

ISO/TC 258, ISO Technical Committee for Project, Program, and Portfolio Management, convenes in Toronto, Canada

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 sixth plenary meeting at Toronto, Canada, on August 24th ... 28th 2015. The participants – over 60 representing 19 national standardization agencies – were warmly welcomed by Mr **George Jucan**, the host of the Toronto event and the Head of the Canadian Delegation to ISO/TC 258, and Mr **Miles Shepherd**, the Chairman of ISO/TC 258. His Excellency the Right Honourable **David Johnston**, Governor General of Canada, The Honourable **Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and Mrs **Kathleen Wynne**, Prime Minister of Ontario conveyed their best wishes, welcoming ISO/TC 258 plenary participants.



ISO/TC 258 Toronto plenary meeting participants (photo courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)

Main ISO/TC 258 initiatives include Working Group **WG2** developing an ISO standard on governance of projects, programs and portfolios, **WG3** developing a vocabulary regarding projects, programs and portfolios, **WG4** developing an ISO standard on program management, as well as Study Group **SG5** investigating ISO 21500 maintenance.

At the time of the Toronto event ISO/TC 258 had 36 participating (P) members, 11 observing (O) members, and 16 liaisons.

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States are currently P – members of ISO/TC 258.

Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lithuania, New Zealand, and Uganda are currently O – members of ISO/TC 258.

International Project Management Association (IPMA), **Project Management Institute (PMI)**, and **Global Alliance for Project Performance Standards (GAPPS)** are currently organizational liaisons with ISO/TC 258.

ISO/IEC JTC1 (Information Technology), ISO/IEC JTC1/SC7 (Software and systems engineering), ISO/IEC JTC1/SC40, (Service Management and IT Governance) ISO/TC20 (Aircraft and space vehicles), ISO/TC176/SC 2 (Quality systems), and ISO/PC280 (Management Consultancy) are currently liaison committees to ISO/TC 258.

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ISO/TC 258 plenary sessions were run by Mr **Miles Shepherd**, ISO/TC 258 Chairman, serving **British Standard Institution (BSI)**, and by Mr **Karl Best**, ISO/TC 258 Secretary, serving **American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**.



In the photograph (from left to right): Mr Karl Best and Mr Miles Shepherd (photo courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)

Mr Shepherd commented “This is our sixth Plenary as TC 258 and it is pleasing to note how the Committee as a whole is continuing to mature. We have a consistent team of Subject Matter Experts from the participating countries and Liaisons who use their considerable experience to progress our work in a productive manner. Each Plenary is important as it offers an opportunity to not only carry out work under the arrangements of Work and Study Group Convenors but also allows the whole Technical Committee to address central business. This Plenary is set against the historic setting of old Toronto and our hosts have made an attractive and convenient venue available to the 60 odd delegates from 19 countries.”

“We have appointed a team to carry out a full review of our Strategic Business Plan, updated the membership on my Advisory Group and adjusted of the Technical Design Group, a small team who investigate issues and report to the Plenary on specialist matters. In addition, we made substantial progress with the Committee Draft of the emerging Standard on Program Management. The Vocabulary Working Group have made progress in this notoriously difficult task.”

“So we have had a very busy Plenary, considerable progress has been made across the whole range of our responsibilities. We will be meeting again as a Plenary next autumn. In the meantime, the Governance Working Group will meet independently in Buenos Aires in November to deal with the comments arising from their recent draft circulation.” Mr Shepherd can be contacted at Miles.Shepherd@msp-ltd.co.uk , and Mr Best at Karl.Best@pmi.org .

ISO/TC 258 WG3 sessions were run by Mr **George Jucan**, ISO/TC 258 WG3 Convenor, serving **Standards Council of Canada (SCC)**, and Mrs **Isabelle Lambert**, ISO/TC 258 WG3 Secretary, serving **Association Française de Normalisation (AFNOR)**.



In the photograph (from left to right): Mr George Jucan and Mrs Isabelle Lambert (photo courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)

Mr Jucan and Mrs Lambert commented "While terminology work is often seen as the least glamorous component of standardization process, it creates a strong foundation for consistency across the entire family of standards to be produced by ISO/TC 258. Composed by extremely experienced subject matter experts from 22 countries, WG3 made tremendous progress during the second face-to-face meeting and it set the stage for effective work in a virtual environment until the next meeting." Mr Jucan can be contacted at GJucan@openablers.net and Mrs Lambert at Isabelle.Lambert@afnor.org .

ISO/TC 258 WG4 sessions were run by Mr **Reinhard Wagner**, ISO/TC 258 WG4 Convenor, representing **Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN)**, and Mr **Akihiko Sekiguchi**, ISO/TC 258 WG4 Secretary, representing **Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC)**.



In the photograph: ISO/TC 258 WG4 participants in Toronto (photo courtesy Reinhard Wagner)

Mr Wagner and Mr Sekiguchi commented: "Programmes are difficult to describe as artefacts sitting between projects, portfolios and operations. WG04 wants to be sure, that the future ISO 21503 Guidance on programme management distinguishes clearly what a programme and its management is. Besides terms and definitions the standard describes concepts and principles as well as practices and prerequisites for programme management. The next step in moving the standard forward will be the first week of March 2016 and publication is expected to happen in 2017. More than 74 experts from 25 countries are part of WG04, of which 25 attended the Toronto meeting." Mr Wagner can be contacted at R.Wagner@gpm-ipma.de and Mr Sekiguchi at ASeki@jp.fujitsu.com.

ISO/TC 258 SG5 sessions were run by Mr **Don Boyer**, ISO/TC 258 SG4 Convenor, representing **American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**, and Mrs **Annakarin Nilsson**, ISO/TC 258 SG1 Secretary, representing **Swedish Standards Institute (SIS)**.



In the photograph (from left to right): Mrs Annakarín Nilsson and Mr Don Boyer (photo courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)

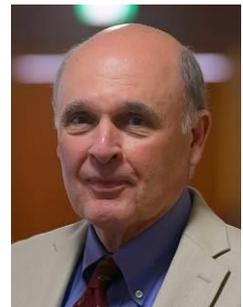
Mr Boyer and Mrs Nilsson were happy with the SG5 sessions, and commented: “This was the first face to face meeting for the Study Group whose purpose is to develop a recommendation to TC 258 whether a Maintenance (Working Group) Group should be established to take steps to maintain ISO 21500: Guidance on Project Management. The SG has over 40 members from 12 countries; 25 SG members were able to attend this meeting in person which provided a very thorough representation of the whole team. A very productive week resulted in the team forming and agreeing to the SG deliverables and work plan. Also developed was an initial survey to be sent to TC 258 members to determine the current usage and effectiveness of ISO 21500. The team also developed an initial list of potential issues and recommendation with the current standard to help the group determine what, if anything should happen with ISO 21500.” Mr Boyer can be contacted at Don.Boyer@outlook.com and Mrs Nilsson at Annkarin.Nilsson@ivo.se .

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

Mr **Michael Young**, representing **IPMA**, commented “It is great to see many members of the IPMA family participating in the ISO Technical Committee through their national standards bodies. The development of standards is an important but not always easy process. It requires the testing and challenging of ideas, concepts and terminology. It requires the examination of a diverse range of thoughts and viewpoints. Through these discussions we reach a common understanding and in turn achieve the required consensus. The result is not only a standard. We also leave such workshops with new found friends from around the globe, all of who have a passion and interest in improving practices in project, programme and portfolio management. I look forward to participating in future ISO workshops and continuing the important liaison role on behalf of the IPMA family. We also thank our Canadian hosts in particular the efforts of George Jucan for organising this plenary. ” Mr Young can be contacted at Michael.Young@transformed.com.au . (photo courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)



Mr **Paul Shaltry**, representing **PMI**, commented “PMI is committed to advancing global consensus on project, program and portfolio management on behalf of our organizational and individual members around the world. This 6th plenary session of ISO/TC 258 was notable for its collaborative atmosphere and the contributions of many new TC members. PMI thanks and appreciates our Canadian hosts for the excellent arrangements.” Mr Shaltry can be contacted at PEShaltry@sbcglobal.net (photo courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)





Standards Council of Canada
Conseil canadien des normes

Standards Council of Canada (SCC) is a federal Crown corporation. The Standards Council is located in Ottawa, and has a 13-member governing Council and a staff of approximately 90. SCC reports to Parliament through the Minister of Industry and oversees Canada's national standardization network.

SCC was created by the Government of Canada in 1970 with a mandate to promote efficient and effective standardization in Canada. SCC leads and facilitates the development and use of national and international standards and accreditation services in order to enhance Canada's competitiveness and well-being.

SCC comprises the branches Accreditation Services, Communications and Corporate Planning, Corporate Services, Standards Solutions, and Strategy.

For further information please navigate to www.scc.ca .



**International
Organization for
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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.

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About the Author



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Author



Jouko Vaskimo works as Development Manager at Aalto PRO, the Professional Development unit of Aalto University in Espoo, Finland. He is also an International Correspondent and Editorial Advisor for **PM World** in Finland. Jouko graduated from Helsinki University of Technology in 1992. Since then he has held project management related assignments with increasing levels for responsibility at Sinebrychoff Ltd, the oldest brewery in Scandinavia; Kemira Engineering Ltd, the leading chemicals manufacturer Finland; DNA Finland Ltd, a large Finnish mobile phone operator; Nokia Business Infrastructure; and Ixonos PLC, one of the leading Finnish ICT consultancies. Jouko holds the IPMA Level C (Project Manager) and Level B (Senior Project Manager) certificates. He is a founding member of PMI Finland Chapter. He received the PMP certificate in 2003. Since October 2007, Jouko 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.