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GLOBAL NETWORK UPDATE

Semi-annual newsletter from ECFA encouraging the faithful administration of God's work among all nations



Join the Global Movement: "Partners in Accountability" by Gary G. Hoag, Ph.D. - ECFA International Liaison

On 4-5 June, 2017, Dan Busby, John Van Drunen, and I traveled to Melbourne, Australia to attend the second International Accountability Summit (IAS). IAS 2017 was sponsored by ECFA and hosted by CMASC (CMA Standards Council), our peer partner in Australia. As many members of the global network were unable to attend, this report summarizes the proceedings and reports the first fruits that have sprouted since then.

IAS 2017 welcomed 64 delegates representing 20 countries around the world: Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Uganda,

Uruguay, and USA. All 64 delegates traveled to Australia at their own expense and committed time and energy to attend.

“Partners in Accountability” marked the theme of the summit. We gathered with four specific objectives in view: (1) to strengthen relationships with local champions; (2) to share wisdom and resources; (3) to discuss challenges linked to financial transparency in church and ministry settings globally; and, (4) to pray for each other.

IAS 2017 began on Pentecost Sunday. John Van Drunen, executive vice president of ECFA, noted, “The program was structured to position all 64 delegates to contribute, and people commented widely that it felt like the Holy Spirit knit our hearts together as one, enabling us to accomplish these aims in a manner that exceeded all expectations.”

Leading representatives of peer accountability groups from 7 countries gave brief reports: Steve Kerr ([CMASC](#) – Australia), Curtis Towns ([CCCC](#) – Canada), Sanjay Patra ([EFAC](#) – India), Emily Chengo ([AfCAA](#) – Kenya), Angelito Gabriel ([CCTA](#) – Philippines), Ho Chan Hwang ([CCFK](#) – South Korea), and John Van Drunen ([ECFA](#) – USA).

Prominent panelists also spoke to various issues linked to ministry accountability. As most of the participants came from countries that do not yet have peer accountability groups, high-profile Aussies like Murray Baird, Assistant Commissioner and General Counsel of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC), urged them to pursue peer accountability, saying, “Bad things happen in the dark. Sunlight is the best disinfectant.”

The IAS program binder included the standards for faithful stewardship for the 7 peer accountability groups along with other helpful resources. This tool equipped delegates from the remaining 13 nations to work to enhance trust and transparency among ministries in their respective countries and to consider forming peer accountability groups.

Dan Busby, ECFA president, exhorted the delegates to “stay” and “go”. He passionately urged the delegates from nations with peer accountability groups, saying, “Stay the course!” He also challenged participants whose nations do not have such groups to “Go and do what you can to enhance trust!” In his closing remarks, he added this proclamation: “It is possible that God is allowing us to witness the dawning of the age of global accountability, transparency, and integrity for Christ-centered churches and ministries.”

Celebrating First Fruits

Some IAS 2017 delegates have already taken action. For example, Rony Madrid, along with Juan Callejas and Edgar Güitz of Guatemala gathered church and ministry leaders on July 27, 2017, in Guatemala City to form CONFIABLE (Concilio de Organizaciones No-lucrativas, Financieramente Integras, Auditables, Bíblica y Legalmente Establecidas or “Council of nonprofit organizations, financially integrated, auditable, biblically and legally established”). This marks the first fruits of IAS 2017.

Join the Global Movement

Here are three specific actions you can take to participate in this global accountability movement.

1. **Pray** – I often remark that “God cares more about accountability than we do!” Join me in praying that God will continue to raise up national leaders around the world to champion the faithful financial administration of His work. My calendar reminds me each Saturday to pray for these peer groups and this global movement. *Will you join me in setting a reminder to pray?*
2. **Network** – If your church or ministry works in one of the 7 nations with peer accountability groups (listed above), urge your co-workers in these countries to check out the websites for the organizations in their countries and inquire about becoming an accredited member of that peer accountability group. *Can you spread the word to ministry associates around the world?*
3. **Email** – If you have questions or want more information, email me at gary@ecfa.org. I will respond personally. Please let me know as well of others who may be interested in joining this movement in your country or other countries. *Could you simply reply to this email and copy your colleagues so that I can graft them into the global network?*

Why pray, network, and email others about this global network? God cares about accountability more than we do because our work with Him has His name on it!