



Presidents Report
Annual General Meeting of GOVIS 2002
27/9/2002

GOVIS - A YEAR IN REFLECTION

General:

I have very much enjoyed my role as President of GOVIS over the past year.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Committee in helping me get up to speed in this role and the support provided. Of particular note I thank Mike Pearson who has been my 'right hand man' and has ably stood in as President whilst I was out of the country as well as providing invaluable assistance to me throughout the year.

I also thank Mark Carroll who has very successfully undertaken the GOVIS Secretary role and kept the Committee and myself all in line where required. Appreciation also goes to David Fitzgerald-Irons who has very capably managed the books for GOVIS this year – so much so, that we are again sitting on a healthy bank balance!

Overall I am very pleased with what we have achieved through this year.

From the outset, I wanted to renew the GOVIS image – to inject some zest into the organisation. I believe we have gone a long way in achieving this.

After much debate in the Committee we settled on the new logo and from this, revamped the look and feel of the website. We used different organisers for this years Conference who I enjoyed working with to bring a different feel to the three days. I believe we achieved a highly professional conference, with good content, valuable opportunities to network with colleagues and vendors and, we wrapped some pizzazz and fun around the event.

I am certainly keen to see further work undertaken in rejuvenating GOVIS and ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of its members in an ongoing dynamic and evolving way.

Conference Details:

This years' Emerge Conference was highly successful. We had a total of 465 delegates and 36 Trade Displays. Again pre-conference workshops were successfully run and we had a range of high calibre international, national, private and public sector speakers.

The conference organisers, Paardekoopers, were good to work with and we had an energetic conference committee who worked well in pulling together the conference program overall.

As always, there are lessons to be learned and these learnings will feed into next years conference.

We have had discussion in the Committee with respect to amalgamating conferences with local government. This is worthy of further discussion and debate.

Forums:

We are currently running five specific interest forums

- Information Management
- Information Technology
- EGovernment
- Security
- Websites

As well as the general GOVIS forum. There has been varying levels of activity and success across these forums. I would suggest heading into the next year that the Committee discuss the forums and debate the future of these.

WebSite:

I wish to acknowledge the work undertaken by Stephen Ford in redesigning and thereafter supporting the GOVIS website as well as design and support of the intranet used at the Conference.

Financial Affairs:

As is explained by the Treasurers Report, we have a healthy bank balance thanks to a very successful conference. I am keen that we discuss how we might use these funds in a way that provides value to the GOVIS members. I am very supportive of the idea of GOVIS Scholarship(s) and encourage further discussion and debate on this. I would also encourage members to put forward their ideas of how we might use these funds in other ways.

Finally, I would like to thank the GOVIS members for your contribution and involvement through the past year. I look forward to my continuing involvement in GOVIS and working with you all through the next year.

Deidre Butler
GOVIS President