

WITSA NEWSLETTER

2025 - WITSA LEADING THE AI TRANSFORMATION

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SPECIAL MESSAGE

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM WITSA CHAIRMAN

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Stewardship, Trust, and the Power of Our Alliance

As we close this year, I would like to take a moment to reflect—not on technology itself, but on the people, partnerships, and principles that continue to define WITSA as a global alliance.

In an increasingly complex and fast-moving global environment, the true strength of WITSA lies in its ability to bring together diverse economies, perspectives, and institutions under a shared commitment to progress through technology. This is not a small achievement. It is the result of decades of trust, collaboration, and collective responsibility across our Board, our members, and our partners worldwide.

The past year reaffirmed the importance of this alliance. From global convenings to policy engagement and ecosystem-building initiatives, WITSA demonstrated that meaningful impact is achieved not through individual efforts, but through coordinated leadership and shared purpose. Our ability to convene, align, and guide conversations at the international level reflects the credibility that this community has built over time.

As Chairman, I am particularly proud of the role played by the Board of Directors, whose strategic oversight and thoughtful governance have ensured that WITSA remains principled, relevant, and future-focused. Your stewardship provides the stability and direction required to navigate an era defined by rapid technological change and geopolitical uncertainty.

To our Member Associations, you remain the backbone of WITSA. Your insights, participation, and on-the-ground leadership give real meaning to our global initiatives. You translate shared vision into local impact, ensuring that WITSA's work resonates across different economies and societies.

SPECIAL MESSAGE

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM WITSA CHAIRMAN

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I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of the WITSA Secretariat led by CEO Dato' Dan E Khoo. Their commitment ensure that WITSA continues to operate with integrity, effectiveness, and clarity of purpose.

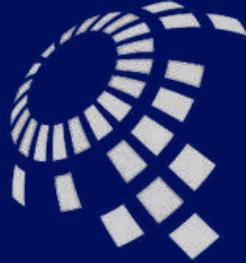
Looking ahead, WITSA's role will become even more important—not simply as a convener of events, but as a trusted platform for cooperation, dialogue, and long-term capacity building. Our collective challenge is not only to keep pace with technological change, but to ensure that it serves societies in a way that is responsible, inclusive, and sustainable.

As we enter the new year, I encourage all members to remain actively engaged—through dialogue, collaboration, and shared initiatives. Together, we are strengthening not just an organization, but a global network built on trust and mutual respect.

Thank you for your continued confidence in WITSA and for your commitment to this Alliance. I look forward to building on our shared momentum in 2026 and beyond.

Dato' Dr Sean Seah
Chairman





SPECIAL MESSAGE

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM WITSA DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

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Innovation, Inclusion, and the Global Voice of Emerging Ecosystems

As Deputy Chairman of WITSA, I am honored to share a perspective rooted in innovation from the ground up—where technology is not only about scale and sophistication, but about access, opportunity, and real economic impact.

Across emerging and developed markets alike, we are witnessing a powerful shift: technology is no longer confined to a handful of global hubs. Innovation today is increasingly driven by entrepreneurs, SMEs, startups, and regional ecosystems that are solving local challenges with global relevance. This is where WITSA plays a uniquely important role—by ensuring these voices are heard, connected, and empowered on the world stage.

From Latin America to Europe, from Southeast Asia to the Middle East, digital transformation is becoming a central engine for economic resilience and competitiveness. Yet, for this transformation to be sustainable, it must be inclusive—supporting skills development, enabling access to markets, and fostering collaboration between governments, industry, academia, and civil society.

WITSA's strength lies in its ability to bridge these worlds. Through its global platforms, member networks, and ecosystem initiatives, WITSA enables countries and communities at different stages of maturity to learn from one another, share best practices, and accelerate progress together. This collaborative approach is especially critical as artificial intelligence and advanced digital technologies become more deeply embedded in our economies and societies.

As we look ahead, I believe WITSA has an increasingly vital role to play in connecting innovation ecosystems, supporting the growth of technology-driven SMEs, and ensuring that global digital progress does not leave any region behind. By fostering cooperation across borders and encouraging responsible innovation, we can unlock new opportunities for growth, productivity, and social impact.

SPECIAL MESSAGE



SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM WITSA DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

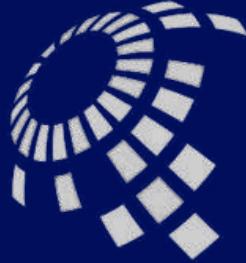
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I would like to thank our members, partners, and leadership team for their continued commitment to this shared mission. Together, we are not only advancing technology—we are shaping a more connected, inclusive, and innovative global digital economy.

I look forward to working with all of you as WITSA continues to strengthen its global alliance and expand its impact in the years ahead.

Robert Janssen
Deputy Chairman





SPECIAL MESSAGE

WITSA LEADING THE AI TRANSFORMATION

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CEO'S CORNER

Reflecting the Year of AI - Navigating the Next Era of Digital Transformation

As we approach the end of a very dynamic and transitional 2025, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the collective effort and resilience shown by the global WITSA community and our member associations worldwide. We have seen significant activity, from AI summits and tech webinars to vital policy dialogues on digital trade and development, all reinforcing our shared commitment to leveraging innovation for inclusive and sustainable growth.



This year will likely be seen as a true turning point for Artificial Intelligence. Generative AI has moved rapidly from niche experimentation to widespread adoption, affecting the fundamentals of global commerce, public services and governance. It was a year that marked the world's collective entrance into the next phase of digital transformation.

Yet beyond generative AI, 2025 also witnessed the rise of Agentic AI and robotics—systems capable of autonomous decision-making, collaboration and physical execution. These technologies are not only augmenting human productivity but also reshaping industries from manufacturing and logistics to healthcare and education. Agentic AI represents a profound shift: machines that can act with purpose, adapt to dynamic environments and extend human capacity in ways previously unimaginable. For policymakers and innovators alike, this raises both extraordinary opportunities and urgent responsibilities to ensure these systems are aligned with human values and societal needs.



SPECIAL MESSAGE

2025 - LEADING THE AI TRANSFORMATION

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CEO'S CORNER

For WITSA, 2025 was shaped by our focus on two critical policy pillars: Responsible AI Adoption and Global Tech Trade. The WITSA Global AI Summit 2025 was an opportunity to convene leading experts, policymakers, and innovators, helping to focus the conversation on ethical readiness and responsible deployment. Similarly, the WITSA Global Awards 2025 celebrated the extraordinary digital achievements across our network, underscoring the ingenuity and diversity within our community.

We recognized that the rapid pace of technological change, coupled with escalating global trade tensions, presented both unprecedented opportunities and tangible challenges. Our early work, including the WITSA Scenario Planning Exercise conducted at the WITSA GAIN@CES in Las Vegas this January, came in handy when anticipating and advising our members on the potential impact of the ongoing trade friction, particularly on the technology sector. This strengthened our resolve to champion open, fair and rule-based global tech trade while simultaneously working to ensure AI adoption is guided by strong ethics, inclusivity, data protection and sound policy frameworks.

Looking forward, WITSA's AI Action Plan—EISI as ABC—will serve as our compass. EISI calls for the Ethical, Inclusive, Sustainable, and Innovative deployment of AI, ensuring that technology uplifts rather than divides. ABC translates this vision into action: Accelerate AI adoption and innovation, Build AI infrastructure and Collaborate globally to spread the benefits of AI to all. Together, these principles provide a structured pathway to harness AI responsibly while maximizing its transformative potential.

Throughout the year, WITSA remained committed to advancing technology for global good. The conversation is less about if AI and trade shifts will transform our world and more about how we collaboratively shape that transformation to secure inclusive and sustainable progress for everyone.

Dato' Dan E Khoo
Chief Executive Officer

AFFILIATE MARKETPLACE

UNLOCK GLOBAL VISIBILITY WITH WITSA'S AFFILIATE MARKETPLACE

WITSA's Global Affiliate Marketplace is a powerful catalytic platform designed to help our members drive revenue, expand visibility, and build trust worldwide. With the collective strength of WITSA's global network, this initiative opens doors for organizations of all sizes to amplify their reach and engage with diverse audiences across the world.

Why Join the WITSA Global Affiliate Marketplace?

Affiliate marketing through WITSA empowers members to:

- Showcase innovation on a trusted global stage
- Build credibility through association with WITSA's mission
- Generate new revenue streams while expanding networks



Promotional Opportunities for WITSA Members and Their Member Networks

- **Advertising Bundles**
- Boost your brand's visibility through WITSA's newsletters, website, social media, and webinars, connecting with thousands across our global community.
- **Sponsorship Opportunities**
- Elevate your company with trusted global recognition by sponsoring WITSA's flagship programs in 2026, including **WCIT**, the **WITSA Global AI Summit**, the **WITSA Global Awards**, and the **WITSA World Cup**. Sponsorship enhances credibility, visibility, and alignment with WITSA's mission to advance technology for sustainable development.
- **Global Partner Program**
- Secure multi-year sponsorship packages across multiple platforms, ensuring consistent visibility throughout WITSA's worldwide network.
- **Affiliate Sales Programs**
- Members can benefit directly by promoting participation in WITSA programs, while also offering exclusive **Member-Only Deals** to WITSA's global audience.

AFFILIATE MARKETPLACE

Activate, Amplify, Accelerate

This marketplace is more than visibility, it's about unlocking the full potential of WITSA's platforms. By engaging in sponsorships, advertising, and affiliate sales, members strengthen their role in shaping the future of technology while reaping tangible rewards.

Together, we can activate, amplify, and accelerate the impact of technology for sustainable development.

For more information, to sponsor a program, advertise your company, or promote your products and services, please contact: emily@witsa.org



SPOTLIGHT ON SPEAKERS BUREAU

The WITSA Speakers Bureau continues to be a dynamic platform for global visibility and thought leadership. In 2025, the Bureau strengthened connections across our member network, supported thought leadership content, and contributed to webinars, panels, and partner initiatives worldwide.

From CES to the inaugural WITSA Global AI Summit, and from MEET ICT to APRICOT 2025, our speakers have shared insights this year at major global tech events, positioning WITSA as a trusted voice in innovation, technology and policy.

A Global Strategic Asset



The Speakers Bureau is more than a roster of experts, it is an engine for visibility, influence, and growth. By showcasing WITSA's visionary leaders and innovators, we amplify the reach of our network and empower members to engage with global audiences by:

- Spotlights Talent and Featuring WITSA's government leaders, corporate trailblazers, pioneering inventors, and influential tech visionaries.
- Providing Ease of Access whereby Members can request expert speakers and content support for events and programs.
- Offering a Premium Resource for Corporate Engagement and their tech events.
- Creating Strategic Partnerships to Collaborate with event organizers and networks worldwide.
- Empowering members to elevate their experts and thought leaders, amplifying WITSA's global network and reach.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPEAKERS BUREAU



How can members support the WITSA Speakers Bureau?

WITSA Members play a vital role in boosting awareness and engagement, celebrating the excellence of our network. This initiative drives knowledge exchange, strengthens partnerships, and opens new opportunities. Members are encouraged to:

- Tap into the WITSA Speakers Bureau for their own events
- Promote the Bureau to partners, governments, and corporate networks
- Expand networks and partnerships across industries and regions by helping to grow the Bureau

Together, we are building a powerhouse of innovation and influence that celebrates excellence and drives impact across the global tech community.

For more information on how to engage with the WITSA Speakers Bureau, or to request speaker support for your upcoming events, please contact: emily@witsa.org



Next
World
System?



Alan E.
Wiseman
President
WITSA

Dean Woodley

- Senior Fellow, the Foundation for American Innovation
- Policy Fellow, Fathom
- Author of the AI-focused newsletter [Hyperdimensional](#)

Nov.13, 2025
(UTC -5)

For more info
& to Register
to attend,
scan this link



May, June 12, 2025
10:00 AM ET / 13:00 UTC

Register
for the link
to attend

SCAN ME
PRESIDENT
A FIRST TRADE

Monday, February 10, 2025
9:00AM ET
Via Zoom

Global AI Governance Underway

Speaker

Nick Ashton-Hannant

Senior Director
Digital Economy Policy, APCO

August 14, 2025
10:00 UTC/GMT

For more info
& to Register
to attend,
scan this link



SCAN ME
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Beyond the Hype
Using AI as a Practical, Everyday

Speaker

Sayash Kapoor

- Princeton University's Center for Information Technology Policy
- Senior Fellow, Mozilla
- Co-Author, "AI Snake Oil: What Artificial Intelligence Can Do, What It Can't, and How to Tell the Difference"
- TIME's 100 Most Influential People in AI

May, June 5, 2025
10:00 AM ET / 13:00 UTC

Register
for the link
to attend



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WITSA WEBINAR SERIES 2025

ACTION
FRAMEWORK

to Accelerate Global Innovation
Inclusive Prosperity

WITSA WEBINAR SERIES 2025: 01

HOW TO UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT TRUMP'S AMERICA FIRST TRADE POLICY

February 10, 2025

Ed Brzytwa, Vice President of International Trade for the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), directs CTA's trade and supply chain policy to enhance the U.S. consumer technology industry's global competitiveness. He previously served as an international trade advocate for the American Chemistry Council and Information Technology Industry Council, and as a trade negotiator with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and U.S. Department of Commerce. Ed holds Master's degrees from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (where he was a Fulbright fellow) and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, and a Bachelor's degree in The Classics from the College of the Holy Cross, Massachusetts.



Recording available at:
<https://www.witsa.org/webinars/how-to-understand-president-trumps-america-first-trade-policy>

The webinar examined global trade uncertainties and the future of AI through a scenario planning framework. It underscored the critical need for economic diversification, digital transformation, and modernized policy frameworks and provided a deeper dive into the recently-introduced America First Trade Policy.



WITSA WEBINAR

HOW TO UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT TRUMP'S AMERICA FIRST TRADE POLICY

Key Points:

- Scenario Planning: The discussion utilized a scenario planning framework based on the global trade environment and the future of AI, outlining four potential futures—from a prosperous free-trade AI utopia to a chaotic dystopia marked by trade wars. The analysis stressed the critical need for economic diversification, digital transformation, and modernizing policy frameworks.
- Proposed Tariff Impacts: The analysis provided by the Consumer Technology Association (CTA) detailed the significant economic effects of proposed tariffs, including a 10% universal baseline tariff and a 60% tariff on imports from China. A CTA study projected these tariffs could drastically increase product prices and reduce consumer purchasing power by an estimated \$90 billion to \$143 billion, ultimately negatively impacting U.S. households.
- U.S. Tariff Policy Developments: Recent shifts in policy were outlined, noting the enforcement of a new 10% tariff on imports from China and ongoing negotiations with Canada and Mexico. The policy was noted as being potentially improvisational and could lead to a more isolated U.S. economy.
- Administration Personnel: Details were provided on key appointments and ongoing confirmations within the new administration for positions like Treasury, Homeland Security, Commerce, and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), noting the diverse perspectives on China policy among the appointees.
- Policy Implications for Technology: Tariffs are expected to lead to quick price increases in the tech sector, but the resulting uncertainty is seen as a greater threat, potentially hindering economic growth by prompting companies to delay investments, hiring, and innovation. The importance of reducing trade barriers to avoid repeating historical economic mistakes, such as those associated with the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, was emphasized.
- Trade Advocacy: The discussion asked if reciprocal tariffs were a punitive measure and debated if the U.S. should instead pursue a goal of zero tariffs with trading partners. The America First Trade Policy Memorandum was highlighted, which requires key agencies to submit reports to the President by April 1, 2025.

WITSA WEBINAR SERIES 2025: 02

LESSONS FROM DEEPEEK, DEMOCRATIZATION OF AI AND OPEN SOURCE

February 27, 2025

Charles Mok is a Research Scholar at the Global Digital Policy Incubator, Stanford University, and serves on the Board of Trustees for the Internet Society. He was a Legislative Council member in Hong Kong (2012-2020) representing Information Technology. In 2021, he founded Tech for Good Asia. As an entrepreneur, he co-founded HKNet in 1994, an early Hong Kong ISP. He has held leadership roles in numerous IT and internet organizations, including founding chair of the Internet Society Hong Kong. He holds BS and MS degrees in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University.

The discussion centered on the transformative implications of recent advancements in artificial intelligence, focusing on a new Chinese AI model's impact on the global landscape. The conversation explored technical, financial, and geopolitical factors shaping the future of AI development and governance.



Recording available at:
<https://www.witsa.org/webinars/lessons-from-deepeek-democratization-of-ai-and-open-source>

WITSA WEBINAR

LESSONS FROM DEEPSEEK, DEMOCRATIZATION OF AI AND OPEN SOURCE

Key points:

- Market Disruption and AI Models: The emergence of new AI models, R1 and V3, has surprised the industry by demonstrating performance comparable to offerings from established US companies at a significantly lower reported cost. The company, a side project of a hedge fund, is focused on developing an Artificial General Intelligence model and is noted for its strategy of hiring domestic talent.
- Misleading Development Costs: An analysis of AI model development revealed that reported costs, calculated based on successful final training runs, are misleading. The actual total costs, including extensive trials, errors, hardware acquisition, and cloud services, could be vastly greater than initially reported.
- Security and Regulatory Concerns: Significant concerns were raised regarding the new AI app, including potential regulatory violations like GDPR due to data transfer to servers in China. Issues around the model's security, its susceptibility to generating malware, and the need for source code audits by integrating companies were emphasized.
- Geopolitics and Fragmentation: The discussion highlighted the growing disparity in AI development, with a shift toward increased investment in Europe and ongoing innovation in China under governmental constraints. The potential for the global AI ecosystem to fragment into regional blocks, with differing model accessibility and cost structures, was a core point of uncertainty.
- Governance and Collaboration: The necessity for international collaboration on policy recommendations was underscored to mitigate risks associated with information sharing and surveillance. A cautionary note was given regarding over-reliance on major technology companies, advocating for diversified investment in AI infrastructure. The complexities of AI governance and the debate over the definition of "open source" versus "open weight" in AI models were also explored.

WITSA WEBINAR SERIES 2025: 03

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM

March 13, 2025

Alan Wm. Wolff, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and former deputy director-general of the WTO, focuses his research on WTO reform, the roles of the US, EU, and China in the global trading system, and using trade for economic prosperity. His book, Revitalizing the World Trading System (Cambridge University Press 2023), concerning the future of the trading system, was named one of the Financial Times' best economics books of 2023.

Global Trade Landscape: The session focused on the challenges and future direction of the global trading system amid geopolitical changes, highlighting the increasing importance of global tech trade and the implications of artificial intelligence.



Recording available at:

<https://www.witsa.org/webinars/lessons-from-deepseek-democratization-of-ai-and-open-source>

Key points:

- **Challenges and Reforms:** The disruptive impact of past tariffs requires the urgent establishment of a new World Trading System Code of Conduct by 2025. Preserving a rules-based system is paramount, with a recommendation for World Trade Organization (WTO) members to pursue plurilateral agreements to enhance cooperation.

WITSA WEBINAR

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM

- Institutional Effectiveness: The WTO faces limitations, as its top leader lacks the authority to propose initiatives, which hinders the organization's ability to address critical global issues like food insecurity and climate change. Strategic foresight is necessary to prepare for future challenges.
- Trade Dynamics and Negotiation: As the world export share of one major economy diminishes, other nations are encouraged to pursue bilateral agreements to manage trade relations independently. Successful trade negotiations should focus on sectors with competitive advantages and be driven by the private sector's interest in tariff reductions. A streamlined, broad tariff column approach was suggested for reciprocal negotiations.
- The Path Forward: The consensus supports collaboration to maintain a modified, rules-based world trading system and prevent fragmentation. The member countries outside one major economy should strive to retain this system by launching formal negotiations within the WTO to address existing problems, even without full consensus. Concerns exist that some large emerging markets may leverage the changing dynamics for political and economic advantage, potentially obstructing reform.



WITSA WEBINAR SERIES 2025: 04

AI AS A NORMAL TECHNOLOGY

June 5, 2025

Sayash Kapoor, a computer science PhD candidate at Princeton, co-authored "AI as Normal Technology" with Professor Arvind Narayan, which argues for human control over AI and critiques the perception of AI as an autonomous agent.

The central argument in the webinar posits that AI should be viewed as a normal, general-purpose technology, rejecting the narratives of technological determinism, superintelligence, and dystopian collapse. Instead, it emphasizes that society and institutions can and should remain in control of AI's trajectory, a goal that does not require drastic, immediate policy or technical breakthroughs.



Recording available at:
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10dXdfkBUsiRgVGbP2hYcUzm6k5YRtgMv/view?
usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10dXdfkBUsiRgVGbP2hYcUzm6k5YRtgMv/view?usp=sharing)





WITSA WEBINAR

AI AS A NORMAL TECHNOLOGY

Key points:

- Learning from History: The framework draws lessons from past technological revolutions, noting that widespread adoption and diffusion are slow, uncertain processes that require complementary innovations. The three stages of technology adoption—*invention*, *complementary innovation*, and *diffusion*—are highlighted, stressing that businesses must develop applications to effectively integrate new AI models into their workflows.
- Impact on Labor: The focus is on task automation rather than the elimination of entire job roles. AI is expected to redefine professional responsibilities, shifting cognitive tasks toward AI specification and control. Examples from the legal field illustrate how automating specific processes, such as e-discovery, leads to new responsibilities and a potential increase in job demand.
- Control and Policy: The necessity of robust policy mechanisms and market incentives is underscored to maintain control over AI systems and mitigate the risk of power concentration. It stresses that the realization of AI's benefits and risks will occur during widespread deployment, not at the point of invention.
- Recommendations for SMEs: Smaller and medium-sized enterprises are encouraged to drive innovation and diffusion by enhancing user interfaces for AI tools, investing in workforce training, and conducting iterative pilot projects to explore effective applications.
- Limitations and Reality: The discussion critiques the over-reliance on benchmark evaluations, arguing they often misrepresent the complexity of real-world professional tasks. It acknowledges issues such as AI hallucinations and advocates for a grounded view of AI risks that accounts for human and institutional limitations, suggesting that while labor dynamics will evolve, the overall structure of society will remain familiar.

WITSA WEBINAR SERIES 2025: 05

U.S. TRADE POLICY

June 12, 2025

Ed Brzytwa, Vice President of International Trade for the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), directs CTA's trade and supply chain policy to enhance the U.S. consumer technology industry's global competitiveness. He previously served as an international trade advocate for the American Chemistry Council and Information Technology Industry Council, and as a trade negotiator with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and U.S. Department of Commerce. Ed holds Master's degrees from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (where he was a Fulbright fellow) and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, and a Bachelor's degree in The Classics from the College of the Holy Cross, Massachusetts.

U.S. TRADE POLICY

Update on Reciprocal Tariffs, AI Diffusion Rule, IEEPA and Section 232 - Goals, Implementation, and Harms

Speaker

Ed Brzytwa

- Vice President of International Trade, Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
- Regional Vice Chairman - North America, WITSA
- Washington DC's 500 Most Influential People of 2025, Washingtonian

Thursday, June 12, 2025
9:00AM EDT / 13:00 UTC
Via Zoom

Register for the link to attend

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WITSA

A Webinar Series by WITSA
World Innovation, Technology and Services Alliance

The webinar focused on U.S. tariff policy and actions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. It provided an update on the ongoing trade negotiations as well as an understanding of the goals behind these tariffs, their implementation processes, and the potential impact on international trade and technology sectors.

It explored how these tariffs were designed to protect national security and economic interests, and also discussed the unintended consequences such as increased costs, supply chain disruptions, and strained international relations.

WITSA WEBINAR

U.S. TRADE POLICY

Key points:

- Escalated Tariff Policy: The current administration has implemented a sharp escalation in protectionist trade policies, including a minimum 10% "reciprocal" tariff on nearly all U.S. imports, effective April 5. Higher tariffs (11% to 50%) were scheduled but were suspended for 90 days for most countries, with China being the exception.
- Strategic Exemptions: Goods initially excluded from reciprocal tariffs include copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, certain critical minerals, and energy products. Electronic devices (smartphones, laptops) were also exempted from reciprocal tariffs but are expected to be included in forthcoming semiconductor tariffs under Section 232.
- AI Export Control Rollback: The previous administration's AI Diffusion Rule, which limited the export of U.S.-made AI chips, was formally rescinded, and new replacement rules are currently being drafted by administration officials.
- Core Policy Tools and Legal Challenges: The policy framework primarily utilizes the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act. A major legal challenge resulted in a court vacating the reciprocal tariffs, finding the administration exceeded its IEEPA authority, though a stay has kept the tariffs in effect pending an appeal to the Supreme Court.
- Trade Negotiations and Leverage: The tariffs are being used as leverage in trade talks with an estimated 22 countries to eliminate trade barriers. The deadline for the higher reciprocal tariffs is subject to extension for countries "negotiating in good faith."
- High-Rate China Tariffs: The combination of IEEPA and legacy Section 301 tariffs means some Chinese goods face a total tariff rate as high as 55%.
- Focus on Section 232: Section 232 investigations are expected to become the primary trade tool if the IEEPA tariffs are invalidated. The investigation into semiconductors, covering an estimated \$383 billion in imports, is a critical issue for the technology sector, with uncertainty over whether a potential 25% tariff would apply to the value of the semiconductor content or the entire finished product.
- Industry Response: The trade policy environment has created a high degree of uncertainty in the global tech trade. Industry groups are responding by engaging in significant media outreach, supporting legislative efforts to reclaim Congressional authority on tariffs (Trade Review Act), and advocating for a market-opening trade agenda focused on technology.

WITSA WEBINAR SERIES 2025: 06

MAJOR GLOBAL AI GOVERNANCE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY IN 2025

August 14, 2025

Nick Ashton-Hart has two decades of experience in high-stakes multilateral negotiations, advising multinational corporations, UN member states, and NGOs on law and policy across digital economy domains. He was a lead private sector negotiator for the UN cybercrime convention that concluded in 2024. As a senior director for Digital Economy Policy at APCO in New York, his current focus areas include artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, international peace and security's cyber dimension, and international law enforcement cooperation on cybercrime.

This webinar explored the critical, multipolar crossroads of global AI governance in 2025. It analyzed how intensely divergent national interests, regional alliances, and geopolitical tensions were shaping international negotiations. The session highlighted both the potential for international cooperation and the significant obstacles to achieving a worldwide consensus on AI standards.



Recording:
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=Ud_tjJ1alc8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ud_tjJ1alc8)



WITSA WEBINAR

MAJOR GLOBAL AI GOVERNANCE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY IN 2025

Key points:

- UN Scientific Panel on AI: Negotiations are underway to establish an independent scientific panel on artificial intelligence, designed to mirror the intergovernmental framework for climate change. The panel is planned to consist of 40 members, with specific requirements for geographic and gender balance, a point of contention for some member states. Its mandate is to aggregate existing research on AI governance and report annually to the UN General Assembly.
- Governance Frameworks: Discussions are advancing on a governance dialogue, set to begin in 2026, alongside upcoming debates at the UN General Assembly. A successful consensus process is deemed essential to facilitate political progress on contentious issues.
- Opposition to Multi-Stakeholder Principles: Significant challenges exist due to opposition from certain powerful nations regarding multi-stakeholder governance models.
- Data Governance and Economic Participation: There is a recognized need for private sector engagement in the UN working group on data governance, which aims to address the economics of data. Developing countries emphasize control over national data as crucial for their participation in the AI-driven economy, with contrasting strategies between major global powers noted in this context.
- Future Scenario: The necessity of international collaboration is a primary focus to prevent a fragmented, multipolar world. Such fragmentation could stifle innovation and impede inclusive, effective decision-making processes for the future development and deployment of AI.

WITSA WEBINAR SERIES 2025: 07

LESSONS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE & FUTURE OF U.S. AI REGULATION

November 13, 2025

Dean Woodley Ball, Senior Fellow at the Foundation for American Innovation, Policy Fellow at Fathom, and author of the AI newsletter Hyperdimensional, focuses on emerging technologies and governance. Previously, he was Senior Policy Advisor for AI and Emerging Technology at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he drafted America's AI Action Plan (published in July), and a Strategic Advisor for AI at the National Science Foundation. His bio is [here](#). In this Webinar, Mr. Ball discussed his time at the White House, the drafting of America's AI Action Plan, and the future of AI regulation.

The session focused on the transformative impact of AI technology and the complexities of U.S. AI regulation.



LESSONS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE & FUTURE OF U.S. AI REGULATION

Speaker
Dean Woodley Ball

- Senior Fellow, the Foundation for American Innovation
- Policy Fellow, Fathom
- Author of the AI-focused newsletter Hyperdimensional

Thurs, Nov. 13, 2025
9:00AM ET (UTC -5)
Via Zoom

SCAN ME

For more info & to Register to attend, scan this link

A Webinar Series by  **WITSA**
World Innovation, Technology and Services Alliance

Recording:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ud_tjJ1alc8





WITSA WEBINAR

LESSONS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE & FUTURE OF U.S. AI REGULATION

Key points:

- Regulatory Reform and Innovation: The government's role is critical in maintaining U.S. AI leadership by reducing outdated regulatory barriers. A comprehensive review is necessary to ensure existing state and federal regulations, such as those from OSHA, accommodate modern technological advancements like drones.
- Economic and Labor Market Impact: While AI is expected to drive significant job creation and re-industrialization, addressing potential labor dislocation is crucial. The necessity of establishing effective training programs through partnerships between private firms and local institutions was highlighted to develop a workforce skilled in AI infrastructure.
- International Governance and Standards: The speaker critiqued international AI frameworks, including the UN's initiative and a proposal for a world AI cooperation organization, viewing them as potential sources of competing standards that could undermine global cooperation. U.S. decision-making and leadership in setting global standards were strongly advocated.
- Sovereignty and Market Structure: It was predicted that the AI market would likely evolve into an oligopoly. To address sovereignty concerns, particularly around data governance, collaboration between local firms and American companies was emphasized as a more effective strategy than protectionism.
- Action Plan and Infrastructure: The administration's AI Action Plan was described as a proactive set of 90 policy prescriptions designed to maintain American leadership, manage risks, and foster collaboration. Furthermore, the necessity of upgrading national electrical infrastructure to support the demands of AI data centers was identified as a major priority.

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WITSA WEBINAR

The Impact of America's Tariffs on the World Trading System (WTO)

DATE: January 27 | **TIME:** 9:00 AM ET | **REGISTRATION:** <https://forms.gle/aNFPTiCSuDvkUFJd8>

REGISTER NOW

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Overview

As the global trade system reaches a critical turning point, WITSA presents a timely follow-up webinar to assess the dramatic shifts in international commerce since our March 2025 session, "What's Next for the World Trading System?"

Entering 2026, the resurgence of tariffs and reciprocal trade measures has placed the rules-based multilateral order under growing strain. This webinar will examine the impact of these developments and explore what lies ahead as the world approaches the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14).

Details & Registration



NEWS

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UPDATES FROM MEMBERS



Contributed by Robert Janssen, WITSA Deputy Chairman

Innovation, Creative Destruction, and Responsibility in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt — three thinkers who helped the world understand that the true engine of economic growth lies not in resources or capital, but in the human capacity to innovate.

Their research, centered on innovation-driven growth, offers a powerful insight for our time: how to channel the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the good of society — not merely for profit.

The Cycle of Creative Destruction

Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt formalized Joseph Schumpeter's idea of "creative destruction" — the perpetual process through which new technologies replace the old, driving productivity and renewal.

Innovation, therefore, is both creator and disruptor. It generates opportunity but also challenges stability. Progress emerges from the dynamic tension between disruption and reinvention.



Joel Mokyr



Philippe Aghion



Peter Howitt



Culture, Institutions, and Purpose

Joel Mokyr expanded this model by revealing the cultural and institutional foundations of technological progress.

Societies that thrive are those that nurture curiosity, intellectual freedom, and tolerance for risk. Technological advancement arises not only from capital, but from a culture that values knowledge and experimentation, and from institutions that connect science, education, and entrepreneurship.

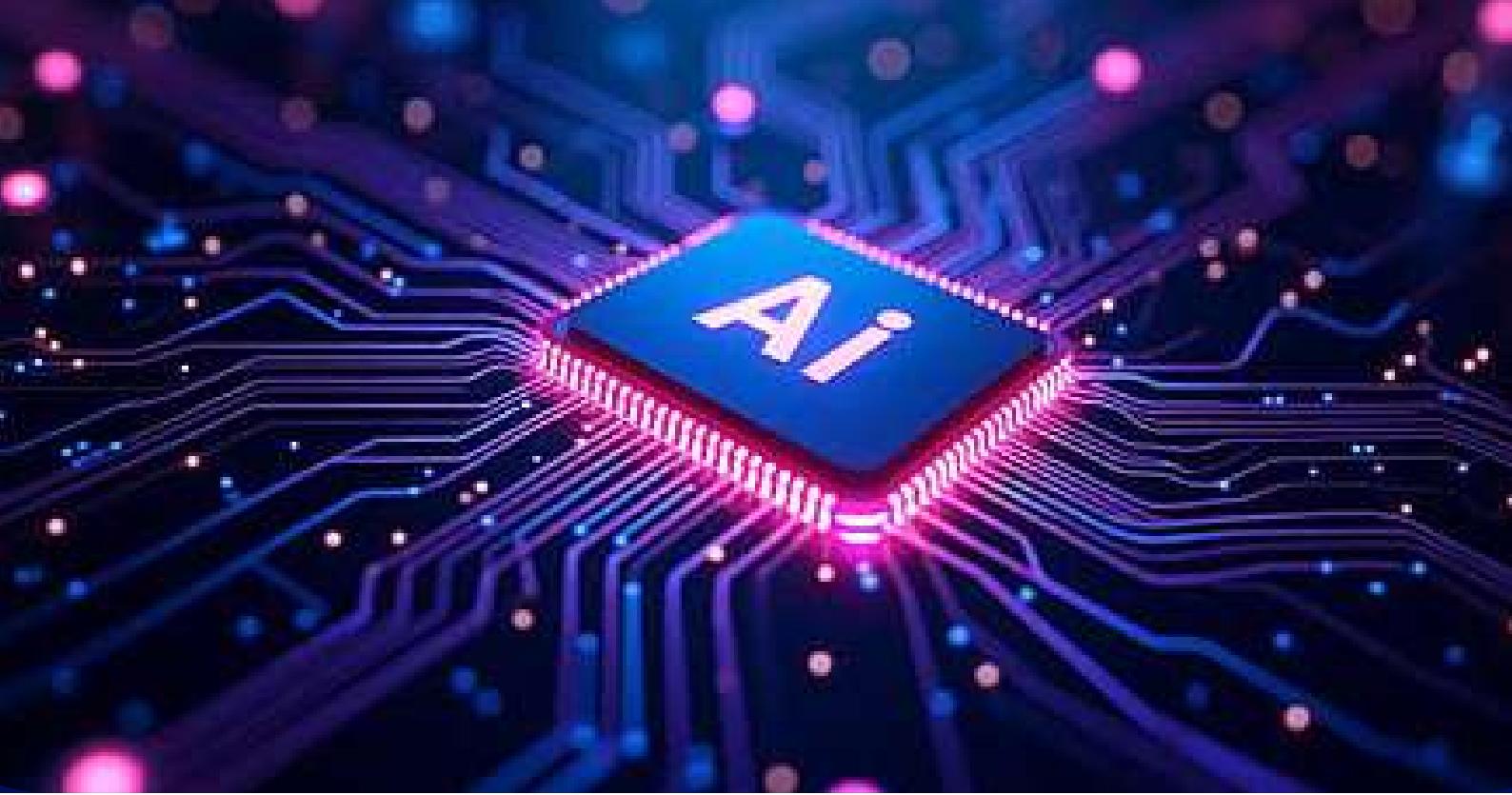
Where fear of change prevails, innovation stagnates. Where learning and collaboration flourish, prosperity follows.

The Architecture of Responsible Innovation

The laureates' work also points to the institutional pillars of a healthy innovation ecosystem: fair competition, education and research investment, and protection of intellectual property. Yet in the 21st century, one principle stands out: the social management of innovation. Creative destruction inevitably produces winners and losers, and resilient societies are those that ensure retraining and inclusion — turning disruption into opportunity rather than exclusion. True innovation balances ambition with humanity.

Artificial Intelligence and the Ethics of Progress

We now stand at the frontier of Artificial Intelligence, where technological acceleration has no precedent and global implications are immense. AI is reshaping industries, professions, and governance — challenging our ethical and social foundations. The essential question is not whether to innovate, but why and for whom. AI must become a tool for human progress, expanding access to education, sustainability, and equality.



Rio de Janeiro: Toward a Global Capital of Innovation and AI

Within this global transformation, Rio de Janeiro stands out with a unique vocation to become one of the world's capitals of innovation and artificial intelligence. The city combines world-class universities, research centers, creative hubs, and a dynamic startup ecosystem. But success will only be achieved if all local actors — academia, industry, government, and civil society — unite around a shared purpose.

Rio's aspiration to position itself as a true "AI City" depends on collective strength, the synergy of talent, and a long-term vision that connects ethics, technology, and inclusion. The same city that blends art, science, and nature can now lead by integrating innovation and human values, becoming a global reference for responsible, human-centered progress.

Innovation as a Public Good

Innovation remains the engine of socio-economic development, but its legitimacy derives from purpose.

The nations and cities that align technology with humanity will not only lead markets — they will shape the future.

As the Nobel laureates remind us, progress is never automatic — it is a conscious choice. And it is up to us — as innovators, citizens, and global leaders — to ensure that this choice is made in the name of the common good, turning Rio de Janeiro into a living symbol of purposeful innovation.

By
Robert Janssen
WITSA Deputy Chairman



Contributed by BTG, Netherlands

NL Tech Week, September '25

From September 15th to 18th, the Netherlands celebrated the third edition of NL Tech Week, the national technology and innovation event organized by BTG. Under the annual theme "Connecting Tech to Society," government, businesses, and knowledge institutions gathered at inspiring locations in The Hague, Almere, Wageningen, and Rijswijk. For four days, innovation, digitalization, sustainability, and societal impact took center stage.

Full (Dutch text): <https://btg.org/nieuws/artikel/nl-tech-week-2025-succesvol-afgesloten-vier-dagen-vol-inspiratie-en-innovatie/>

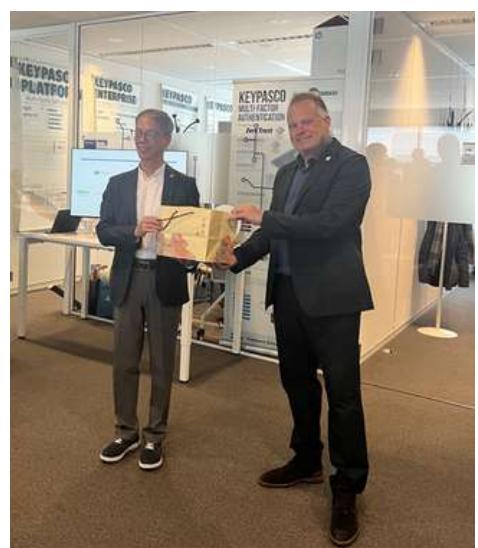
Pictures: <https://btg.org/evenementen/btg-nl-tech-week-15-18-september/>



BTG hosts Taiwan Delegation Visit to The Hague, October '25

The Taiwan Cyber delegation participated in the One Conference and made use of the opportunity to hold a matchmaking event at the HSD Campus on October 2nd. A valuable opportunity to explore potential exchanges with BTG members, particularly those in infrastructure- or OT-related sectors. This session was made possible with the help of the Taiwanese WITSA member TISSA.

Jiunn-Shiow, Director General of Administration for Digital Industries, MODA (Ministry of Digital Affairs), exchanged gifts with Frits Bussemaker, Board member of WITSA and representing BTG.





Contributed by BTG, Netherlands



BTG-Taiwan Matchmaking Session at HSD Campus

Leveraging their presence in The Hague, the Taiwan Cyber Delegation held a dedicated matchmaking session at the HSD Campus on October 2nd, hosted in partnership with BTG. This session served as a strategic opportunity for BTG members—especially those in critical infrastructure, cybersecurity, and operational technology—to explore potential business exchanges, joint projects, and innovation partnerships with Taiwanese companies.

The session generated meaningful conversations on cybersecurity solutions, digital infrastructure protection, and opportunities for bilateral cooperation. Its success was made possible through the efforts of TISSA, Taiwan's WITSA member, whose coordination and support enabled a productive and well-connected engagement.



Contributed by BTECH, Bahrain

Bahrain Celebrates 30 Trailblazing Digital Projects at the Bahrain Digital Content Award 2025

Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH), in strategic partnership with WorkSmart for Events Management, proudly announced the winners of the Bahrain Digital Content Award (BDCA) 2025, recognizing 30 pioneering digital initiatives across 11 categories. The event highlights Bahrain's expanding global leadership in digital innovation and content excellence.

Held under the patronage of His Excellency Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council, and attended by senior government and private sector representatives, the BDCA ceremony underscored Bahrain's continued commitment to building a dynamic digital ecosystem aligned with the Kingdom's Economic Vision 2030.

Celebrating Innovation Across Sectors

Among the distinguished winners were transformative projects in government services, business and commerce, education, environment, health, and culture, each demonstrating how digital solutions are reshaping lives and industries in Bahrain. Highlights included:

- Government & Citizen Engagement: eShabab App, Government Hospitals Website, and the Virtual Customer Service Center.
- Inclusion & Empowerment: ATTA Mobile App (RHF), MP Portal, and LMRA's Smart Inspection System.
- Smart Settlements & Urbanization: Property Check and Electricity Consumption Dashboard.
- Business & Commerce: Tijara Platform (BDB), Hadeya (BENEFIT), Sahel App, and Gulf Air's Flight Operations Hub.
- Learning & Education: Maryam AI Learning Assistant, AI-Powered Talent Management Platform, and Teacherless AI Classroom.
- Environment & Green Energy: Beyon Green Energy Program and the HH Shaikh Nasser AI Research ML Platform.



Reflecting on the award's growing influence, BTECH Chairman Tareq Fakhroo emphasized the importance of the BDCA as a catalyst for digital excellence and innovation in the region, quoted saying : "We take immense pride in celebrating the outstanding achievements of this year's BDCA winners. Their groundbreaking projects reflect the maturity and creativity of Bahrain's digital economy and reinforce the Kingdom's position as a regional innovation hub."

Ahmed Al Hujairy, Chairman of the BDCA Organizing Committee, further highlighted the award's alignment with global digital transformation goals, quoted saying : "The BDCA continues to spotlight forward-thinking digital initiatives aligned with global transformation trends. Each winning project exemplifies Bahrain's commitment to innovation, inclusion, and smart solutions that enhance quality of life."

About the Bahrain Digital Content Award (BDCA)

The BDCA is Bahrain's premier national initiative recognizing excellence in digital content creation, innovation, and impact. Established under the umbrella of BTECH, it highlights outstanding achievements across sectors that leverage digital technologies to advance economic, social, and cultural development.









BTECH Showcases Bahrain's Innovations at GITEX Global 2025

Manama, Bahrain — October 2025

The Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) successfully concluded its participation in GITEX Global 2025, the world's largest technology and startup event, by organizing the International Business Hub, a flagship platform that showcased Bahrain's vibrant technology ecosystem and its expanding role in global innovation and collaboration.

In GITEX Global 2025, BTECH's participation reaffirmed Bahrain's position as a regional leader driving digital transformation, cross-border partnerships, and knowledge exchange across the ICT sector.

International Business Hub: Connecting Bahrain to the World

The International Business Hub, hosted by BTECH, served as a vibrant platform for Bahraini companies, innovators, and institutions to connect with global partners, explore new markets, and expand their international footprint.

Throughout the exhibition week, the Hub became a center of collaboration and discovery, hosting high-level meetings, partnership discussions, and technology showcases that reflected Bahrain's spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Your innovation, dedication, and global vision transformed the Hub into a dynamic center of collaboration, creativity, and discovery," BTECH said in a message to its exhibitors.

"Together, we showcased cutting-edge technologies, forged meaningful partnerships, and celebrated the true spirit of international business excellence."

As the week progressed, the Hub witnessed productive engagements, new partnership signings, and investor meetings, reinforcing Bahrain's reputation as an agile and open gateway for regional and global technology business.



As GITEX Global 2025 drew to a close, BTECH extended its gratitude to all partners, sponsors, exhibitors, and visitors who contributed to the event's success. "This year's participation reflected the power of innovation and global connectivity," said BTECH. "We look forward to returning bigger, bolder, and stronger at GITEX 2026, ready to embark on the next chapter of global innovation." Building on the momentum of this year's success, BTECH announced that preparations are already underway for GITEX Global 2026, scheduled for 8-11 December 2026 at the Dubai Exhibition Centre, Expo City.

The upcoming edition will expand Bahrain's participation even further, featuring a larger presence of national ICT companies and innovators, strengthening Bahrain's visibility as a hub for digital excellence and international collaboration.





BTECH's "Tech Innovators" Initiative Empowers Bahrain's Next Generation at GITEX Global 2025

The Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) successfully concluded the Tech Innovators Initiative during GITEX Global 2025, empowering Bahrain's next generation of digital leaders to showcase their creativity and innovation on one of the world's most influential technology stages. The initiative supported ICT students from leading Bahraini universities, providing them the opportunity to present pioneering projects in areas such as artificial intelligence, digital innovation, and smart solutions.

Through this program, BTECH enabled students to engage directly with global investors, technology leaders, and innovation networks, including YouthX and Expand North Star, offering unmatched exposure and networking opportunities.

Inspiring the Innovators of Tomorrow

Mr. Rashed Al-Snan, Chairman of BTECH, praised the initiative's impact, quoted saying: "Our Tech Innovators truly embodied Bahrain's forward-looking vision. Their creativity, curiosity, and determination reflect the strength of Bahrain's digital talent and its readiness to contribute to the global innovation ecosystem. GITEX provided them with an invaluable platform to explore groundbreaking technologies, connect with global visionaries, and discover ideas that are shaping the world of tomorrow."

Mr. Ahmed Al-Hujairy, Senior Advisor to BTECH, highlighted the strategic importance of empowering students through global exposure, quoted saying : "This initiative goes beyond participation — it's about building bridges between academia, industry, and the international technology community.

By connecting young innovators with global opportunities, we are investing in the human capital that will drive Bahrain's digital future and accelerate the nation's journey toward the goals of Economic Vision 2030."



A Collective Effort Powered by Partnership

BTECH extended heartfelt appreciation to its valued sponsors, Khaleeji Bank, GFH, CrediMax, and BMMI, for their unwavering support in making the initiative a success.

"Because of our sponsors' commitment, young Bahraini innovators were able to explore new horizons, engage with international experts, and bring their groundbreaking concepts to life — driving the future of technology and business forward," said Al-Snan.

As GITEX Global 2025 concluded, BTECH announced plans to expand the Tech Innovators Initiative at GITEX Global 2026. The next edition will welcome more students, startups, and partners, continuing Bahrain's mission to position itself as a regional hub for innovation, creativity, and youth-driven technology development.



BTECH Announces Its New Board of Directors to Drive the Next Phase of Digital Growth

Manama, Bahrain — October 2025

The Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) is proud to announce its newly appointed Board of Directors, bringing together a distinguished group of Bahrain's most visionary leaders and innovators from across the technology ecosystem.

The new board includes:

Rashed Al-Snan, CEO & Director, Etisalcom, as Chairman

S.M. Hussaini, CEO, Almoayyed Computers Middle East, as Vice Chairman

Mahmood AlAdraj, Co-founder & CEO, VirtuThinko , as Treasurer

Raoof Nasser, Business Development Manager, GFB Solutions, as Board Secretary

Shahd Zaki, Co-founder & CMO, Pro Code, as Board Member

Rashed Mohamed, CTO, Batelco, as Board Member

Ali Mohsin, Founder & CEO, DOO AI, as Board Member

In a joint statement, the new board expressed deep appreciation to the previous BTECH Board for their dedication, achievements, and trust, which have shaped BTECH into a strong, respected national institution.

"We are truly grateful to the previous board for their vision and tireless efforts," said Mr. Rashed Al-Snan, Chairman of BTECH. "Their contributions established the foundation for BTECH's continued growth and influence. We are also honored that the former board members will continue to serve as Senior Advisors, guiding the new leadership through the next chapter of our journey."

The new board outlined a dynamic roadmap focused on expanding BTECH's role as a catalyst for Bahrain's digital economy, with emphasis on:

- Greater participation in local, regional, and international ICT events to elevate Bahrain's global presence.
- Deepened collaboration with international technology organizations and industry alliances.
- Launching Special Interest Groups (SIGs) for Startups, Artificial Intelligence, Women in Tech, and Youth Empowerment.
- Delivering greater member value by activating global partnerships, supporting digital transformation, and promoting Bahrain's technology sector regionally and globally.

"This board represents a new generation of leadership united by a shared mission, to amplify Bahrain's voice in the global digital landscape," said Mr. Ahmed Al-Hujairy, Senior Advisor to BTECH. "We are committed to advancing innovation, strengthening collaboration, and empowering our members to thrive in a fast-changing world."



Meet the New BTECH Board Members



Rashed Alsnan

*CEO & Director, Etisalcom
Chairman*



SM Hussaini

*CEO, Almoayyed Computers
Middle East
Vice Chairman*



Mahmood Aladraj

*Co-founder & CEO,
VirtuThinko
Treasurer*



Raoof Nasser

*Business Development Manager
GFB Solutions
Board Secretary*



Shahd Zaki

*Co-founder & CMO, Pro Code
Board Member*



Rashed Mohamed

*CTO, Batelco
Board Member*



Ali Mohsin

*Founder & CEO, DOO Ai
Board Member*



MEET ICT & BITEX 2025

BTECH and WorkSmart Successfully Deliver the 13th Edition of MEET ICT & BITEX

The Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH), in partnership with WorkSmart Events Management, successfully concluded the 13th edition of the MEET ICT Conference and the Bahrain International Technology Exhibition (BITEX), held from 25–27 November 2025 at the Gulf Hotel, Manama.

The landmark event was held under the presence of His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, and brought together technology leaders, innovators, policymakers, and global decision-makers under the inspiring theme: "Innovation, Transform, Elevate: AI for the New Economy."

AI at the Center of Economic Transformation

This year's edition highlighted the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on economic diversification, digital transformation, and business innovation across Bahrain and the wider region. The conference positioned Bahrain as a key hub for AI-driven growth, showcasing how emerging technologies are elevating industries and advancing national development goals in line with Bahrain Vision 2030.

A Dynamic Platform for Collaboration and Growth

MEET ICT and BITEX once again served as Bahrain's flagship ICT platforms, creating meaningful engagement between local and international stakeholders. The 2025 edition expanded its reach to a broader network of regional and global partners—including embassies, industry associations, and innovation networks—opening new doors for knowledge exchange, investment, and cross-border collaboration.

As part of the event, BTECH honored outstanding achievements in innovation and excellence within the Bahraini ICT sector, reaffirming its commitment to promoting digital leadership and celebrating industry advancements.



Leadership Reflections

Mr. Rashed Al-Snan, Chairman of BTECH, emphasized the event's strategic importance, noting: "This milestone reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthen Bahrain's position as a leading digital economy. Together with WorkSmart, we created an impactful platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation that aligns with Bahrain's Vision 2030 and supports the region's evolving digital landscape."

Mr. Ahmed Al-Hujairy, CEO of WorkSmart, added:

"Our partnership with BTECH underscores the strategic value of MEET ICT and BITEX as catalysts for thought leadership and AI-driven innovation. This year's event successfully connected government leaders, industry pioneers, and international organizations to accelerate digital growth and investment across the GCC and beyond."

A Successful Gathering Shaping Bahrain's Digital Future

MEET ICT & BITEX 2025 served as a vibrant forum to showcase breakthrough technologies, exchange global insights, and forge partnerships shaping the future of technology and business in Bahrain and the wider region.





RUW Scholarships

BTECH and RUW Launch 50% Scholarships to Empower the Next Generation of Women in Technology

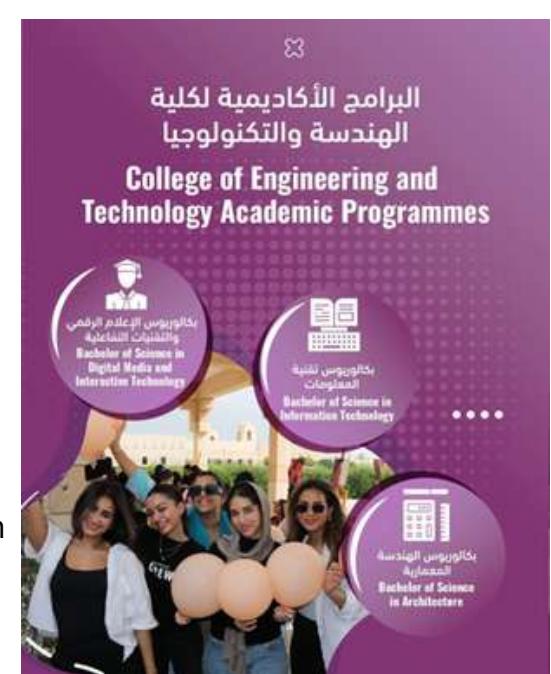
The Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) and the Royal University for Women (RUW) have announced a collaboration to empower young women in the fields of technology, engineering, and innovation through a 50% scholarship initiative for daughters and family members of BTECH members.

Under this partnership, RUW will offer a 50% tuition fee discount throughout the term of education, on all Engineering and Technology programs, including:

- Bachelor of Science in Digital Media and Interactive Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Architecture

The collaboration reflects both institutions' shared commitment to developing the next generation of women leaders and innovators, in line with Bahrain's Vision 2030 and its national agenda for women's empowerment and digital advancement.

Mr. Rashed Al-Snan, Chairman of BTECH, stated: "This partnership embodies BTECH's belief that empowering women is central to driving Bahrain's digital transformation. Through this scholarship, we aim to open new pathways for young women to pursue technology careers, contribute to innovation, and play an active role in shaping the future economy."





Dr. David Stewart, President of the Royal University for Women, added: "RUW is proud to partner with BTECH in this initiative, which not only expands educational access but also reinforces our mission to prepare women for leadership in technology, design, and digital innovation. We believe that when women lead in tech, societies thrive."

This scholarship complements BTECH's wider commitment to youth development and innovation, including programs such as the Tech Innovators Initiative, which gives Bahraini students real-world exposure to global technology ecosystems.

Together, these initiatives reflect BTECH's dedication to nurturing local talent, bridging academia and industry, and building an inclusive digital future.

LEAP 2026

BTECH to Organize the "International Business Hub" at LEAP 2026, Showcasing Bahrain's Growing Leadership in Regional Innovation

The Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) has announced that it will once again organize the International Business Hub (IBH) at LEAP 2026, one of the world's largest technology gatherings, taking place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from March 9–12, 2026.

Building on the success of previous editions, the International Business Hub will continue to serve as a strategic gateway for Bahraini technology companies to connect with global markets, investors, and innovation leaders. The initiative is organized by BTECH in collaboration with WorkSmart Events Management, with the support of Tamkeen and key industry partners.

The International Business Hub has become a central feature of Bahrain's participation in LEAP, spotlighting the Kingdom's growing influence in the GCC and international technology scene.

Empowering Women. Shaping Tomorrow.

Where ambition meets opportunity creating a world where women lead, innovate, and inspire.

Be a BTECH Member and Enjoy Member-Only Benefits When You Sign Up!

Apply and Join Now!

+973 32332999

info@btechbh.org



Following the success of LEAP 2025, where 14 Bahraini companies participated with Tamkeen's support, LEAP 2026 will feature an expanded delegation representing Bahrain's fast-growing startups ecosystem, including innovators in AI, cloud computing, cybersecurity, fintech, education technology, and smart solutions.

"The International Business Hub reflects BTECH's mission to strengthen Bahrain's presence in global technology forums," said Mr. Rashed Al-Snan, Chairman of BTECH. "Our goal is to empower Bahraini startups and companies to connect with international markets, showcase their capabilities, and position Bahrain as a leading hub for digital innovation in the region."

The Hub will feature a diverse range of activities, business meetings, knowledge sessions, and partnership signings, offering companies and startups a dynamic platform to forge collaborations, attract investment, and exchange expertise.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Hujairy, Senior Advisor to BTECH, highlighted the event's strategic impact, quoted saying "The International Business Hub is not just an exhibition space, it's a collaboration engine. It brings together Bahraini, Gulf, and international players to explore emerging opportunities, form strategic alliances, and drive the region's digital transformation agenda forward."

The LEAP 2026 edition will also expand its focus on cross-border innovation, connecting entrepreneurs and enterprises from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and beyond to new investment and export opportunities.

At LEAP 2025, the International Business Hub hosted visits by high-level officials, including H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and H.E. Eng. Abdullah Alswaha, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with a host of distinguished technology leaders and international guests, reflecting the Hub's growing prominence as a regional nexus for innovation, collaboration, and global engagement.

With the continued support of Tamkeen, WorkSmart, and Bahrain's growing community of technology leaders, BTECH aims to make the International Business Hub at LEAP 2026 an even stronger symbol of regional cooperation and innovation leadership.

"This initiative embodies Bahrain's vision for a knowledge-driven economy," Al-Snan added. "It is about transforming opportunity into impact, connecting Bahrain's brightest innovators with the world."

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

Wishing you a joyful
festive season &
a Happy New Year



WITSA

World Innovation, Technology
and Services Alliance

FROM:
THE WITSA CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CEO & SECRETARIAT



Be Part of WITSA's Catalytic Platforms

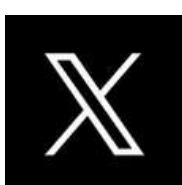
Are you passionate about making a difference in the global tech community? We invite you to be a catalyst for change by participating in WITSA's nine catalytic platforms.

From the World Congress on Innovation & Technology to our Global Awards and AI Ecosystem Network, there's a unique opportunity for everyone to contribute, collaborate, and lead.

To get involved, simply reach out to azlina@witsa.org to learn how you can participate and help shape the future of technology.



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