

## ICA 38<sup>th</sup> Conference Opening Session

### OPENING ADDRESS

**Nachman Oron**  
**Chair of ICA**

Dear Colleagues: Welcome to the ICA 38<sup>th</sup> Conference. It is my great pleasure to open this 38th Annual Conference of the International Council for Information Technology in Government Administration (ICA) and to welcome the 28 countries or jurisdictions and their representatives who will participate in our deliberations over the next three days.

Let me start my opening remarks by reinforcing how grateful we are to the Government of Cyprus and particularly the efforts of Costas Agrotis and his associates in hosting this Conference.

As demonstrated by last evening's welcoming warm opening reception, every effort has been made to ensure that delegates and partners are made to feel welcome and that our meetings/discussions will be productive.

Please join me in thanking our hosts the government and the people of Cyprus.

Each year the ICA Board/Programme Committee struggles to identify an overarching theme that is sufficiently anticipatory and broad as to capture interest, but not so vague that there is no real content, no real "on the ground" projects and progress.

Once again, under the capable direction of Martha Dorris, USA and Chair, Programme Committee and with the help of many colleagues in this room, this balance between vision and reality has been achieved.

The theme of this years conference is: **"E-Gov FAQs: Searching for the Right Answers"**

Now that all governments are more than several years down the pathway to electronic service delivery, we pause and ask ourselves some questions. We are searching for the right answers to these frequently asked questions; the questions revolved around the changing governance structure for transforming government, innovative ways to fund the transformation given the current economic climate worldwide, how the relationship that citizens have with their government is changing and what is it changing to, and when will it be e-nough? These questions will be answered through our panels of ICA colleagues. In addition, questions around trusted identify, open source software and progress made in the area of interoperability between governments. Once again, we will balance the conference with speakers from many of our ICA countries as well as panels, keynotes, and affinity group sessions.

Our agenda is not technology - our agenda is building a better world. Our agenda is about reaching across borders, national jurisdictions - yes using technology - but for the betterment of our citizens.

In effect, we have a great opportunity in the next three days of learning from each other, questioning basic assumptions, testing conclusions and constructively probing the experiences of many countries.

Let me conclude by again thanking our host – the government and people of Cyprus and the ICA Board and Programme Committee for providing a wonderful location/venue and a stimulating conference agenda.

To each of you in the room whether this is your first conference or your 38th, welcome! We need your active participation so that you can honestly say by Thursday night – you have had the “ICA Experience”.

Thank you.