

## **Project Management Report from Milan**



*By Luca Cavone  
International Correspondent  
Milan, Italy*

### **INTRODUCTION**

We are back this month with a complete report of the on-going initiatives within the Project Management community in Italy.

At the opening, we will provide few contributions that we cannot miss. The first is a report from Nepal, about the earthquakes that hit the country between April and May. We will introduce a series of projects and initiatives that UNICEF Italy launched to support the local community.

The second contribution concerns Expo 2015: facts & figures from the event after one month from the official opening at the beginning of May.

Finally, we will introduce recent and upcoming initiatives from the main national project management associations.

Along the entire report, we will see how social projects are confirmed as one of the recent main trends in project management.

Enjoy the reading!

## News from Nepal



It 's been just over a month after the first earthquake in Nepal, aggravated by several shocks in the middle of May. **UNICEF Italy** is in the forefront of providing support to the local population, especially to mothers and children.

According to some statistics provided by the organization, the **lives of about 18,000 children and mothers may be at risk** in the coming months, if there are not actions to restore the health system. It is estimated that between 70% and 90% of maternity facilities in 14 districts of Nepal has been hardest hit by the quake.

The remaining health facilities are overcrowded, many pregnant women need to ensure a safe birth to their children. In addition, thousands of new mothers have lost their homes and are now without a safe place to stay with their newborn children.

UNICEF is working with partner organizations to deliver aid to the needy. Some of the main initiatives completed or in progress are:

- Installation of curtains-hospital maternity wards to replace the destroyed facilities in the most affected areas.
- Construction of 22 foster homes in the worst affected districts, to provide adequate space for mothers and newborns discharged from the hospital after giving birth and who no longer have a home.
- Preparation of mobile clinics provide basic health care to vulnerable mothers and children.
- Delivery of emergency health kits containing drugs and equipment sufficient to provide basic care for 300,000 people.

As part of the larger UN humanitarian appeal (\$ 423 million), UNICEF has requested to the international community about \$ 50 million to ensure the continuity of the humanitarian response to the earthquake in Nepal for the next 3 months.

## Expo 2015: the first report



EXPO 2015 will be the event of this year!

**Milan on May 1<sup>st</sup>** has been in the spotlight worldwide. More than **137 countries** participated at the grand opening of the World Fair of Milan, whose main theme is: "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

The final works in the recent months took place at a frantic pace, night and day, but when finally on May 1st, the gates opened, the glance was great! It does not matter if the period preceding the opening was full of discussions and fears; the facts have shown the opposite.

Since the early days the audience participation was very high, the figures are around **200 thousand visitors** and are still growing.

All the stands are now open to visitors, each with its many peculiarities. Objectively, it is difficult to say which is the most beautiful, but perhaps the interesting part is this, because each one of us can give his own opinion based on subjective tastes and preferences.



Based on the feedback of the people one thing is certain, and on this they all agree, what has caught most of all the attention was the **Tree of Life**, the structure that changes colour depending on the time with water and light.

Those who have already been there were very enthusiastic and invite many others to do the same. Good Expo to all!!!

## News from IPMA Italy



Milan, June 15<sup>th</sup> - After the great success of the first edition there will be a second Workshop titled "**Project Management: how to compete in complex environment. Innovation and change through culture project**", organized by ANIMA in cooperation with ANIMP and IPMA Italy.

Within the main objectives of the workshop the aim is:

- to deepen the theme of Project Culture as a key factor of competitiveness, through the testimony of the companies and benchmarking among them.
- to provide boost for the continuous improvement of the performance of the projects and the development of the skills of its workforce.
- to sharing experiences of Italian excellence from the field of plant, significant for all industries.

The event is primarily aimed to SMEs, which are increasingly concerned to innovation and committed to interact with large companies and with customers who manage increasingly complex projects, but also to big companies and all the organizations that consider the Project Culture functional to performance and business results.

**Project Management in social environment**, by *Massimo Galletta (IPMA YC Italy Management Board)*

It took place in late March an event focused on **humanitarian projects**, which had as guest **Giorgio Rossi** from Rotary-Net.



The main theme of the event focused on a specific project that **involves Rotary** in the construction of a **new hospital in Senegal**: definitely a very challenging project!

The idea behind the project is that the local community should not be suffered, rather must be the protagonist of the construction of its maintenance. To this end, the Rotary from the beginning has made an agreement with the local government to promote the construction activities in this regard, so trying to keep a role of "Supervisor" while delegating all operational activities locally.

From a technical point of view, the approach followed in the construction preferred the robustness and simplicity (i.e. mechanical instruments preferred to electronic

ones). The result will certainly not be the construction of a modern hospital, but at least something that would give hope to more people.

Regarding project management, Giorgio Rossi highlighted two key capabilities: **relationships and contractual competencies**. The first, served to ensure the support from all the involved parties and considering the reality, this is not obvious at all. The negotiating skills have proved to be rather critical to protect investors (donors in this case): the terms are intended to ensure compliance with the time and price agreed, without any possibility of ignoring them or not respecting them.

The debate also led to an interesting opportunity for Young Crew Italy to develop a kind of collaboration within the project.

Finally, in my personal opinion, I believe in the potential of these projects, not only with regard to their noble goals, but on top of all because they give real possibilities to young people to test and enhance our skills in addition to what we do in companies.

## News from PMI Northern-Italy Chapter



Project Management Institute  
Northern Italy Chapter

The PMI-NIC wins again the SME **Retention Award!!!!** The Retention Award is given after the review of previous years retention rates among the chapters. Each chapter is eligible within its region (North America, Latin America, EMEA and Asia Pacific) and size grouping to win an award for the most improved membership retention rate.

The award demonstrates team accomplishment, dedication to PMI and support of the project management profession worldwide.

**Turin, May 27<sup>th</sup>**, another initiative about **Social Projects** – The Department of Management from the University of Turin held an event aimed to illustrate projects united by their social impact and the application of project management best practices. From the world of social business to projects addressed to the school: great testimonials on topical themes that will improve the world through projects with social impact.

## About the Author



### **Luca Cavone**

Milan, Italy



**Luca Cavone** is a Consultant at JMAC Europe, the Consulting firm of the Japan Management Association. He is mainly focused to support companies in Innovation Management and Product Development Projects typical of R&D and Marketing areas, with an interdisciplinary background of the business processes. In JMAC Luca follows also the study and development of project management methodologies based on the application of Lean Thinking approach. Before joining JMAC he worked several years in the Aerospace industry. Since 2009 Luca has been actively involved with the International Project Management Association (IPMA); at that time he was between the founders of the Young Crew Italy and was appointed as first chairman. In 2011 he left the position to join the Young Crew Management Board, where he's currently Head of Membership and Responsible for the Young Project Manager of the Year award. Since 2010 Luca is also a member of the Executive Board of IPMA Italy.

Luca is an international correspondent for PM World in Italy; he can be contacted at [luca.cavone@tiscali.it](mailto:luca.cavone@tiscali.it).