

ICA 40th Conference
Challenges & Issues of WOG:
Brainstorming Networking Session Group 2
Moderator: Frank McDonough, USA

Well, I am representing Group 2 and I am going to start at the back end if I may. ICA, it seems to me, has once again demonstrated that it is a look-ahead organisation. This issue of whole of government, I thought I had a pretty good handle on what it was, and as you know I wrote a paper on the subject that Larry Caffrey put on the web page. I wrote a paper on this subject: it kind of stimulates some thinking relative to this conference. And so I thought I knew a pretty good amount about it.

However, after a two hour discussion with eleven nations I find my perspective has grown by a great dimension, so if I was to write my paper now I would probably be given perhaps a C-minus but based upon the discussion we had in our group I could probably move it up to A-minus level. So I am pretty excited about what I heard.

I think one of the interesting points is that if we have to ask ourselves and spend a considerable amount of time together saying what is whole of government? What do we mean by it? How can it be achieved? What are the difficulties? How can it be implemented in our government? You have to say to yourself, how can we expect the political officials above us and the budget officials, and the management officials above us to support us when we begin talking about integrated government, because we are not quite clear on it ourselves, even though we are the ones that work in the field and so I think we have some work to do. And the idea is we need to tie what we are doing to a political level into the political roles and we do have problems assigning of budgeting, that's for sure, but there is a lot of education that needs to be done. So I think first of all if we could get clear in our own minds what we are about, and what this movement is about then we can begin to explain it and hopefully sell it above so that they can take it forward as a true government movement.

A good start, I think, would be to collect the information that we've had in these three groups. There are no real textbooks written by people that are in the field on what the whole of government is, and how to go about it.

I think what we have created here is in these six hours across three work groups is unique, professional and important information of what this movement is about, and I think if we

could collect it together and distribute it to you it would be an important first step on how to proceed to implement whole of government.

We had some great ideas and I think time beginning we relate to a political level in getting our own heads clear on what this subject is about. I think we got the information from our discussions in the last two hours in our three groups, we got a good start. So let me just close with that.