



**AGA Austin Chapter  
December 12, 2013 Luncheon**

Zakir Mahmood talks about Effective Financial Management in an IT Intensive Environment

Tips on risk, crisis, and financial management:

- Although there is a severe restraint of financial resources, these financial resources will always be restrained and political decisions will always be around. The key is to find the right people, right processes, and right tools!
- The answer to financial management challenges is innovation and enhancement. Focus on outcomes, having an effective system of records, and create an environment that is open to ideas.
- When dealing with a project, define the scope and break the project down into smaller pieces to ensure performance is being met throughout the project. If you are juggling multiple projects, assign projects and/or tasks to departments and individuals.
- People care more about the outcome of a project when they are invested in its completion and success. Also, be sure to gain support from employees on all levels, not just the higher ranking managers.
- Take the time to formulate a budget each year. Don't estimating an overall percentage increase, or use a budget from past years.
- Analysis is the key to a learning organization because it lets you see where your inefficiencies lie. Analysis should be done often to ensure there is a return on every dollar spent.

**About the Speaker:**

Zakir Mahmood is Senior Manager with Grant Thornton and has over 18 years of experience in federal and commercial sectors, covering financial management, organizational restructuring and transformation, information technology, business negotiations, and outsourcing. Mr. Mahmood has worked on financial management projects for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Aviation Administration, and U.S. Airways.

**Luncheon Information:**

- Luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month at Carmelo's Restaurant (on 5<sup>th</sup> St.).
- AGA members and non-members are welcome to join us at luncheons and earn CPE credit.
- Lunch (and dessert) is provided with your registration.
- Payment options: Pay at the door or online at <http://www.agaustin.org/aga-austin-reg.html>.