

AFTER National Project Management Professionals Conference 2019



National Project Management Professionals Conference (UPMK) is organized annually by Turkish Professional Project Managers' Institute. After this conference, Cem Mekik has shared his observations.

*Interview and Report by İpek Sahra Özgüler
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INTERVIEW WITH CEM MEKİK

Overall, how was the National Project Management Professionals Conference (UPMK) for you this year?

First of all, it is my privilege and pleasure to note that this was the tenth gathering of the conference. Tens years in a row with something new every year, has been challenging for us to deliver and I hope also refreshing for our participants to enjoy. It was during these gatherings that we decided to establish the TPPMI (Turkish Professional Project Managers' Institute); to declare that project managers wanted to be heard as opinion mentors in society, just as the business people, politicians or scientists do; or to start the Tough Nut Project Managers's Awards program, regarded as the "Oscars of Turkish Project Managers"; **and most importantly the official establishment of the National Project Management Standards for certification through the Professional Qualifications Agency of the Turkish Government.**

This year has been particularly successful in terms of our key note speakers, panelists, posterists and overall participation and sponsor support. I would like to extend my deep heartfelt thanks to the exceptional skills and dedication of our organization committee members, in particular to Seçil Fırat, Nedret Orbay and Remime Koçoğlu, the senior mentors and creative influencers.

What were the highlights in the conference?

Although we are keen on stressing our Turkish identity and local elements, this year for the first time we had international participation at speaker level. Our attendants grow in number every year, we were pleased to see an overall participation in excess of one hundred members. The topic discussed during our panel drew great interest and attention. The award ceremony was glorious with the exception that there was no female applicant or nominee for the Best Female Project Manager category.

The main topic of conference is "Cyber War Power". What is the relationship between the Cyber War Power and Project management?

The flow of knowledge and information for successful project management and delivery is comparable to the flow of blood to the organs of the body for their survival. Cyber activity, partnership or enmity is all about the flow of information. Hence it is vital for Project Management and the delivery of the many social, civil, industrial or military ventures.

What do you see for the future in terms of that?

Let us remember that the project management discipline as it stands today stemmed from the requirements of the information technology. So it is the cyber realm that created the need and the means for this discipline. Now, in turn it will be the leverage of the project management knowledge areas that will make any cyber development possible.

Why is the Cyber War Power so important?

Throughout the course of history the enforcement of power was limited to physicality. People could be forced to work, prison, obedience etc. It is the power of cyber war that enables the

direct influencing of the minds. Just like any other weapon it is both lethal as well as massively powerful in a positive way. Cyber power is the most significant and defining tool of the human civilization in terms of determining the destiny of the species. As always, it all boils down to the choices that will be made for the good or the bad. I hope the good guys win. May the force be with us!

SHORT BIO

CEM MEKİK started his career in Chicago in 1977 at an engineering/architecture company as draftsman and project team member. For over 40 years , he took part in international construction, energy, transportation, defense, telecommunications and industrial plant companies as engineer, trainer and project manager. He has worked in offices, construction sites, factories, private companies, public agencies and NGOs. Since 2007 he is financially retired as independent consultant and coach, as well as small business entrepreneur

The following winners received awards in a ceremony during UPMK 2019:

Best Project Managers

Female: Hilal ÜNAL TÜRKAN - Gökser Makina Enerji

Male: İbrahim Mert ÖCAL - İNNOVA Bilişim Çözümleri

Best Young Project Managers

Buğra TUĞRUL - TURKCELL Akademi

Best Project Team

Göbeklitepe - Weglobal Danışmanlık A.Ş.

Best Project

Göbeklitepe - Weglobal Danışmanlık A.Ş.

Honorary awards

Mehmet AUF - Fenomen Prodüksiyon

Çiğdem TOPALOĞLU - SENSBL Marketing Director

Zeynep SELEN - Chair of the Istanbul Project Management Association

İpek Sahra OZGULER - PM World Journal International Correspondent

Yücel TELÇEKEN - TTGV General Secretary Consultant

About the Author



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İpek Sahra Özgüler graduated from the Istanbul University with the Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering and from Middle East Technical University with an MSc degree in Software Management. She became a certified PMP in January, 2012 and a certified SCRUM Master in 2014. She works as international correspondent at PMWJ. Before joining PMWJ, she worked for global multinational companies and leading local companies such as Coca Cola, Deloitte, Turkcell Superonline, Havelsan and TAV IT. Over the years, she has gained extensive experience in managing various medium and large scale projects, programs and portfolios.

Her article named “When I Decided to Develop Multi Processing Project Manager’s System” was published in the book “*A Day in the Life of a Project Manager*”. She has published several articles in the *PM World Journal* and one in PMI’s *PM Network* magazine. İpek is actively involved in sailing, writing and discovering new cultures. She can be contacted at ipeksahra@gmail.com.

To see other works by İpek Sahra Özgüler, visit her author showcase in the PM World Library at <https://peworldlibrary.net/authors/ipek-sahra-ozguler/>