

**For Immediate Release:**

November 4, 2007: The Business Technology Division of the Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, Telecommunications and E-Commerce today announced the successful bid to host the World Information Technology Services Alliance (WITSA) Global Public Policy Conference (GPPC) in Bermuda in 2009.

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is a consortium of more than 70 information technology (IT) industry associations from economies around the world. WITSA members represent over 90 percent of the world IT market.

The Business Technology Division (BTD) decided this would be an appropriate initiative to coincide with Bermuda's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to showcase Bermuda's success of using IT to enhance global business.

The BTD partnered with the Department of E-Commerce to develop and participate in the bid process which took place in Cairo, Egypt in early November.

The Bermuda delegation was successful and the WITSA Steering Committee selected Bermuda to host the prestigious 2009 event.

The GPPC 2009 will be held at the Fairmont Southampton and approximately 500 delegates are expected to attend from countries around the world to participate in discussions and listen to presentations from world authorities in the IT sector.

The Hon. Neletha Butterfield, J.P., M.P., Minister of the Environment, Telecommunications and E-Commerce said: "I am thrilled that the WITSA Steering Committee has chosen Bermuda to host their Global Public Policy Conference in 2009. This is a great example of the Government working with the private sector to promote Bermuda as a premier event destination and to highlight our world class ICT sector. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Department of E-Commerce and the Business Technology Division of the Chamber – we could not have been successful without their efforts."

Philip Barnett, President of the Chamber of Commerce said: "We are delighted that Bermuda has been selected for the 2009 event. Having the WITSA GPPC conference hosted in Bermuda allows our Chamber members to participate and network with IT and government officials from many countries. It also gives them the ability to showcase the IT capabilities to the world and promote the island as a very viable business domicile. This is a true partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, Telecommunications and E-Commerce as the support and expertise they provided were instrumental in Bermuda winning the bid."

**About WITSA and the GPPC:**

The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is a consortium of over 70 information technology (IT) industry associations from economies around the world. WITSA members represent over 90 percent of the world IT market. As the global voice of the IT industry, WITSA is dedicated to advocating policies that advance the industry's growth and development; facilitating international trade and investment in IT products and services; strengthening WITSA's national industry associations through the sharing of knowledge, experience, and critical information; providing members with a vast network of contacts in nearly every geographic region of the world; hosting the World Congress on IT, the premier industry sponsored global IT event; hosting the Global Public Policy Conference; and hosting the Global Information Security Summit.

The GPCC is held every other year and is focused solely on policy. The conference attracts the global players of the ICT industry, large and small, as well as Government officials, including representatives from inter-governmental organizations such as the WTO and OECD.

For more information: [www.witsa.org](http://www.witsa.org) or contact the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce – Business Technology Division.