



MINUTES

WITSA Special Board of Directors Meeting

08:00 - 10:00 EDT

July 29, 2021

Virtual Meeting (via GoToMeeting)

Yannis Sirros, Chairman

V6

ROLL CALL

ATTENDED

Mr. Yannis Sirros	SEPE, Greece,
Mr. Sean Seah	PIKOM, Malaysia
Mr. Hemant Kumar Chaurasaia	CAN, Nepal
Eng. Tarek Abd-elmonem Taha	EITESAL, Egypt
Dr. Vasile Baltac	ATIC, Romania
Mr. Mathias Ifeseih	ITAN, Nigeria
Md. Shahid Ul Munir	BCS, Bangladesh
Mr. Robert Franz Janssen	ASSESPRO, Brazil
OTHER ATTENDEES	
Mr. Ong Kian Yew	PIKOM, Malaysia
Mr. Masatoshi Koizumi	JISA, Japan
Ms. Louise Li	CISA, Taiwan
Dr. Jim Poisant	WITSA Secretariat
Mr. Anders Halvorsen	WITSA Secretariat
Ms. Alicia Standridge	WITSA Secretariat
Ms. Molly Waldron Poisant	WITSA Secretariat

REGRETS

Mr. Julian David	techUK, United Kingdom
Mr. John Kyle	Bermuda Chamber of Commerce, Bermuda
Dr. Boris Komrakov	InfoPark, Belarus
Mr. Antonio Cimorra	AMETIC, Spain
Mr. Santiago Gutierrez	CANIETI, Mexico
Ms. Angela Mondou	TECHNATION, Canada
Mr. Alberto Patron	CESSI, Argentina
Mr. Toshio Iwamoto	JISA, Japan
Mr. Alexander Mora-Delgado	CAMTIC, Costa Rica
Mr. Brian Shen	CISA, Taiwan
Mr. Zoran Lazarevski	MASIT, Republic of N. Macedonia
Ms. Min Hee Choi	FKII, Republic of Korea
Mr. Alexander Yesayan	UATE, Armenia
Mr. Francis Fong	HKITF, Hong Kong

INTRODUCTIONS/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Yannis Sirros wished everyone a good morning, afternoon, and evening and provided the following opening remarks:

"I would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this special meeting of the WITSA Board of Directors. As you know, WITSA is facing significant financial sustainability challenges in the not-too-distant future.

Thanks to, Dr Sean Seah our Deputy Chairman and his PIKOM team, along with WITSA's Secretariat, I feel we now have a potential solution for achieving long-term financial sustainability. It is called the *Global Business Exchange (GBX)*. Sean will explain the new program in detail. I would like to conclude by stating the obvious.

As the longest serving person serving on WITSA's Board of Directors, I can say without a doubt, that this program along with ever other WITSA program cannot be successful without the members' full support.

I wish to thank those of you who have fully embraced the GBX and encourage everyone to join in. WITSA's future depends on all of us.

Today we will also hear from our 2021 WCIT Host, Munir, to provide us with an update on the congress. For many years, the issue of WITSA's name (The World Information Technology & Services Alliance) has been discussed as many members feel it is not only outdated, but it does not accurately reflect the true scope of the ICT industry. Today we will present a new name to you as the WITSA Board to solicit your feedback. Assuming we can reach a consensus on a new name we will ask all our members for their feedback as well. I look forward to your comments. Thank you."

Roll Call

Mr. Anders Halvorsen conducted the Roll Call. *See list above.*

GLOBAL BUSINESS EXCHANGE (GBX)

Introduction of GBX

- Dr. Poisant introduced WITSA's Global Business Exchange and thanked the PIKOM, FusionEx and Secretariat team for their work towards launching this new initiative.

Overview of GBX (Mr. Sean Seah, Mr. Robert Janssen and Mr. Ong Kian Yew)

- [Played GBX video](#);
- Explained that the GBX name came from Jim Poisant;
- Discussed the mission and vision;
- Explained and showed the timeline, phases through the timeline. Announced the fee structure starting next year;
- Full explanation of Phases 1-5;
- GBX Value Propositions – Hybrid Conference Events, WCIT Database, Online Surveys, New Venue Stream;
- Status Update – 8 WITSA Members, individual calls, 2-hour OKR bootcamp,

- Announced Soft Launch – August 18, 2021;
- Official Launch – September 1, 2021;
- Next Steps – Determine cost of GBX after 2022;
- Robert Janssen’s Testimonial [video was played](#);
- Full copy of [PPT available here](#) (2nd line from bottom).

Questions and Answers – None.

WORLD CONGRESS ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WCIT 2021 – Dhaka, Bangladesh Update provided by Md. Shahid-Munir

- Bangladesh is currently under lockdown due to the virus;
- All project work for WCIT 2021 is being conducted from the project team’s homes;
- Announced the themes and schedules for each day of the conference;
- Announced Registration fees for WITSA Members/Non-Members for in person and virtual options;
- Announced Physical/Virtual Booth fees;
- Online Registration will open soon;
- Social Media links announced;
- Hotel Information was provided;
- Full copy of [PPT available here](#) (last item listed).

Questions and Answer – None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Global ICT Excellence Awards

- Reminders and information has been circulated;
- Deadline is September 1, 2021, but per Mr. Halvorsen the deadline is likely to be extended;
- Remainder, only members in good standing (dues paid) may make nominations.

Rationale, Process & Initial Suggestions for Proposed Name/Logo Change

- Explained the rationale (IT is considered by some members as outdated);
- Name change must maintain WITSA the acronym;
- Professor Baltic – believes this requires more discussion;
 - Keep the name but change the logo;
 - Mr. Munir agreed.
- Mr. Taha – doesn’t like any of the 3 options of the logos (not bright and flashy enough);
- Dr. Poisant – All members input will be required before, via survey before the Board can make the final decision;
- Molly Poisant suggested using the word “Innovative” as it is widely used;
- Mr. Sirros – the name and logo are outdated;

- Dr. Poisant - asked for any other suggestions from the Board.

Updates to the WITSA By-Laws

- Dr Poisant explained that if the name changes, By-Laws must also change;
- He said this would also be a good time to amend and restate other sections of the By-laws as there are events WITSA no longer hosts included currently;
- The By-Laws haven't been revised since 2014;
- Process would be as follows:
 - Redlined items to the By-Laws will be sent to the Board, then a vote will commence to see if the By-Laws may be amended and restated.
 - An affirmative vote by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Directors then in office at any regular or special meeting of the board.

Other Business

- There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Mr. Sirros thanked the Board for attending the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 9:55am EDT.