

ISO/TC 258, ISO Technical Committee for Project, Program, and Portfolio Management, convenes in Pretoria, South Africa

By Jouko Vaskimo

jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi

ISO/TC 258, the **Technical Committee (TC)** of the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** set up to work with standards in the field of project, program, and portfolio management convened for the third plenary meeting at Pretoria, South Africa, on September 3rd ... 7th 2012. The participants of this meeting, hosted by the **South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)** were warmly welcomed by Dr **Sadhvir Bissoo**, Executive in charge of Standards as the SABS. A total of 19 national standardization bureaus, representing all continents, were present in the event.

ISO/TC 258 follows the work of ISO/PC 236, which was created as an ISO **Project Committee (PC)** with a scope limited to a single standard on project management. As the discipline of project management is generally accepted to be much broader than what a single standard can cover, ISO/TC 258 has been created to address a complete domain of interest including projects, programs, and portfolios. With ISO 21500 released for international distribution on September 3rd 2012, ISO/TC 258 has been assigned to take care of ISO 21500 maintenance.



ISO/TC 258 Pretoria plenary meeting participants (photo courtesy SABS)

The plenary sessions were run by Mr **Miles Shepherd**, ISO/TC 258 Chairman, serving **British Standard Institution (BSI)**, and by Mr **Karl Best**, ISO/TC 258 Secretary, serving **American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**. Mr Shepherd was happy with the plenary session, and commented "I am very happy to see so many old friends from ISO/PC 236 here. I am also very pleased to see several new faces that will bring fresh insights and enthusiasm to our group of international experts". Mr Shepherd was delighted to see the release of ISO 21500 for international distribution on the first day of the Pretoria meetings. Mr Shepherd can be contacted at Miles.Shepherd@msp-ltd.co.uk , and Mr Best at Karl.Best@pmi.org .



In the photograph (from left to right): Mr Karl Best and Mr Miles Shepherd (photo courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)

The main initiatives within the ISO/TC 258 are currently **Working Group (WG) 1**, developing an ISO standard on portfolio management, and **Study Group (SG) 1**, studying the feasibility of developing an ISO standard on project governance. ISO/TC 258 had, at the time of the Pretoria meetings, 33 participating (P) members, five observing (O) members, and three liaisons.

ISO/TC 258 P – members at the time of the Pretoria convention include ABNT (Brazil), AENOR (Spain), AFNOR (France), ANOR (Cameroon), ANSI (USA), ASI (Austria), ASRO (Romania), BDS (Bulgaria), BIS (India), BSI (United Kingdom), DIN (Germany), DS (Denmark), DSSU (Ukraine), ELOT (Greece), EOS (Egypt), GOST R (Russian Federation), ILNAS (Luxembourg), IMANOR (Morocco), INTECO (Costa Rica), IPQ (Portugal), IRAM (Argentina), JISC (Japan), KATS (Republic of Korea), NEN (Netherlands), PKN (Poland), SA (Australia), SABS (South Africa), SAC (China), SCC (Canada), SFS (Finland), SIS (Sweden), SN (Norway) and UNI (Italy).

ISO/TC 258 O – members at the time of the Pretoria meetings include COSQC (Iraq), ISIRI (Islamic Republic of Iran), NBN (Belgium), SII (Israel) and SNZ (New Zealand).

ISO/TC 258 liaisons at the time of the Pretoria meetings include ISO / International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Joint Technical Committee (JTC) 1 Sub-Committee (SC) 7, **International Project Management Association (IPMA)** and **Project Management Institute (PMI)**.

ISO/TC 258 WG1 sessions, subsequent to the ISO/TC 258 plenary sessions, were run by Mr **Steve Fahrenkrog**, ISO/TC 258 WG1 Convenor, serving ANSI, and Mr **David Hyde**, ISO/TC 258 WG1 Secretary, serving BSI, and focused on creating an international portfolio management standard. Mr Fahrenkrog was pleased with the result from the sessions, which allowed the standard draft to take a major step forward, and commented "David Hyde, with his wealth of experience with other Working Groups, is a great and welcome addition to the Working Group. We had a great first face-to-face meeting and the amount of work accomplished exceeded my expectations." Mr Fahrenkrog can be contacted at SLFahrenkrog@gmail.com and Mr Hyde at David.Hyde@bsigroup.com .



In the photograph (from left to right): Mr Steve Fahrenkrog and Mr David Hyde (photo courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)

ISO/TC 258 SG1 sessions, in parallel with the ISO/TC 258 WG1 sessions, were run by Mr **Rommert Stellingwerf**, ISO/TC 258 SG1 Convenor, serving **Netherlands Standardization Institute (NEN)**, and Mr **Jaycee Kruger**, ISO/TC 258 SG1 Secretary, serving SABS. SG1 debated on an ISO standard for project governance, assessed the maturity of governance of projects, programs and portfolios and attempted to achieve consensus on the definition of project governance, as well as the likely standard scope and target audience. Mr Stellingwerf was very pleased with the SG1 sessions, and commented "We as a group have really achieved something this week. During four days of hard work 27 experts from different backgrounds (public and private sectors, small and large organizations, consultancies and academia) and with varying levels of experience had very open discussions. We assessed more than 100 documents on project governance and we now have emerging consensus on definition, scope and target audience. We concluded that we need more time for further analysis. We expect

to make the final decision on the development of an ISO standard for project governance and on the type of ISO document in our next face-to-face meeting in Berlin in March 2013." Mr Stellingwerf can be contacted at Rommert@familiestellingwerf.nl and Mr Kruger at JCKruger@greybeards.co.za .



In the photograph (from left to right): Mr Rommert Stellingwerf and Mr Jaycee Kruger (photo courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)



Having been established in 1945, South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) is the statutory body which operates as the national institution for promotion and maintenance of standardization and quality in connection with commodities and the rendering of services in South Africa.

SABS publishes national standards which it prepares through a consensus process in technical committees, provides information on national standards of all countries as well as international standards, tests and certifies products and services to standards, promotes design excellence, and provides training on aspects related to standardization. For further information please navigate to www.sabs.co.za .



International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is the largest global developer and publisher of International Standards.

ISO is a network of the national standards institutes of 162 countries, one member per country, with a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, that coordinates the system. ISO is a non-governmental organization that forms a bridge between the public and

private sectors. On one hand, many of its member institutes are part of the governmental structure of their countries, or are mandated by their government. On the other hand, other members have their roots uniquely in the private sector, having been set up by national partnerships of industry associations.

ISO enables a consensus to be reached on solutions that meet both the requirements of business and the broader needs of society. For further information please navigate to www.iso.org/iso/home.html .

About the Author



Jouko Vaskimo

Author



Jouko Vaskimo works as Development Manager at Aalto PRO, the Professional Development unit of Aalto University in Espoo, Finland. He is also an International Correspondent and Editorial Advisor for **PM World** in Finland. Jouko graduated from Helsinki University of Technology in 1992. Since then he has held project management related assignments with increasing levels for responsibility at Sinebrychoff Ltd, the oldest brewery in Scandinavia; Kemira Engineering Ltd, the leading chemicals manufacturer Finland; DNA Finland Ltd, a large Finnish mobile phone operator; Nokia Business Infrastructure; and Ixonos PLC, one of the leading Finnish ICT consultancies. Jouko holds the IPMA Level C (Project Manager) and Level B (Senior Project Manager) certificates and is the chairman of the Finnish IPMA Certification Body operating IPMA certification in Finland. He is a member of the Project Management Association Finland Board of Directors and a founding member of PMI Finland Chapter. He received the PMP certificate in 2003. Since October 2007, Jouko has been heading the Finnish delegation to ISO/PC 236 and ISO/TC 258. Jouko resides in Espoo, Finland and can be best contacted at jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi .