

FOREWORD

In September, 2006, ICA established a panel of persons with a long history working in information technology and who had served with distinction their respective country and the Association in a variety of roles. The objective was to identify significant issues of importance to ICA members for which thoughtful reflection on the present and the future would prove beneficial.

Accordingly, Frank McDonough, USA, John Riddle, Canada and Des Vincent, Northern Ireland were requested to take up this challenge. I am delighted to report that they accepted and that the product of their deliberations is contained in this document.

A list of nineteen subjects was initially considered and then reduced through intensive discussion to six. These were then divided amongst the panel and serious research, consultation and discussion ensued. It was the intention of the panel to be provocative and to speculate as to what these six issues would mean to information technology professionals in the 2012-15 timeframe.

The assistance of ICA members was sought in early 2007 and many countries provided commentary and useful examples of projects for which the panel is most grateful. It should be noted that the authors did not create a specific bibliography for their papers but instead acknowledge the use of a variety of sources including books, trade magazines and discussions with public/private sector leaders in conducting their research and reaching their conclusions.

All six papers are contained in this publication, but only three of the topics will be presented formally at the October 2007 ICA Conference in Dublin.

On behalf of ICA, I want to thank Messrs McDonough, Riddle and Vincent for undertaking this work. Additionally, I want to invite colleagues to probe and to comment on the provocations and assertions made by the panel so that together we will learn and illuminate the future.

Dr. Nachman Oron,
ICA Chair

September, 2007