Congress program

Program overview

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Business Connect Program

Session guidance

The program will deliver a diverse experience, using the latest technology and learning methods, enabling you to **Learn, Adapt, and Accelerate** your career.

**Keynote**
The largest and most impactful sessions on the program. Covering the main congress themes, the world's thought leaders, finance and accounting experts will draw a road map for the next four years.

**Learn**
Sessions cater to all accounting and finance disciplines. From interactive sessions to panels and discussions, leading experts globally will share best practice and allow you to deep dive into the pertinent issues.

**Adapt**
Sessions are focused on building your skills. You will be problem-solving in intimate groups alongside your peers.

**Accelerate**
Sessions are for big thinkers, and future leaders featuring heavy hitting speakers that challenge the status quo.

**Master Classes**
In-depth 2 hour workshops designed to build skills can be purchased separately on Monday, 5 November. Program released July 2018. Places are limited.

**Sponsor Showcase**
Practical 2 hr workshops delivered by select event partners, accessible to all Full Congress delegates on Monday, 5 November. Places are limited.

**Social**
Social sessions highlight the very best of Sydney sights, food and culture, and provide opportunities to network or relax with colleagues.
Day One
Monday 05 November

Day One: BUSINESS & ACCOUNTING SHOWCASE

8:00am – 8:00pm Registration

9:40am – 10:00am Morning Tea

10:00am – 12:00pm S1: Enabling connected business through proactive innovation

10:00am – 12:00pm S2: Climate change and the role of accountants in creating adaptive organisations

10:00am – 12:00pm S3: The changing world of work and home

10:00am – 12:00pm S4: Analytics for finance professionals

10:00am – 12:00pm S5: Session to be announced

10:00am – 12:00pm S6: Session to be announced

10:00am – 12:00pm S7: Without Question© – lights, camera, action

10:00am – 12:00pm MC1: Excel training – Introduction to financial modelling

10:00am – 12:00pm MC2: Excel training – The power of BI

10:00am – 12:00pm MC3: Excel training – Excel tips and tricks

12:00pm – 1:00pm Exhibition Lunch

1:00pm – 3:00pm MC4: Excel training – Analysis without paralysis

1:00pm – 3:00pm MC5: Excel training – Dashboard designing

1:00pm – 3:00pm MC6: Excel training – The power of BI

1:00pm – 3:00pm S8: International Accounting Standards Board Update

1:00pm – 3:00pm S9: How to use real-time data to unlock your practice potential

1:00pm – 3:00pm S10: Robotics: unlocking the automation prize in finance

1:00pm – 3:00pm S11: Shifting from relevant to indispensable

1:00pm – 3:00pm S12: Session to be announced

1:00pm – 3:00pm S13: Session to be announced

1:00pm – 3:00pm S14: Advocating the benefits of accrual in strengthening PFM

1:00pm – 3:00pm S15: Session to be announced

3:00pm – 3:30pm Afternoon Tea

5:00pm – 8:00pm Launch Event: Maritime Museum

Day Two
Tuesday 06 November

Day Two: PURPOSE

07:15am – 5:00pm Registration

8:15am – 9:00am Opening ceremony

9:00am – 10:15am Keynote 1: Financial upheavals challenging global economic order

10:15am – 11:00am Morning Tea

11:00am – 12:15pm A1: Converging reporting frameworks

11:00am – 12:15pm A2: Assurance of the future – building credibility and trust

11:00am – 12:15pm A3: Global tax leaks, tweaks, BEPS and bots

11:00am – 12:15pm A4: Finding your 10 seconds of courage

11:00am – 12:15pm A5: The new rules of trust in the digital age

12:15pm – 1:20pm Exhibition Lunch

1:20pm – 2:35pm B1: The truth about truth telling

1:20pm – 2:35pm B2: Government transformation shaping economic and social change

1:20pm – 2:35pm B3: Ethical dilemmas in changing times – the opportunities

1:20pm – 2:35pm B4: The changing role of trusted advisor: Influencing small business client behaviour

1:20pm – 2:35pm B5: Global and culturally diverse leaders and leadership

2:35pm – 3:30pm Afternoon Tea – Melbourne Cup

3:30pm – 5:15pm Keynote 2: The death of trust – accounting scandals that shocked the world

6:30pm – 9:30pm Sydney Harbour Cruise

Disclaimer of liability: WCOA 2018 reserves the right to alter any part of this program at any time without notice.
Day Three
Wednesday 07 November

9:00am – 10:30am  
**Keynote 3: The digital factor: AI, automation and the opportunity**  
Ayesha Khanna  
Co-Founder and CEO / ADDO AI  

10:30am – 11:15am  
Morning Tea

11:15am – 12:30pm  
C1: Using integrated thinking to drive long term value creation  
C2: The innovation-led finance function  
C3: The impact of digital currencies and blockchain on finance  
C4: Governance and performance – supporting board decisions in the pursuit of growth  
C5: Data driven decision-making with AI

12:30pm – 1:45pm  
Exhibition Lunch

1:45pm – 3:00pm  
D1: Small firm, big bang  
D2: Valuations – art or science?  
D3: Powerful ways to unleash your inner storyteller  
D4: Agile finance teams  
D5: Blockchain for financial management efficiencies

3:00pm – 3:45pm  
Afternoon Tea

3:45pm – 5:00pm  
**Keynote 4: The human factor: Harnessing creativity and innovation**  
Sir Ken Robinson  
Author / Creative Schools

7:00pm – 11:00pm  
Gala Event – Sydney Nights

Day Four
Thursday 08 November

8:30am – 9:45am  
E1: Decoding the business landscape in Asia  
E2: Generation Next – attracting new talent  
E3: Audit and the machines  
E4: Future finance partner  
E5: Protecting against cybercrime – data and digital currencies risk

9:45am – 10:30am  
Morning Tea

10:30am – 11:45am  
F1: Fintech growth – challenges to regulation and central banking  
F2: CFO 4.0  
F3: Young accountants changing the world  
F4: How data and digits can make your stakeholders say “yes”  
F5: Digital future – new ways of working

11:45am – 1:00pm  
Exhibition Lunch

1:00pm – 2:45pm  
**Keynote 5: Global risks and ‘future shocks’**  
Facilitator: Tony Jones  
Australian Journalist / ABC  
Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations (2007-2016) / President & Chair, Global Green Growth Institute / Chair, International Olympic Committee Ethics Commission / Founder, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens  
Alison Martin  
Group Chief Risk Officer, Zurich Insurance Group / Member, Steering Board, WEF Global Risks Report 2018

2:45pm – 3:05pm  
Afternoon Tea

3:05pm – 4:50pm  
**Keynote 6: Future-proof your career – trends, skills, mindsets and behaviours**  
Robyn Denholm FCA  
Chief Operations Officer, Telstra Corporation / Board Member & Audit Committee Chair, Tesla Motors Inc.

4:50pm – 5:00pm  
Closing ceremony