

# Canadian conferencing

## Nancy Cheng from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada reports on the ICA 2000 Conference held in Ottawa last September.

The International Council for Information Technology in Government Administration (ICA) held its millennium conference in Ottawa, Canada from September 19-21, 2000. The event was hosted by Mr. John Riddle, the Director General of Information Management Services Directorate in Health Canada of the Government of Canada.

The theme for the 2000 conference was "Government Solutions for an Interconnected World". Plenary sessions addressed various subjects such as:

- Governance/Chief Information Officer priorities;
- Citizen expectations;

- E-Government;
- Public and private sector partnerships; and
- Changing work practices.

In total, thirty speakers from fourteen countries contributed to and participated in the conference. Beyond trends that have been well accepted in the pursuit of service delivering across jurisdictions, such as political leadership, targets and security, new dimensions were added to the discussion, notably, bureaucratic structure, service process transparency, information architecture, literacy, cyber legislation and the emerging public servant "sans frontier".

The three-day conference gave members an opportunity to establish a comprehensive picture of information technology (IT) trends around the world and allowed member countries to report on major events related to the management and use of IT and to solicit assistance from their colleagues. The Council was established in 1968. It meets annually to provide officials in national governments with a vehicle for addressing key issues and emerging

policies related to the initiation, development and implementation of computer-based systems in and by the public sector. Its current membership has representation from 25 countries, including:

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|-------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Australia | ■ Korea                    |
| ■ Austria   | ■ Malta                    |
| ■ Canada    | ■ Netherlands              |
| ■ Cyprus    | ■ Norway                   |
| ■ Denmark   | ■ Portugal                 |
| ■ Estonia   | ■ Singapore                |
| ■ Finland   | ■ Slovakia                 |
| ■ France    | ■ Spain                    |
| ■ Germany   | ■ Sweden                   |
| ■ Hungary   | ■ Switzerland              |
| ■ Ireland   | ■ United Kingdom           |
| ■ Israel    | ■ United States of America |
| ■ Japan     |                            |

The European Commission holds an associate membership.

