

## IRNOP XI conference in Oslo, Norway

By Jouko Vaskimo

[jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi](mailto:jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi)

**IRNOP (The International Research Network on Organizing by Projects) XI** conference took place in Oslo, Norway, on June 17 ... 19, 2013. The conference, a biennial series started in Sweden in 1994, took place at **BI Norwegian Business School**, and was organized by the Project Management Group under the supervision of **Professor Jonas Söderlund** and **Professor Ralf Müller**. The conference theme was *Innovative approaches in project management research*. BI Norwegian Business School provided an excellent venue for the event, which the participants found appropriately informal and collegial, encouraging active exchange and networking.



*BI Norwegian Business School in Oslo, Norway (photos courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)*

The conference included plenary sessions and four simultaneous parallel tracks with a total of over 80 paper presentations. The conference was attended by over 150 participants from more than 35 countries, and by some of the most renowned scholars in the field of project management research. The two-day conference was organized for faculty and students from universities from all over the world having an interest in projects, temporary organizations, project organizing and project-based organizations. In addition to the official program, the conference included a comprehensive social program of several receptions, and a *Doctoral Student Day* for PhD students.

In his opening presentation Professor Söderlund welcomed everyone sincerely to BI Norwegian Business School for the conference. Comparing the preparation for ski

jumping to organizing the IRNOP conference, he thanked everyone involved in preparing for and making this conference happen. Subsequent to the two-day event Professor Söderlund was very happy, and commented: "It was so wonderful to see so many good scholars in Oslo for the IRNOP conference. This was another important step for the future of project management." Professor Söderlund can be contacted at [Jonas.Soderlund@bi.no](mailto:Jonas.Soderlund@bi.no).



*Professor Jonas Söderlund presenting in the IRNOP XI conference opening plenary*

The first **IRNOP Doctoral Student Day**, in which doctoral candidates presented selected aspects of their research to an audience of peers and senior international scholars in a friendly and constructive atmosphere, was organized the day before the main event and was sponsored by PMI. Professor Müller stated "Both students and senior faculty were very happy with the doctoral workshop. Some of the most senior researchers from all over the world took a day out of their busy schedule and devoted it to helping eleven PhD students improve their work. The feedback the students got was of enormous value for their work and progress. At the same time the senior researchers enjoyed the interaction among their peers and the new ideas and perspectives from the

doctoral students. Feedback from the participants indicates that they hope to have a doctoral workshop as a permanent offering in future IRNOP conferences”. Professor Müller can be contacted at [Ralf.Muller@bi.no](mailto:Ralf.Muller@bi.no) .



*Professor Ralf Müller presenting in the IRNOP Doctoral Student Day opening session*

During the first-day opening plenary **Professor Hans-Georg Gemünden** presented, as the Project Management Journal (PMJ) Editor-in-Chief, the **PMJ Paper of the Year Award** to **Mr Benjamin Herazo**, PhD student in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the Université de Montréal, **Professor Gonzalo Lizarralde**, professor in the School of Architecture of the Université de Montréal and **Dr Raymond Paquin**, assistant professor of management in the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University for their paper titled *Sustainable Development in the Building Sector: A Canadian Case Study on the Alignment of Strategic and Tactical Management*.

**Dr Carla Messikomer**, Manager, Project Management Institute (PMI), Academic Resources, introduced Professor Brian Hobbs who presented one of the two PMI annual research awards. She noted “The IRNOP conference is the ideal setting in which to present the 2013 PMI® Research Achievement Award to Dr Midler and to honor the authors of the PMJ Paper of Year Award. We are delighted that many colleagues and friends were able to share this important moment in his career and to acknowledge the impressive body of work he has contributed to the field.” Dr Messikomer can be contacted at [Carla.Messikomer@pmi.org](mailto:Carla.Messikomer@pmi.org) .



*Professor Brian Hobbs, Dr Carla Messikomer, Professor Christophe Midler*

The main conference proceeded through the first day with four parallel tracks titled *Innovation, People in Projects, Knowledge and Learning, and Decision Making and Project Success*. The second day parallel tracks were titled *Scholarship, Leadership, Governance and Control and Project Business and Risk Management*.

A new book covering contemporary research methods in project management research titled ***Novel Approaches to Project Management Research: Translational and Transformational*** edited by Professor **Nathalie Drouin**, Professor **Ralf Müller** and Professor **Shankar Sankaran** was launched during the first conference day. The book was warmly recommended by Dr **Carla Messikomer** in her launch address. The complete bibliographic data of the new book is:

Drouin, N., Müller, R. & Sankaran, S. (2013). *Novel Approaches to Project Management Research: Translational and Transformational*. Copenhagen, Denmark: Copenhagen Business School Press. 476 pages

For further information please navigate to  
[www.gazellebookservices.co.uk](http://www.gazellebookservices.co.uk) .



During the second-day closing plenary Professor Ralf Müller and Professor Jonas Söderlund presented the **IPMA – PMI Best Paper Prize** to **Professor Jeffrey Pinto** of Black School of Business, Penn State – Erie, PA, USA, Dr **Shariffah Dawood** of Department of Psychology, Penn State – Erie, PA, USA and Dr **Mary Beth Pinto** of Black School of Business, Penn State – Erie, PA, USA for their paper titled *Project Management and Burnout: Implications of the Demand-Control-Support Model on Project-Based Work*.

Professor Ralf Müller and Professor Jonas Söderlund presented the **IPMA – PMI Best Student Paper Prize** to Mrs **Chivonne Algeo** of Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, for her paper *Designing Research to Understand Knowledge - Exchange among Project Managers*.

**Mr Miles Shepherd**, member of International Project Management Association (IPMA) Research Management Board, was very pleased with the awards and commented “IPMA is particularly pleased to be able to make awards to researchers because it encourages informative reporting of novel and important research contributions. IPMA is particularly indebted to Professor Martina Huemann of WU Vienna for her exemplary work in coordinating the award again this year. We are also pleased to be able to work together with PMI to recognize such fine research contributions.” Mr Shepherd can be contacted at [Miles.Shepherd@msp-ltd.co.uk](mailto:Miles.Shepherd@msp-ltd.co.uk) .



*Professor Jeffrey Pinto, Dr Carla Messikomer, Mrs Chivonne Algeo and Mr Miles Shepherd.*



**IRNOP, The International Research Network on Organizing by Projects**, was founded in 1993 as a

loosely coupled network of researchers and has developed from there, adding researchers in countries all over the world. The IRNOP network connects scholars with a background in business, economics, engineering and other fields, with a common interest in projects, project organizations and temporary systems. The IRNOP Project Research Conference gathers scholars who have a research interest in projects from all over the world to a conference every second year (in 2006 a decision was made to schedule the IRNOP Project Research Conferences to odd years). IRNOP Project Research Conference has been organized eleven times:

- IRNOP I in Lycksele, Sweden in 1994: *Temporary organizations and project management*
- IRNOP II in Paris, France in 1996: *Aspects of society and business organized as projects*
- IRNOP III in Calgary, Canada in 1998: *The nature and role of projects in the next 20 years: Research issues and problems*
- IRNOP IV in Sydney, Australia in 2000: *Paradoxes of Project Collaboration in the Global Economy: Interdependence, Complexity and Ambiguity*
- IRNOP V in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in 2002
- IRNOP VI in Turku, Finland in 2004: *Project business*
- IRNOP VII in Xi'an, China in 2006
- IRNOP VIII in Brighton, UK in 2007: *Projects in Innovation, Innovation in Projects*
- IRNOP IX in Berlin, Germany in 2009: *Organizing by Projects*
- IRNOP X in Montreal, Canada in 2011: *The Expanding Domain of Project Research*
- IRNOP XI in Oslo, Norway in 2013: *Innovative approaches in project management research*

For further information please navigate to [www.irnop.org](http://www.irnop.org) .



**BI Norwegian Business School** is a private, independent, specialised university institution with a total of six study locations in Norway. Oslo is - in addition Bergen, Trondheim, Stavanger, Kristiansand, and Drammen - the main campus for all international academic programs. BI Norwegian Business School is a self-owned, not-for-profit foundation focusing in education and research. Any profit will be used to strengthen BI research and learning environment in accordance with the objectives of the school.

For further information please navigate to [www.bi.edu](http://www.bi.edu) .

---

## About the Author



### **Jouko Vaskimo**



**Jouko Vaskimo** works as Development Manager in charge of project management training portfolio 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](mailto:jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi).