

26th IPMA World Congress in Crete, Greece

by Jouko Vaskimo

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Professor **John-Paris Pantouvakis**, the Chairman of the 26th IPMA World Congress, Mr **Miles Shepherd**, the Chairman of the Congress Program, and Mr **Roberto Mori**, the President of the **International Project Management Association (IPMA)** opened the 26th IPMA World Congress in the Mediterranean island of Crete on 29th October 2012. The theme of the 26th IPMA World Congress, the first one to be organized in Greece, is “Integrating Project Management Standards”. The congress, which comprised an extensive system of plenary sessions with keynote presentations by some of the most renowned experts in the profession, simultaneous parallel sessions with both practitioner and scientific foci, and a generous offering of social events surrounding the official congress program, took place at the **Creta Maris Convention Centre**, located in the Hersonissos district of Crete on 29th ... 31st October 2012.

The congress was organized by the **Network of Project Managers in Greece (PM-Greece)**, the Greek IPMA Member Association, in cooperation with the **National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)**, under auspices of the **Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure**.

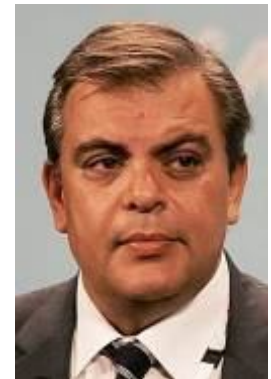


In the photograph: Opening ceremony of the 26th IPMA World Congress (photos courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)

An IPMA **Global Young Crew Workshop** (GYCW) preceded the World Congress on October 26th ... 28th, 2012. The Global Young Crew Workshop was organized as an opportunity for young project-oriented people around the world to get to know one another. The GYCW comprised interactive workshops and presentations from renowned keynote speakers. Participants had the opportunity to expand their horizons and bring new and creative views to the way they manage their projects. A special emphasis was on group discussions, interactive learning, networking and having fun. This event can be considered the premium IPMA event for young project managers and people building a career in project management.

Professor Pantouvakis, the Chairman of the 26th IPMA World Congress, was pleased to have the congress start with participants from over 40 countries. Professor Pantouvakis sincerely welcomed all congress participants, and warmly invited everyone to enjoy the official congress program, and the social program surrounding the official program. Mr Shepherd welcomed congress participants, explained the structure of conference program, and invited the congress participants to actively participate in the plenary sessions, the individual streams, the poster sessions as well as the symposia and panel sessions in the program. The conference program includes plenary sessions with seven state-of-the-art keynote presentations, ten simultaneous parallel tracks, posters sessions, symposia and panels with over 200 topics. The three-day congress is aimed for all project management practitioners from practice organizations as well as scholars from universities and the academia.

Professor Pantouvakis, the Congress Chairman, was very happy with the successful start of the congress, and commented “Organizing this congress among the challenging economic situation in Europe, and especially in Greece, has been our ‘Ithaca’ for the past year. The road to success has appeared narrow, full of bends, and lonely at times, however, this has made progressing towards the event ‘full of adventure, full of discovery’. We never encountered ‘Laestrygonians and Cyclops’ on our way, unless we brought them along inside our souls, but we visited ‘Phoenician ports and Egyptian cities’ to introduce ideas, courage and wishful thinking. Today I am pleased and honoured to welcome all participants of the 26th IPMA World Congress to the five-star Creta Maris Convention & Golf Resort at Hersonissos, Crete”. Professor Pantouvakis can be contacted at jpp@ipma.gr.



The opening ceremony participants were also addressed by Mr **George Alexakis**, the Regional Councillor of the prefecture of Crete, Mr **Constantinos Filippakis**, the Vice-Mayor of the Municipality of Hersonissos, and Mr **Stacy Goff**, the Chairman of the Congress Advisory Committee, and IPMA Vice-President in charge of events and marketing. Mr Alexakis and Mr Filippakis warmly welcomed the congress participants to Crete and Hersonissos. Mr Goff welcomed everyone to the most important IPMA event in 2012, and encouraged all congress participants to collect a complementary umbrella from

the IPMA stand at the congress exhibition hall. Mr Goff explained the umbrella, which is usually unnecessary at Crete at this time of the year, serves as a reminder of the umbrella status of IPMA towards the IPMA Members Associations.

The participants of the congress opening ceremony were treated to the keynote presentations by Professor **Lynn Crawford**, titled “Competition, comparison, collaboration – mapping a pathway through project management standards” and Professor **Nino Grau**, titled “Standards and excellence in project management – in whom do we trust?”.

The first congress day was topped off with a generous welcome reception at the five-star Creta Maris Beach Resort.



In the photograph: The Creta Maris Beach Resort pool area and balcony bar

During the second congress day of the 26th IPMA World Congress Professor **José E. Reyes G.**, Project Manager of the **Panama Canal Third Set of Locks (TSL)** project, Chairman of the Panamanian Association of Project Management **Asociación Panameña de Gestion de Proyectos (APGP)**, and Professor of Project Management at **Universidad Interamericana Panama** (Laureate University), and Dr **Martin Barnes, Honorary Fellow of IPMA**, and the President of the **Association for Project Management (APM)**, delivered their keynote presentations. Professor Reyes’ presentation was titled “Key success factors to deliver large scale projects, the Panama Canal Third Set of Locks (TSL) project challenges”; Dr Barnes’ presentation was titled “We can and should raise the standards”. Both attracted a full auditorium of congress participants.



In the photograph: Professor Rayes delivering his keynote presentation



In the photograph: Dr Martin Barnes delivering his keynote presentation

The second congress day was topped off with the 26th IPMA World Congress Gala Awards Dinner, during which the IPMA Research Awards 2012 and IPMA Project Excellence Awards 2012 were awarded to two researchers and projects based on outstanding achievements:

IPMA Research Awards 2012 were awarded to the following researchers:

- Professor **Rodney Turner** was awarded the IPMA Research Achievement Award 2012.
- Professor **Monique Aubry**, Professor **Brian Hobbs** and Professor **Ralf Müller** were awarded the IPMA Research Award 2012.
- Dr **Neil Turner** was awarded the IPMA Young Researcher Award 2012.
- Dr **Barbara Natalie Unger** was awarded the IPMA Outstanding Research Contribution by a Young Researcher 2012 award.
- Professor **Lavagnon Ika** was awarded the IPMA Outstanding Research Contribution of a Young Researcher 2012 award.
- Professor **Robert Muir** was awarded the IPMA Outstanding Research Contribution of a Young Researcher 2012 award.
- Dr **Karel de Bakker** was awarded the IPMA Outstanding Research Contribution of a Young Researcher 2012 award.



In the photograph (from left to right): Professor Mladen Radujkovic and Professor Rodney Turner

IPMA Project Excellence Awards 2012 **Mega-Sized Projects** category finalists were:

- **70 Million Bags Program - Project SOUTH**, The Netherlands, implemented by **Amsterdam Airport Schiphol**, The Netherlands
- **EPC Jambi Merang Development Gas Production Facilities**, Indonesia, implemented by **PT Tripatra Engineers and Constructors**, Indonesia
- **Gate LNG Receiving Terminal**, The Netherlands, implemented by **TECHINT Engineering & Construction + SENER Ingenieria y Sistemas**, jointly as **TS LNG BV**, Italy

IPMA Project Excellence Awards 2012 **Big-Sized Projects** category finalists were:

- **Air Separation Unit (ASU)**, Iran, implemented by **Arvand Petrochemical Company**, Iran
- **Basic Product**, Russia, implemented by **SBERBANK of Russia**, Russia
- **New High Efficiency Filter House Supply and Installation during a major inspection**, Trinidad, implemented by **GE Oil&Gas - Global Services**, Italy
- **TAG EXP. 4**, Austria, implemented by **GE Oil&Gas - Turbomachinery**, Italy



In the photograph (from left to right): Mr Roberto Mori and the representatives from SBERBANK of Russia

IPMA Project Excellence Awards 2012 **Medium-Sized Projects** category finalists were:

- **Education for Youths, Youths for Peace and Development (EYYPD)**, Nepal, implemented by **Underprivileged Children’s Educational Programs (UCEP)** Nepal, Nepal
- **Project Management of Changjing Ancient Town’s Rebuilding**, China, implemented by **JianYe Heng’an Project Management Incorporated Company**, China
- **Technical Assistance for Development of NCTS and Integration to BILGE**, Turkey, implemented by **SIVCO Romania SA**, Romania

During the third congress day of the 26th IPMA World Congress Professor **Hiroshi Tanaka**, Professor **Theodosios Tassios** and Mr **Michel Ledun** and **Pierre Parent** delivered their keynote presentations. Professor Tanaka’s presentation was titled “Standards in the changing landscape of project and program management”; Professor Tassios’ presentation was title “An introduction to the ancient Greek technology”; Mr Ledun’s and Mr Parent’s presentation was titled “International project management within Thales”. All keynote presentations attracted, once again, a full auditorium of congress participants.



In the photograph: Professor Tanaka delivering his keynote presentation



In the photograph: Professor Tassius delivering his keynote presentation

Professor Dr John-Paris Pantouvakis, the Chairman of the 26th IPMA World Congress and Mr Roberto Mori, the President of the International Project Management Association (IPMA) closed the 26th IPMA World Congress in the Mediterranean island of Crete on 31st October 2012. The congress took place at the Creta Maris Convention Centre, located in the Hersonissos district of Crete on 29th ... 31st October 2012. The congress was organized by the **Network of Project Managers in Greece** (PM-Greece), the Greek IPMA Member Association, in cooperation with the **National Technical University of Athens** (NTUA), under auspices of the **Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure**.

Professor Pantouvakis, the Chairman of the 26th IPMA World Congress, was pleased to see the congress proceed according to plan, and become the latest link in the long tradition of IPMA World Congresses. In his closing remarks Professor Pantouvakis sincerely thanked the congress participants, everyone involved in planning and organizing the event, and sincerely wished everyone a safe journey home.

Mr Mori thanked Professor Pantouvakis warmly for an excellent IPMA World Congress: Mr Mori was very happy with the arrangements and the number of participants under the circumstances, which were the most difficult he had seen in the history of IPMA World Congresses.



In the photograph: Closing remarks of the 26th IPMA World Congress

Finally Professor Pantouvakis handed the task of organizing the next IPMA World Congress to the organizing committee of the 27th IPMA World Congress.

Professor **Mladen Radujkovic**, the current IPMA Vice President of Research and Education / Training, President of Croatian Association for Project Management (CAPM), IPMA 2013 ... 2014 President Elect, and Chairman of Organizing Committee for the 27th IPMA World Congress, thanked Professor Pantouvakis, and formally took on the role of the organizer of the next IPMA World Congress. He warmly invited the entire IPMA family to the 27th IPMA World Congress which will be organized in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in the Valamar Resort Babin Kuk on September 30th ... October 3rd, 2013. The theme of the 27th IPMA World Congress will be "Finding balance and moving forward". The congress is organized by IPMA and CAPM in co-operation with the Civil Engineering Faculty of the University of Zagreb, the International Cost Engineering Council (ICEC) and the Baltazar Adam Krčelić College of Business and Management. For further information please navigate to www.ipma2013.hr.



Professor Radujkovic is excited about the 27th IPMA World Congress, and comments "I thank Professor Pantouvakis sincerely for an excellent congress. At the same time I kindly invite you to take part in the IPMA World Congress 2013 and to contribute to the development of the project management profession. Come to Dubrovnik to find balance and improve your project management competences and thus push your projects forward. We will be expecting you in the city of Dubrovnik, the historical republic from 1358-1808,

whose cultural monuments still today bear witness to projects from past centuries.”
Professor Radujkovic can be contacted at Mladen.Radujkovic@ipma.ch .

The last congress day was topped off with farewell cocktails and dinner at the Creta Maris Beach Resort.



For further information on the 26th IPMA World Congress please navigate to www.ipma2012.gr .



Network of Project Managers in Greece (PM-Greece) is the national Member Association of IPMA and ICEC. It originates from the PM-Greece Yahoo group established in 2001 to link together people from universities, contractors, construction management companies, and specialized software houses with an active interest in the application of project management in Greece. Since 2005 PM-Greece has been legally established in Greece as a non-profit scientific association. PM-Greece membership is open to anyone with an active interest in project management who lives, works, or has an interest in Greek project affairs. For further information please navigate to www.pmgreece.gr .



Founded in 1965 and registered in Switzerland, **International Project Management Association (IPMA)** is the oldest global project management professional organization. IPMA is an international federation of more than 50 national project management societies in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. IPMA annual World Congress is one of the largest and most important gatherings of project management authorities and leaders each year. The president of IPMA for 2011 and 2012 is Mr Roberto Mori. For further information please navigate to www.ipma.ch .

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 .