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NEWSLETTER

RANDBURG

FEBRUARY 2008

BI-ANNUALLY

APMSA Annual General Meeting

Herewith a few important points noted from the AGM minutes:

A new board for APMSA was elected at a constituted AGM.

The board members chosen are:

- Simon Moropa as Chairman,
- Silvanus David with special tasks – reviewing of the constitution and bylaws,
- Linda Razzino and
- Wessel Pieters with responsibility for IPMA certification.

The board has two IT professionals incorporated, an Engineer and a Master in Project Management.

Silvanus is with government agency SITA and Linda is with Hewlett Packard residing in Durban

The AGM approved the financial statements as prepared by the financial team.

Membership needs to be expanded to strengthen the organisation.

APMSA fees will be increased to accommodate the inflation rate of 9% and the exchange rate fluctuation due to the weakening ZAR-currency against the EURO.

The APMSA website is presentably under development and hopefully will be accessible before middle April.

Project Management at Johannesburg University – Dept Civil Engineering

Mr. Pieters was asked to assist in presenting project management courses for the final year civil engineering students at UJ/RAU and UJ/Wits Technikon during last year.

The emphasis was on the academic basis of project controls and values systems. In addition, contextual aspects of law and negotiations were covered.

The assessors agreed that students with a pass mark of 60% and higher may apply for IPMA level-D.

IPMA World Congress in Rome /Italy

The next 22nd World Congress for Project Management will be held in Rome/Italy in November 2008. Please visit the website at <http://www.ipmaroma2008.it> for more information.

The IPMA World Congresses is a prime event on the Project Management calendar. It is appropriate that Practising Project Managers attended one or more of these congresses, or deliver papers to participate in this opportunity to be part of the global PM community.

Since South Africa is not prominent in normal international trade routes and rather distant from PM conceptual development, we should use these opportunities to become more relevant and be acknowledged.

National Competence Baseline

The APMSA NCB2008 was newly updated, and will be available on the APMSA website.

It is useful tool for HR-training departments, skills development organisations and institutions of learning offering PM courses.

The certification rules (ICRG3) are now formally approved and certification will be executed in accordance with the rules of the ICRG3 after adaption to SA conditions and certification programmes.

Important Certification News

The IPMA certification programme with its underlying principles and transparency is the programme of choice for the serious Project and Business Managers in organisations where Project Management is regarded as a mission critical competence.

APMSA now offers through carefully chosen training services providers, two different certification programmes that are aligned to the IPMA PM 4-L-C programme.

The training programmes are designed for personal development and career growth paths where one certification scheme compliments another.

This will allow for credits when individuals change over from one competence path to another. A person can now

earn credits for courses attended as a cost engineers when he changes to a pm career path.

Currently **PaCE**, under the leadership of Nic Bennett, will certify Cost Managers in Tools and Techniques as a subset to the IPMA PM 4-L-C programme Technical Ranges, with four-levels of competence in Cost Management. The PSS 4-L-C programme is ready for execution and attendance at PaCE and successful candidates will receive an APMSA PSS 4-L-C competence certificate at the appropriate level.

Actuating Consultants will certify Software Testers in the different SWT functions from fundamentals and foundation level to master and expert levels, as well as the Tools, Techniques and Automation, as a subset to the IPMA PM 4-L-C programme ranges, with four-levels of competence. The SWT 4-L-C programme is now compiled and ready to be presented by Actuating Consultants. Successful candidates will receive an APMSA SWT 4-L-C competence certificate. The IPMA ranges will be augmented with specialist course specifics to the testing of software systems.

Actuating Consultants will also offer the training courses for the IPMA PM 4-L-C subject to a minimum of 7 candidates participating. This will lead to the IPMA PM 4-L-C certification.

These certification programmes includes training at the services provider, and APMSA will accredit and certify these courses. In addition, a portfolio of evidence must be developed by the candidate at his workplace showing to the independent assessors that he/she has gained the competency level.

Government effort in PM training

Project management training at the Services SETA has come to nothing and APMSA carries no knowledge of any plans in this regard to change this situation, notwithstanding the willingness of an IPMA delegation to assist S.SETA in this regard two years ago.

SAPMO had the task to interact with the S.SETA in an attempt to resolve the matter. This effort was not successful.

APMSA had positive meetings with SAQA and further meetings were planned as a follow-up to include S SETA but the SETA did not attend. We have promoted project management through the formal government channels and are saddened by the responses, knowing very well that the country is in dire need for project management training and it is regarded as a “critical skill” by the President and Vice-President.

The JIPSA initiatives as far as we can establish, after offering assistance, lead to no substantial action we know off. JIPSA did not responding to enquiries and did not engage in any discussion.

Overseas Resources

It is believed by government that SA can obtain engineers and project managers from overseas, especially India, China and Cuba Reality is however that there is a

worldwide shortage of engineers and project managers in especially in Russia, India, China and Europe. Countries with high growth rates do not have sufficient own project management and technical resources for project development and execution. Countries like Finland and the Gulf States are actively recruiting technical and management resources worldwide while SA seems unable to focus on solving the critical skills shortages.

The current infrastructure capacity crises in power generation, sewerage and water treatment, road infrastructure and health services cannot be solved at the political-level, and technical solutions needs to be planned and implemented.

Scare resources and project management skills are required once the government initiate the development plans. APMSA is ready to make its contribution.

IPMA and GAPPS

IPMA has the clear policy that all parties that has an interest in project management should participate in the pm activities. Since a few years ago, a self-appointed group of Australians started what was considered a “global” uniform standard that would serve as a yardstick for various pm certification systems. It was to provide an objective common basis for comparison between certification systems. S.SETA CEO supported this development financially.

Last year IPMA and GAPPS reached an agreement for recognition of the various systems and as a consequence, Shell International has decided on the IPMA PM 4-L-C model rather than GAPPS or the PMI offering. This repeated itself at the French utility EDF, and EREVA the nuclear build partner for Alstom and Siemens.

Access to the restricted areas of the IPMA Website

APMSA members that wishes to explore the IPMA website in depth, will need a USERNAME and PASSWORD to gain access to the website and the library. Should you wish to have access, please contact Tembie at tembie@whp.co.za for information.

Relevance of “Manage by Projects” in the current national power crisis

Since January 2008 it is clear that Eskom lost focus of its prime mission namely, to provide power to the national grid to meet economic growth targets. It got side-tracked since government nationalised Eskom and it became an instrument for political purpose. **Manage by Projects** has one of its core values the imperative to do what is right in the judgement of the manager. Failing a “**manage by projects**” approach leads to organisations that will lose strategic direction and will falter in their mission. Sadly, Eskom has become a prime example of such a organisation. Although Eskom has several senior managers with MBA qualifications, it appears that a value reference framework that provides the basis to do **what is right** was not instilled.

PM certification instills these values and frameworks.