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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
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**OMB AND THE COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT HOST
INTERNATIONAL FORUM TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES IN UTILIZING
PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

Washington—The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) today announced that Senior Budget Officials from more than 20 countries met in Washington, DC June 11TH and 12TH to share best practices in utilizing performance information to improve the performance of governments and their programs. Through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), senior budget officials of both OECD member and observer countries have made the search for better performance-based management practices a leading focus of their collaboration. Representatives of ten countries led discussions on topics such as: development and use of evaluations by finance and budget ministries; use of performance information by the executive and legislative branches; and promoting cross-organizational cooperation.

“We were delighted to host this meeting of senior budget officials,” said Clay Johnson, Deputy Director for Management at OMB. “The United States and our international partners all gain by sharing how we're working to make our governments work better.”

Barry Anderson, Head of the Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division of OECD's Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, led the organization of the conference. “The most important issue in budgeting today is the effort of governments around the globe to get more value for money from government programs,” said Anderson. “And the better use of performance information is the leading tool to assist governments in this objective.”

“The OECD Senior Budget Officials Working Group provides a valuable and unique opportunity for budget practitioners to look at budget practices and to learn from each other,” said Dr. Ian Watt, Australia's Secretary of the Finance Department and Chair of the conference.

Several key officials addressed the conference, including:

- Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education, United States
- Heidi Berner, Head of Management and Control Division, Budget Office, Ministry of Finance, Chile
- Clay Johnson, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, United States

- Henrietta Fore, Under Secretary for Management, Department of State, United States
- Dirk Kabel, Head of Policy Review, Ministry of Finance, The Netherlands
- Lee McCormack, Executive Director, Results Based Management, Treasury Board Secretariat, Canada
- Gonzalo Hernandez, Executive Secretary, National Council for Evaluation of Social Policy, Mexico
- Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior, United States
- Markus Sovala, Deputy Head of the Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Finland
- Ian Watt, Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, Australia

The conference was hosted by OMB along with the Council for Excellence in Government. More information about the OECD's Senior Budget Officers network can be found in recent publications:

- *Performance Budgeting in OECD Countries* (July 2007)
- *Government for Performance: Lessons and Challenges*; OECD Journal on Budgeting Volume 5, no. 1 (www.oecd.org/gov/budget).
- *Performance Information in the Budget Process: Results of the OECD 2005 Questionnaire*, OECD Journal on Budgeting Volume 5, no.2 (www.oecd.org/gov/budget).

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