The President’s Message
ICGFM President Relmond Van Daniker

It is my pleasure to announce that the consortium and its cosponsors, Casals and Associates and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Government Audit Training Institute, have successfully completed the seventeenth annual conference on “New Developments in Governmental Financial Management” in Miami, Florida. Despite a struggling global economy and the situation in Iraq, over 175 participants, representing at least 32 countries, were in attendance. For the first time the consortium was able to offer attendees a two-day training program in addition to the regular conference sessions. The training was so well received by participants that the board has agreed to continue the program next year by implementing phase two in a three-year training cycle. The first year (2003) in the cycle featured accounting and budgeting; the second year (2004) will concentrate on information systems; and the third year (2005) will cover auditing and accountability. With the myriad of topics and issues surrounding the financial management arena, it is no surprise that the need for networking and professional development remains apparent—thanks to all who contributed to a successful five-day event.

Now the consortium begins planning for the fall summit to be held in cooperation with the World Bank Institute (WBI). As you may recall, the consortium partnered with WBI last year to bring you the 2002 “Summit on Reducing Poverty Through Improving Public Financial Management.” I am extremely pleased that WBI has again agreed to partner with the consortium to develop the 2003 program. We are certain that this partnership will result in a program that attracts the same high level of professionals including auditors, accountants, budget directors, procurement specialists and members of Parliament. Please visit the ICGFM Web site in early June for additional details on the content and date of the fall summit.

It is also important that I highlight the many partnerships that ICGFM has with its sustaining, organizational and individual members. These partnerships are invaluable to the continued success of the consortium. Providing awareness of financial issues and bringing together financial management professionals from across the globe could not be accomplished without the support of our many volunteer members. These volunteers work hard to assure that the consortium continues in its pursuit of improving financial management through opportunities for professional development and information exchange. I encourage you to become more active and volunteer to serve on one of the many committees that support the consortium throughout the year.

By the time you read this newsletter, you will have received a letter from Membership Committee Chair Lin Weeks requesting your continued financial support of the consortium. I would also like to personally request your continued support of ICGFM, not only financially, but through assistance with consortium activities. It is my goal as president to increase the level of member participation in 2003, and so I remind you to include your e-mail address when submitting dues for 2003. E-mail addresses provide us with an expeditious way to communicate and distribute information, and they provide a convenient mechanism for member participation worldwide.

I wish you the best in the months to come, and I look forward to seeing you in the fall at the ICGFM summit.
The presentations at the 17th Annual ICGFM Conference in Miami on “Reducing Poverty and Corruption: An Integrated Approach to Good Governance” are identified below. The Conference was co-sponsored by Casals & Associates, Inc. The files can be downloaded from the ICGFM website at www.icgfm.org.

Ron Points, Regional Financial Management Advisor, World Bank
“IFAC Public Sector Committee Update”
Power Point

Dr. Arpad Kovacs, President, State Audit Office, Hungary
“Working to Ensure Good Governance: Experiences of the SAIs in Central and Eastern Europe”
Power Point, PDF

The Casals Experience
Americas Anti Corruption Accountability Project (AAA)
“Municipal Perspectives and Initiatives”
Power Point (English), Power Point (Spanish)

Ms. Beatriz White, Veeduria Social, Medellín, Colombia
“Transparency at the Municipal Level with Civil Society Participation—The Medellín Experience”
Power Point (Spanish)

Daniel Flores, Mayor of Tela, Honduras Municipalities
“Working Towards Transparency through Participation”
Power Point (Spanish)

Jose Raul Fernandez, Executive Director, Consejo para el Desarrollo Estratégico de Santiago (CDES)
“Participatory Strategic Planning at the Municipal Level”
Power Point (Spanish)

Albert Hrabak, Manager, Public Sector Accounting, IBCTI
“Strengthening the Accountability and Integrity of Procurement Processes—The Nigerian National Privatization Program”
Power Point

Mr. Rifaat Basanti, Deputy Chief of Government Finance Statistics, Division Statistics Department International Monetary Fund
“Implementation of Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and SNA-93”
Power Point

Sr. Marcelo Zalles Barriga, Contralor General (retired), Bolivia
“Quality Certification: An Approach to Building Good Governance”
Power Point

Ms. Inge-Britt Ahlenius, Auditor General, Sweden
“Audit Standards and Ethics”
Power Point, PDF

Mr. David M. Walker, Comptroller General, United States
“Managing Risk and Assessing Performance”
Power Point (English), Power Point (Spanish)

Mr. Dick Willett, Partner (retired), Global Public Sector, Grant Thornton, LLP
PDF (English)
PDF (Spanish)

AGA International Roundtable
Monday, June 30, 2003
6-7 p.m.
Sheraton Chicago Hotel
Columbus Room
Miami Presenter Offers Suggestions

From: Rich Thomas, Newsweek

After my presentation at the recent ICGFM Conference in Miami, a conference member wanted to know what he and other financial managers could do about corruption. Based on a little research that I have done since then, here is what I would suggest:

• Join your local national chapter of Transparency International (TI), if it is safe for your career that you join it. Or join with others in your country and establish a TI chapter if none as yet exists. TI is a private non-profit international foundation, with headquarters in Berlin, which was set up a decade ago to try to combat corruption in every country in the world. TI undertook initially to collect and publish information on corruption. But it is now a world-wide organization. It holds national workshops around the globe. It promotes educational programs. It provides a vast database on ways to fight corruption. And TI actually negotiates and signs anti-corruption pacts with national and local governments.

• TI has national chapters in 90 countries, and hopes to expand into every country in the world. TI is a private non-profit international foundation, with headquarters in Berlin, which was set up a decade ago to try to combat corruption in every country in the world. TI undertook initially to collect and publish information on corruption. But it is now a world-wide organization. It holds national workshops around the globe. It promotes educational programs. It provides a vast database on ways to fight corruption. And TI actually negotiates and signs anti-corruption pacts with national and local governments.

Training Becomes Part of Miami Program

On April 3-4, 2003, 104 representatives from 23 countries participated in a special seminar on “Building a Strong Financial Management Framework: Putting the Pieces Together.” The training, developed by leaders on the ICGFM Board of Directors and the Graduate School, USDA’s Government Audit Training Institute, was delivered in Miami, Florida as part of the ICGFM’s annual conference.

The training, focusing on issues and challenges in budgeting and accounting, was a significant international initiative by the Consortium. The program was developed in response to needs expressed by participants in prior conferences and by leaders from donor institutions who are seeking ways to enhance financial management globally. It is the first in a three-part series that will examine budgeting and accounting, management information systems, and auditing and accountability. To meet the requirements of this international audience, simultaneous interpretation ensured that participants could work in English, Spanish or French and much else. The Source Book then goes on to outline various ways to attack corruption. There is more under this “Source Book” subhead. Keep on clicking and you will find the Source Book in 22 different languages. These each contain information tailored specifically to the countries in which the languages are spoken.

• “TI Chapters Around the World” gives names and addresses of contacts in the 90 countries.

• “TI Source Book” provides a number of chapters. They explain how different types of corruption work in detail, and explain the role played by the balance of power between the legislature and the executive of governments in curbing corruption. Others explain the role played by independent civil courts, the role played by clear contract and clear land title law, and much else. The Source Book then goes on to outline various ways to attack corruption. There is more under this “Source Book” subhead. Keep on clicking and you will find the Source Book in 22 different languages. These each contain information tailored specifically to the countries in which the languages are spoken.

• “TI Tool Kits” is another valuable subhead. This contains details on how to set up individual programs to limit corruption in individual areas of government. For instance, the Tool Kit contains model “Integrity Pacts.” TI chapters are now signing these with their national governments. These pacts specify precise steps that governments must take to publicize and be held accountable for the honesty of bidding in various types of government procurement. In doing so, they win TI endorsement for honesty. All of this and much other additional information is in the excellent TI website.

Upcoming Events

June 29-July 2, 2003
AGA’s 52nd Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition
Sheraton Chicago Towers, Chicago, IL.

Contact: Ada Phillips at aphillips@agacgfm.org
Website: www.agacgfm.org/lnc and www.agacgfm.org/pdc
Phone: 800.AGA.7211, ext. 204 Fax: 703.548.9367

November 19-21, 2003
National Public Sector Conference 2003
A Leading Event for Finance and Management Professionals in the Public Sector
Burswood Convention Centre
Perth, Western Australia

November 24-26, 2003
ICGFM-WBI Fall Workshop at National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Conference Center (NRECA)
near Washington, D.C.

April 19-21, 2004
18th Annual International Conference on Governmental Financial Management to be held in Miami, Florida, USA.

April 22-23, 2004
Two days of certified training following Miami Conference.

Editor’s Note: If you have implemented a policy or procedure that you believe would be beneficial to others, please write it down and send it by email to the Publications Editor, Dr. Jesse Hughes at jlhughes@odu.edu.
A Note from the Membership Committee

On April 1, 2003, the ICGFM officially began the 2003 membership campaign. At the Miami conference, participants were invited to become members or to renew their existing memberships, and immediately following the conference, dues invoices were sent to current members. The membership committee is pleased to report that by April 15, they had processed three new organization memberships, three renewed organization memberships, five new individual memberships, and three renewed individual memberships. Now we are asking you: Have you renewed your membership? Have you reached out to encourage your organization or other individuals to join us?

The International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management is a truly unique and special organization. Through its conferences and publications, the organization provides an international forum where leaders from across government, from the academic community, and from the private sector can examine issues and experiences in accounting, auditing, budgeting, debt management, information management, tax administration, and a host of related areas of expertise. The organization’s members, officers, and directors are committed to the Consortium’s mission to improve financial management globally by providing opportunities for professional development and information exchange.

A review of the ICGFM’s activities for the past year reflects accomplishments supporting this mission. Most recently, as reported in other sections of this Newsletter, the Consortium organized the 17th annual international conference and training program. Earlier in the year, the Consortium:

- sponsored a Summit on Reducing Poverty through Improving Financial Management. Partnering with the World Bank Institute, with assistance from USAID and Casals and Associates, Inc., the ICGFM provided a forum for parliamentary committee members, auditors, accountants, budget directors, and procurement specialists to discuss ways to manage “systemic risks” to ensure that public finances are used to reduce poverty.
- hosted 8 DC Forum luncheon programs that provided professional development and networking opportunities to ICGFM members in the Washington, DC area. Speakers last year included leaders from the Institute of Internal Auditors, the World Bank, the national audit offices of the United States and the Republic of Georgia, the National Association of State Comptrollers, Auditors, and Treasurers, and the former Comptroller General of the United States, and
- published two issues each of the ICFM newsletter, the Government Financial Management World, and the Public Fund Digest. The publications provided members with timely information and articles about the organization’s activities and important professional issues and best practices. Publications and announcements were also posted on the website, www.icgfm.org.

To ensure that you continue to receive the publications, announcements about upcoming events, and membership discounts at ICGFM programs, we invite you to renew your membership as soon as possible. If you have already sent in your renewal, we thank you.

Additionally, we encourage you to become a membership ambassador for the Consortium. If you know of other individuals or organizations who may be interested in becoming ICGFM members, please let them know that information about membership and membership forms are available on the website, www.icgfm.org.

As an organization, the ICGFM has accomplished much—and the next year offers new opportunities for you to participate as we seek to fulfill our mission: Working globally with governments, organizations, and individuals, the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management is dedicated to improving financial management by providing opportunities for professional development and information exchange.

THE 2003 ICGFM-WBI FALL WORKSHOP

November 24-26, 2003 at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Conference Center (NRECA) near Washington, DC. The NRECA facility is located at 4301 Wilson Boulevard in Arlington, Virginia, 10 minutes from Washington’s Reagan National Airport, 15 minutes from Union Station and 20 minutes from Dulles International Airport. Easily accessible by the city’s Metro system, the conference center is surrounded by a choice of hotels, restaurants and shops.

Assessing Performance in Financial Management

The workshop takes up the issue of performance in financial management along 3 dimensions.

Day One is devoted to an examination of approaches to measuring performance in the different parts of the financial management system:

- performance in the budget process
- performance in budget execution
- performance in procurement
- performance in monitoring and oversight
- systemic performance

Day Two features a set of case studies on efforts to introduce greater performance orientation and improve performance:

- reforms to improve performance in the budget process
- reforms to improve performance in budget execution
- reforms to improve performance in procurement
- reforms to improve performance in monitoring and oversight
- reforms to improve performance of the entire procurement system.

Day Three focuses on the role of different groups/stakeholders in improving performance, as well as incentives for them to change behavior.

- Role of the Central Government Bodies—Ministry of Finance, Planning
- Role of Line Ministries
- Role of Accountability Institutions: IA, EA, and Parliament
- Role of Civil Society
- Role of Donors, International organizations.

Mark your calendars now for the 18th Annual International Conference on Governmental Financial Management to be held in Miami, Florida, USA. This conference will be held on April 19-21, 2004 with two days of certified training on April 22-23, 2004. More details to be published later.
ICGFM Membership Application

1. Enclosed are dues for calendar year 2002. These dues are in payment for membership as a (please check appropriate category):
   - Sustaining Member ($1,000)
   - Organization Member ($250)
   - Organization Member ($150)*
   - Individual Member ($100)
   - Individual Member ($50)*

   * A special discount is offered to members in developing countries, countries with economies in transition and regional organizations in such countries to encourage their participation. This discount is available to all countries other than Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, European countries (except transition economies) India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Libya, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, USA, Russia, and Venezuela.

2. Organization:

3. Name and Title (individual member or the contact person for sustaining and organization member):

4. Mailing Address:
   - Street/Post Box
   - City
   - Province/State
   - Postal/Zip Code and COUNTRY

5. Telephone:    Fax:

6. Email/Internet:

**Credit Card**  ○ MasterCard  ○ VISA

Credit Card Number  Expiration Date

Print Name on Card

Signature

Return this form with a check, money order, or VISA/MasterCard authorization for payment in US dollars to:
International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management • 444 North Capitol Street, Suite 234 • Washington, DC 20001 USA
National Public Sector Convention 2003

A Leading Event for Finance and Management Professionals in the Public Sector
19-21 November 2003
Burswood Convention Centre
Perth, Western Australia

The biennial National Public Sector Convention will be held in Perth, Western Australia, in November 2003. It is still some months away, however it is important to work these important dates into your diary (and your budget) now! This key event will also have significant benefit for finance and senior professionals working in commerce, public practice or other sectors.

The theme of the conference is the expanding role of the Public Sector finance professional, although the diversity and depth of sessions goes way beyond this. The program is already well under way and is designed for finance, accounting and management professionals in all tiers of government, at all levels. This event should not be missed by public sector employees, from senior executive level, through to newer staff.

Outstanding, high-level keynote sessions each day will be complemented by ground-breaking sessions in four concurrent streams, catering for your learning, information and networking needs.

Don’t miss this fantastic opportunity to expand and develop your knowledge and skills.

The convention will also offer great networking opportunities!

Please contact the Western Australian Professional Development Team on (08) 9481 5944 or liz.odonnell@cpaaustralia.com.au to place your name on the priority brochure list now!
Participants were enthusiastic about the training that provided them with opportunities to explore, examine, and evaluate their experiences and those of representatives from other countries. The discussion sessions encouraged participants to identify “best” or “better” practices and develop strategies for improvements they could introduce upon their return to their countries. On their evaluation forms, several participants commented that they enjoyed having the opportunity to share real experiences with their colleagues and they looked forward to future programs.

Having set the stage this year, the training in 2004 will direct attention to governmental financial management information systems and the 2005 course will explore issues in auditing and accountability.
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