Yvonne Chiu
Chairman

2018 WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards
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Summary

The *2018 WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards* will be presented to select users and providers whose use and applications of Information & Communications Technology (ICT) exhibit exceptional achievement within eight (8) broad categories:
1. *Public Sector Excellence*
2. *Private Sector Excellence*
3. *Sustainable Growth*
4. *Digital Opportunity*
5. *Mobile Excellence*
6. *Innovative eHealth Solutions*
7. *Emerging Digital Solutions*
8. *Digital Inclusion*

In addition, a *Chairman's Award* will be presented to a nominee selected from the entire pool of candidates from all eight categories.

Candidates for these Awards are nominated by ICT experts from around the world who span nearly 80 countries/economies. The 2018 *WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards* will take place at the February 19-21, 2018 World Congress on IT in Hyderabad, India.

Award Categories

1. Public Sector ICT Excellence Award
Government entities and *non-profit organizations* are eligible to be nominated in the Public-Sector Excellence award category.

Award Criteria: To be nominated, a government entity must, in its delivery of services within or outside the organization, use information and communications technology to 1) improve a national or local government's effectiveness in meeting the needs of its citizens; 2) save time and money in government operations by eliminating inefficient practices and processes; and/or 3) improve access to or the quality of services, communication and information within government.   In addition, the service implemented by the nominee must meet at least one of the following criteria: use ICT to improve the common good, either at the local, national or global level (measuring the social benefit); demonstrate efficient use of current technology; highlighting its benefits; or run pilot projects evaluating the potential of the nominated solution when new and untested.

Criteria for Non-profit organizations: To be nominated, non-profit organizations must utilize information and communications technology to improve the common good through programs/applications that provide significant social benefits. Examples of such programs include: medical groups that facilitate remotely assisted surgery via Internet, deployment of informative databases or other technologies that increase citizen participation in communities of interest - uses that bring aid, comfort, information, support or services to target community groups.

2. Private Sector ICT Excellence Award
All for-profit, information technology users are eligible for this award.
Award Criteria - This award honors the innovative uses of information technology that directly increase a business' ability to meet its objectives, improve its competitiveness or better serve its customer needs. A for-profit user or provider of ICT that creates an advantage in the design, development, manufacturing, marketing and/or distribution of products and services would be eligible to receive this award.

3. Digital Opportunity Award
Award Criteria-Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs or government authorities that have made a remarkable and successful effort at providing digital opportunities to those in need are eligible for this award. Nominees must contribute to the deployment of information and communications technology and use of the Internet among inner city populations, or in towns, rural areas or cities in developing and least-developed countries in order to be considered for this award.
WITSA member associations have autonomy in nominating and selecting the most qualified candidates in their respective country or region. In order to nominate a candidate, the WITSA member association must demonstrate the effectiveness of the program/project/application; approximate the number of people benefiting from; describe the degree of intensiveness of the program; and evaluate the level of innovation used in achieving the goals of the service.

4. Sustainable Growth Award
Award Criteria-Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs or governments that have made a remarkable and successful effort at using ICTs as a tool to promote sustainable economic growth. Sustainable economic growth shall be defined as the ability to improve the financial and social well-being without compromising the prosperity or well-being of future generations; a sustainable economy is therefore one in which economic growth is decoupled from environmental impacts. Three key challenges are climate change, resource degradation and pollution. At the heart of all three is energy efficiency and the role that ICTs may have.

5. Mobile Excellence Awards
Award Criteria-This Award will recognize innovators, leaders, change agents and trend-setters spanning the global mobile ecosystem from lifestyle to technology, environment and entertainment. In a world of ever changing innovations and technology, this award will take into consideration the successful application of mobile technology in areas of humanitarianism, health, mobile social awareness and justice, freedom of expression, sustainable growth, business and commerce, effective delivery of public services and transparency.

6. Innovative eHealth Solutions Award
Award Criteria- This Award recognizes Individuals, healthcare institutions, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs or governments that have made remarkable and successful efforts at utilizing ICTs as a tool to promote health and health care such as telehealth, mHealth (mobile health), eHealth or through eLearning, electronic health records, big data, legal frameworks, or social media. Solutions utilized may range from provision of information to keep citizens healthy, to support for public health in communities, care and support systems in health facilities, and from all the above the data needed to inform management and policy-makers.

7. WITSA's Emerging Digital Solutions (WEDS) Award
The Emerging Digital Solutions winner is selected for their proven and scalable innovative digital solutions capable of transforming the wellbeing, prosperity, connectivity or productivity of others around the world.

This award will take into consideration the successful application of ICT in such areas as humanitarianism, health, social awareness and justice, rule of law, sustainable growth, business and commerce, health care, education, as well as the effective delivery of public services and transparency.

8. Digital Inclusion Award
In order for the Digital Age to fulfill its promise, it must consider the unique challenges faced by diverse populations. This includes people with disabilities and others who face longstanding barriers to social inclusion. Digital Inclusion is defined as the "ability of individuals and groups to access and use information and communication technologies (ICTs). Digital inclusion encompasses not only access to the Internet but also the availability of hardware and software; relevant content and services; and training for the digital literacy skills required for effective use of ICTs."[1]

This award recognizes solutions enabling accessibility for those individuals who have traditionally not benefited from ICT. This award also seeks innovative solutions that create meaningful employment through ICT for those who have traditionally been underrepresented in the labor force.Of particular interest to WITSA are applications that embed inclusion and accessibility in the original design as opposed to retrofitting existing applications.

Nomination Process

The WITSA Secretariat will supply an ***ICT Excellence Nomination Form*** and instructions to all WITSA members. Each WITSA member association will be entitled to nominate a ***maximum of eight candidates*** regardless of category. However, a member association should nominate ***no more than three candidates of choice in one single category.***

Award Winner Selection Process

Selection Committee: There will be one (1) Awards Selection Committee governing the selection of winners in all award categories. The Selection Committee shall consist of the WITSA Vice Chairmen, the WITSA Chairman (or Deputy Chairman in his/her absence), Secretary General, the WITSA Awards Committee Chairman and special invitees (will vary from year-to-year).

Selection Committee Guiding Principles: The WITSA Awards Committee Chairman shall chair all meetings of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will be responsible for selecting one winner for each of the award categories. The Chairman's Award will be selected by the WITSA Chairman, exclusively.

WITSA Office: The WITSA Secretariat's office shall be responsible for overseeing and coordinating the activities of the Selection Committee, and will ensure that the Guiding Principles governing the awards are properly adhered to by the Selection Committee.

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[1] https://www.imls.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/BuildingDigitalCommunities_Framework.pdf

The Office will announce all the Award Winners to WITSA members. The WITSA Office will also coordinate with the WCIT host organization and contact the Award Winners in order to ensure their participation at the Awards Ceremony.

Selection Committee Judging/Scoring Methodology:

The general judging criteria and weighting:

Judging Criteria	Weighting
Global Impact/Potential	30%
Scalability	30%
Innovative Features and Functionalities	10%
Proven Solution	30%

Judges will then score each nominee on each of the criteria above from 1 (being the worst) to 5 (being the best)

1	Very Poor	2	Poor	3	Average	4	Good	5	Excellent

The WITSA Office will calculate and rank the nominees based on the total scores received.
The highest score will then be the winner for that category.

Judging: Using the judging criteria listed above, the Selection Committee members will rate all the nominees such that a complete ranking of candidates in each award category can be determined.

Conference call: A conference call of the Selection Committee will be held after the ratings have been received. During the call, committee members will share impressions and concerns with regard to the finalists.

The top scoring candidate following the voting may be declared the winner; however, committee members will have a great deal of latitude in reviewing and making final decisions. Whenever possible, geographic diversity should be promoted among the award categories.

The judges may also decide to award several merit recipients in a given award category. Merit winners will be awarded Merit Certificates and will be recognized during the World Congress as a group.

The Committee Chairman will determine if a second round of voting and conference call is warranted.

Chairman's Award: The Committee will make a recommendation to the Chairman for the Chairman's Award; however, the final selection will be made by the chairman.

Merit Winner and Back-up candidates: The second highest scoring nominee in each category may be considered a back-up candidate. A back-up candidate may replace the winner in the event that the winner is unwilling to accept the award. If the Chairman selects one the award category winners for the Chairman's Award, the respective back-up candidate will fill the vacated award slot.

Confidentiality: Please note that the winners will ***not be publicly announced*** until the Award Ceremony at the congress. In the event that a "winner" cannot attend the Awards Ceremony, a list of back-up candidates will be maintained.

WCIT 2018: Award winners will be granted complimentary registration to the WCIT 2018, as well as up to three nights of accommodations provided by the WCIT 2018 host. They will be awarded a trophy at the Awards Ceremony, and will be invited to a press conference or media availability the following day.

Schedule (subject to modification)

1. October 19, 2017: Members requested to initiate the process for nominating candidates for each of the award categories.
2. October 2017: Members of the 2017 Selection Committee invited to participate in the 2018 Selection Committee
3. Monday, December 4, 2017: Deadline for WITSA members' submission of nominees.
4. Monday, December 11, 2017: Nominees to be posted online. Selection Committee to begin reviewing nominees
5. Wednesday, December 20, 2017: Selection Committee to complete voting.
6. *Week of January 8, 2018*: Awards Committee conference call to discuss finalists and select winners. WITSA Secretariat to announce Award Winners to Members and the World Congress 2018 Host Organization. The winning candidates will be contacted to ensure acceptance and participation. Award winners will receive one complimentary WCIT registration each and up to three nights of accommodations, ***but are responsible for all other travel expenses.***
7. February 20, 2018: Awards ceremony will take place at the World Congress on IT Gala Dinner.
8. February 21, 2018: Press Conference or Media Availability for Award Winners will be held in the morning of the last day of WCIT 2018. WITSA press release.

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