



## World Congress on Information Technology *A Proud History*

### Overview

First held in 1978, the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) is unique in its global perspective on ICT issues and its ability to draw users, providers, media and academia from around the world. Global business, government and academic leaders discuss emerging markets, legal and policy issues, political and economic trends, emerging technologies, ICT user perspectives and business opportunities in the global marketplace.

Among the featured speakers are internationally recognized leaders from government and industry. As an example, the 1998 World Congress had over 1900 delegates from 93 countries, with over 100 sponsoring organizations. WCIT 2000, held in Taipei, and WCIT 2002, held in Adelaide, Australia, were equally successful, with Former US President, Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Thatcher, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Bill Gates and other notables featured in the programs. WCIT 2004 took place in Athens, Greece, and WCIT 2006 in Austin, Texas. WCIT 2006 hosted some 2,000 delegates from over 80 countries and featured keynote speakers such as General Colin Powell, Steve Ballmer, Paul Otellini, Michael Dell, Anne Mulcahy, John Gage, Don Tapscott and Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The 2008 World Congress on IT took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. WCIT 2008 hosted over 3,000 delegates. The 2010 World Congress on IT took place in Amsterdam also included delegates from over 90 countries and won the European Best Event Awards (EuBEA) Award as the best European Congress and Convention in 2010.

The 2012 World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT 2012) took place in Montréal, Canada from October 22 to 24. The event brought together 2,500 participants, including delegates and exhibitors, from 62 countries at the Palais des congrès de Montréal for a three-day conference under the theme of "ONE Vision or a Global Digital Society". The program was extremely well received by the information and communication technology (ICT) community: over 75 keynotes and panelists took the stage including Larry King who chaired a roundtable of senior ICT executives. Don Tapscott was also onsite as WCIT 2012 host to integrate the many conversations and make sense of the different perspectives about the digital society. The economic impact of the WCIT 2012 Congress was estimated at 5.5 million dollars for the city of Montréal and the province of Québec.

WCIT 2014 was held from September 29 to October 1, 2014 at the Expo Guadalajara Convention Center; Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. With the theme "*Creating Collaboratively the Digital Age*", this spectacular was attended by 2,671 delegates from 49 countries. It offered a high-level program featuring 107 speakers participating in 14 panels, 10 keynotes, 14 workshops and 11 special events. The exhibition area had 11 international pavilions, 52 exhibitors from the IT industry and more than 1,000 business meetings took place during the congress.

WCIT 2016 was held on October 3-5, 2016 at the CICB Brasilia International Convention Center; Brasilia, Brazil, with the theme: "*Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age: Challenges and Opportunities*". WCIT 2016 was attended by 2,017 registered delegates from 50 countries, featuring 63 internationally renowned speakers. The event was covered by over 70 international and domestic media outlets, reached half a million people through Facebook (including 28,600 followers of the WCIT 2016 Facebook page and over a thousand unique views of live WCIT 2016 video streaming). It also produced 12 thousand Twitter impressions via the #WCIT

2016 profile during the live coverage and was a top Twitter trending topic in Brazil. Moreover, WCIT 2016 featured 200 B2B meetings – resulting in business deals worth millions of dollars in the medium to long term.

The 2017 World Congress on IT took place in Taipei, Taiwan on September 10-13, 2017 at the TWTC Exhibition Halls and TICC under the theme: “Living the Digital Dream”. The event was attended by over 2,500 delegates from 80 countries. The three day conference featured renown industry leaders, celebrated thinkers, innovators and policymakers, including in-depth discussions on policies, partnerships and institutions that enable countries to fully leverage ICT’s for increased competitiveness and well-being, perspectives on the impacts of collective and analyzed personal data to better government services and its governance as well as economic growth, global views on the circular economy and the impacts on sustainable growth, the global Status on broadband connectivity and connecting the Next Billion, cyber-security and privacy, e-trade facilitation in the WTO and the impact on digital transformation, disruptive innovation and its implications for transformation, smart learning and education, the Impact of ICT on Health Care, Smart & Green Techs for Cities of Tomorrow, and much more.

WCIT 2018 took place in Hyderabad, India on February 19-21, 2018 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC). The theme of WCIT 2018, the first World Congress on IT to be held in India, was “Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age: Amplify Digital, Disrupt the Core”. WCIT 2018 saw some 2,500 delegates from over 50 countries around the world and was opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Being a major global trending topic, the three-day event showcased over 160 innovative start-ups and featured several government ministers, high-profile industry and thought leaders who engaged in numerous deep dive sessions, boardroom series, analyst corners, and focused forums. The WCIT, which served as a forum for networking and forging alliances, also saw the Telangana State government and NASSCOM signing an MoU for a center of excellence in data science and artificial intelligence, a technology partnership agreement between Telangana and the Taiwanese city of Taoyuan, and Adobe announced plans to set up an AI lab in Hyderabad. The Telangana State government also initiated discussion with Tom Moore, Lead-Alphabet, Google X, to explore the possibility of using technology to improve broadband connectivity. The Telangana State was slated to become the first user of Google X as it was looking to use the technology to address the leftover connectivity issue in its T-Fiber project.

WCIT 2019, “*Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age-The Power of Decentralization*”, took place in Yerevan, Armenia from October 6-9, 2019 at the Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex, also known as Demirchyan Arena, Sports & Music Complex. WCIT 2019 opened with a historic concert in Yerevan's Republic Square, featuring an orchestra of 100 musicians from fifteen countries around the world led by Maestro Sergey Smbatyan of the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra performed the first ever AI-composed piece in real time with 3D mapping projected onto Republic Square.

WCIT 2019 featured 62 speakers and some 5,600 leading academics, technologists, and entrepreneurs from over 70 countries gathered to reshape the conversation around our digital future and explore the outcomes that the information and communications technologies have in business and our lives. An eclectic mix of keynotes from Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Infosys Founder Narayana Muthy, Kim Kardashian West, Reddit Co-founder Alexis Ohanian, VMware COO Rajiv Ramaswami, Bitcoin Suisse CEO Arthur Vayloyan, CNN Correspondent Richard Quest, GIPHY Founder & CEO Alex Chung, VaynerX Chairman Gary Vaynerchuk, TechCrunch Editor-at-large Mike Butcher, Satalia CEO David Hulme, Emmy award-winning business and technology journalist Samuel Burke, Grammy winning and multi-platinum recording artist Serj Tankian, and many other accomplished speakers explored how technology is impacting profits, prosperity, safety, security, democracy, and humanity. Tech trends such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, smart cities, cybersecurity, climate change, and blockchain were all up for debate.

After experiencing significant success in technology and innovations, WCIT 2019 helped Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan put the spotlight on his efforts to make Armenia a global technology hub. Infosys Co-Founder, Narayana Murthy addressed the fears of many CEOs by stating that “technological progress is always a blessing for prepared minds, but a curse for those who are not.” Meanwhile, “learn to code” was the message for the younger members of the audience from Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian; “It’s the new

literacy and is the modern superpower,” he advised. Many conversations across the event were also moving away from debates around a man vs. machine towards a focus on the rise of human and machine collaboration.

The following is a list of those WITSA member associations which have either hosted or are scheduled to host a World Congress, through 2022:

### **WCIT Malaysia**

September 13-15, 2022

Penang, Malaysia

Theme: “Connecting the World”

<http://wcit2020.org/>

### **2021**

November 11-14, 2021

Dhaka, Bangladesh

<http://www.wcit2021.org.bd/>

### **2020**

September 14-16, 2020

Penang, Malaysia

Theme: “Road to WCIT Malaysia” - a hybrid of small official functions and live telecast that is available online for global participation including B2B matching, awards and virtual exhibitions for Southeast Asia’s market access

<http://wcit2020.org/>

### **2019**

October 6-9, 2019

Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex; Yerevan, Armenia

Theme: “*Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age-The Power of Decentralization*”

<http://wcit2019.org/>

### **2018**

February 19-21, 2018

Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC); Hyderabad, India

Theme: “*Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age: Amplify Digital, Disrupt the Core*”.

### **2017**

September 10-13, 2017

TWTC Exhibition Halls and TICC; Taipei, Taiwan

Theme: “*Living the Digital Dream*”

<http://www.wcit2017.org>

### **2016**

October 3-5, 2016

CICB Brasilia International Convention Center; Brasilia, Brazil

Theme: “*Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age: Challenges and Opportunities*”

### **2014**

September 29 – October 1, 2014

Expo Guadalajara Convention Center; Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Theme: “*Creating Collaboratively the Digital Age*”

### **2012**

October 22-24, 2012  
Palais des congrès, Montreal  
Over 2,000 delegates from 62 countries  
Theme: *"ONE Vision or a Global Digital Society"*

### **2010**

May 25-27, 2010  
Amsterdam RAI  
Over 250 speakers and more than 3,500 participants from 96 countries  
Theme: *"The Digital Road to Recovery"*

### **2008**

May 18-22, 2008  
Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (KLCC)  
3,200 delegates from over 90 countries  
Theme: *"Global Impact of Information and Communications Technology: Enable Businesses, Empower Societies, Enrich Economies"*

### **2006**

Austin Texas  
May 1-5, 2006  
Austin Convention Center  
Over 2,000 delegates from over 80 countries  
Theme: *"Global Impact - Unleashing Human Potential"*

### **2004**

Athens  
May 17-23, 2004  
Megaron Moussikis Conference Center  
1,200 delegates (67 countries)  
Theme: *"The Future is Now"*

### **2002:**

February 25 through March 1, 2007  
Adelaide Convention Center  
1,807 delegates (55 countries)  
Theme: *"Unleashing the Power"*

### **2000**

June 11-14, 2000  
Taipei, Taiwan  
1,790 delegates from 86 countries  
Theme: *"IT for a Better World"*

### **1998**

June 21-24, 1998  
1,903 delegates from 93 countries  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, Virginia – USA  
Theme: *"When the Convergence of Information Technology Meets Demand"*

**1996** Bilbao, Spain

**1994** Yokohama, Japan

**1990** Washington, D.C., USA

**1988** Paris, France  
**1986** Toronto, Canada  
**1984** Tokyo, Japan  
**1982** Copenhagen, Denmark  
**1980** San Francisco, USA  
**1978** Barcelona, Spain

## WCIT Host Sites At-a-Glance

2021 – Dhaka, Bangladesh	2002 – Adelaide, Australia
2020 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	2000 – Taipei, Taiwan
2019 – Yerevan, Armenia	1998 – Fairfax, Virginia, USA
2018 – Hyderabad, India	1996 – Bilbao, Spain
2017 – Taipei, Taiwan	1994 – Yokohama, Japan
2016 – Brasilia, Brazil	1990 – Washington D.C, USA
2014 – Guadalajara, Mexico	1988 – Paris, France
2012 – Montreal, Canada	1986 – Toronto, Canada
2010 – Amsterdam, Netherlands	1984 – Tokyo, Japan
2008 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1982 – Copenhagen, Denmark
2006 – Austin, USA	1980 – San Francisco, USA
2004 – Athens, Greece	1978 – Barcelona, Spain

## The Speakers (select list)

### **Business:**

**Mr. Christopher J. Furlow**, Ridge Global President and former Director US Homeland Security Advisory Council, USA

**Mr. Joseph M. Kelly, Jr.**, PointWeaver, LLC  
 Former CIO for Privacy and Civil Liberties

Former Chief of Cyber Intelligence, US Dept. of Defense, USA

**Alfred R. Berkeley, III** (moderator), President, The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc.

**Amiram Shore** (moderator), President/ Chairman, Israeli Association of Software Houses  
**ANNE MULCAHY**, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Xerox Corporation (United States)

**BEN VERWAAYEN**, Chief Executive, BT Group (United Kingdom)

**Bob Bishop**, Chief Executive Officer - Silicon Graphics

**C. Richard Thoman**, President/Chief Operating Officer, Xerox Corporation

**Carol Zierhoffer**, Chief Information Officer, Xerox

**Cinda A. Hallman**, Global Vice President, Integrated Processes and Systems, DuPont Company

**Dr. William A. Haseltine**, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, Human Genome Sciences, Inc.

**Curtis M. Coward**, Esquire (moderator), Partner, Commonwealth of Independent States, McGuire, Woods, Battle & Boothe LLP

**David J. Cassano**, General Manager, Year 2000 Global Initiatives, IBM

**Don Tapscott**, Chairman of Itemus, Chairman of Digital 4Sight, and Maptui.

**Don Tapscott**, Chief Executive Officer, New Paradigm (Canada)

**Donald Rippert**, Chief Technology Officer, Accenture (United States)

**Doug T. Elix**, Senior Vice President and Group Executive - IBM Global Service

**Doyle, Frank**, Global E-Business Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers

**Dr Craig Barrett**, Chairman, Intel Corp

**Dr John Gage**, Chief Researcher, Sun Microsystems

**Dr Mark Mobius**, Executive Chairman, Templeton Asset Management

**Dr Robert Bishop**, Advisor, Blue Brain Project

**Dr Vinton Cerf**, Chief Internet Evangelist, Google Inc.

**Dr Ya-Qin Zhang**, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Corp

**Dr. Azusa Tomiura**, Executive Advisor, Nippon Steel Corporation, Japan

**Dr. David Nagel**, Chief Technology Officer/President, AT&T Labs

**Dr. Dietrich Böttsch**, President, Siemens AG Private

Communication Systems Group  
**Dr. Joseph Reger**, CTO, Fujitsu-Siemens Computers

**Dr. Krishna Nathan**, Vice President & Director, Zurich Research Lab, IBM

**Dr. Lee, Yong-Teh Ph.D.**, Honorary Chairman of Federation of Korean

Information Industries; Chairman of TriGem Computer Inc., *Korea*  
**Dr. Liu, James J.**, President & CEO of Sino Tech Group  
**Dr. Mark Blatt**, MD, Worldwide Medical Director, Intel Corporation  
**Dr. Nelson Ortiz**, Consultant, Inversiones Bankers Trust, Venezuela  
**Dr. Peter Williams**, CTO, IBM's Big Green Innovations incubatory  
**Dr. Vinton Cerf**, Senior VP, Technology Strategy, MCI  
**Dr. Yong-Teh Lee**, Chairman, Federation of Korean Information Industries  
**Ellen I. McCoy**, Chief Information Officer, Mobil Corporation  
**Ellen M. Knapp**, Vice Chairman/Chief Knowledge Officer, Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P.  
**Eric-Mark Huitema**, European Mobility Client Executive & Member of the Global ITS Board IBM  
**Faqir Kohli**, Deputy Chairman, Tata Consultancy Services, India  
**Fiorina, Carleton** (Carly) S., President and CEO, Hewlett-Packard Company  
**Dr. Fung, Victor K.**, Chairman of Hong Kong Trade Development Council; Chairman of Prudential Asia Investments Ltd  
**Gates, William H.**, Chairman and Chief Software Architect of Microsoft Corporation  
**Greg Baroni**, President, Unisys Global Public Sector (United States)  
**Hellstrom, Kurt**, President of Ericsson  
**James Goodnight**, Chief Executive Officer, SAS (United States)  
**James L. Barksdale**, President/Chief Executive Officer, Netscape Communications Corporation  
**Jari Tammisto**, CEO, Mobile Monday  
**John Gage**, Chief Researcher and Vice President of Science Office, Sun Microsystems (United States)  
**John S Chen**, Chairman, President and CEO - Sybase  
**Joseph W. McGrath**, Chief Executive Officer, Unisys (United States)

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**Kim Stevenson**, Vice President, Information Technology Group, Chief Information Officer, Intel Corporation  
**Larry Quinlan**, Chief Information Officer - Deloitte  
**Lawrence J. Ellison**, Chief Executive Officer, Oracle Corporation  
**Linturi, Risto**, The Initiator of Helsinki Arena 2000  
**Manuel Vexler**, Chief Technology Officer, CopperCom (United States)  
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**Michael S. Dell**, Chairman/ Chief Executive Officer, Dell Computer Corporation  
**MICHEL MAYER**, Chairman and CEO, Freescale Semiconductors (United States)  
**Mike Wolfe**, Senior Vice President, CIO, AMD  
**Mr. A.S. Lakshminarayana**, Vice President & Head Europe TCS  
**Mr. Andy Green**, CEO, BT Global Services  
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**Mr. Stephen Elop**, President : Microsoft Business Division  
**Mr. Thomas Ganswindt**, Group President of Siemens Information & Communication Networks, SIEMENS  
**Mrs. Dr. Pilar del Castillo Vera**, MEP Chair European Internet Foundation  
**Ms. Virginia Rometty**, Senior VP Global Sales & Distribution IBM  
**Naoyuki Akikusa**, President and CEO, Fujitsu Limited  
**Narayana Murthy**, Infosys  
**Newstrom, George**, Senior Corporate Vice-President, EDS; President, Information Solutions, EDS Asia Pacific; Chairman of WITSA  
**NICK DONOFRIO**, Executive Vice President, Innovation and Technology, IBM Corp (United States)  
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**Dr. Francisco Ros Perán Ph.D.**, Secretary of State : Telecommunications, EU Presidency  
**Mrs. Maria van der Hoeven**, Minister of Economic Affairs,

Netherlands  
**Ir. Jeroen Fukken**, Head of Directory "Anders Betalen voor Mobiliteit" : Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management  
**Dr. Max Lay AM**, Director: Connect East & Advisor: Roads Australia  
**Bill Clinton**, Former US President  
**Ivo Ivanovski**, Minister of Information Society - Republic of Macedonia  
**Michael Armitage**, Minister for Government Enterprises - Government of South Australia  
**Richard Alston**, Minister for Communications, IT and the Arts - Government of Australia  
**Colin L. Powell.**, United States Secretary of State (2001-2005)  
**Dr. Cowpland, Michael C.J.**, President & CEO of Corel Corporation  
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**Alan Marcus**, Senior Director, Head of Information Technology and Telecommunications Industries - The World Economic Forum (WEF)

**Andrew Wyckoff**, Director - OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation

**Bob Hayward**, Senior Vice President of Operations Asia/Pacific for Gartner Group

**Carlo Ratti**, Director, MIT's SENSEable City Laboratory

**Clay Shirky**, Writer, Consultant, and Teacher on New Technology and Social Media

**Don Tapscott**, Author, *The Digital Economy: Promise and Peril in the Age of Networked Intelligence*

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**Dr. Mundell, Robert A.**, 1999 Nobel Laureate in economics and Professor of Economics of Columbia University

**Dr. Neal Lane**, Director, National Science Foundation

**Dr. Raymond U. Akwule**, Editor, *African Communications*, Nigeria

**Dr. Thurow, Lester Ph.D.**, Lemelson Professor of Management and Economics; Sloan School of Management, MIT

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**Magee, William P. Jr.**, DDS, M.D., Founder, Operation Smile Inc.

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Peter Samuelson, President, STARBRIGHT Pediatric Network

**Nuria Simo**, General Manager and CIO - Inter-American Development Bank

**Omobola Johnson**, Minister of Communication Technology - Government of Nigeria

**Professor Thomas W. Malone**, Co-director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management's "Inventing the Organizations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" Initiative

**Dr. Robert E. Kahn**, Chairman, CEO and President - Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI)

**Víctor Lagunes Soto Ruiz**, CTO - Office of the President, Government of Mexico



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Co., Ltd.  
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Sunplus Technology Co., Ltd.  
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Syscom Engineering Co.  
SYSTEX Corporation  
Tailyn Communication Co., Ltd.  
TAIPEI BANK  
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Manufacturing Co., Ltd.  
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**Government:**

acgt (Asiatic Centre for Genomic  
Research)  
Adelaide City Council  
Arlington County, Virginia (USA)  
Austin Technology Council  
AUSTRADE  
City of Amsterdam  
City of Austin  
City of Austin  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Council for Cultural Affairs,  
Executive Yuan  
Defensie (Netherlands)  
Department of Communications,  
Information Technology and the  
Arts (Australia)  
Department of Industry and  
Technology (Australia)  
DSTO (Department of Defense,  
Australia)  
Enterprise Saskatchewan,  
European Commission  
European Social Fund  
Export Development Canada  
Fairfax County Economic  
Development Authority (FCEDA)

Gouvernement du Québec  
(Ministère des Affaires  
municipales et des Régions and  
Ministère des Finances et de  
l'Économie)  
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investPenang  
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MDeC (Malaysia)  
MexicoIT  
Ministry of Economic Affairs  
(Taiwan)  
Ministry of Economic Affairs  
(Netherlands)  
Ministry of Economic  
Development and Innovation of  
Ontario (MEDI)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
(Netherlands)  
Ministry of Health, Welfare &

Sportt (Netherlands)  
Ministry of Interior and Kingdom  
Relations (Netherlands)  
Ministry of Interior Public  
Administration and  
Decentralization (Greece)  
National Science Council,  
Executive Yuan  
NOIE (National Office for the  
Information Economy, Australia)  
NTIS (USA)  
Opportunity Austin  
Outsourcing Malaysia  
Queensland Government State  
Development (Australia)  
Schiphol  
Scottish Trade international  
South Australia  
State of Texas  
TA (U.S. Technology  
Administration)  
Taipei City Government -  
Information Center  
Tourisme Montréal  
U.K. Trade & Investment  
Washington Technology

### **Media Partners:**

ACN Newswire	CNN	Association (USA)
Astral	Computerworld	New Straits Times (Malaysia)
astro	Financial Review (Australia)	OIC Today
Austin Business Journal	Fortune	PC.com
Backbone	IMERISSIA S.A. (Greece)	Star
Banking Review	InterComms	The Economist
Berita Harian (Malaysia)	IT in Canada	The Globe and Mail
BusinessWeek	La Presse	TheEdge (Malaysia)
CIO	Nanyang Siang Pau	TIME
CNBC	National Court Reporters	TV3 (Malaysia)

## **Additional Information**

### **WCIT 2014 (“Creating Collaboratively the Digital Age”)**

Held September 29 to October 1, 2014 at the Expo Guadalajara Convention Center; Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. This spectacular was attended by **2,671 delegates** from **49 countries**. It offered a high-level program featuring **107 speakers** participating in **14 panels**, **10 keynotes**, **14 workshops** and **11 special events**. The exhibition area had **11 international pavilions**, **52 exhibitors** from the IT industry and more than **1,000 business meetings** took place during the congress.

WCIT 2014 featured several key international institutions, including:

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- World Bank
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- Territories of Tomorrow Foundation (Living Labs)

A short list of some of the key speakers of WCIT 2014 include:

- Alan Marcus, Senior Director, Head of Information Technology and Telecommunications Industries  
The World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Alexander Mora, Minister of Foreign Trade  
Government of Costa Rica
- Andrew Wyckoff, Director  
OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation
- Bill Martin, Chief Information Officer  
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.
- Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- Gary Beach, Publisher Emeritus  
CIO Magazine
- Ivo Ivanovski, Minister of Information Society  
Republic of Macedonia

- Konstantinos Karachalios, Managing Director  
IEEE Standards Association
- Larry Quinlan, Chief Information Officer  
Deloitte
- Manu Bhardwaj, Senior Advisor to US Ambassador and Coordinator, International Communications and Information Policy  
U.S. Department of State
- Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Nuria Simo, General Manager and CIO  
Inter-American Development Bank
- Omobola Johnson, Minister of Communication Technology  
Government of Nigeria
- Robert E. Kahn, Chairman, CEO and President  
Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI)
- Robert Pepper, Vice President, Global Technology Policy  
Cisco Systems
- Víctor Lagunes Soto Ruiz, CTO  
Office of the President, Government of Mexico
- Vida Ilderem, Vice President, Director of the Integrated Platform Research  
Intel Labs - Intel Corporation
- Walda W. Roseman, Chief Strategic Communications Officer  
Internet Society (ISOC)
- William A. Yasnoff, CEO and President  
Health Record Banking Alliance

At the conclusion of WCIT 2014, WITSA issued the Declaration of Global Collaboration WITSA's 19th World Congress on Information Technology, Guadalajara, Mexico. The Declaration calls upon each individual and stakeholder group to commit to building an inclusive Digital Age, by playing a collaborative role in the evolving Digital Age. The ICT Industry will continue to be actively engaged in addressing impediments of infrastructure, affordability, accessibility, protection and security. Governments are asked to develop digital agendas, enabling regulations and legal frameworks, equitable taxation models and market rules. Governments should also embrace ICTs and to consider them at the core decision-making. Governments and industry must cooperate to establish equitable partnerships in building and sustaining a viable ICT industry in order to better serve societies.

International organizations are encouraged to continue investing and funding ICT development, especially in emerging economies, and to open up a closer relationship with the ICT industry. The model of transparent, open multistakeholder structures and processes, which is working successfully to enable effective governance of the Internet, is an example of successful collaboration based around consensus to achieve constructive public policy outcomes. The Congress asks governments, educational institutions and industry to close the global skills gap by providing employment opportunities to young people around the globe, and to enhance employment opportunities for women in all roles, while meeting industry and market demands. All delegates are encouraged to work diligently to address the challenges that the vast growth of information itself presents through big data; the application of data analytics and artificial intelligence. WCIT2014 underscored the need for these opportunities to be exploited responsibly and transparently, and not as tools to subjugate individual and societal rights.

The Guadalajara Declaration is posted at [http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Guadalajara\\_Declaration\\_2014\\_FINAL.pdf](http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Guadalajara_Declaration_2014_FINAL.pdf)

On the final day of the WCIT 2014, WITSA announced that six private and public sector organizations from four different countries were selected to receive the 2014 WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards. These Awards

were presented at the World Congress Gala Dinner on September 30, 2014 (see the press release: [http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2014AwardsPR\\_final.pdf](http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2014AwardsPR_final.pdf)).

## WCIT 2012

### **Economic Impact and Legacy of the World Congress on Information Technology 2012 in Montréal, Canada.**

The World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT 2012) took place in Montréal, Canada from October 22 to 24, 2012. The event brought together 2,500 participants, including delegates and exhibitors, from 62 countries at the Palais des congrès de Montréal for a three-day conference under the theme of “ONE Vision or a Global Digital Society”. The program, developed by Anthony D. Williams, was extremely well received by the information and communication technology (ICT) community: over 75 keynotes and panelists took the stage including Larry King who chaired a roundtable of senior ICT executives. Don Tapscott was also onsite as WCIT 2012 host to integrate the many conversations and make sense of the different perspectives about the digital society.

“The economic impact of the WCIT 2012 Congress was evaluated at 5.5 million dollars for the city of Montréal and the province of Québec. The success of WCIT 2012 contributed to the spread of Montréal as potential host for other major events in the ICT sector: the Palais des congrès de Montréal and Fira Barcelona as a result made an agreement to jointly develop a new and yearly international event that would complement existing ICT forums that take place there and around the world.

While WCIT 2012 offered a unique occasion to discuss, with a global audience, the opportunities that ICT applications offer, the Congress also created business opportunities for entrepreneurs. The legacy of WCIT 2012 includes:

- a Digital River Showcase, which profiled 60 Canadian companies through Augmented Reality technology. A virtual replication of the Digital River would be available on ITAC’s website and therefore continue to promote Canadian technologies in a unique format;
- the c200 Investment Forum, held in partnership with Export Development Canada, introduced Canada’s next generation of ICT exporters to international investors. C-level representatives from 25 foreign and domestic investment companies were invited to present their investment strategy and portfolio to a select group of Canada’s smartest and most innovative early-stage technology companies. The c200 Forum allowed Canadian companies to meet with hard-to-reach senior investment executives who, altogether, represented 2 billion dollars in venture capital. Moreover, the distinctive format of the c200 let start-ups gain insight into international partnership possibilities;
- a B2B and networking platform that allows delegates to develop multinational contacts. Held in partnership with TechnoMontréal, over 300 structured meetings took place during the B2B event. Hundreds of additional meetings were conducted throughout the Congress between sponsors and participants. The B2B platform remains available for delegates who wish to pursue informal networking and international partnership opportunities.
- The Declaration of Montréal in which the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) commits to work with all governments, stakeholder organizations and business leaders to support initiatives that enable access to the Internet as an open and neutral communications platform so that every citizen can benefit from it.

WCIT 2012 was made possible with the support of many sponsors. The organizing committee of WCIT 2012 would like to thank the following organizations: Air Canada, AMD, Assespro, Avaya, Bell, Canarie, Canieti, Canon, Cessi, CGI, CISA, Cisco, Dassault Systèmes, Dell, Enterprise Saskatchewan, Export Development Canada, Firstin Wireless, Google, Government of Canada, Gouvernement du Québec (Ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions and Ministère des Finances et de l’Économie), IBM, ICTAM, Intel, Invest in Canada, Investissement Québec, ITAC, Microsoft, Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation of Ontario (MEDI), OpenText, Outsourcing Malaysia, RIM, SAP, SaskPower, Sasktel International, Softchoice, SSHRC, Tata Communications, Telus, Tibco, Tourisme Montréal, Xerox. Media partners include Astral, Backbone, the Globe



and Mail, IT in Canada and La Presse.

At the conclusion of WCIT 2012, WITSA issued the Declaration of the 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Information Technology on *enabling access for all* ("The Montreal Declaration"). In the Declaration, WITSA committed to working with all governments, stakeholder organizations and business leaders to develop ways and means for ICT and digital technologies, their application and benefits to be available to all. The Declaration drew on the central theme of discussions and presentations held during the World Congress, as well as the associated World Tech Jam, held in June, which attracted over 11,000 participants. It also reflected the experience of thousands of ICT companies that are part of the network of national ICT industry associations constituting WITSA.

The Declaration was WITSA's fourth, drawn from its program of annual summits and congresses and built on the 2009 Bermuda Declaration<sup>1</sup>, the 2010 Amsterdam Declaration<sup>2</sup>, the 2011 Guadalajara Declaration<sup>3</sup> as well as WITSA's 2011 Policy Actions to Deliver the Promise of the Digital Age<sup>4</sup>, which consolidated this experience and identified recommended policy actions for national governments and multi-national institutions; actions that will help harness the capability of the global ICT industry to deliver the benefits of a truly digital age. The Montreal Declaration is posted at [http://www.witsa.org/MontrealDeclaration\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.witsa.org/MontrealDeclaration_FINAL.pdf).

### **WCIT 2010**

Between 25-27 May 2010, WITSA's 17th World Congress on IT (WCIT 2010) brought together more than 4,000 executives, government leaders and academics from over 90 countries. Pre-congress events were held on Sunday, May 23rd and Monday, May 24th. WCIT 2010 included key business meetings, business and science visits and numerous social events. Back in 2006, as part of the bid, ICT~Office developed the theme "Challenges of Change". ICT as enabler of innovation was considered to make a decisive contribution to the challenges everybody faces. WCIT 2010 therefore was focused on the use and applications of information technology instead of the technology itself.

WCIT 2010 was hosted by the Dutch trade association ICT~Office, co-hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and the City of Amsterdam, and supported by the European Commission. WCIT 2010 was an official event of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union. Amsterdam RAI was the venue for WCIT 2010. This 87.000 square meters complex is one of Europe's premier venues for major international events. The World Congress on Information Technology provided opportunities for the delegates to share, learn and look ahead. Through this sharing of vision, and inspired by the many stories of successes large and small, the participants learned to face up to the challenges of change.

For WCIT 2010, the central theme Challenges of Change had been carefully developed. This 'challenge' reflected the sense of urgency that was felt by politicians, policy makers, companies and citizens, all seeking for ways to provide ICT with a prominent role to fight the economic crisis and the economic recovery package in Europe and in the rest of the world. In three days, the Challenges of Change were discussed by over 250 speakers from all over the globe. On the agenda of WCIT 2010 were issues of both European and global importance, such as energy, water, life and mobility. Also the European Digital Agenda was presented to a global audience by Commissioner Kroes for the first time.

The grand opening of WITSA's 17th World Congress on Information Technology was the first meeting of minds with among others Commissioner Kroes, CEO Paul Otellini of Intel, SVP Virginia Rometty of IBM and Secretary General Martin Lees of the Club of Rome. The Grand opening was the thrilling kick-off of the summit. Each day

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<sup>1</sup> [The Bermuda Declaration](#) (link; see WITSA website)

<sup>2</sup> [The Amsterdam Declaration](#) (link; see WITSA website)

<sup>3</sup> [The Guadalajara Declaration](#) (link; see WITSA website)

<sup>4</sup> [Publication: "Policy Actions to Deliver the Promise of the Digital Age"](#) (link; see WITSA website)

of the program was a combination of plenary sessions with outstanding key note speakers like CEO Mike Fries of Liberty Global, Board member Pierre Hessler of Capgemini, President Stephen Elop of Microsoft and HRH the Prince of Orange. Delegates could meet at breakout sessions, round table and forum discussions as well as enjoying the pavilions and the hospitality facilities.

During the closing session the Declaration of Amsterdam was presented by the Dutch Minister Van der Hoeven (Economic Affairs). This declaration, subtitled 'The Digital Road to Recovery', spelled out commitments to direct the use of ICT to stimulate economic growth and addressed key societal challenges such as climate change, healthcare and quality of life. To turn the Declaration into action the WCIT the website <http://doa.wcit2010.org> was developed. This website also contained an Action Forum to engage a wide range of stakeholders, ranking over 100 initiatives from all over the globe. The Declaration of Amsterdam and its Call for Action were a first step towards implementing the Granada Ministerial Declaration and the EU Digital Agenda and was recommended for support by the G20 countries at their summit in June 2010 in Toronto, Canada.

Themed pavilions offered WCIT 2010 visitors opportunities for corporate networking and possibilities to get inspired by showcases in all WCIT 2010 tracks. All delegates were invited to the Welcome reception at the Amsterdam Picnic. At the WCIT dinner offered by the Dutch government the winners of the WITSA awards were honored. The official WCIT crystal was handed over on 27 May 2010 during the closing ceremony to the hosting city of the 2012 World congress on IT: Montreal, Canada.

## **WCIT 2008**

The following are some of the key outcomes from WCIT 2008:

1. WCIT 2008 achieved the following:
  - 80 institutional partners (sponsors);
    - o Garnered more than US\$10 million of sponsorship in cash and in kind.
  - 92 participating countries;
  - 105 speakers;
  - 3,313 delegates;
  - More than 50,000 participants (delegates, participants and expo visitors); and
  - 100,000 square feet of exhibition space.
2. Identified Business Opportunities:

Over 800 business meetings were held over the duration of WCIT2008 and its Related Events.

  - a) Over RM 1.24 Billion of business opportunities for Malaysian ICT solutions were identified through these meetings
  - b) RM2.0 Billion worth of potential investments were identified through these meetings
3. Sales and Investments Secured:
  - Over the duration of WCIT2008 and its Related Events, there were 22 contract agreement exchange and we secured total sales and investments worth RM8.3Billion
  - Creating more than 20,000 jobs.
4. Delegate Figures
  - a) WCIT2008 registered 3,313 delegates from 92 countries (~30% are delegates from other countries)
  - b) There were 539 media delegates out of the 3,313 WCIT 2008 delegates

## **WCIT 2006**

The 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress on IT drew over 2,000 delegates from over 80 countries – the largest and most diverse World Congress Delegation since the inception of the event in 1978 – joined us in Austin to debate and chart the future course of the global ICT industry. Even before WCIT 2006 placed Austin firmly on the global IT map, the State had long served as a uniquely compelling, business friendly gateway to the diverse markets of the Americas – including the Canada, Mexico and Latin America. Texas Governor Rick Perry championed the 2006 WCIT as “the most important business forum ever held in Texas”.

Two major themes clearly emerged during the course of the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress on IT: Transition and opportunity. General Colin Powell mentioned them; as did John Gage, Nick Donofrio, Don Tapscott, and Nicholas Negroponte. As innovation fuels the accelerating state of transition in the technology sector, the result is an environment of unprecedented opportunity.

***WCIT 2006 Global Impact Program Policy Recommendations:*** At the 15th World Congress on Information Technology, nine policy proposals were adopted by the Delegates and The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) to global leaders in technology, government and academia. The following Policy Recommendations were adopted in the areas of Privacy and Security, Digital Access, and Healthcare in the 21st Century:

### *Digital access:*

1. As delegates we should reformulate our digital initiatives to focus on how to use technology to empower people and to meet real social or business needs, rather than focusing on broadening access for its own sake.
2. Our digital initiatives should only move forward after they have taken 5 key elements into account - infrastructure, local content, government policy, knowledge and skills, and enterprise.
3. Digital initiatives should be developed co-operatively. The public, private and non-profit sectors should come together to negotiate joint strategies that meet their own goals as well as produce tangible results that benefit the greater good. We see a five year window of opportunity for redefining these priorities to achieve results.

### *Privacy and security:*

1. The international businesses and government communities must collaborate to define and promote global standards for the development of internationally trusted and interoperable baseline electronic credentials used to authenticate, with appropriate levels of assurance, a person’s identity. Organizations should be able to incorporate credentials based on these standards into both new and existing instruments of identity authentication—such as e-passports, national ID cards, driver’s licenses, and credit cards.
2. Standards for electronic credentials must be built on the business uses for authentication and not just the underlying core technologies. They should promote common approaches for how organizations across different industries create credentials and use them within their various business and government operations. Therefore, standards must address data elements, verification procedures, and management requirements necessary to create credentials protected by design and ongoing maintenance from tampering and misuse. Standard practices must accommodate varying organizational identity management requirements ranging from one- to three-factor authentication.
3. To address privacy concerns and create a climate of consumer confidence and trust, organizations issuing electronic credentials must demonstrate and publicize the safeguards used to protect an individual’s personal information. Furthermore, organizations need to adhere to a code of conduct, based on best practices, which requires them to clearly define and present to the public the uses of and benefits from electronic credentialing prior to requesting any personal data necessary to create these instruments.

### *Health Care in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:*

1. As delegates we should seek to accelerate the deployment of technologies in the delivery of healthcare outside of the traditional hospital mainframe.
2. Interoperable, standardized technologies within traditional points of care are critical to improving the quality and reducing the cost of healthcare.
3. We propose that steps be taken to steps to contribute to the reporting of real-time, real-place health information – a new cartography of global health.

### **WCIT 2004**

Athens, Greece, was the gathering place for more than 2,000 delegates - representing 67 countries - attending the biennial World Congress on Information Technology on May 19-21, 2004. The program featured top level speakers from the IT and telecommunications industry, as well as from the government and academic sectors. In addition, WITSA presented its biennial Global IT Excellence Awards, honoring seven organizations from around the world whose use of information technology has exhibited exceptional achievement within three broad categories: Public Sector Excellence, Private Sector Excellence, and Digital Opportunity. In addition, a Chairman's Award was presented.

Keynotes by Prof. Nicholas Negroponte of MIT Media Lab, Dr. Vinton Cerf of MCI, Robert Bishop of SGI, Michel Fromont of NEC Computers International B.V. and Mr. Risto Siilasmaa, of F-Secure, and many others were collectively once-in-a-lifetime treasures.

More than **2.000** participants from **67** different countries attended the WCIT 2004, **1.200** of whom were Congress Delegates, and **160** Greek and International reporters covered the Congress proceedings. There was also significant participation of several Public Sector and Government Officials. However, the most impressive presence was the "e-participation" of Internet users the world over, who followed the Congress, works and developments electronically. Since the beginning of the year and up until the eve of the WCIT 2004 (Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May) more than **22.400.000** hits were recorded at the Congress Site; **392.000** of which were recorded during the Congress week alone (17-23 May 2004). The number of Sponsor Companies reached **46** and there were **11** WCIT 2004 Supporters.

Ministers and Government Officials also met in Athens, Greece on May 19-21, 2004 within the framework of the 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress of information Technology (WCIT2004) and exchanged views on the technological developments for eGovernment. Considering the principle topics of the **e-Government** session, the Ministers and Government Officials concluded a "**Political Leaders Declaration on Technological Developments in the service of the citizen**".

### **WCIT 2002**

The XIII World Congress on Information Technology held in Adelaide, Australia was an extremely successful event, even in the midst of the global economic slowdown at the time. Over 1800 delegates from 55 countries attended, including 150 members of the press. The US delegation was over 120.

WCIT 2002 and IT Business Forum focused global attention on South Australia's IT capabilities. The benefits of hosting the five-day combined event was summarized as follows:

- The event attracted 1800 delegates – 300 more than forecast – including about 570 people from overseas.
- The economic benefits to the State are reported to be between \$12 million to \$15 million.
- Twenty trade delegations visited Adelaide during the event, including business leaders from the key markets of Japan, China, Malaysia, Taiwan, France, the UK, USA and New Zealand.
- Trade deals negotiated following the IT Business Forum have the potential to result in \$8.95 million in export sales.
- The South Australian Government is involved in ongoing investment discussions with 17 International companies.

Highlights included addresses by Australian Prime Minister John Howard and former US President Bill Clinton, and outstanding presentations by CXO's by Bob Bishop of SGI, John Chen of Sybase, Craig Mundie of Microsoft, Ram Ramadori of TCS, Doug Elix of IBM, and N.R. Murthy of Infosys.

During the Congress Gala Dinner, WITSA awarded its seven top global user awards, with the Chairman's Award going to NYC.GOV, as selected by then Chairman George Newstrom from among the hundreds of nominees.

Two years in the planning, and by far the highest profile event to be staged in the city, the World IT Congress was dominated the headlines - and city life – throughout the last week of February 2002. The WCIT's success was built on the caliber of the speakers, especially a phalanx of top-notch Americans, agreeably armed with very fresh thoughts, such as Stephen Younger, director of the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the venerable John Gage, chief scientist at Sun Microsystems, Craig Mundie, CTO at Microsoft, EDS's George Newstrom, newly made secretary of technology for the State of Virginia, plus a sprinkling of Adelaide-born 'Americans' which included Bob Bishop of Silicon Graphics and Doug Elix, boss of IBM Global Services. Notables from Asia-Pacific were Lee Kwok Cheong, the firm and business-like chief executive of Singapore's National Computer Systems, David Tan, charming and insightful head of the pioneering Net-led Bank of Singapore, and Peter Lo, the well-connected CEO of Hong Kong's Science and Technology Park network.

The nearly 2,000 attendees at the WCIT in Adelaide were given a veritable feast of new ideas, fresh information and exciting new evidence of a plethora of trends. Perhaps the most pivotal event was the launch of the first 3G network in the southern hemisphere, which took place before a large audience at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Launched by M.Net, a consortium of IT and telecoms companies including Australia's national telecoms provider Telstra, the 3G system is unusual in that it combined the services of traditional carriers with 802.11b wireless technology - in a bid to solve the problem of the broadband 'last mile'.

Far removed from the ambitions of 3G telecoms giants was an event held immediately before the congress which displayed an outpouring of new technology -from a shoal of tiny companies. Two days before the congress opened on Wednesday, February 27th, the organizers showcased 35 of Australia's best small IT companies - winners of a national SME competition that attracted 217 entrants. Indeed, most of the presentations were packed out.

When the conference began, two themes predominated: IT security and the hot issue of whether the IT sector was truly delivering the productivity gains promised. On the first issue, the caliber of speakers assembled was exceptional - and very well informed. Pindar Wong, chairman of Hong Kong-based security company Verifi said a recent report by security consultants Riptech revealed for the first time some of the metrics behind e-security breaches. The study is claimed to be 'the first large-scale study to analyze Internet attacks based on actual empirical attack data that has been consistently collected and analyzed over an extended period of time'. Next up was Phil Reitlinger, of the US Defense department's cybercrime unit, who said e-crime very often had an international element to it. He emphasized that "the best e-security in the world, though needed, is not sufficient."

A much-awaited speaker was Howard Schmidt, vice chairman of the US President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board, which was established in Oct 16 last year as the senior inter-agency group responsible for overseeing security performed by the 26 different national agencies.

The second main theme of the congress - was the extent to which IT was succeeding or failing to deliver on its promises, especially bottom-line productivity, and this provoked much greater levels of disagreement.

On the last day of the conference John Gage, chief scientist at Sun MicroSystems, gave a fascinating talk of the future commercial potential of a system which unified 3G with high-level storage and GIS mapping techniques linked to real-time satellite observation.



## **WCIT 2000**

**2000 World Congress Draws 1,790 Participants from 86 Countries:** The 2000 World Congress on IT was a resounding success in terms of content, speakers, attendance and media coverage. Termed by many as “the best World Congress ever”, the event was officially opened by Newly-elected R.O.C. President CHEN, Shui-bian, who emphasized Taiwan's wish to become a "Green Silicon Island," and wished that "future generations will enjoy not only highly developed technology, but also a clean, healthy environment." The event was attended by an incredible 1,790 high level private and public sector delegates from 86 countries. 195 were from the U.S. 157 from Japan, 71 from Malaysia, 57 from Australia, 44 from Singapore and many more from countries around the world. There were 110 international members of the media, spanning 13 countries, including many of the best-known networks – such as BBC, Bloomberg, CNBC, CNN, the Asian Wall Street Journal and others. 350 local media representatives further added to a world-class coverage of the event.

A total of 30 world-renowned speakers gathered in Taipei, including John Chambers, President and CEO of Cisco Systems, who informed the audience that, "[the Internet] is going to change every aspect of our lives." Carly Fiorina, President and CEO of Hewlett Packard reminded the audience, "We can fail to achieve the promise of this revolution if we fail to remember that this revolution is about people." And, Bill Gates, Chairman and Chief Software Architect of Microsoft said that what needs to be done, "is to change the Internet to be more of a platform, not simply a presentation network." In all, speakers at the WCIT2000 set forth the blueprint for the future of IT - making a better world.

At a special transition ceremony, the World Congress also saw the inauguration of George Newstrom as the new Chairman of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), replacing Robert Laurence after eight years of dedicated service for the IT industry (see separate article).

## **WCIT 1998**

The World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT), held at George Mason University from June 21 to 24, 1998, was the premier event of the year for senior-level information technology executives worldwide to meet and establish business relationships, explore worldwide markets, and listen to customer perspectives. George Mason University proudly welcomed the 1998 World Congress on Information Technology to its campus in Fairfax, Virginia. More than 1,900 information technology and business leaders from 93 countries gathered at George Mason for a series of lectures, gala events, and exhibits.

The calibre of the speakers was exceptional – Michael Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, Michael Dell, and Larry Ellison, among other discussed the evolution of technology and the future of the industry. The news media paid attention with more than 200 journalists covering the event and resulting in an estimated 105 million impressions around the world.

In the words of then Microsoft President & CEO Bill Gates, “Congratulations on the most successful World Congress on Information Technology that has ever been held. Bringing together the global business community to focus on the future of information technology and how we can better serve customers as you are doing this week in Fairfax County, is an important task. We at Microsoft are proud to be part of the information technology revolution and commend you and the attendees from all over the world for your efforts”.

The WCIT 1998 exhibits covered the themes, “Strengthening the Workforce”, “Building Tomorrow's Workforce”, “Electronic Commerce”, “Partnerships in New Knowledge”, “GMU Worldwide”, “Internet 2 Deployment”, “Data Mining”, and “Using Technology to Create and Preserve Great Dance”.

The 1998 World Congress on IT raised the profile of Fairfax County nationally and internationally and provided an entrée to business communities throughout the world. The County’s reputation as a technology center was also increased. Toshiba Corp., one of the world’s leading technology firms, expanded its consulting business by opening a consulting office in Fairfax County in May 1999. This was a direct result of contacts made at WCIT 1998. Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc. was the third technology firm to make investment plans in Fairfax County as a result of WCIT 1998. Tata Infotech, the second largest software firm in India, and



Sytel, a leading systems integrator, both announced plans to open offices in Fairfax County as well. The Minolta Corporation selected Fairfax County in June 1998 as the site for a new research and development office.

Moreover, Fairfax County's hospitality industry reaped millions of dollars in benefit from the County hosting the 1998 World Congress on Information Technology. An estimated \$15 million was infused into the economy from WCIT 1998 from the more than 1,300 technology executives who stayed at County hotels, shopped in the retail establishments, and dined in the County restaurants.

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