

## CLOSING REMARKS OF PRESIDENT JIM WRIGHT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen. After three days of learning, sharing and networking, it's time to bring our event to a close. Over the past three days we have heard thought leaders in the global PFM community share a range of innovative best practices. Topics have ranged from unique approaches to informing fiscal policy, effective revenue collection, financial reporting, and the important linkages between the use of public resources and results. We have learned about the importance of effectively engaging civil society and citizens to build trust and improve effective governance. And we have seen myriad ways that PFM can directly and indirectly support more prosperity and economic opportunity, and serve to strengthen and ensure the health of nascent and well established democracies, alike.

While we leave this conference behind and return to our homes and daily lives, the knowledge we have gathered will live on and the

relationships we have made will continue. Each of us leaves Washington armed with best practices and lessons learned shared from experts all over the world.

In the same way that we as individuals promote transparency, accountability and good governance in our daily work, we hold ourselves to these same principles. Everyone in this room embodies these principles. We use them as currency to empower public financial management reforms to better serve our citizens.

These principles form the foundation of public financial management. They help us to inspire trust in the people whose money we manage and whose dreams we help make possible. Without this trust, the entire system falls apart. Which is why transparency, accountability and good governance are so important.

The impact potential of the people and the knowledge in this room is enormous. We have more than 100 representatives from over 40

countries around the globe. We are all committed to helping drive our countries forward.

It has been a remarkable conference. The passion, vision and expertise of our speakers and panelists has been inspirational. Thank you again to our Program Steering Committee and our Vice President of Programs, Dave Pearl, for assembling such a strong program.

I would also like to thank all the moderators, the facilitators, the interpreters and, of course, you, the participants for your valuable contributions in the sessions and the workshops.

Remember to stay updated on the latest ICGFM news at [www.icgfm.org](http://www.icgfm.org) We encourage you to talk to your colleagues about ICGFM and share with them what you learned here in Washington this week. We will make all of the presentations and photos from this conference available to you on the ICGFM website. You will also be able to find information about upcoming events, including the Spring

Conference that will take place from May 12 – 17 at the Marriot Biscayne Bay Hotel in Miami.

I'd like to thank our sponsors once again. Our hosts at the Fiscal Affairs Department of the IMF. Our gold sponsor, Oracle. Our silver sponsors: Chemonics and KPMG. And our supporting organizations: Devex, the Graduate School USA, JS Morlu, Nathan Associates and Swale House Partners.

On a personal note, this is my last conference as the President of ICGFM. I want you to know what an honor it has been to serve this organization and the people that devote their spare time to positively impacting the global PFM community. Thank you for the opportunity to serve ICGFM, and I leave the organization in great hands as Lucie Phillips, assumes the ICGFM Presidency starting in January.

In closing, I wish to thank all of you for being part of an incredible Winter Conference and such a vital part of the ICGFM community. On behalf of ICGFM I would like to wish everyone a safe journey home. We

appreciate your support and very much look forward to seeing you at future conferences and events.

Thanks again, gracias and merci!