

Opening Remarks
International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management
29th International Training Conference
Miami, Florida
June 1 – 5, 2015

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

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

Welcome to the 29th 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 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 40 countries here with us this week and close to 200 participants. Together we are making a difference and the 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.

ICGFM has worked hard over the years to develop a unique and highly interactive approach to sharing ideas and good 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 government financial. The conference program and activities provide participants with practical information and lessons learned that can be leveraged to make informed decisions for improved financial management.

This year's event will focus on Public Financial Management Foundation for Public Governance. Governments around the world are finding new and innovative ways to leverage technology to enhance governance, accountability and transparency. The shift has introduced a new risk and reward paradigm for public servant careers and for government organizations. Transparency, in itself, has become a key performance indicator. The 2015 conference will help make sense of the new PFM reality.

We think you'll agree that the 2015 program, special events and quality of speakers is impressive and will provide you with a great deal of valuable information.

Our conference this week does have one cloud present over all of us. It is with great sadness that I let you know that David Nummy, our Vice President for Programs, and the long-time force behind, and face of our training conferences, passed away May 22. Most of you knew David as a long-time leader in the public financial management field and of ICGFM, and many in this room have had the chance to experience

David's expertise first-hand either in a learning or a technical assistance setting.

David fought some serious health issues over the past few months, and ultimately, lost the fight. His funeral services were held in private with only his family present, as he requested. David's wish that he made known to us is that we all carry on with the conference and continue our work in this most important field. He indicated that if you wish to offer a memoriam, that you make a contribution to the charity of your choice in his memory. We will all miss David's expertise and good nature. Please join in a moment of silence in David's memory.

I'd like to recognize our Vice President-Elect for Programs, Dave Pearl and the Program Steering Committee for the effort that has gone in to preparing this year's program. Dave and all members of the Program Steering Committee and conference support team really stepped up to take on the fine work that was entrusted to David Nummy over the past several years. You will find the names of those individuals listed in your conference program (Dave and all 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. Pat and Mari work tirelessly to ensure that ICGFM fulfills its mandate to you in a cost effective, effective, efficient and timely manner. 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 Grant Thornton and FreeBalance as a Platinum Sponsors, Oracle as Gold Sponsor and the Graduate School USA and Evans Incorporated as supporting Organizations and the Government Performance Summit as a Contributing Organization. Thank you so much for your continued support of ICGFM which makes these events 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 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.

We hope that you will take advantage the great opportunity to learn from one another at the 2015 Training Conference and to network with your peers to share your country 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 (PFM) in developing and emerging countries.

We are confident that you will find the 2015 International Training Conference to be professionally and personally rewarding. We wish you every success and look forward to meeting each of you this week in Miami.