



For Immediate Release

April 24, 2009

Contact: Dr. James H Poisant jpoisant@witsa.org
Tel: +1 - 703 728 4547

ICT stimuli needed for short-term recovery and long-term growth

Abuja, Nigeria - Information and communications technology (ICT) must be a meaningful portion of stimulus packages to spur recovery from the current global economic crisis and lay the foundation for long term growth.

Calling on governments to leverage on ICT, World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) Chairman Dato' Dan E. Khoo urged policy makers to introduce fiscal stimuli and programs to develop an ICT industry and accelerate the use of the technologies across all economic sectors and society.

“Policy makers need to view ICT as the key component of economic policy, ensuring that the policies and programs they put in place spur digital transformation and benefit societies at large,” said Khoo.

“ICT-based info and infrastructure offer a solution to expedite economic recovery in the short term and provide the vehicle to generate prosperity in the long term.”

Khoo was speaking at Nigeria's first-of-its-kind ICT conference and workshop, ADIPENG 2009, organized in capital city Abuja by the Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN) in association with the Nigeria Computer Society (NCS).

The leading voice of the global ICT industry, WITSA is a consortium of industry association members from nearly 70 economies, who among them represent more than 90 percent of the world ICT market. ITAN is WITSA's newest member.

Khoo also called for a multi-stakeholder approach to ICT policy re-engineering, saying that government and the private sector should work in concert to establish a national framework that offers the right incentives to encourage investment and includes the necessary structure to develop knowledge-based human capital.

He outlined three main thrusts of an ICT-enabled nation:

- development of an ICT industry that can drive the economy by building businesses and creating jobs;
- adoption of ICT by other economic sectors as a tool to raise productivity and efficiency, resulting in higher growth; and
- use of ICT by government and society to enhance the quality of life

One of the benefits of a vibrant ICT industry, he said, is in producing more knowledgeable and better-skilled human capital.

“The use of ICT has boosted productivity, created new jobs, enabled more efficient businesses, produced higher quality of goods and services, and led to greater innovation.

“Not only that, the ICT revolution has enhanced the quality of life from improving health care, to promoting greater transparency, to making it easier for our people to interact with one another, businesses and governments,” added Khoo.

ICT is one of the fastest growing industries with the power to enrich economies. WTSA has projected that global ICT spending will exceed four trillion US dollars in 2009.

The three-day event is themed ‘Advancing the Dynamics of ICT Policy Engineering for e-Government’.

About WITSA

Founded in 1978, the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is a leading consortium of ICT industry association members from nearly 70 economies around the world. WITSA's members represent more than 90 percent of the world ICT market.

As the leading recognized voice of the global ICT Industry, WITSA aims to drive transformation and grow the industry. WITSA believes ICT is the key driving force to enable governments, businesses and societies for global development and economic growth.

WITSA is dedicated to the following:

- Advocating international public policies that advances the industry's growth and development;
- Facilitating international trade and investment of ICT products and services through our global network of contacts;
- Promoting industry cooperation and strengthen our national associations through the sharing of knowledge, experience, and critical information;
- Publishing global ICT research through WITSA Digital Planet;
- Awarding signature events, World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) and Global Public Policy Summit (GPPS) to different host countries around the world; and
- Organizing and hosting the Global ICT Excellence Awards to recognize the most outstanding ICT users.

For more information on WITSA, please visit www.witsa.org