

**Remarks by
Donna Tanoue
Chairman
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
before an
International Conference on Deposit Insurance
Sponsored by the FDIC
Washington, D.C.
September 11, 1998**

Over the past three days, we have explored an extraordinary range of issues. How deposit insurance has evolved in many countries. The roles that the deposit insurer plays. And the balance between moral hazard and stability. We have looked at economic issues. Legal issues. And accounting issues.

We have examined recent banking crises. And the various ways to address the problems relating to troubled institutions. Looking ahead, we have discussed the efforts of financial institutions to ready their computer systems for the Year 2000 date change. And banking supervision in a global financial system. We benefited from hearing Larry Summers, Ricki Helfer, Stanley Fischer, John Heimann and many other distinguished speakers give their views on international trends and events.

Our panel discussions reflected differing experiences and perspectives. Which should come as no surprise. While technology has made the world a smaller place than it was just a few short years ago, it remains diverse. Because of that diversity, we can all learn from one another. This conference brought deposit insurance authorities from around the world together for the first time.

Despite our diversity, we found that we had much in common. We found that we have a community of interest. And we began a conversation about who we are, what we do, and what we can do better -- individually and collectively.

You'll recall in opening this conference, I proposed that we discuss ways to increase cooperation and communication. And, in particular, whether we might benefit from the creation of a formal international consortium on deposit insurance.

Such a consortium might have the mission of: Acting as a clearinghouse for information... Coordinating education and training... And providing technical assistance to countries creating or refining their deposit insurance systems.

Based on your informal comments, it appears that many of you support exploring this -- and other -- ways of formally enhancing communications and cooperation.

In other words, keeping our conversation going after this conference closes. The FDIC is committed to that conversation... And to working with all of you to find ways for it to

continue. In the next few weeks, we will write to all of you, and ask you for your thoughts and recommendations on carrying the momentum of this conference forward. Of course, you do not have to wait until then to tell us what you think. We welcome hearing from you at any time.

During the past three days, I have stressed that this conference is not the FDIC's -- it is yours. It was intended to be truly collegial and international in spirit. And I hope you will all agree that it has been. In closing, there are a few people I want to thank... First, Claude Rollin, who first began to think about this conference when he was returning from an advisory mission to Ukraine, and who worked for more than a year to make it a reality.

Next Detta Voesar, Chris Blair, Rose Kushmeier, Kay Zielinski, Pauline Tao, Donna Soto, Andrew Roberts and Valerie Best, who worked on the strategy, organization and planning that made this conference a success. My colleagues on the FDIC Board who enthusiastically supported this effort from conception to completion: Vice Chairman Andrew Hove, under whose leadership this effort was first undertaken and Director Joseph Neely who allowed his Special Assistant, Claude Rollins, to spearhead the planning of this conference.

But most of all, on behalf of the men and women of the FDIC, I thank all of you who have come from all over the world to participate in this conference. You have made this conference a remarkable success.

Thank you.

Last Updated 06/25/1999