

**OPENING REMARKS BY JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT OF ICGFM
AT THE 2017 DC TRAINING CONFERENCE MONDAY,
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management, honored guests:

Good Morning, Bonjour, Buenos Dias. My name is Jim Wright. As President of the ICGFM I have the distinct privilege of welcoming you to Washington, DC for the 2017 Winter Training Conference.

The ICGFM Board of Directors, the Officers and I are honored to see so many influential thought leaders and innovators of our field have chosen to join us this week.

For the next three days we will learn, share and debate the most innovative and exciting new developments and trends in the PFM world. We will build new, lasting relationships with our peers in the global PFM community. We will share and learn new best practices and mechanisms for improving PFM. And we will take the knowledge we

gain back to our home countries to empower our governments and better serve our citizens.

The strength of this conference can be seen in this room. The number of attendees and represented countries grows every year. The quality of our programs and speakers continues to improve and we continue to receive outstanding feedback on the value that our members receive through participation in ICGFM events.

Everyone in this room knows the pivotal role our professional community plays in the spread and strengthening of democracy around the globe. We all know that many of the dynamic and positive changes we are seeing in our world every day would not be possible without the solid foundation PFM provides.

This year, the theme of our winter conference – Creating a Citizen and Business Enabling Environment – reflects the pivotal role PFM can play in strengthening democratic institutions and increasing economic opportunity. From the first steps of democracy in ancient Greece, to

the emerging young countries embracing freedom today, the role of PFM in ensuring accountability and transparency around the collection, management and allocation of public resources has never been more important and remains a cornerstone of good governance.

It's truly an exciting time to be a member of the global PFM community that is represented so well by all of you in this hall today. Doors that were once closed are now open. Knowledge is being exchanged and best practices shared in a way that was not possible until recently. This is the technological revolution that is affecting every aspect of our world, bringing accountability and transparency to everything we do.

While we operate in a political world, the principles of accountability and transparency empower us to make decisions based less on politics and more on data and results. This is how the principles of open government and open data are helping to transform our world.

Processes that were once shrouded in secrecy are now open and accountable, data that was once siloed in one department or another is

now being shared across organizations to produce better outcomes. This is the positive force of change we are enabling. Public Financial Management is not just about moving money around - it's about empowering society to do great things.

In the coming days, we will hear from many individuals from all over the globe who will share their knowledge and experience in the hopes of helping all of you create lasting change in your own countries. And I have every confidence that you will each find this year's conference program and presentations to be rich, impactful and timely.

Before I conclude, I'd like to take a minute to recognize the support the ICGFM receives from a few key individuals and, of course, our sponsors.

First, I would like to thank the ICGFM Executive Committee and Board of Directors, all volunteers, who devote their time and knowledge to making this organization great. Our Executive Committee are all here today, please stand and be recognized. Thanks to each of you.

I'd also like to thank our amazing sponsors for helping make this event possible.

First our hosts, the Fiscal Affairs Department of the IMF. Thanks so much for your support and hospitality.

Next, we have our platinum level sponsor Ernst and Young.

Our Silver sponsors Chemonics, KPMG and Oracle. Thank you so much for your support.

Finally we have our supporting organizations, Graduate School USA, Evans Incorporated, Evolver, Inc, IBI, JS Morlu, Nathan and Devex.

Before concluding my opening remarks, I have one additional piece of important business to tend to. This year, ICGFM established the David M. Nummy lifetime achievement award. The award recognizes individuals who have made sustained contributions in advancing the ICGFM Mission. It recognizes outstanding ambassadors for the organization and individuals who have demonstrated their passion for improving public financial management around the world.

The award is named for David Nummy, who served on the ICGFM Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is best remembered for his role as VP of Programs where he served as the Master of Ceremonies for conferences for over a decade. David personified the ICGFM mission and embodied the spirit of the organization through his tireless work and significant contributions over the years to building PFM capacity. The award is sponsored by ICGFM to recognize and honor individuals who have made sustained contributions by bringing their expertise, passion, knowledge and dedication to further the ICGFM mission.

This year's awardee is in the audience and I am delighted to announce that the first recipient of the David M. Nummy Lifetime Achievement award is Pete Aliferis.

Pete has held many high level, important roles throughout his career. To list just a few of the roles where he served during his exceptional career, at GAO, Pete served many roles including as the Director of the Special Project Office of the Office of the Comptroller General and Director of Operations of the Accounting and Information Management Division. For the USA Graduate School he was Dean of Curriculum for the Government Auditor Training Institute and for the Association of Government Accountants he served as Deputy Executive Director - Operations, and Director of Professional certification.

But today we recognize him for shepherding ICGFM through some challenging times. As a former President and current Treasurer of ICGFM, Pete has positioned the organization for solid financial stability. And he continues to ensure that ICGFM budgets are allocated and expended in a responsible and impactful manner in his current role as Treasurer. Beyond that, Pete's passion and dedication to ICGFM's mission and vision continues to contribute to its level of success. Pete

is a highly respected and valued member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. So without further ado, for his tireless work and significant contributions over the years, we are proud to award Pete Aliferis the David M. Nummy Lifetime Achievement award.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to once again welcome you to the 2017 Winter Training Conference, and wish you great success and a fruitful several days of learning amongst this truly unique community of individuals in the days to come. I hope you enjoy Washington and the conference, and I look forward to a chance to chat with each of you in the coming days.