

## **2009 Annual Luncheon**

CIPFA Northern Ireland's Annual Chairman's Luncheon is always a popular event for CIPFA members and invited guests and the 2009 event was no exception. This year the lunch was held on 4 March in Belfast Castle and the Northern Ireland Branch was delighted to welcome Caroline Mawhood, the CIPFA President, and over 100 guests including representatives from other professional bodies and senior executives from across the public services in Northern Ireland.

Branch Chairman, Michael Carson, welcomed everyone to the lunch and opened the event with the announcement of the winner of the CIPFA NI Student of the Year Award 2008 for the professional qualification as Brendan McAleer of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

*Brendan said, "I feel really honoured to receive the title of Student of the Year 2008. Even though I thoroughly enjoyed my studies with CIPFA Northern Ireland, I am relieved to have now graduated to become a CPFA Accountant!"*

Mike Smith, Chief Executive and Managing Director of Titanic Quarter Ltd, was the keynote speaker at the lunch. Mike provided an interesting account of the impact of the economic downturn and uplifted spirits by highlighting the impressive range of opportunities that will be provided by the exciting Titanic Quarter redevelopment of the former shipyards in Belfast – dubbed the biggest building site in Ireland.