



Dr. Sean Seah
Chairman

WITSA Global Awards 2025

Rev. March 23, 2025

Summary

The WITSA Global Awards are prestigious honors that acknowledge remarkable contributions to the technology and innovation field. Organized by WITSA, these awards commend individuals, organizations, corporations or government projects that have significantly advanced the global technology industry. They aim to showcase the transformative power of technology across sectors like healthcare, education, finance, governance, and sustainability.

The annual ceremony brings together technology leaders, professionals, government officials, and international delegates, facilitating networking and collaboration. By recognizing outstanding achievements in technology and innovation, the awards motivate the industry to strive for excellence and push the boundaries of what is possible. They celebrate winners while encouraging the entire sector to continue advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.

The WITSA Global Awards are a significant recognition of technological innovation and societal impact, serving as a catalyst for positive change on a global scale, fostering collaboration and inspiring industry to drive advancements that shape the future.

The 2025 WITSA Global Awards will be presented to select individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs or governments whose use and applications of digital technologies exhibit exceptional achievement within the following broad categories:

AWARD CATEGORIES
1. Digital Opportunity (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO, Government)
2. Smart Cities (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO, Government)
3. Cybersecurity (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO, Government)
4. Innovative eHealth (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO, Government)
5. Public/Private Partnership (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO, Government)
6. Digital Talent Development (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO, Government)
7. Emerging Digital Solutions (1 Award : Private Sector)
8. Tech Investment Excellence (1 Award : Private Sector, Government)
9. Startup Ecosystems (1 Award : Private Sector, Government)
10. AI Excellence (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO)
11. AI for Good (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO, Government)

12. Digital Transformation of the Year (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO, Government)
13. Women in Tech (1 Award : Private Sector, NGO, Government)

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

Candidates for these Awards are nominated by tech experts from around the world who span over 80 countries/economies. The 2025 *WITSA Global Awards* will take place in conjunction with the August 2025 WITSA Global AI Summit in Taiwan.

The **Nomination Form** used for submissions for all awards can be found [here](#).

Award Categories

Digital Opportunity Award

Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, or Government authorities

Award Criteria - Individuals, corporations, 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. In order for the Digital Age to fulfill its promise, it must consider the unique challenges faced by diverse populations. Examples could include deployment of ICTs and Internet access among inner city populations, or in towns, rural areas or cities in developing and least-developed countries. This award also includes programs and initiatives that aid people with disabilities and others who face long standing barriers to social inclusion. Digital Inclusion is defined as the “ability of individuals and groups to access and use digital 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 tech.”¹

This award recognizes solutions enabling accessibility for those individuals who have traditionally not benefited from digital tech. This award also seeks innovative solutions that create meaningful employment through tech 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.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Smart Cities Award

Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, or Government authorities

Award Criteria: A smart city is an urban area that uses different types of electronic methods and sensors to collect data. Insights gained from that data are used to manage assets, resources and services efficiently; in return, that data is used to improve the operations across the city (ref. Wikipedia). This includes data collected from citizens, devices, buildings and assets that is then processed and analyzed to monitor and manage traffic and transportation systems, power plants, utilities, water supply networks, waste, crime detection, information systems, schools,

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

libraries, hospitals, and other community services. The smart city concept integrates digital technologies, and various physical devices connected to the IoT (Internet of things) network to optimize the efficiency of city operations and services and connect to citizens.

Smart city technology allows city officials to interact directly with both community and city infrastructure and to monitor what is happening in the city and how the city is evolving. Digital tech is used to enhance quality, performance and interactivity of urban services, to reduce costs and resource consumption and to increase contact between citizens and government. Smart city applications are developed to manage urban flows and allow for real-time responses. A smart city may therefore be more prepared to respond to challenges than one with a simple "transactional" relationship with its citizens. The award goes to individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, or Government authorities:

Corporations: Outstanding Smart City industry solutions, including in digital administration, best industry solutions in civic and community engagement and transparency, including Open Data, city portals, and emergency services, best industry initiatives in the area of digital equity and accessibility including technologies for disability compliance, innovations in accessibility services, public Wi-Fi, and other projects focused on underserved communities, automation and systems integration to measure, monitor, control, and optimize building operations and to use energy in the most efficient and cost-effective way, reducing challenges and costs related to water stress, systemic inefficiency, and water loss while improving asset management and customer services, industry initiatives in the field of transportation, including autonomous cars, connected vehicles, and smart public transit, smart parking, smart infrastructure, intelligent traffic management, multi-modal transport hubs, journey planning and ride-hailing/ride-sharing services.

Government authorities Outstanding Smart City government projects, including the best projects in digital administration, best projects in civic and community engagement and transparency, including Open Data, city portals, and emergency services, best initiatives in the area of digital equity and accessibility including technologies for disability compliance, innovations in accessibility services, public Wi-Fi, and other projects focused on underserved communities, automation and systems integration to measure, monitor, control, and optimize building operations and to use energy in the most efficient and cost-effective way, reducing challenges and costs related to water stress, systemic inefficiency, and water loss while improving asset management and customer services, initiatives in the field of transportation, including autonomous cars, connected vehicles, and smart public transit, smart parking, smart infrastructure, intelligent traffic management, multi-modal transport hubs, journey planning and ride-hailing/ride-sharing services.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Cybersecurity Award

Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, or Government authorities

Award Criteria- This prestigious award recognizes outstanding achievements in the realm of cybersecurity, specifically focusing on products and solutions that demonstrate excellence in Zero Trust architecture, ransomware mitigation, and/or data privacy. Recipients will showcase innovative approaches that yield proven, scalable results and possess significant global impact potential. Eligible candidates include individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, and

government entities who have made substantial contributions to advancing the security posture of organizations and individuals worldwide. The award seeks to highlight solutions that effectively address the evolving threat landscape, offering robust defenses against cyberattacks and ensuring the responsible handling of sensitive data.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Innovative eHealth Award

Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, or Government authorities

Award Criteria- This Award recognizes Individuals, healthcare institutions, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs or governments that have made remarkable and successful efforts at utilizing digital technologies 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 policymakers.

This award also recognizes any companies, individuals, NGOs or other entities who successfully develop or utilize digital tech, artificial intelligence, big data or other innovative technologies. Examples of solutions include vaccine distribution/logistics, vaccine digital certification or other telehealth apps, as well as technologies and solutions which enable productive and safe workspace.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Public/Private Partnership Award

Private sector/corporations and government authorities

Award Criteria: This award recognizes successful partnerships between government and private sector entities in digital tech. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are a mechanism for governments to procure and implement public information infrastructure and/or services using the resources and expertise of the private sector. Where governments are facing ageing or lack of infrastructure and require more efficient services, a partnership with the private sector can help foster new solutions and bring finance. PPPs combine the skills and resources of both the public and private sectors through sharing of risks and responsibilities. This enables governments to benefit from the expertise of the private sector, and allows them to focus instead on policy, planning and regulation by delegating day-to-day operations.

PPPs can also help address longstanding barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the intersection with technological advancements, mitigate the negative effects from trade and technology change, as well as combatting cybercrime by leveraging multi-stakeholder partnerships to drive durable solutions and improve cooperation with industry and other stakeholders through information sharing initiatives, capacity-building programs, by employing responsible and equitable security vulnerability disclosure and remediation practices, and by jointly fostering technology innovations and investments that address global security challenges.

Other areas of private-public partnerships include new partnership opportunities with the tech sector to deliver the technological transportation breakthroughs of tomorrow. PPPs can also help develop Local Innovation Ecosystems: The success of innovations often depends on the strength and development of the local innovation ecosystem, and public-private partnerships as government tools can effectively build ecosystems in a short period of time.

The award will recognize a large-scale program or project where a government authority has successfully procured and implemented public information infrastructure and/or services using the resources and expertise of the private sector.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Digital Talent Development Award

Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, or Government authorities

Award Criteria: The "digital talent development" award celebrates excellence in initiatives that significantly advance digital skills, preparing them for the modern workforce. These awards highlight effective programs that cultivate technical proficiencies like coding and data analysis, alongside digital literacy and adaptability to emerging technologies. Key selection criteria include demonstrable impact, such as improved participant skills and organizational performance, as well as contributions to closing the digital skills gap. Innovation is also paramount, with judges favoring creative training methods, cutting-edge technology integration, and scalable solutions.

Furthermore, accessibility and inclusivity are crucial, recognizing efforts to reach diverse populations and promote digital equity. Sustainability, demonstrated by long-term commitment and adaptability, is highly valued. Relevance to current and future digital demands is also a key factor. The award emphasizes a strong learning culture and strategic alignment with business goals. Ultimately, this award aims to recognize and promote best practices that ensure a skilled workforce capable of thriving in the digital age.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Emerging Digital Solutions Award

Award: Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, or NGOs

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 digital technologies 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.

The Emerging Digital Solutions program recognizes early-stage or veteran companies whose solutions are new, and scalable to other locations throughout the world. The Emerging Digital

Solutions program is looking for solutions that can be presented to interested policy makers, investors, corporations and social stakeholders with the potential to boost its development and deployment, aiming to significantly impact individuals, groups and societies.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Tech Investment Excellence Award

Award: VCs, tech ecosystem economic development agencies

The Tech Investment Excellence Award recognizes venture capital firms and tech ecosystem development authorities that have demonstrated exceptional foresight and execution in driving technological innovation and economic growth. This prestigious award celebrates VC firms and agencies that have not only identified and invested in groundbreaking technologies but also fostered environments conducive to their success. Whether through strategic programs and incentives that nurture startups, impactful foreign direct investment (FDI) or domestic direct investment (DDI) initiatives that create jobs and stimulate regional economies, or other demonstrably impactful contributions, these organizations stand as exemplars of visionary investment. Their commitment to building sustainable ecosystems and supporting transformative ventures sets a new standard for the venture capital industry.

Recipients of this award have consistently shown a profound understanding of market dynamics and a keen ability to anticipate future trends. Their investments have resulted in significant advancements in critical sectors, driving technological progress and creating lasting societal benefits. Beyond financial returns, these firms or agencies have actively engaged in mentorship, knowledge sharing, and community building, solidifying their role as catalysts for innovation. Their dedication to responsible investment practices and their ability to navigate complex challenges while delivering exceptional results underscore their unwavering commitment to excellence and their profound impact on the global technology landscape.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Startup Ecosystem Award

Government authorities and VC Accelerators

Governments often play an important role in countries that have a successful startup ecosystem. When we think of startups and a great startup culture, we only imagine the crucial role that entrepreneurs play. But governments in startup economies have progressively played a critical role in developing a startup culture by creating better policies, reducing tax burden, easing migration of talented workers, having developed infrastructure, etc. Governments have also encouraged a culture of innovation and research by creating programs and educational institutions to create talent and tech developments in an economy. Such governments that have adapted with the times and encouraged startup development have helped raise the standard of living and economies of their countries.

Also, governments must be aware that they need to provide more support locally, not centrally. Hence, most state governments play an important role in executing policies and building a local startup ecosystem.

Furthermore, recognizing that robust startup ecosystems often benefit from diverse support structures, this award will also be open to venture capital accelerators that have demonstrated exceptional success in fostering and accelerating the growth of startups, alongside government authorities.

This award will recognize a government authority or venture capital accelerator that has succeeded in making their startup ecosystems successful.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

AI Excellence Award

Award: Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, or NGOs

The Artificial Intelligence Excellence Award recognizes companies that are at the forefront of innovation and pushing the boundaries of what's possible with AI. This award recognizes exceptional achievements and contributions in the field of artificial intelligence, demonstrating the awardee's commitment to innovation, impact and overall contribution to the field of AI.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

AI for Good

Award: Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, or NGOs, Governments

This award recognizes exceptional applications of artificial intelligence that demonstrate a remarkable and successful positive impact on society. It celebrates initiatives that go beyond technological innovation, showcasing how AI can be a powerful instrument for addressing critical social, humanitarian, and environmental challenges.

The project must provide clear evidence of its positive impact on communities, individuals, or the environment. The AI solution must align with ethical AI principles, including fairness, transparency, accountability, and privacy. The AI application should demonstrate innovative use of technology to solve real-world problems, must be effective and sustainable, with potential for scalability and long-term impact. Submissions must provide quantifiable data and evidence to support claims of social impact.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Digital Transformation of the Year Award

Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, or Government authorities

This award recognizes the most effective project to integrate disparate systems or update legacy technology. Projects involving moves into the cloud, post-deal integrations, digitization efforts or partnerships and collaborations, are all eligible. Nominations may be for a single project or an overall strategy. The winning entry will be able to demonstrate how technology has brought cost benefits, improved internal processes and generated new opportunities.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Women in Tech Award

Individuals, academic institutions, corporations, NGOs, or Government authorities

As the leading global digital tech industry alliance, WITSA strongly believes that having a gender-balanced workforce across the tech sector strengthens the sector's ability to retain its market position as the cornerstone of industry across global markets. Today, the digital tech sector, and indeed other industrial sectors, are limiting the talent pool, and bypassing some of the best and brightest by limited opportunities that affect half of the world's population. By widening the talent pool to be more inclusive, the tech sector will continue to thrive and grow in both size and influence. As a fundamental principle, WITSA believes that by encouraging women to enter or return to the tech industry at all levels, the tech sector will become more robust, more competitive, and more innovative. WITSA and its members around the world are committed to this cause.

The Women in Tech Award will recognize the most influential women technology leaders who have demonstrated considerable experience in leading innovation and became leaders and role models in the tech industry, or the most impactful initiatives that foster greater inclusion and advancement of women leaders in the tech field.

Nominations must include a statement that summarizes and justifies the nomination, with emphasis on the scale and impact of the work / individuals being nominated. Any nominations which do not include a summary/impact assessment or other key factors supporting the nomination will not be considered.

Nomination Process

The WITSA Secretariat will supply a *Nomination Form* and instructions to all WITSA members. Each WITSA member association will be entitled to nominate a maximum of **three candidates in each award category**.

Award Winner Selection Process

Awards Committee: There will be one (1) WITSA Awards Committee governing the selection of winners in all award categories. The Committee shall be Chaired by the WITSA CEO. Members of the Committee will be selected by the WITSA Secretariat and will consist of independent, non-affiliated experts from industry, governments and academia.

Awards Committee Guiding Principles: The Committee Chairman shall chair all meetings. The 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 Committee and will ensure that the Guiding Principles governing the awards are properly adhered to by the Committee.

The Office will announce all the Award Winners to WITSA members.

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 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 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.

Runners Up and Merit Winners: The second highest scoring nominee in each category may be considered a Runner-up candidate if agreed by the Awards Committee. Additional high-scoring candidates may be given Merit Awards, at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

If the Chairman selects one the award category winners for the Chairman's Award, the respective runner-up candidate will fill the vacated award slot.

Confidentiality: Please note that the winners will ***not be publicly announced*** until the Award Ceremony day itself, which will be announced by WITSA.

Schedule (subject to modification)

1. March 11, 2025: Members requested to initiate the process for nominating candidates for each of the award categories.
2. June 6, 2025: Deadline for WITSA members' submission of nominees.
3. June, 2025: Internal review begins for WITSA global final judging.
4. June, 2025: Award winners confidentially announced to members. The winning candidates will be contacted to ensure acceptance and participation.
5. August 19, 2025: WITSA's Global Awards Ceremony takes place.

END OF DOCUMENT