

REPORT ON IIM ACT BRANCH AGM DISCUSSIONS

The ACT Region held its AGM on Wed 26th Nov 2008, kindly sponsored by Opticon, which assisted the provision of excellent finger food and a wide variety of non-alcoholic drinks.

To neatly “sandwich” the AGM business, we held 2 discussions: before the AGM was “Standards: What’s the Point When There are So Many of Them?”, and after was a discussion on the Gershon Report with the intention of gathering member’s feedback so that IIM could make a submission.

The Standards panel consisted of: Andrew Ford (Booz and co.), Thomas Kaufhold (RMAA), Karen Skelton (NAA), and Pierre Truter (Airservices). Each was offered a short introduction before questions from the floor.



The Standards Panel

Andrew opened the discussion and postulated that existing standards were ‘necessary but not sufficient’. Thomas then proposed that standards should be living documents, but were often thought of as an ass because of conflicting statements and the need for interpretation. Karen claimed to have been an evangelist, born to develop standards. Her career started in the Navy with a need for exacting standards. She progressed to the NAA where she has contributed to many of the published works. Finally, Pierre announced that his biggest hate was Standards, and in his business of keeping aircraft from crashing then standards were all important.

The discussion continued in a very animated manner for about 50 minutes; when finally hunger closed it down. In closing the facilitator, Colin, gave Andrew, Thomas, and Karen an opportunity to create just one more Standard, and for Pierre to name 4 that he wished to remove!

After a food break, the AGM business was completed in record-breaking fashion. The outgoing committee was thanked profusely, and the incoming committee has three new faces – welcome Maria Kalajic from DAFF (Administrator) and Kim James from Opticon (Councillor), and Gary Harb from Objective returning after absence (Financial Controller).

Andrew James is the new President, with Vlad, Colin and Christine continuing. A new role of ‘advisor’ has been created of people who can be called upon with ideas and commentary on the IM industry. Mark Rogers, Nigel Carruthers-Taylor, and Phil Sloper have kindly offered their services.

The second discussion was on the Gershon Report and was ably led by Phil Sloper (AIIA), Rick Bushell (ACS) and Kevin Neonan (Intermedium). Vlad gave a general introduction and summary of the current situation being as the Federal Government had just announced a couple of days earlier that they would adopt all the recommendations in full and add this to the scope of the ‘Razor Gang’.

Phil stated the case for certainty of leadership, and the need for the Government to work with industry. He informed that AIIA had formed an engagement team to make representation to Government. Rick talked of the opportunities possible and that the ACS were moving from an academic viewpoint to more of a business focus. Rick identified the need for Government to explain how they would address the skills shortfall and whole-of-government professional development. Kevin identified that Intermedium had helped a number of companies make submissions to the Report, and so he had a broad awareness of views across industries and Departments. Kevin painted a clear picture of Sir Peter Gershon – the man, and of his interpretation of the scope of reference, for example that the “Green IT” proposition was developed from the analysis of findings and was not in the original scope.

Gershon asked about processes at a pan-government level, and identified the need for a governance 'line of sight' from Government Minister to the ICT coder or engineer. His finding that only 5% of projects could demonstrate good outcomes and measures, led to his assertion that the system is neither effective nor efficient.

Again the audience participated enthusiastically, with the presenters running with the ideas and comments presented.

Finally, Colin had to close the discussion without having exhausted comment.

The large number of people who hung around continuing their conversations while helping clean up the room was a great testament to a great evening, and the choice of 2 hot topics.

The ACT Committee will provide a detailed record of both the discussions at a later date – watch the IIM website: www.iim.org.au



Vladimir Videnovic presenting the IIM ACT Branch President's Report



Colin Towns, Master of Ceremonies



IIM ACT Branch 2008 AGM