

WITSA NEWSLETTER

Issue 04/2026

Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital, Innovation & Tech industry

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WITSA

World Innovation, Technology
and Services Alliance



Issue Highlights

WITSA Launched the Global Benchmark of AI Ecosystem Development, Opened the Inaugural WITSA Global AI Awards, and Set the Calendar for Two WITSA Global AI Summits in 2027

In this Issue

- **Feature: The WITSA Global AI Index**
- **The WITSA Global AI Ecosystem Network (WITSA GAIN)**
- **WITSA Global AI Summit 2026, Taipei**
- **The inaugural WITSA Global AI Awards**
- **Looking ahead: two Global AI Summits in 2027 — Rio de Janeiro and Sarawak**
- **The WITSA Global Excellence Awards - Nominations Open!**
- **The WITSA World Cup: Zohari Challenge Trophy**
- **RFP Now Open: WITSA Global AI Summit 2029**
- **RFP Now Open: The World Congress on Innovation and Technology 2030**

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Dear members and industry partners,

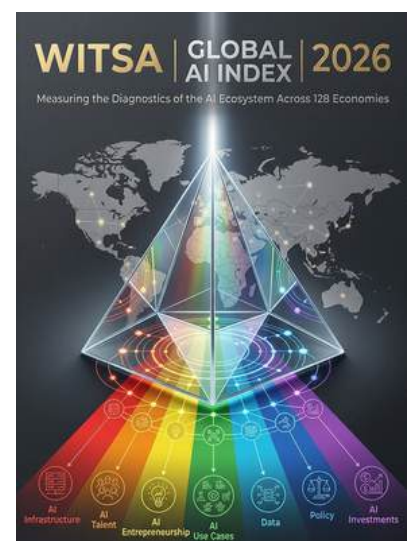
In one week in Taipei at the 2nd edition of the WITSA Global AI Summit, we launched the WITSA Global AI Index, opened the inaugural WITSA Global AI Awards, and ran the in-person edition of the International Match Day. Of everything our global alliance has undertaken in its history, the Index is the one I'd point to first: it is one of the most important projects this alliance has ever embarked on, and that week is where it made history, turning three years of work into a working, evidence-based platform for the entire membership.

The week didn't end in Taipei. I followed it with a closed-door session with TISSA, and later the opportunity to meet with relevant tech industry stakeholders in North America, walking both through what the Index found and what it means for their own AI ecosystem planning. That is exactly the kind of door I want the Index to keep opening for you, and I'll come back to how in a moment.

I want to go through what each of these platforms actually means for you, and where I'd like you to lean in.

Start with the WITSA Global AI Index, because it is the one I most want members to put to work

We studied 128 economies and scored 105 with sufficient data. Across those 105, the capability that most determines an economy's overall standing, entrepreneurship, the formation of AI companies and the capital around them, is also the one every measurement shows is scarcest. That is not a comfortable finding for governments used to procuring their way to an AI ecosystem development strategy, but it is an honest one, and it gives you something no anecdote could: a shared, defensible starting point for the conversations you need to



- 128 economies tracked
- 105 scored
- 7 pillars
- 83 indicators

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have with your own governments, investors, and members. Every economy we scored now, has an individual profile behind this finding – infrastructure, talent, entrepreneurship, use cases, data, public policy, and investments – benchmarked against other countries and economies. If you want to sit down and go through what your economy's profile actually says, where you're strong, where the gaps are, and how to use the findings in your own advocacy, reach out to us via pathway@witsa.org. This is the kind of conversation I've been having with members, governments, agencies, and it's exactly the kind of conversation I'd like to be having with more of you.

We're not stopping at the national level. We've begun piloting a state- and city-level adaptation of the Index that lets us assess an AI ecosystem below the national line. Kuching is one of the first places we're applying it to, ahead of the launch of the Index's second edition in Sarawak in 2027, and I'll be sharing those early findings with the Sarawak steering committee. If your own city or state wants to be part of the next wave, that's a conversation worth starting now.

Year two of the Index will also mean broader coverage. We're reaching out to more national organizations and board members specifically to close the data gaps that limited a handful of economies this time around, so if your association can help supply data for your own economy, I'd like to hear from you.



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The **WITSA Global AI Awards** gave us something to celebrate – the national AI champions building AI services for the communities they serve. Twenty-eight organizations across ten countries showed us what responsible, scalable AI actually looks like when it's deployed rather than pitched — a tax authority recovering a billion dollars in back taxes, a hospital network cutting length of stay by two-thirds, a bank running production multi-agent AI under one of the world's strictest supervisory regimes. We certainly look forward to receiving participation from your national association members for a future edition.



The **WITSA Global AI Summit** itself is where all of this turns into business. Some 500 delegates from 34 countries didn't just sit through two days of keynotes and panels, they filled a program built for introductions: business-matching sessions, a global stage shared by the Index findings and the Award winners, and delegations from every region in the same room at the same time. That's where a national association finds its next investor, a scaleup finds its next market, and a government finds the peer it needs to talk to.



And the **International Match Day**, run in person for the first time, is the part I think members most underuse. It took our Award winners and put them directly in front of delegates, investors, and companies looking for new-market partners, in a structured three-hour session built for business, not just networking. That format is repeatable for any member wanting real introductions into new markets, not just a badge and a handshake — talk to us about how to get your delegation into the next one.





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Which brings me to 2027. You'll find the full details in this issue, briefly: WITSA will convene two Global AI Summits — ***Rio de Janeiro in February alongside our General Assembly, the WITSA Global Excellence Awards, and International Match Day.*** And ***Sarawak in October, hosting the WITSA Global AI Awards, the second WITSA World Cup: Zohari Challenge Trophy, and the second edition of the WITSA Global AI Index, alongside the first look at our city-level ecosystem assessment.***

That is two full opportunities, on two continents, to put your economy's profile in front of the world, nominate your champions, and put your delegation on the Match Day floor. I'd like every member association reading this to have a plan for at least one of them.

None of these platforms are worth much sitting on a shelf. Use them — starting, if I can make one ask, with a conversation about your own economy's AI Ecosystem Development Index profile, and, if you can, help us close the data gaps that stand between this first edition and a complete one next year.

Warm regards,
Dato' Dan E Khoo
Chief Executive Officer

Feb 2027: Brazil
October 2027: Sarawak



WITSA
GLOBAL **A.I.** NETWORK



FEATURE



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No Economy Is Strong Across All Seven Pillars of AI Development, Finds New WITSA Global AI Index

First scale-adjusted, contestable measurement of what 105 economies have actually built — not planned — finds public trust in AI runs opposite to ecosystem development, and AI governance is arriving ahead of the compute it governs

Not one of the world's AI ecosystems is strong across all seven of the pillars that determine whether artificial intelligence generates lasting economic value, according to the WITSA Global AI Index 2026, presented by WITSA in Taipei.

The Index — the global technology industry's AI Ecosystem Development Index — tracks 128 economies and scores 105 of them; the remaining 23, where available data does not meet the scoring threshold, are listed by name and region and will be scored as data allows. It measures what economies have built, not what they have announced, across seven pillars: AI Infrastructure, AI Talent, AI Entrepreneurship, AI Use Cases, Data, Policy and Investments. Each scored economy receives seven pillar scores and an Ecosystem Development Score. The Index deliberately publishes no overall ranking.

128
economies tracked

105
scored

7
pillars

83
indicators

Built on 83 indicators from more than 30 independent sources — including the ITU, World Bank, OECD, UNESCO, WIPO, ILO, UNDP, IMF and UNCTAD, alongside published national government data — the Index is scale-adjusted where relevant, so that capability is measured relative to population rather than in absolute terms. The methodology follows the OECD/JRC Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators and was reviewed by an independent Expert Panel of 22 members from 18 economies across six regions, screened for AI vendor ties and conflicts of interest.

The full methodology, every indicator source and every imputed value are published with the report at www.witsa.org.

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HEADLINE FINDINGS

No economy is complete. None of the 105 scored economies clears the top-quartile benchmark — the average score of the 26 highest-scoring economies on each pillar — across all seven pillars, including the highest-scoring economies. The United States falls short of the benchmark on Talent and Data, Singapore on Infrastructure and Data, and Sweden on Policy.

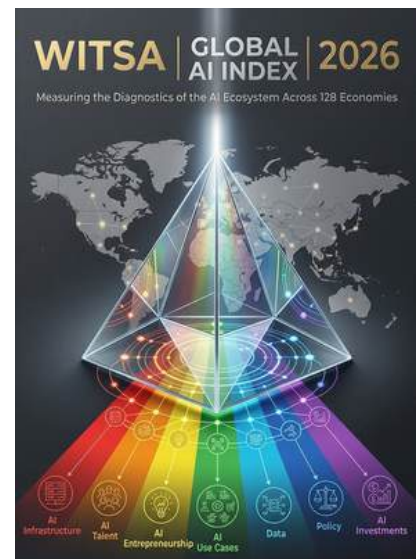
Public trust in AI runs opposite to development. Public trust in AI, measured by Ipsos and Gallup, is highest in emerging and newly developed economies and lowest in the most developed. The eight most trusting publics — led by China, India, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia — are all emerging or newly developed economies; Japan, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland record the lowest trust among scored economies. The mature economies' challenge is consent, the emerging economies' is capacity, and neither has both.

Governance is arriving before the compute it governs. 90 of the 105 scored economies score higher on the Security and Sovereignty sub-pillar than on Compute and Connectivity. Most economies now hold governance capacity for AI infrastructure they have not yet built.

The scarcest pillar is the most differentiating. Entrepreneurship is the world's lowest-scoring pillar, with a global average of 30.6 out of 100, and — together with Investments — the pillar most strongly associated with overall ecosystem development.

Development compounds; it does not leapfrog. High Ecosystem Development Scores occur only where all seven pillars are strong. Excellence in two or three pillars does not produce a high score: economies with a wider-than-median spread between their strongest and weakest pillar score, on average, around seven points lower than those with a narrower spread.

Six regions, one shape. Regional averages span 56 points — North America 80.7 (2 economies), Europe 58.5 (37), Asia-Pacific 43.6 (23), MENA 40.5 (13), Latin America 32.0 (18) and Africa 25.0 (10) — but the profile is nearly identical: Data is the strongest pillar and Entrepreneurship the weakest in five of the six regions. North America, where Use Cases leads and Policy trails, is the exception.



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THE SEVEN PILLARS

Pillar	Global average (0–100)	Highest pillar score
Infrastructure	43.6	Finland (80.0)
Talent	50.7	Singapore (93.1)
Entrepreneurship	30.6	United States (90.2)
Use Cases	44.1	Singapore / United Kingdom (100.0)
Data	62.8	Norway (97.0)
Policy	40.3	China (81.5)
Investments	41.1	Singapore (95.8)

Global averages are across the 105 scored economies. Pillar scores are scale-adjusted; no composite ranking is published.



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Messages from the WITSA Leadership



“When WITSA’s member associations set out to build this Index, the question was not ‘how do we score countries?’ It was ‘how do we give governments a clear, credible picture of what their AI ecosystem looks like today, and what it needs to become?’ The Index gives that picture. Combined with the WITSA Global AI Ecosystem Network, it becomes a strategic map — where an economy stands, where the gaps are, and what the path forward looks like.”

Dato’ Dr Sean Seah, Chairman of WITSA



WITSA has been mapping the impact of AI for years, through our policy papers and the AI events now in our portfolio. The Index is the next step in that commitment. The AI Task Force built the architecture of AI ecosystem measurement because the industry needed an instrument the technology sector itself could stand behind — one built on methodological rigor, not narrative convenience. The result is a seven-pillar, 16-sub-pillar, 83-indicator framework built to the OECD/JRC Handbook, designed to be longitudinal and validated by an independent Expert Panel. The framework and GAIN were designed together; one without the other is incomplete.”

Robert Janssen, Deputy Chairman of WITSA and Chairman, WITSA AI Task Force

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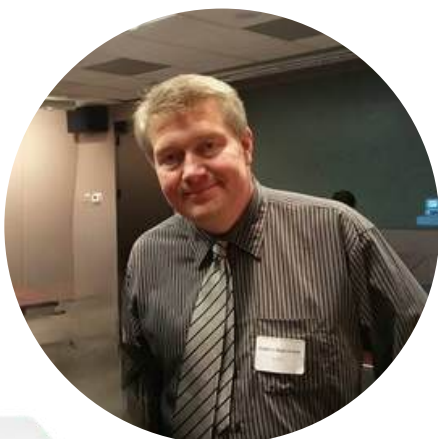
"The WITSA Global AI Index gives policymakers a government-usable, independently validated dataset that measures AI ecosystem development — not AI spending, not strategy declarations, but the structural conditions that determine whether policy intentions convert into economic outcomes. The Global Policy Action Committee is committed to embedding this data in G20 digital economy working groups, ASEAN's digital economy framework, the African Union's digital transformation strategy, and development finance lending criteria."

Edward Brzytwa, Chairman of WITSA Global Policy Action Committee



"WITSA did not build another ranking. We asked a harder question: has this economy actually built the structural conditions for AI to generate value that compounds year over year? That is why the Index measures ecosystem development, not readiness. The findings carry a lesson for the most advanced economies as much as the emerging ones. Public consent is not the constraint facing the fastest-developing ecosystems; it is the constraint facing the mature ones. And the scarce pillars — entrepreneurship and investment — are where the differentiating margin sits. The Index tells every economy the truth about today. WITSA GAIN exists to help them act on it."

Dato' Dan E Khoo, Chief Executive Officer, WITSA



"The methodology is published in full. Every indicator has a documented source. Every imputed value is flagged. And every economy has the right to contest a specific indicator value through the formal Data Review Process run by the Secretariat's data collection team, on identical terms. Scoring is independent of any commercial m'engagement with WITSA. That transparency is not incidental — it is the mechanism that makes the index credible and contestable in equal measure."

Anders Halvoren, Vice President, Global Public Policy, WITSA



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FROM DIAGNOSIS TO ACTION

The Index is the diagnostic engine of the WITSA Global AI Ecosystem Network (WITSA GAIN), which helps economies at any stage of development translate their findings into an AI ecosystem development pathway, from briefings on an economy's Index position to full Economy Reports and strategic road mapping. Details are available at www.witsa.org.

Governments, ministries, regulators and national technology associations can download their Economy Profile at www.witsa.org, identify the highest-leverage development priorities it points to, and request a briefing or a Pathway recommendation at pathway@witsa.org or through their national WITSA member association.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- **Structure:** 7 pillars, 16 sub-pillars, 83 indicators; 128 economies tracked; 105 scored and profiled.. Economies are grouped A/B/C by data availability only — the grouping carries no judgment of AI maturity.
- **Unscored economies:** 23 economies (Group C) did not meet the data-availability threshold for scoring and are listed by name and region only. Of the 105 scored, 78 (Group A) are scored on all 83 indicators and 27 (Group B) on the 44 core indicators.
- **Scoring:** All scores are on a 0–100 scale. Indicators are scale-adjusted (per capita, per GDP or per employment) where relevant. For the 33 indicators where a meaningful absolute value exists — among them GPU/HPC compute, AI researchers, AI patents, AI startups, venture capital and AI R&D — an alternate absolute-scale view is provided in an appendix, combined with the primary score by geometric mean so that depth of capability can be distinguished from sheer scale.
- **Top-quartile benchmark:** for each pillar, the mean score of the 26 highest-scoring economies (the top quartile of 105) on that pillar.
- **Expert Panel:** 22 members from 18 economies across six regions, including senior figures from the OECD, the World Bank, the Center for a New American Security, Stanford University and Harvard Kennedy School alongside national technology association leaders. All members signed conflict-of-interest declarations and were screened for AI vendor ties. The panel validated the methodology, indicator selection, weighting and aggregation across two voting rounds.
- **Public trust data:** Share of population expressing trust in AI (indicator 6.07), drawn from the Ipsos AI Monitor and Gallup with OECD.AI, Eurobarometer and Pew as supplementary sources; available for 52 of the 105 scored economies.
- **Data Review Process:** any economy may contest a specific indicator value through the Secretariat's data collection team at ahalvorsen@witsa.org.
- **Assets:** full report, interactive microsite, 105 economy profiles, all-economy pillar heatmap, and high-resolution charts available upon request at www.witsa.org.

WITSA GAIN: BUILD YOUR ECONOMY'S AI ECOSYSTEM WITH US

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The Index Is the Diagnosis. WITSA GAIN Is the Transformative Opportunity

How every Economy Ecosystem Profile converts into a structured national transformation program

The **WITSA Global AI Ecosystem Network (GAIN)** is the development framework and transformation system that takes every economy's seven-pillar ecosystem diagnosis and converts it into a structured, evidence-based national transformation architecture. GAIN is not a consulting product — it is a framework developed by and for the 80 WITSA member economies, built on the collective knowledge of the industry associations closest to AI deployment in those economies.

The Index + GAIN Transformation Cycle

STAGE 1

Diagnose

The Index provides the validated, seven-pillar as-is ecosystem picture

STAGE 2

Design

GAIN maps the highest-leverage development priorities and designs the intervention architecture

STAGE 3

Deploy

Structured 90-day implementation sprint with the economy's national team

STAGE 4

Track

Progress measured against the seven pillars, feeding improved data into the next Index edition

Closed-Loop Design

Stage 4 feeds Stage 1 directly. This is the longitudinal design that makes GAIN more than a one-time intervention — every annual Index edition measures whether the prior year's GAIN engagement moved the needle.

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From Diagnosis to Budget Decision: How the Cycle Runs in Practice

A recurring pattern across early GAIN engagements: a government begins with strong political commitment to AI, but no validated diagnostic connecting that commitment to a specific, prioritized investment plan.

Once an Economy Ecosystem Profile is in hand, that changes quickly. In one recent sub-national pilot, a regional government moved from a general AI ambition to a budget-approved, phased action plan within 60 days of receiving its profile — built directly on the profile's highest-leverage priorities and routed through its own AI steering structure.

The diagnostic did not tell the government what to want; it told the government, with evidence, where its next dollar of AI investment would do the most structural good. That is the model GAIN is designed to replicate at national scale: diagnostic data that changes a real investment decision, not a report that sits on a shelf.

How to Engage

1	Download your Economy Ecosystem Profile on witsa.org
2	Identify your two highest-leverage development priorities
3	Contact your National Ecosystem Steward or email pathway@witsa.org
4	Receive your AI Ecosystem Development Pathway recommendation within 10 business days

THE WITSA GLOBAL AI SUMMIT 2026

1-2 SEPT - GRAND HOTEL, TAIPEI

AI Alive Beyond the Future

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WITSA Global AI Summit 2026, Taipei

WITSA returns to Taiwan as host TISSA welcomes 472 delegates from 34 countries for a second consecutive year under the theme "AI Alive, Beyond the Future," marking the debut of the WITSA Global AI Awards and the first in-person WITSA International Match Day

WITSA and the Taiwan Innovative Software and Services Association (TISSA) presented the WITSA Global AI Summit 2026 at the Grand Hotel, Taipei in September. Convening under the theme "AI Alive, Beyond the Future," the two-day Summit drew 472 registered delegates from 34 countries and featured 21 speakers across a full program of keynotes, panels, and business-matching activities engaging government, industry, and academic leadership.

This edition marks the Summit's biggest step up in ambition to date, headlined by three firsts for WITSA's global network: the launch of the WITSA Global AI Index, the inaugural WITSA Global AI Awards, and the first in-person edition of the WITSA International Match Day.

WITSA Chairman Dato' Dr Sean Seah mentioned, "Taiwan's selection as host for a second consecutive year is a recognition of the trust our membership places in this ecosystem. With the launch of two landmark platforms in the WITSA Global AI Index and the WITSA Global AI Awards, this Summit will be one of the most consequential gatherings in WITSA's history."



THE WITSA GLOBAL AI SUMMIT 2026

1-2 SEPT - GRAND HOTEL, TAIPEI

Save the Date!

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WITSA on Advocacy

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The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

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Winners of the WITSA Global AI Awards 2026 Celebrated in Taipei

Twenty eight organizations across ten countries and economies recognized for leadership and innovation in artificial intelligence, spanning seven award categories



WITSA celebrated **global champions of the first WITSA Global AI Awards**, honoring twenty eight organizations across ten countries and economies for advances in artificial intelligence spanning AI infrastructure, talent, entrepreneurship, use-cases, data, public policy and investments. The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026 was held in conjunction with the WITSA Global AI Summit, held in Taipei on September 1- 2, 2026.

The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026 is the inaugural edition of WITSA's latest catalytic recognition program, dedicated exclusively to artificial intelligence, setting a new international benchmark for AI that is responsible, impactful, and scalable, rather than simply technically impressive.



The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

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The award categories cover **seven pillars of AI excellence:**

Infrastructure: cloud platforms, computing infrastructure, and foundational systems enabling AI development and deployment at scale

Talent: programs building the AI talent pipeline, from skills development to workforce reskilling and inclusive education

Entrepreneurship: startups and ventures using AI to solve significant problems and create new markets

Use Cases: deployed AI solutions with measurable impact across vertical sectors such as healthcare, climate, agriculture, finance, and public services

Data: data as a source of competitive advantage, excellence in data governance, responsible data ecosystems, privacy-preserving AI, and trustworthy-AI frameworks

Public Policy: regulatory approaches, governance models and fiscal action that translate ethical principles into scalable, innovation-friendly AI policy

Investments: funding vehicles and financial instruments accelerating responsible, impact-driven AI initiatives and companies



The awards were decided through a two-tier process. WITSA's participating member associations ran national selections and nominated up to one candidate per category to WITSA. A WITSA Global Judging Panel then evaluated every national nominee against the established four key criteria, Real-World Impact and Potential, Scalability, Innovative Features and Functionalities and Proven Solution, to determine the winners in each category.



The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

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WITSA Chairman, Dato' Dr Sean Seah highlighted, "These twenty eight winners prove that responsible AI is not a constraint on innovation, it is what lets innovation scale. From Taipei to Bahrain to Brazil, this inaugural class shows that the organizations building trust into their AI from day one are the ones delivering the most lasting impact. We are proud and we congratulate all winners!"



*WITSA Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the WITSA AI Task Force **Robert Janssen** echoed, "What stood out across every category this year was how many of these solutions were built with governance in mind from the start, not bolted on afterward. That maturity is exactly what our AI Task Force has been advocating for, and it gives us real, evidence-based examples to bring back to policymakers."*

*WITSA Chief Executive Officer **Dato' Dan E Khoo** added, "The WITSA Global AI Awards reflect the collective effort of our member associations and the global alliance in uncovering and celebrating national AI champions emerging across ecosystems on six continents — each advancing at its own pace yet collectively shaping the future of intelligent technology."*

Here is the list of winners of the WITSA Global AI Awards 2026:

The WITSA Global AI Award for Infrastructure

Winners	Country / Economy	Nominating Member Association
DOTSOFT S.A.	Greece	SEPE
TM Research & Development (TM R&D) / Group Network Technology, TM	Malaysia	PIKOM
Fiscal Information Agency, Ministry of Finance	Taiwan	TISSA
Consultores e Ingenieros CONSEIN, C.A.	Venezuela	CAVEDATOS

The WITSA Global AI Award for Talent

Winners	Country / Economy	Nominating Member Association
Motor Oil (Hellas) S.A.	Greece	SEPE
PEOPLElogy Berhad	Malaysia	PIKOM
Syscom Computer Engineering Co., Ltd.	Taiwan	TISSA

The WITSA Global AI Award for Entrepreneurship

Winners	Country / Economy	Nominating Member Association
Doutor-AI	Brazil	ASSESPRO
EPSILONNET S.A.	Greece	SEPE
TabSense Limited	Jordan	Int@j
MYPOCKETDOC SDN BHD	Malaysia	PIKOM
BIG DATA Co., Ltd.	Taiwan	TISSA

The WITSA Global AI Award for Use Cases

Winners	Country / Economy	Nominating Member Association
Grupo KELSOF (SoyBot)	Argentina	CESSI
entroy.ai (kinetic8)	Bahrain	BTECH
Motor Oil (Hellas) S.A. / nrg	Greece	SEPE
ProgressSoft Corporation	Jordan	Int@j
REDtone Digital Berhad	Malaysia	PIKOM
BRINEL IQANTO	Romania	ATIC
DOUZONE BIZON Co., Ltd.	South Korea	FKII
Kaohsiung City Government with Linker Vision Co., Ltd.	Taiwan	TISSA

The WITSA Global AI Award for Data

Winners	Country / Economy	Nominating Member Association
Draiven Technology LTDA	Brazil	ASSES PRO
INFOPRO SDN BHD	Malaysia	PIKOM
Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI)	Taiwan	TISSA

The WITSA Global AI Award for Public Policy

Winners	Country / Economy	Nominating Member Association
IDIKA S.M.S.A.	Greece	SEPE
Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC) Berhad	Malaysia	PIKOM
Information Management Center, New Taipei City Government	Taiwan	TISSA

The WITSA Global AI Award for Investments

Winners	Country / Economy	Nominating Member Association
Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC) Berhad	Malaysia	PIKOM
Taoyuan City Government Smart City & Community Development Commission	Taiwan	TISSA



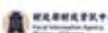


The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

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The WITSA Global AI Award Winners



 DOTSOFT S.A. GREECE	 TM R&D / TM MALAYSIA	 FISCAL INFO. AGENCY TAIWAN	 CONSEIN, C.A. VENEZUELA	 MOTOR OIL HELLAS GREECE	 PEOPLELOGY BERHAD MALAYSIA	 SYSCOM COMP. ENG. TAIWAN	 DOUTOR-AI BRAZIL	 EPSILONNET S.A. GREECE	
 TABSENSE LIMITED JORDAN	 MYPOCKETDOC MALAYSIA	 BIG DATA Co. TAIWAN	 GRUPO KELSOFT ARGENTINA	 ENTROVY.AI (KINETIC8) BAHRAIN	 SATORI / NRG GREECE	 PROGRESSSOFT CORP. JORDAN	 REDTONE DIGITAL MALAYSIA	 BRINEL IQANTO ROMANIA	 DOUZONE BIZON SOUTH KOREA
 KAOHSIUNG / LINKER VISION TAIWAN	 DRAIVEN TECHNOLOGY BRAZIL	 INFOPRO SDN BHD MALAYSIA	 ITRI TAIWAN	 IDIKA S.A. GREECE	 SDEC BERHAD MALAYSIA	 NEW TAIPEI CITY GOVT. TAIWAN	 SDEC BERHAD MALAYSIA	 TAOYUAN CITY GOVT. TAIWAN	
Infrastructure	Talent	Entrepreneurship	Use Cases	Data	Public Policy	Investments			

Infrastructure

Talent

Entrepreneurship

Use Cases

Data

Public Policy

Investments



Award Recipients with Taiwan's Minister of Digital Affairs, Dr. Lin Yi-Jing



The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

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Recipients of The WITSA Global AI Award for Infrastructure



TM Research & Development (TM R&D) / Group
Network Technology, TM - Malaysia



Fiscal Information Agency, Ministry of Finance
- Taiwan

Winners That Accepted the Award Virtually	Country / Economy
DOTSOFT S.A.	Greece
Consultores e Ingenieros CONSEIN, C.A.	Venezuela





The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

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Recipients of The WITSA Global AI Award for Talent



Motor Oil (Hellas) S.A. - Greece



PEOPLElogy Berhad - Malaysia



Syscom Computer Engineering Co., Ltd. - Taiwan





The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

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Recipients of The WITSA Global AI Award for Entrepreneurship



Doutor-AI - Brazil



TabSense Limited - Jordan



MYPOCKETDOC SDN BHD - Malaysia



EPSILONNET S.A. - Greece



BIG DATA Co., Ltd. - Taiwan



Recipients of The WITSA Global AI Award for Use Cases



entroy.ai (kinetic8) - Bahrain



ProgressSoft Corporation - Jordan



REDtone Digital Berhad - Malaysia



Kaohsiung City Government with Linker Vision Co., Ltd. - Taiwan



DOUZONE BIZON Co., Ltd. - South Korea



Motor Oil (Hellas) S.A. / nrg - Greece

Recipients of The WITSA Global AI Award for Use Cases

Winners That Accepted the Award Virtually	Country / Economy
Grupo KELSOFT (SoyBot)	Argentina
BRINEL IQANTO	Romania
DOUZONE BIZON Co., Ltd.	South Korea
Kaohsiung City Government with Linker Vision Co., Ltd.	Taiwan



Recognizing Excellence in Global AI Innovation

WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

USE CASES

This award celebrates deployed AI applications that deliver quantifiable, real-world impact — proving AI as a vital engine of progress and sustainable transformation.





The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

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Recipients of The WITSA Global AI Award for Data



Draiven Technology LTDA - Brazil



NFOPRO SDN BHD - Malaysia



Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) - Taiwan





The WITSA Global AI Awards 2026

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Recipients of The WITSA Global AI Award for Public Policy



IDIKA S.M.S.A. - Greece



Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC)
Berhad - Malaysia



Information Management Center,
New Taipei City Government - Taiwan



Recipients of The WITSA Global AI Award for Investments



Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation
(SDEC) Berhad - Malaysia



Taoyuan City Government Smart City &
Community Development Commission - Taiwan

**Recognizing Excellence in
Global AI Innovation**







INVESTMENTS

This award recognizes the capital allocators and ecosystem builders whose strategic investments are accelerating responsible AI adoption and generating sustainable economic growth



LOOKING AHEAD: TWO GLOBAL AI SUMMITS, ONE YEAR

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WITSA Names Rio de Janeiro and Sarawak as Hosts of Two Global AI Summits in 2027, Bringing the World's AI Agenda to Two Continents in a Single Year

The 2027 calendar is set to feature WITSA's flagship platforms — the WITSA General Assembly, WITSA Global Excellence Awards and WITSA International Match Day in Rio de Janeiro in February; the WITSA Global AI Awards, the second WITSA World Cup and the second edition of the WITSA Global AI Index in Sarawak alongside IDECS 2027 in October — giving governments, industry and the global technology community two full-scale convenings of the same global agenda.

The WITSA Global AI Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, will anchor the Association's 2027 catalytic-platform calendar. It will be the first time WITSA holds its Global AI Summit twice in one year, and together the two editions will form the most extensive program of global AI convening in the Alliance's history.

Each edition is a complete WITSA Global AI Summit, with the full authority, global participation and flagship components that the platform carries. In addition, the Rio de Janeiro edition will host the WITSA General Assembly, the WITSA Global Excellence Awards and WITSA International Match Day. The Sarawak edition will host the WITSA Global AI Awards, the second WITSA World Cup and the unveiling of the second edition of the WITSA Global AI Index. Delegations from WITSA's member economies, government leaders, investors, researchers and technology companies from every region will take part in both.

"The world's AI ecosystem development does not pause, and neither will WITSA. In 2027 we will convene the global technology community twice, in full, on two continents. Rio de Janeiro and Sarawak are not regional stops; each is the WITSA Global AI Summit in its entirety, carrying the same global mandate, the same members and the same ambition. Our members asked for more opportunities to shape a shared agenda for AI, and this calendar answers them."

— **Dato' Dr Sean Seah, Chairman, WITSA**

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WITSA Global AI Summit 2027 — Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The WITSA Global AI Summit will open the 2027 program at the Fairmont Rio de Janeiro Copacabana, with the core conference on February 16 and 17, 2027, within a delegate week running from February 13 to 18. The Summit is hosted by Federação RJ Assespro and the Prefeitura do Rio de Janeiro.

The Rio de Janeiro edition will also convene the WITSA General Assembly where WITSA members will elect the Alliance's Chairman and Board members for the next 2-year term. It will also host the WITSA Global Excellence Awards, recognizing outstanding achievement across the global technology industry, and WITSA International Match Day, a structured business-matching program connecting member delegations, investors and technology companies, culminating in a press conference with the Award winners.

"The Federação RJ Assespro and the Prefeitura do Rio de Janeiro is proud that we will host the WITSA General Assembly, the WITSA Global Excellence Awards and WITSA International Match Day as part of the 2027 WITSA Global AI Summit. This is where our members will elect the Alliance's next leadership, honor a year of achievement across the global technology industry, and put delegations directly into business with one another. Rio de Janeiro is ready to give the world's AI community a stage built for decisions."

— **Robert Janssen, WITSA Deputy Chairman and President of Federação RJ Assespro/ Prefeitura do Rio de Janeiro**

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WITSA Global AI Summit 2027 — Sarawak, Malaysia

The second edition of the WITSA Global AI Summit will be held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, in October 2027, in conjunction with IDECS 2027, the International Digital Economy Conference & Showcase, hosted by the Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC). The Sarawak edition will host the WITSA Global AI Awards, honoring the world's leading AI achievements, and the second edition of the WITSA World Cup, in which technology scaleups from around the world compete for the Zohari Challenge Trophy.

It will also mark the unveiling of the **second edition of the WITSA Global AI Index**, WITSA's flagship benchmark of national AI ecosystem development. Building on the inaugural Index launched in Taipei in September 2026, the 2027 edition will deliver an updated, data-driven view of AI ecosystem development progress across WITSA's member economies, tracking AI infrastructure, talent, entrepreneurship, use cases, data, policy and investment.

"Two Global AI Summits in one year reflects where the AI agenda now sits: at the top of every government and boardroom priority list. In Rio de Janeiro, the General Assembly and the WITSA Global Excellence Awards will set the direction for the year. In Sarawak, the second WITSA Global AI Index will give the world an updated, evidence-based reading of how national AI ecosystems are developing, and the WITSA World Cup will put the world's most promising scaleups on the same stage. The two editions are one continuous global program, and every WITSA member economy has a place at both."

— **Dato' Dan E Khoo, Chief Executive Officer, WITSA**



LOOKING AHEAD: THE WITSA GLOBAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2027 - NOMINATIONS OPEN!

Recognizing Global Excellence in Tech & Innovation

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Call for Nominations: WITSA Global Excellence Awards 2027

Nominations open now; the deadline is 1 December 2026



WITSA invites members to nominate outstanding candidates for the **WITSA Global Excellence Awards 2027**.

The winners will be honoured at the WITSA Global AI Summit 2027 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in February 2027.

The Global Excellence Awards recognise individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs and governments whose use of digital technology shows exceptional achievement. The awards celebrate work that has advanced the global technology industry and improved lives in areas such as healthcare, education, finance, governance and sustainability. Nominations come from tech experts in more than 80 countries and economies, and the awards bring together technology leaders, government officials and international delegates to recognise excellence.

The Award Categories

Digital Opportunity

Smart City

Cybersecurity

Innovative eHealth

Public/Private Partnership

Digital Talent Development

Emerging Digital Solutions

Tech Investment Excellence

Startup Ecosystems

AI Excellence

AI for Good

Digital Transformation of the Year

Women in Tech

LOOKING AHEAD: THE WITSA GLOBAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2027 - NOMINATIONS OPEN!

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The WITSA Chairman's Award: Recognising the Best of the Best

The Chairman's Award is one of the most distinctive honours within the WITSA Global Excellence Awards. It is not tied to a single category. The recipient is chosen from the entire pool of nominees across all 13 categories, from Digital Opportunity and Cybersecurity to AI for Good and Women in Tech.

The WITSA Awards Committee recommends candidates for the Chairman's Award, and the final choice rests solely with the WITSA Chairman. The award goes to a nomination that stands out even among exceptional entries, where the impact, vision or model for collaboration deserves special recognition.

Past Recipients of the WITSA Chairman's Award include:

- 2025: Hyra Network (WITSA Global AI Summit, Taipei)
- 2024: BenefitPay by BENEFIT, Bahrain (WCIT 2024, Yerevan, Armenia)
- 2023: Consumer Technology Association (CTA) and the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), USA (Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia)
- 2022: Aspire to Innovate (a2i), ICT Division – National Portal Framework, Bangladesh (Penang, Malaysia)
- 2021: Mondly, Romania (WCIT 2021, Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- 2020: Intel (WCIT 2020, Malaysia)
- 2017: Korea Immigration Service, South Korea (WCIT 2017, Taipei)



Get details the program, with category criteria and the schedule:
[WITSA Global Excellence Awards 2027](#)

LOOKING AHEAD: THE WITSA GLOBAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2027 - NOMINATIONS OPEN!

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The WITSA Eminent Persons Award: Honouring Those Who Change Lives

WITSA established the Eminent Persons Award in 2010 as its highest honour. It recognises individuals who have made a significant and profound positive difference in the lives of others. The award is about contributions to humanity, which need not be technological. It recognises leaders whose vision, courage and achievements have improved lives on a global or national scale.

A distinguished roll of honour

Past recipients include:

- President Nelson Mandela, South Africa
- Dr. Vint Cerf and Dr. Bob Kahn, Co-Fathers of the Internet
- Dr. John O'Sullivan, Co-Fathers of Wi-Fi
- Dr. Terence Percival, Co-Fathers of Wi-Fi
- Dr. Miguel Nicolelis, Pioneer of Brain-Machine Interface Technology
- Mike Lazaridis, Founder of the Smartphone
- Dr. Bill Magee, Founder of Operation Smile
- Karen Vardanyan, Pioneer of Armenia's IC industry
- Dato' Hock E. Tan, President and CEO of Broadcom
- Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Former Prime Minister of Malaysia
- Dr. Lisa Su, Chair and CEO of AMD
- Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari, Premier of Sarawak
- Dr. Garo Armen, CEO of Agenus Inc.
- Gary Shapiro, CEO of the Consumer Technology Association
- Dr. Stan Shih, co-founder of Acer Group



Each Eminent Persons Award adds to a legacy of global leadership. It reflects WITSA's belief that technology and human progress should advance together.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE WITSA GLOBAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2027 - NOMINATIONS OPEN!

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How to Nominate

Each WITSA member association may nominate up to three candidates in each award category. Send nominations through the official [Nomination Form](#)

Important: Every nomination must include a statement that summarizes and justifies it, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work or person being nominated. Nominations without this summary or impact assessment will not be considered.

How Winners Are Selected

An independent WITSA Awards Committee, chaired by the WITSA CEO, will judge the nominees. Its members are experts from industry, government and academia with no ties to the nominees.

Nominees are scored on:

- Global impact/potential (30%)
- Scalability (30%)
- Proven solution (30%)
- Innovative features and functionalities (10%)



**Nominate Your Global Champions at the
WITSA Global Excellence Awards 2027**

LOOKING AHEAD: WITSA WORLD CUP 2ND EDITION

AI for a Better Tomorrow: The 2nd WITSA World Cup Begins

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The 2nd Edition of the WITSA World Cup Global Pitching Tournament is officially rolling out, bringing together leading technology scaleups from **WITSA member countries and economies** under the theme: **"AI for a Better Tomorrow: Scaleup Solutions for Global Good."**

Throughout 2027, participating scaleups will compete in online group and knockout rounds before the top contenders advance to the live finals at the **WITSA Global AI Summit in Kuching, Malaysia, in October 2027**.

Designed for growth-stage companies with proven products and market traction, the tournament provides a global platform to showcase innovation, accelerate international expansion, and connect with investors, mentors, and industry leaders.

The theme is reflected in the judging criteria, where competitors are evaluated not only on innovation, traction, and scalability, but also on their contribution to Tech for Good, including social impact, ethical practices, and environmental sustainability.

Building on the success of the inaugural competition, which concluded at WCIT 2024 in Armenia, the WITSA World Cup continues to spotlight scaleups demonstrating how technology and AI can drive meaningful global impact.

WITSA invites all member countries and economies to pledge their participation and nominate their most promising scaleups to compete on the world stage. Together, let's champion innovation, accelerate global growth, and showcase AI solutions that create a better tomorrow. Contact Emily Barner, emily@witsa.org for more information and to ensure your nation's tech scaleups have the opportunity to compete in the next WITSA World Cup!





SPOTLIGHT: WITSA LEADERSHIP IN CONVERSATION

Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age

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WITSA CEO Dato' Dan E. Khoo and Vice President of Global Public Policy Anders Halvorsen recently sat down with Stephen Ibaraki for his IEEE Systems Council interview series.

The conversation covers the Alliance's newest global initiatives and where WITSA is heading.

The WITSA Global AI Index

A large part of the discussion is about the WITSA Global AI Index, launched on 1 September 2026 in Taipei at the WITSA Global AI Summit. Anders leads the project. The Index measures what economies have actually built, not what they have announced. It tracks 128 economies across 7 pillars, 16 sub-pillars and 83 indicators, and 105 of those economies receive full scores. The methodology follows the OECD/JRC standard for composite indicators and was validated by an independent panel.

From Insight to Action: GAIN

The two leaders also explain the WITSA Global AI Ecosystem Network (GAIN). GAIN is a four-tier pathway that helps economies turn their Index results into practical development plans.

A Growing Global Platform

Dato' Khoo and Anders also talk about how the Global AI Summit fits into WITSA's calendar, alternating with the flagship World Congress on Innovation and Technology (WCIT).

They introduce the WITSA World Cup, a pitching tournament for technology scaleups.

► [Watch the full interview](#)



NOW OPEN:

RFP: WITSA GLOBAL AI SUMMIT 2029

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WITSA Invites Member Economies Bid as Host to the WITSA Global AI Summit 2029

WITSA is opening the formal bidding process to any city/country interested in bringing the WITSA Global AI Summit 2029 to their region.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) to Host the WITSA Global AI Summit 2029 is now available with the deadline to submit by February 1, 2027. It sets out the scope of the platform, hosting requirements and infrastructure expectations, the flagship components a host economy is expected to support, and the full submission timeline.

Download the
[WITSA Global AI Summit 2029 RFP](#)

Submission deadline: February 1, 2027

Submit an [Expression of Interest](#) for the WITSA Global AI Summit 2029



NOW OPEN:

WCIT 2030 — CALL FOR BIDS

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WITSA is inviting bids to host the World Congress on Innovation and Technology (WCIT) 2030

Request for Proposals (RFP) to Host the World Congress on Innovation and Technology (WCIT) 2030

Since the first edition in Barcelona in 1978, the World Congress on Innovation and Technology (WCIT) has become WITSA's flagship global gathering. It brings heads of state, ministers, C-suite executives, investors and innovators together to shape the future of the digital economy. The Congress has travelled from Tokyo, Paris and Washington, D.C. to Taipei, Hyderabad, Kuala Lumpur and Yerevan. Recent editions have drawn 6,000 to more than 10,000 participants, and past stages have hosted speakers such as Bill Clinton, Bill Gates and Michael Dell.

WCIT marks its 50th anniversary in 2028, so WCIT 2030 will open the Congress's next half-century. WITSA now invites cities, governments and member associations to put forward a bid to host it. The successful host will get more than a world-class event. The 2030 package includes WITSA GAIN's four-phase programme (AI Maturity Assessment, Scenario Planning, AI Strategy and AI Action Plan), so the host can use the Congress as a catalyst for its national AI agenda. The Request for Proposals, Expression of Interest form and Host FAQ are available now.

**Download the
WCIT 2030 RFP**

Submission deadline: April 30, 2027

**Submit an
Expression of Interest
to Host the WCIT 2030**





CALLING FOR ARTICLES FROM **MEMBERS**

Send us your events to be included in the next issue
of the WITSA Newsletter, write to Azlina Ishak at
azlina@witsa.org





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 us at info@witsa.org to learn how you can participate and help shape the future of technology.



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