

## **Interview with Jesus Martinez-Almela**

IPMA President



***Interviewed by İpek Sahra Özgüler***  
*Istanbul, Turkey*

Jesus Martinez Almela, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer has been active for more than 30 years in the field of Engineering Projects, Programmes and Portfolio Management. Certified Projects Director (IPMA Level A) and IPMA DELTA as well. Developer and owner of five patents of inventions for treatment and valorisation of animal wastes in Spain, Italy and USA. Involved for more than 20 years at international level focussing on the America's and European markets in the fields of research, engineering, lecturing and consultant activities in Agribusiness Sector, Rural and Local Development and Social-non-for-profit Organisations. Jesus is Vice President of AEIPRO-IPMA Spain and Worldwide President of IPMA - International Project Management Association.

**İpek Sahra Özgüler (Özgüler):** Dear Jesus. Please introduce yourself for PM World Journal readers.

**Jesus Martinez-Almela (Almela):** I like to identify myself as an evangelizer, a devote evangelizer for our profession, from other side am Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer active for more than 30 years in the field of Engineering and Project, Program and Portfolio Management. Certified Projects Director (IPMA A) and IPMA DELTA as well. Developer and owner of 5-five invention patents for treatment and valorization of animal wastes in Spain, Italy and the United States.

Since 1987 I have managed over 500 Projects and Programs in various sectors (environmental protection, agriculture, sustainable food production, industrial manufacturing, renewables energies and rural development as well). Project Director for 6 R+D projects in collaboration

with various universities and research centers throughout Spain, Europe, Japan and the United States (1999-2007), the research projects focus on the optimization of animal and organic wastes technologies for stage separation, the development of new NDN systems, anaerobic digestion, and gasification of animal by-products. In 2009 I founded Bioagroprojects Biotech Programs & Portfolio Management. Across Bioagroprojects I direct programs and projects worldwide in various sectors in multicultural and complex environments, for engineering and consultancy services as coaching for the professional competence development.

Under the IPMA LACC Program (2007-2017) I contribute to the establishment of 15 IPMA MA's and his CB's in Latin America countries (Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and Bolivia) and actually promoting other 5 IPMA MA's project in Paraguay, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Cuba as well. As VP Membership I contributed as well in the creation of IPMA MA's from Algeria, Morocco and Kenya. In Spain I am currently the Chairman of the Spanish Certification Body of AEIPRO-IPMA Spain. Also I am lecturer and international speaker in several Universities and Institutions Worldwide. I was rewarded since the year 1999 with 6-six international prizes in my areas of professional expertise in different countries worldwide. In IPMA I was IPMA CVMB validator, international assessor, UE Task Force Member, LACC Program Manager and E&T board member from 2005 to 2012. Vice President for Education, Training & Young Crew during 2013-2014 and reelected for the same position including VP Membership 2015-2017. Elected IPMA President in September 2017 for 2018-2020 mandate.

**Özgüler:** How did you get involved with IPMA?

**Almela:** Twenty-one years have passed since I found IPMA through my National Association AEIPRO-IPMA Spain (1996), specially active in IPMA since 2005, and during that time I had the fortune and honor to perform in practically all the IPMA remits, National Delegate, CVMB Validator, International Assessor, UE Task Force member, E&T board member, LACC Project and Program Manager and during latest 5 years as Vice President for Education and Training, Young Crew and Membership as well. At this point my thanks go to all those people who trusted and trust me, and also a recognition for those with which I disagree and constructively argue because, thanks to the discussion, alternatives are generated and perspectives and options are enriched.

**Özgüler:** As an IPMA President could you give a brief information about your role?

**Almela:** IPMA is a non-for-profit Organization registered since 1965 in Zürich, Switzerland, is the oldest Worldwide Organization (Federation) of National Associations, currently 70 National Member Associations across five continents. IPMA is directed by the IPMA Executive Board-

ExBo whom I honoured to President, for this I have six vice presidents from six different countries worldwide responsible for specific remits: Operations, Projects, Products & Services, Education and Training, Yiung Crew, Research with an Executive Director helped by a Secretariat and a certain number of boards and task forces. IPMA President and ExBo members positions those are volunteers, this is not a paid job. IPMA President role and responsibility is lead ExBo, aligning strategy, advocacy, promoting and representing IPMA Worldwide. ExBo reports to the maximum IPMA Government body who is the IPMA CoD- Council of Delegates composed by National Delegates from IPMA Members Associations, a kind of IPMA Parliament.

**Özgüler:** I know, you have been active for more than 30 years in the field of Engineering and Project, Program and Portfolio Management; and you manage over 500 Projects and Programs in various sectors (environmental protection, agriculture, sustainable food production, industrial manufacturing, renewables energies and rural development as well). How do you use your impressive experience for IPMA?

**Almela:** Well, as above indicated I define myself as an entrepreneur, a practitioner and a devout evangelizer of our profession: the portfolio, program and project management. During 30 years of experience I have been fortunate to enrich myself with many lessons from many peoples in the Five Continents, across more than 70 Nations Worldwide, many of them in the America's but not only as well in Europe, Africa and Eastern Asia. That allows me to understand better other contexts, other ways of doing, making easy human behaviour interpretation and building bridges across peoples, nations, fields of activities and different approaches for doing project management as well.

**Özgüler:** What are the main strategies of IPMA in 2018? Which initiatives and projects are you planning to implement?

**Almela:** Based on IPMA's Vision and Strategy 2020 review (heading towards 2025) ExBo works in that review. This review will lead to a new way of doing, much closer and focusing on the needs of our main heritage: our National Associations because they are the only IPMA Heritage, having an impact in the new IPMA Ecosystem looking for a sustainable and professional future, reinforcing our global networking and mutual cooperation.

**Özgüler:** Could you explain what is important and new in 2018?

**Almela:** Our Societies Worldwide goes towards the Projectification, and looking for that once again we must "evangelize" IPMA Worldwide because when all of us become effective IPMA evangelists, we don't just promote IPMA, we show that we are passionate peoples and engaged team members, we can inspire our colleagues (and beyond those), demonstrating our

leadership abilities as basic competence for the success . I like ask commonly ask just to take a look around people itself , their Teams and MA's and probably those will see evangelists everywhere, and once again this is the main pillar of IPMA Global Standards : we should develop the competences that we need to join the club of "IPMA Evangelizers" because that will help us during the next years with a new IPMA approach helping all of us and our profession to be successful based on **IPMA's Vision: promoting competence throughout Society to enable a World in which all projects succeed!**.

**Özgüler:** I am curious, what is the daily routine of IPMA President?

**Almela:** As person, as individual, more than as IPMA President because I need to balance business time with family time and IPMA time as well, isn't yet easy to do, certainly. Am a frequent traveler since many years ago, visiting more than 40 countries per year, close 300 days working outside Home with close or more than 100 flights yearly. Many time, many dedication, but am proud of it because when I observe and see what we are able to achieve with effort, passion and commitment are able to do, I feel happy.

**Özgüler:** Thank you.

**Almela:** Thank you too for counting on me, all the best

## About the Interviewer



### **İpek Sahra Özgüler**

Istanbul, Turkey



**İpek Sahra Özgüler** graduated from the Istanbul University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering and from Middle East Technical University with an MSc degree in Software Management. As a project manager, she has more than 10 years' experience in various areas such as portfolio management, program management, project management, software management, business analysis. She became a certified PMP in January, 2012 and a certified SCRUM Master in 2014.

She has managed a variety of projects across manufacturing, defence, FMCG (Cola Cola), insurance (Euler Hermes), audit (Deloitte), telecommunication, ICT and aviation sectors and gained broader insights. In addition, she has worked as international correspondent for the *PM World Journal* since 2014.

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