

3rd IPMA Research Conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa

by Jouko Vaskimo

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Mr Reinhard Wagner, International Project Management Association (IPMA) President and Chairman of the Conference, and Dr Mias de Klerk, Head of Research at the **University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB)**, opened the 3rd IPMA Research Conference at Stellenbosch, South Africa, on 25th November 2015. The theme of the first IPMA Research Conference to be organized in Africa was *Project management in emerging economies – practice meets research*. Mr **MC Botha**, Senior Lecturer Extraordinaire at the USB, performed the duties of Master of Ceremonies.



Participants of the 3rd IPMA Research Conference (photos courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)

The conference comprised a system of plenary sessions with keynote presentations by renowned experts in project management, presentations with research and scientific foci, and a generous offering of social events surrounding the official conference program. The conference, co-hosted by **University of Johannesburg**, the **Graduate School of Technology Management of University of Pretoria**, and the **University of Stellenbosch Business School** took place at the Spier Estate on 25th ... 26th November 2015, attracting 35 participants from 15 different countries.

The first IPMA Research Conference was organized by **German Project Management Association (GPM)** in November 2013 in Berlin, Germany, with the theme *Theory meets practice in projects*: 80 people from 22 countries attended this conference. The second IPMA Research Conference was organized by **Business School of Nankai University**, Tianjing, China, in December 2014 with the theme *How to make the research meet the need of practice in PM*. For further information, please navigate to www.ipma.world/research/ipma-research-conferences/ .

Mr Reinhard Wagner, IPMA President and Chairman of the Conference, delivered a keynote presentation titled *Developing our society through projects and programmes – context, concepts and competences* on the first conference day. Mr Wagner was very happy with the conference, and commented “IPMA is facilitating dialogues between various stakeholders in the world. During this Research Conference, we could start a great dialogue between researchers and practitioners from all around the world about how to support the development of emerging economies. The situation and needs of societies in Africa, Asia and Latin America are very different to those in the developed countries of the Northern hemisphere. We got great insights in what should be done to provide support through the application of a tailored project management approach. It was made clear during the conference by looking into the recently published standard **IPMA Individual Competence Baseline** (IPMA ICB[®]), that the focus should be on the people competences and the perspective competences, which means the “soft” side of project management and the management of the project’s context. We are continuing to support the emerging economies by facilitating dialogue between the various stakeholders.” Mr Wagner can be contacted at Reinhard.Wagner@ipma.ch .



Mr Wagner delivering his keynote presentation.

Professor **Mary McKinlay**, IPMA Vice President, Research and Awards, was very happy with the successful congress, and commented “This was a wonderful setting for the Conference and the participants appreciated the historic surroundings. The mixture of academics and practitioners from the developed and developing worlds created a lively interchange of views in the workshop sessions. Everyone learned from this. I am very grateful to all my colleagues for their hard work in making this possible. My personal surprise was learning about the need to consider “The ancestors” amongst project stakeholders.” Professor McKinlay can be contacted at Mary.McKinlay@ipma.ch .



In the IPMA Research Award Ceremony, concluding the first conference day, Professor Emeritus Dr **Hans Georg Gemünden** of **Technische Universität Berlin** (TU Berlin) was recognized with the **IPMA Research Achievement Award 2015** for his lifetime contribution to project management research. Professor Gemünden is renowned for his work, he is an expert in project management, and he has published several books and articles on subjects such as innovation and technology management, entrepreneurship, project management, and business policy and strategy. In addition to the international project management research journals, his works have been published in the *Journal of Product Innovation Management*, *Organization Science*, *Research Policy*, and *Creativity and Innovation Management*. Professor Gemünden was a tenured professor at the Berlin University of Technology (TU Berlin), where he also served as Vice Dean for the Faculty for Management and Economics. (photo courtesy TU Berlin)



Professor Dr **Martina Huemann** of **Vienna University of Economics and Business** was recognized with the **IPMA Research Award 2015** for her research *Human resource management in the project-oriented organisation*. Ms **Anna Hulda Ólafsdóttir** of **Reykjavik University** was recognized the **IPMA Young Researcher Award 2015** for her research *A system dynamic approach to quality management in the construction industry*.

Professor Emeritus Dr **Gideon de Wet**, Founder, **Graduate School of Technology Management, University of Pretoria**, delivered a keynote presentation titled $g = 9,81$ on the second conference day.



Emeritus Professor Dr de Wet delivering his keynote presentation.

University of Johannesburg (UJ) is a public university in Johannesburg, South Africa. UJ was established on 1st January 2005 as the result of a merger between the **Rand Afrikaans University (RAU)**, the **Technikon Witwatersrand (TWR)** and the Soweto and East Rand campuses of **Vista University**. Before the merger, the Daveyton and Soweto campuses of the former Vista University had been incorporated into RAU. With nine faculties having more than 90 departments and an enrolment of approximately 48000 students, UJ is one of the largest comprehensive contact universities in South Africa, operating in four different campuses. UJ is one of the largest residential universities in the Republic of South Africa. For further information please navigate to www.uj.ac.za .



University of Pretoria (UP) is a public research university in Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa. UP was established in 1908 as the Pretoria campus of the Johannesburg-based Transvaal University College and is the fourth South African institution in continuous operation to be awarded university status. The **Graduate School of Technology Management (GSTM)** was established as a fourth school in the UP Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology on 1 January 2007. The Department of Engineering and Technology Management that was established in 1987 and is the only department of its kind in South Africa resides within this School. The objective of GSTM is to provide management education for the practicing engineer and technologist regardless of undergraduate discipline. While the traditional engineering disciplines focus mainly on technology, this GSTM is dedicated to the application of technology in the business environment for the creation of wealth at enterprise as well as national level. For further information please navigate to www.up.ac.za .



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University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) is the business school of the University of Stellenbosch in Bellville, Western Cape, South Africa. USB was founded in 1964 with 14 MBA students. Four years later the first DBA degree was conferred. In 1981 the premises in Bellville were acquired and five years later the department relocated to the Bellville Park Campus. In 1989 MBA student numbers reached 580. The name of the Department of Business Management and Administration changed to the Graduate School of Business (now the USB) in 1992. In 2003 the first students enrolled for the new Master's in Development Finance (MDevFin). The USB received the EQUIS accreditation in 2001 followed by the AMBA accreditation in 2002. For further information please navigate to www.usb.ac.za .



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Founded in 1965 and registered in Switzerland, **International Project Management Association (IPMA)** is the oldest global project management professional organization. IPMA is an international federation of more than 63 national project management societies in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. IPMA annual World Congress is one of the largest and most important gatherings of project management authorities and leaders each year. The president of IPMA for 2015, 2016, and

2017 is Mr Reinhard Wagner. For further information please navigate to www.ipma.ch .

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About the Author



Jouko Vaskimo

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/PC 236 and ISO/TC 258. Jouko resides in Espoo, Finland and can be best contacted at jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi.