urbanization and booming smart city business opportunities among emerging countries in Asia. WITSA Chairman Yvonne Chiu was invited to deliver opening speech, and in her speech she reinforced the importance of regional cooperation in developing smart city solutions, and to breed local talents that can help accelerate Asia’s digital transformation. This year the event gathered 700 representatives from more than 10 member states, including Malaysia, Taiwan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Singapore, Bengal, S. Korea and Vietnam. See the full press release here.

WITSA's Global Public Policy Corner

WITSA Announces Policy Recommendations to Narrow the Gap in Employment for Persons with Disabilities

Fairfax, VA: The World Information Technology and Services Alliance on October 2 published a statement of policy entitled “ICT Leadership in Inclusive Employment of Persons with Disabilities: An Economic and Social Imperative”. The paper was developed in cooperation with SourceAmerica® - a Vienna, Virginia based non-profit organization that is a leading U.S. source of job opportunities for people with significant disabilities. In keeping with WITSA’s mission to be the leader in Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age for everyone, this paper and accompanying policy recommendations address the social and economic imperatives of employment of persons with disabilities and lay out a roadmap for the ICT industry to grow as leaders in supporting the employment of persons with disabilities. See the statement and press release here.
WITSA Challenges Misconceptions and Threats to the Multilateral Trading System

Fairfax, VA: The World Information Technology and Services on September 30th published a statement of policy entitled “Globalization: Perception vs. Reality: Why Opposition to International Trade and Open Borders is Misplaced, Counter-Productive and Harmful to our Future Security and Prosperity”. The paper addresses some of the most worrisome misconceptions and threats to the multilateral trading system that has served the ICT industry as well as all other industries, citizens and consumers so well in modern times.

While anti-globalization forces are not new nor necessarily ICT specific, WITSA feels compelled to challenge them as the recent mushrooming of nativist populist leaders, including in certain key markets, are now engaging in dangerous rhetoric and implementing destructive policies that go well beyond discussions over protectionism or even past concerns over labor and environmental standards, and which -if unchecked- can have long-term detrimental implications for our current, rules-based international order as well as for the future and prosperity of our children and future generations. See the press release and statement [here](#).

World Congress on IT

**WCIT 2019 Overview**

Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age: THE POWER OF DECENTRALIZATION

Armenia has been approved as the hosting country for WCIT 2019. It is expected 2000-2500 delegates from more than 80 countries of the world. WCIT 2019 will be the first Congress being held in Europe since 2010. See the full presentation [here](#).
UATE: The 14th annual DigiTec Expo has been summed up
The 14th annual DigiTec technology exhibition featured a number of services for B2B, B2C, B2G, as well as innovative education opportunities and a series of seminars. DigiTec 2018 has united up to 120 IT companies and projects and hosted about 80k visitors. This year, the exhibition also boosted the effectiveness of establishing business ties. See the full article [here](#).

The UATE Chairman Aleksandr Yesayan has been re-elected as a member of WITSA Board of Directors
The annual meeting of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance, the WITSA, has been held in Yerevan, and within the frames of the latter the President of the Union of Advanced Technology Enterprises (UATE) Mr. Aleksandr Yesayan has been re-elected as a member of the WITSA Board of Directors. See the full article [here](#).
techUK is partnering with Chatham House on this year's Global Trade 2018 Conference, taking place on 1 November. techUK's CEO, Julian David, will be speaking on a panel focusing on the growing importance of 'intangible' trade in services and in data, and the adequacy of global standards on regulation of trade in these areas.

techUK Launches Future of Mobility Report
This is an amazing time to work in transport. Extraordinary innovation in engineering, technology and business models could fundamentally change how people and goods get around. To respond to these changes, and put the UK at the forefront of the industries driving the innovation, the Government, as part of the Industrial Strategy, launched the Future of Mobility Grand Challenge. For more information, see here.

techUK Opposes Digital Tax
Proposals on a digital tax will be at the forefront of the tech sectors’ mind as we wait for the Budget. techUK’s budget submission, which you can read in full here, addressed the challenges of a unilateral tax head-on and with the EU progressing efforts we hope the Chancellor will wait. Central to this will be whether the government presses ahead with plans, floated by the Chancellor at the Conservative Party Conference, for a new tax targeted at digital companies.

AIIA highlights concern over Encryption Bill’s impact for Australian tech companies, large and small
[Oct. 26, 2018] The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), the peak member body for the ICT industry, wishes to highlight its concern regarding the Assistance and Access Bill 2018 in its current form, and the effect this proposed legislation may have on multi-national and Australian technology companies, large and small, that will be providing services in Australia and will be captured by the Bill. See more here!

AIIA’s US trade delegation delivers best-practice insights on digital transformation from world-leading tech companies
[Oct. 31, 2018] The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), the peak member body for the ICT industry, undertook an 11-day trade delegation across the US with the Minister for Human Services and Digital Transformation, the Hon. Michael Keenan, and 23 AIIA members and industry delegates*, representing startups, SMEs and large multinationals earlier this month. Other key delegates included CEO of the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) Randall Bruegeaud, Acting CIO for the Department of Human Services, Charles McHardie AM, Ms. Kishwar Rahman, General Manager of Policy and Advocacy for the AIIA and Ben Mason also from AIIA. See the press release here.
NZTech Inform - Tech sector booming!

Last week at the launch of the 14th edition of the TIN100 report, which analyses the largest New Zealand hi-tech exporting companies, highlights included revenue growth of the top 200 firms by 11%, employee numbers up by 4.7%, profitability rose by 38%, and international revenues (or as TIN like to call them, exports) were up by 12.4%.

Read more in the free Snapshot report.

WITSA congratulates Dr. Olufuye on a job well done and Engr Hossam Elgamal as the new Chair of AfICTA!

At its 6th Annual General Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on 9 October, 2018 after its founding in 2012, and in line with its constitution, AfICTA - Africa ICT Alliance elected its 2nd Chairman, Engr Hossam Elgamal of the Arab Republic of Egypt. See the full AfICTA press release here!
Fedesoft Launches Colombian Software Initiative
In Fedesoft we are excited about the launch of our campaign the #LaClaveEsElSoftware, an initiative that seeks to show how important is the #software for the development of the Colombian industry.

[Oct. 8, 2018] SEPE News: SEE General Manager, Mr. Yannis Syros, Deputy Chairman of WITSA - World Association of Information Technology and Technology Services
In the post of Deputy Chairman of the new Executive Committee of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) for the period 2018 - 2020, Mr. Yiannis Syros, CEO of SEPE, was elected. Elections for the election of the new Executive Committee took place at the General Assembly of the World Association of Information Technology and Technology Services (WITSA) in Yerevan, Armenia, from 4 to 6 October 2018. See the article here.
[Guatemala] AGEXPORT Holds Conference on Digital Transformation
A few pictures of the successful delivery of the "Digital Transformation" conference in the innovation event in Guatemala with Agexport.
PIKOM Launches my.iT Magazine
PIKOM Chairman Ganesh Kumar Bangah presented a copy of the newly-launched my.iT magazine, to Minister of Communications and Multimedia YB Gobind Singh Deo at the Ideas Xchange Malaysian Industry Tech Forum, organised by MDEC recently. The cover story was on the minister’s views on why he believes that the Internet is part of basic human rights and is pivotal to survival in today’s world.
He stressed that telecommunication companies should increase the speed of broadband and reduce the price so that it is accessible to everyone. The Ideas Xchange, held at Menara Ken, TTDI was a gathering of industry leaders, entrepreneurs, government officials and many more who shared their concerns and views on the setbacks faced by ICT companies, especially the start-up community.

ALETI ICT Census Sector - 2018 Report now available.
This report, including English contents, describes in detail the initiative called the ‘Census of the Information Technology Sector’, sponsored by SurveyMonkey and MBI. This report was prepared during 2018 analyzing data gathered during 2017.
Along 84 pages tens of analysis depicted as charts reveal the innards of the ITC Sector. Click here to download the complete report in .pdf format (84 páginas, 9,26 Mb).
Breaking Down the Digital NAFTA Deal [Oct. 1, 2018]
Canada and the U.S. reached agreement late yesterday on a new NAFTA (now renamed the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement or USMCA). While much of the focus is on the dairy industry, dispute resolution, and the auto sector, the agreement will have significant implications for intellectual property, digital policy, and broadcasting. See the full article here.

Facebook, Google May Face Billions in New Taxes Across Asia, Latin America [WSJ Oct. 28, 2018]
Europe’s proposal to impose a new tax on tech giants is inspiring other governments. Dozens of countries are stepping up efforts to levy new taxes on technology giants such as Alphabet Inc. and Facebook Inc., hoping to capture revenue from digital services as economic activity increasingly shifts online. See the WSJ article.

The U.K. said it will move ahead with plans to introduce a first-of-its-kind tax on locally generated revenue by large technology firms—the most concrete attempt yet by an industrialized nation to rewrite the world’s tax code for the digital era. See the WSJ article.

Tech giants allied against proposed Australia law seeking encrypted data [Reuters, Oct. 3, 2018]
Four global tech giants - Facebook, Apple, Alphabet and Amazon - will oppose an Australian law that would require them to provide access to private encrypted data linked to suspected illegal activities, an industry lobby group said on Wednesday. See the article here.

New Zealand’s ‘digital strip searches’: Give border agents your passwords or risk a $5,000 fine [Washington Post, Oct. 3, 2018]
Travelers who refuse to surrender passwords, codes, encryption keys and other information enabling access to electronic devices could be fined up to $5,000 in New Zealand (about US$3,300), according to new customs rules that went into effect Monday. See the full article here.

WTO Public Forum 2018: Participants share their vision for inclusive trade in 2030
[Nov. 2, 2018] How can we make trade more inclusive in 2030 and beyond? One of the topics during the Public Forum 2018 was how to make sure that more people - particularly youth, small entrepreneurs, women and people from least-developed countries - reap the benefits of trade. Speakers and participants at the event shared their vision for a more inclusive trading system.
WTO Cuts Trade Growth Forecast [WSJ Sept. 27, 2018]
This downgrade reflects the heightened tensions that we are seeing between major trading partners, the World Trade Organization says. World trade will slow more sharply than previously expected this year and next as global tariffs rise, and may be even weaker if further levy increases are implemented, the World Trade Organization said Thursday. See the WSJ article here.

ICANN63 Barcelona GAC Communiqué
The GAC provides advice to the ICANN Board on policy matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws, international agreements and public policy objectives. GAC Advice is communicated to the ICANN Board through either a Communique or a formal piece of Correspondence. This area of the website provides you with full access to both types of GAC Advice as well as the comprehensive historical list of GAC advice provided to the Board and links connecting that advice to its outcome using the ICANN Board Advice Registry tool. See the Communique here.

XIII INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM MEETING TO BE HELD IN PARIS IN NOVEMBER 2018
The thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), convened annually by the Secretary-General, will take place in Paris, France, from 12 to 14 November 2018. The Government of France is hosting the three-day meeting at the headquarters of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in parallel with the Paris Peace Forum on 11-13 November 2018. In announcing the offer, President of France Emmanuel Macron emphasized the importance of welcoming the IGF in Paris to share ideas and advance discussions on Internet governance issues. See more.

UN DESA: Internet forum aims to build trust, while leaving no one offline
The Internet has become an integrated part of our lives, from accessing an education, to receiving healthcare services and to conducting business. The digital transformation we are
Partner News

What you need to know about the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018
The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (PP-18) - the top policy-making body of the International Telecommunication Union, taking place from 29 October to 16 November in Dubai. The following is an ITU Plenipotentiary Backgrounder, the original can be found on the PP-18 website here.

October 2018 edition of the eTrade for all newsletter!
Another busy month for our partners, with Africa and e-commerce being high on the agenda for many of us. In this edition, we will offer you a few insights about the WTO Public Forum and its vision for "Trade 2030", with more than 30 sessions dealing with e-commerce and new technologies. We will also take you to Burkina Faso, where UNCTAD and 8 eTrade all partners organized with WAEMU a regional workshop on e-commerce. It was also a good opportunity to meet with local businesses that try to make a difference in the local e-commerce ecosystem. Discover also the upcoming events from our partners. And finally try out the MyeT4a functionality on the eTrade for all platform: it's there to help you reach out to the right partners or engage in a new collaboration.

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For more information about WITSA contact us at +1 571 265-5964 or INFO@WITSA.ORG

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