

**Opening Remarks**  
**International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management**  
**32nd International Training Conference**  
**Miami, Florida**  
**May 13 – 18, 2018**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management, honored guests:

Good morning and welcome to Miami. My name is Jim Wright and I have the honor and pleasure to serve as the President of ICGFM.

I am delighted to welcome you all to the 32nd Annual International Training Conference on Governmental Financial Management. The ICGFM Board of Directors, the Officers and I are pleased to see all of you here for what promises to be an exceptional week.

Your participation is important to us and we are confident that you will be able to leverage the conference program to support Public Financial Management (PFM) reform and implement international best practices to drive fiscal transparency and accountability in each of your countries. With your support, the ICGFM continues to grow by working

globally with governments, organizations and individuals to find new ways to improve financial management and service delivery to citizens.

We talk about the growth of ICGFM every year. And, you only have to look around the room today to appreciate that growth. We have representatives from approximately 28 countries here with us this week and close to 180 participants. We also continue to diversify the number of countries and regions represented, and we encourage you to spread the good word to help us continue to attract new participants and partners to our conferences. Together we are making a difference and ICGFM is clearly having an impact around the world. A special and warm welcome goes out to our new members and first time conference participants. If you are attending an ICGFM Conference for the first time, I would ask you to please stand so we may recognize you (pause for applause).

ICGFM has worked hard over the years to develop a unique and highly interactive approach to sharing ideas and best practices. The idea is to work together to improve Public Financial Management (PFM).

ICGFM Training Conferences provide an opportunity for us to share information about experiences in government financial management, promote best practices and encourage professional standards in PFM. The conference program and activities provide participants with practical information that can be leveraged to make informed decisions for improved financial management in your own countries. Attending ICGFM training conferences also allows our participants the chance to meet other individuals that may be leading reforms that are similar to the ones in your own countries, that can share advice on sound approaches, lessons learned, benefits and challenges to successfully implementing PFM reforms. The establishment of these informal networks amongst our participants is one of the greatest benefits of attending an ICGFM conference from my perspective.

This year's event will focus on creating a citizen and business enabling environment. I think we all recognize the critical role that sound practices in public financial management can play in ensuring fiscal transparency, fighting corruption, and ensuring Governments are accountable to its citizens for how they are using limited public

resources to effectively govern. We also know that there is a direct correlation between fiscal transparency initiatives and growth in foreign direct investment. Truly more than ever, reforming and implementing sound PFM practices in accounting and auditing can serve as a foundational building block for economic growth, trust in Government and more stable democracies that endure.

Governments around the world are finding new and innovate ways to leverage technology to enhance governance, accountability and transparency. This year, we will devote a day of the conference agenda, or 'Technology Tuesday,' to focus on the important role technology can play in enhancing PFM and to share emerging trends in the industry.

We think you'll agree that the 2018 program, special events and quality of speakers and programming are quite impressive and will provide you with a great deal of valuable information.

I'd like to recognize our Vice President for Programs, Dave Pearl and the Program Steering Committee for their efforts that have gone into preparing this year's program. You will find the names of those

individuals listed in your conference program (Dave and all the members of the program steering committee and conference support team please stand). All of these individuals worked many hours on this conference as well as our other ICGFM conferences and meetings, and we are deeply grateful for their support. (Applause)

It takes many people to make events like this possible. I would like to recognize a number of individuals whose participation with ICGFM and in the development of this conference have been invaluable.

- The Executive Committee and Board of Directors who give their knowledge and time to guide this organization and make it work. I would ask each Executive Committee and Board Member to please stand and be recognized. (Let's give them a round of applause.)
- Our Managing Director, Pat Cornish and our Project Consultant Mari Robinette Deasel. We thank them both for their commitment and dedication. (Pat and Mari Please Stand.)

I also want to recognize our conference sponsors, without whom we could not have put together this exciting program and conference. We

are very fortunate to have the Lincoln Institute as an Executive Partner, DAI as a Silver Sponsor and Grant Thornton and Nathan as supporting Organizations this year. Thank you so much for your continued support which makes ICGFM events like these possible. I would ask all representatives of our sponsoring organizations who are in the room to please stand – and for everyone to join me in a warm round of applause and thanks for our sponsors’ support. We invite you to visit the exhibit booths in the lobby to learn more about our sponsors and to review materials provided by our sponsors in your conference bags to learn more about the important and impactful work our sponsors are leading in the PFM arena.

We hope that you will take advantage of the great opportunity to learn from one another at the 2018 Training Conference and to network with your peers to share your countries’ experiences and lessons learned. We also encourage each of you to be advocates of the ICGFM in your countries to help us achieve our shared vision of an international consortium that helps improve Public Financial Management in developing and emerging countries, and developed countries alike.

We are confident that you will find the 2018 International Training Conference to be professionally and personally rewarding. I wish you every success and look forward to meeting each of you this week in Miami.