



**ICA 40th Conference
Opening Session**

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Nachman Oron, Israel

Chair of ICA

Estimados Invitados,
Estimados miembros de ICA,
Damas y Caballeros.

Buenos días,

Es un placer y honor estar en la bella ciudad de Guadalajara, México. Para inaugurar la cuadragésima conferencia de ICA.

Gracias, por su magnífica hospitalidad y por estar con nosotros.

Dear Respected Guests
Dear Members of ICA
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning

It is a privilege and, indeed, a real pleasure to welcome you all to ICA's 40th Conference here in this fine city of Guadalajara.

In all 25 countries are represented. Amongst delegates I recognise many old friends and loyal supporters of ICA; it is an especial pleasure to have you with us again. I am also delighted to see and warmly welcome many new faces; you will, I feel sure, enjoy being with us and soon become old friends.

This conference, ICA's fortieth, is yet another milestone in the ICA's long history. The founding fathers established the conference as the prime vehicle for achieving the Council's aims of sharing information.

They also provided a formula for its organisation which, updated regularly with growing experience, has provided the most effective means of exchanging information whilst maintaining a beneficial level of informality.

Consideration of this year's highly topical theme:

'Whole of Government – Filling the Holes' builds on this legacy.

It was selected following several reports at the 39th Conference in Salzburg last year of growing centralisation and consolidation in cross government activities.

As will be seen from the agenda this development is to be fully explored. Concepts are to be considered and developed in keynote addresses, whilst presentations are to be made by several members on current developments of the whole government approach in their own countries.

We are also to have a brainstorming session in which conference participants can make an individual contribution. To set a seal on the theme a final session is to consider a recent wide ranging survey of present governmental practice in providing service to its citizens; an opportunity to reflect on current practice and future possibilities.

But even the best meal needs variety!

To complement consideration of the main theme we are to hold the ever-popular Affinity Group discussions on a range of topics of current concern to governments.

Additionally we are to receive a report identifying the highlights from Member Countries's annual reports; as well as a progress report from the Study Groups

'All work and no play make Jack a dull boy.' So goes the proverb. So we have several social events planned. The Welcome Reception last night was a foretaste of things to come!

We are all set for a great conference! Let us work hard and play hard so that Mexico 2006 will long be remembered in the history of ICA!

Bienvenido!