

ISO/TC 258, ISO Technical Committee for Project, Program, and Portfolio Management, convenes in Melbourne, Australia

By Jouko Vaskimo

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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 eighth plenary meeting at Melbourne, Australia, on September 11th ... 15th 2017. The participants – 28 representing 17 national standardization bodies – were warmly welcomed to Melbourne and to the **Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship (AGSE)** building at **Swinburne Business School** by Professor **Keryn Chalmers**, Dean of Swinburne Business School, and Professor **Russell Kenley**, Professor of Management at Swinburne Business School, hosting the meeting. Mr **Patrick Weaver**, Head of the Australian Delegation, and the representative of the local national standardization body **Standards Australia**, also welcomed ISO/TC 258 plenary participants to Melbourne.



ISO/TC 258 Melbourne plenary meeting participants (photos courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)

ISO/TC 258 main initiatives include Working Group **WG3** developing a vocabulary of terms used in projects, programs and portfolios, **WG6** developing an ISO standard on Work Breakdown Structures, **WG7** developing an ISO standard on Earned Value Management, and Ad-Hoc Group **AHG8** investigating the development of ISO standard on project management competences.

At the time of the Melbourne event ISO/TC 258 had 39 participating (P) members, 14 observing (O) members, and 18 liaisons.

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States are current ISO/TC 258 P – members.

Belarus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hong Kong, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Lithuania, Morocco, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Uganda are current ISO/TC 258 O – members.

College of Performance Management (CPM), Global Alliance for Project Performance Standards (GAPPS), International Project Management Association (IPMA), and Project Management Institute (PMI) are ISO/TC 258 liaison organizations.

Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering international (AACEi) has applied for ISO/TC 258 liaison position, however, a ballot on the issue is currently open.

ISO/IEC JTC1, Information Technology, ISO/IEC JTC1/SC7, Software and systems engineering, ISO/IEC JTC1/SC40, IT Service management and governance, ISO/TC20, Aircraft and space vehicles, ISO/TC176/SC2, Quality systems, ISO/PC280, Management consultancy, and ISO/TC309, Governance of Organizations are liaison committees to ISO/TC 258.

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Professor Dr **Russell Kenley** was happy to host the meeting, and commented “the Faculty of Business & Law, Swinburne University of Technology, was delighted to host the 8th annual ISO/TC 258 plenary this year, as we prepare to launch our new Master of Project Management for 2018. This was an exciting plenary with an unusual form, as the emphasis had shifted this year from work group business toward full formal plenary for the entire week. A great deal of strategic business was discussed and we were able to share this with those who could not make the long journey down-under, via Zoom, with high definition video and audio on constant stream throughout the sessions. This was the first time web streaming has been used for our plenary sessions and it worked smoothly when members joined in, as each could view the leadership team, individual speakers, and the sessions’ presentation material. A side benefit was that attendees could access the presentation material via their own screens. Winter unfortunately stayed late in Melbourne this year, requiring spring flower festivals to be deferred, so the plenary had few distractions and exploited Melbourne’s public transport even to the extent of having a community building dinner on a tram!” Professor Kenley may be contacted at RKenley@swin.edu.au .



ISO/TC 258 plenary sessions were run by Mr **Steven Fahrenkrog**, ISO/TC 258 Chairman, and by Mr **Karl Best**, ISO/TC 258 Secretary, both appointed by the **American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**.



In the photograph (from left to right): Mr Karl Best and Mr Steven Fahrenkrog

Mr Fahrenkrog commented “This is our eighth Plenary as ISO/TC 258 and my first as Chair. As we held this meeting we approached the end of our tenth year as a TC. It was fitting at the end of ten years that the TC took time to have a five day Plenary to talk over a number of issues identified by country representatives as needing additional discussion. I note that during the week the committee decided to do a revision to ISO 21500, which was inherited from ISO/PC 236. Also of importance was a decision to begin development of an overarching standard which will include a framework of how the TC’s work fits within the broader context of organizations and a framework of how the TC’s standards and other TC developed documents relate to each other. I am particularly pleased with the changes we made to the Chairman’s Advisory Group (CAG) and the creation of a Secretary’s Advisory Group (SAG). The former model of the Chairman’s Advisory Group made up of Convenors and two Country representatives has served the Chair well. However, I think the new model of the CAG being made up Country representatives, appointed by each National Body/Mirror Committee, will allow the CAG to provide the Chair broader and more in-depth input from the National Bodies and their related mirror committees. I believe that having a dedicated advisory group of Convenors working with the Secretary in the SAG will allow the Convenors and Secre-

tary to expand their focus on best practices already started. This Plenary is the first set in Australia and our hosts made an attractive and convenient venue available in a world class city. We look forward to meeting in Peru in 2018.” Mr Fahrenkrog can be contacted at SLFahrenkrog@gmail.com , and Mr Best at Karl.Best@pmi.org .

ISO/TC 258 Working Groups and Ad-Hoc Groups did not convene at Melbourne. The Melbourne meeting of ISO/TC 258 took place in the plenary mode, and focused on a number of administrative issues requiring attention. One of the most important issues which were taken care of in the Melbourne event was the decision to proceed with the revision of the ISO 21500 standard, which was originally released in 2012.

Representatives from two organizations in liaison with ISO/TC 258 participated in the ISO/TC 258 Melbourne event:

Mr **Michael Young** represented **International Project Management association (IPMA)** in the ISO/TC 258 meeting in Melbourne.

Mr Young can be contacted at Michael.Young@greenprojectmanagement.org .



Mr **Marvin Nelson**, representing **Project Management Institute (PMI)**, commented “PMI is pleased to participate in the work of ISO/TC258 as a Category A liaison organization. PMI is committed to advancing global consensus on project, program and portfolio management on behalf of our constituents around the world. This 8th plenary session was notable for the contributions of many member countries. PMI is firmly committed to the work of ISO/TC 258 and is currently working to deepen our collaborative relationship and participation in the work as a liaison organization. PMI thanks and appreciates our Australian host for the excellent arrangements.” Mr Nelson can be contacted at Marvin.Nelson@pmi.org .





Originally established in 1908, the **Swinburne University of Technology** (often referred to as *Swinburne*) is an Australian public university in Melbourne, Victoria. Swinburne was founded as the *Eastern Suburbs Technical College* by George Swinburne in order to serve those without access to further education in Melbourne's eastern suburbs. The main campus is located in Hawthorn, a Melbourne suburb located 7.5 km from the Melbourne central business district. In addition to the Hawthorn campus, Swinburne operates at Wantirna and Croydon in the greater Melbourne area. Swinburne also has a campus in Sarawak, Malaysia. In 1913, the institution changed its name to *Swinburne Technical College*. It attained university status in July 1992 with the passing of the *Swinburne University of Technology Act*.

Swinburne is ranked 55th in the *CWTS Leiden* ranking, 301-400 by the *Academic Ranking of World Universities 2017*, 416 by the 2016-17 *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*, 421-430 by the 2017 *QS World University Rankings*, and 51-60 by the *QS World University Rankings for universities under the age of 50*.

The Faculty of Business and Law at Swinburne, comprising the Swinburne Business School, Swinburne Law School, Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship, Centre for Transformative Innovation and Centre for Social Impact, is dedicated to advancing social impact, entrepreneurship and innovation through its career ready graduates and industry engaged research. A suite of post graduate programs, residing in the Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship have recently been launched including a Master of Project Management. This program will develop the knowledge, skills and conceptual understanding needed to apply project management principles to project work and address resource management, risk management, business analysis and strategy.

For further information please navigate to www.swinburne.edu.au .



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 164 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



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Jouko Vaskimo is an International Correspondent and Senior Contributing Editor for **PM World** in Finland. Jouko graduated M.Sc. (Tech.) from Helsinki University of Technology in 1992, and D.Sc. (Tech.) from Aalto University in 2016. He has held several project management related positions with increasing levels for responsibility. Jouko holds a number of professional certificates in the field of project management, such as the IPMA Level C (Project Manager), IPMA Level B (Senior Project Manager), PMP, PRINCE2 Foundation, and PRINCE2 Practitioner. Jouko is also a Certified Scrum Master and SAFe Agilist. Jouko is a member of the Project Management Association Finland, a founding member of PMI Finland Chapter, and the immediate past chairman of the Finnish IPMA Certification Body operating IPMA certification in Finland. Since October 2007, he has been heading the Finnish delegation to ISO/TC 258. Jouko resides in Espoo, Finland and can be best contacted at jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi. For further information please navigate to www.linkedin.com/in/jouko-vaskimo-6285b51.