

ACCA's International Public Sector Conference:
Putting Finance into Politics
4 December 2014
Inmarsat Conference Centre, London



Programme

09.00 – 09.30	Registration
09.30 – 09.45	<p>Welcome address Stephen Emasu, chair of ACCA's Global Forum for the Public Sector, public financial management expert with the IMF, Fiscal Affairs Department</p>
09.45 – 10.30	<p>Managing the politics of finance Simon Hamilton, minister of finance, Northern Ireland</p>
10.30 – 12.15	<p>Financial reporting and its impact on decision-making Mario Abela, leader – research and development, International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Dr. Anne Stafford, senior lecturer in accounting and finance, Manchester Business School Uresha Waltpitagama, finance manager, Ministry of Finance & Planning, Sri Lanka Dr. Danny Chow, lecturer in accounting, Durham University Business School Chair: Professor Ron Hodges, Birmingham University</p> <p>Speakers in the morning sessions will give different perspectives on achieving sound financial management in politicised environments and consider how to achieve sustainable finances when much of the focus is on the short term-political cycle. The panel will explore what contribution financial accounting and reporting makes to effective decision-making from the developed and developing world. It will also consider the impact of accounting for public private partnerships and whether consolidated government accounts are widely used by a range of stakeholders. This is a timely discussion on how financial reporting is developing to improve decision-making, accountability and transparency for public spending.</p>
12.15 – 1.15	Lunch and networking
1.15 – 2.15	<p>Inequality and the financial crisis: cause and consequences Dr Lim Mah Hui, former professor and international banker, author of the book 'Nowhere to hide'</p> <p>This session will focus in an engaging way on the consequences and challenges of the 2007-2009 financial crises through the lens of economics, finance, sociology and politics. The presentation will focus on financial industry practices and malpractices and the structural imbalances in the international economy that still persist.</p>
2.15 – 3.45	<p>Holding government to account John Doyle, auditor general, Victorian Auditor-General's Office, Australia Marcine Waterman, controller of audit, Audit Commission, England Gillian Fawcett, head of public sector, ACCA Chair: Professor Malcolm Prowle, Nottingham University</p> <p>Holding governments to account effectively is not without its challenges. In this session we get an opportunity to hear a range of views from panellists about the challenges of accountability and the degree to which they think governments are held accountable for their actions. Each of the panellists contributed to an ACCA publication 'Breaking out: public audit's new role in a post crash world'.</p>

3.45 – 4.00	Refreshment break
4.00 – 5.00	<p>Creating trust in public services Andrew Wood, chief executive of Tomorrow's Company Paul Moxey, head of corporate governance ACCA Pauline Schu, researcher, ACCA Chair: Stephen Emasu, chair of ACCA's Global Forum for the Public Sector</p> <p>In this session we will hear from speakers about the importance of culture and behaviour in driving organisational effectiveness, as well as hearing about new reporting developments for companies seeking contracts with public sector entities. The reporting developments are seeking to address issues of trust.</p>
5.00 – 5.15	<p>New reporting developments Chris Ridley, public sector policy manager, ACCA</p> <p>There is a lot going on in the financial reporting sphere. This penultimate session will include a summary of recent and financial and non-financial developments including integrated reporting (the new kid on the block) and European public sector accounting developments (EPSAS).</p>
5.15 - 5.30	<p>Close and summary Antony Harbinson, director of community safety, Department of Justice for Northern Ireland and President, ACCA</p>
5.30– 7.30pm	Drinks reception