

## 4<sup>th</sup> IPMA Research Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland

by Jouko Vaskimo

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Professor Dr **Helgi Thor Ingason** and Assistant Professor Dr **Haukur Ingi Jonasson** of the **Financial Engineering and Engineering Management Department** of **Reykjavik University** opened the 4<sup>th</sup> IPMA Research Conference at Reykjavik, Iceland, on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The theme of the conference was *Sustainability in Project Management*. Mr **Tom Taylor**, Vice-President of **Association for Project Management (APM)**, joint founder of **Buro Four**, principal at **dashdot**, and Visiting Professor at **Salford University**, performed the duties of Master of Ceremonies.



*Participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> IPMA Research Conference (photos courtesy Jouko Vaskimo)*

The conference comprised a system of plenary sessions with keynote presentations by renowned experts in project management sustainability, workshops and world café sessions, and a generous offering of social events surrounding the official conference program. The conference, hosted by **Reykjavik University**, took place at the Nautholl Café next to the Reykjavik University main building on 15<sup>th</sup> ... 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016, with over 50 participants from over 15 different countries.

The first IPMA Research Conference with the theme *Theory meets practice in projects* was organized by **German Project Management Association (GPM)** in November 2013 in Berlin, Germany. The second IPMA Research Conference with the theme *How to make the research meet the need of practice in PM* was organized by **Business School of Nankai University** in December 2014 in Tianjing, China. The third IPMA Research Conference with the theme *Project management in emerging economies – practice meets research* was co-organized by the **University of Johannesburg**, the **Graduate School of Technology Management** of **University of Pretoria**, and the

**University of Stellenbosch Business School** in November 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. For further information on the IPMA Research Conferences, please navigate to [www.ipma.world/research/ipma-research-conferences/](http://www.ipma.world/research/ipma-research-conferences/) .

A conference dinner was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> September – before the official program started – in the Nautholl Café. A group of Icelandic project management practitioners pursuing their Master of Project Management degrees at the Reykjavik University delivered a keynote presentation *Sustainable development and the message from Paris*, providing a general introduction of the term *sustainability*, to start off the dinner.



*Delivering keynote presentation Sustainable development and the message from Paris*

A performance of traditional Icelandic music as well as original compositions was provided by a group of talented Icelandic musicians, including Professor Ingason.



*Performance of traditional and original Icelandic music by group of talented musicians*

Professor Dr **Yvonne Schoper** of **University of applied Sciences**, Berlin, Germany, opened the conference with keynote presentation *The driving forces for sustainability in 2050*, introducing ten sustainability driving forces – *world population growth, climate changes, water, agriculture & forest, economy & trade, energy & power, technology development, mobility & transportation, human development, and people’s values*. After her presentation, the participants were split into four groups for afternoon workshop.



*Professor Schoper delivering her keynote presentation.*

Professor Jonasson coordinated the work on *Similarities and differences in sustainability across sectors*; Professor Schoper the work on *Differences and similarities in sustainability by location and cultures – G7 and E7*; Professor Ingason the work on *Obligations and responsibilities for sustainability at project / program / portfolio levels*, and Mr Taylor the work on *How do we manage sustainably?* Subsequent to the group discussions, the results were shared among all conference participants.

Professor Dr **Gilbert Silvius** of LOI University of Applied Sciences, Leiderdorp, the Netherlands, concluded the first congress day with his keynote presentation *What is being done currently regarding sustainability, “what is the gap?”*.



*Professor Silvius delivering his keynote presentation*

IPMA Research Awards ceremony and reception concluded the first conference day.

Dr **Ofer Zwikael** from the **Australian National University**, Canberra, Australia, was granted the **IPMA Research Award 2016** for his research *Project Benefit Management*. This research provides frameworks, processes, models, and tools to enhance the realization of benefits at project completion, contributing to project management areas such as business case development, project investment decision-making, project governance, stakeholder management and performance measurement.



*Dr Zwikael accepting the IPMA Research Award 2016 from Professor Ingason*

Double-degree PhD candidate **Maxim Miterev** from **KTH Royal Institute of Technology**, Stockholm, Sweden, and **Politecnico di Milano**, Italy, was granted the **IPMA Young Researcher Award 2016** for his research on how various program management competences are associated with successful program management.



*Double-degree PhD candidate Miterev accepting the IPMA Young Researcher Award 2016 from Professor Ingason*

Professor Dr **Christophe Bredillet** of **Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières**, Trois-Rivières, Canada, and **Queensland University of Technology**, Brisbane, Australia, was granted the **IPMA Research Achievement Award 2016** for his achievements in project management research. Professor Bredillet, PhD, IPMA Level A, FAPM, is professor of organizational project management at the Management Department, School of Business Administration, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, and the Director of the DBA program and Director of the joint committee for the masters' in project management programs network, including five universities under the umbrella of Université du Québec. He is an adjunct Professor at Queensland University of Technology' Project Management Academy. From 2012 to 2015, he was the Director of the QUT Project Management Academy. Before joining QUT, he was Senior Consultant World Bank and, from 1992 to 2010, he was the Dean of Postgraduate Programs and Professor of Strategic Management and P3M at ESC Lille where he founded and developed the very successful masters, MBA and PhD programs in Strategy and Project, Program & Portfolio Management, leading these programs to be the first, and the fourth worldwide, to accredited outside North America by The Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs in 2005. He also established the first International Project & Programme Management Week in ESC Lille in 2001. (photo courtesy IPMA)



Professor Dr **Peter W.G. Morris** of **The Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management** at the **University College London**, England, opened the second conference day with his keynote presentation *Beyond sustainability: Climate change and what the profession of project management should be doing about it*, explaining how the gap between what is happening and what should be happening can be closed.



*Professor Morris with Professor Ingason*

Mr **Michael Young** of **University of Canberra**, Australia, continued the second conference day by delivering with his keynote presentation *How to close the gap – focus on project management*, highlighting the steps to take in order to achieve sustainability through project management.



*Mr Young delivering his keynote presentation*

The second conference day was completed with a world café session in which the key issues Mr Young highlighted in his keynote presentation were elaborated further: The conference participants were split into three groups which circulated among three tables in which Mr Young, Professor Schoper, and Professor Ingason coordinated discussions. At the end of the world café session, the results of the three discussions were shared among all conference participants.

The conference was wrapped up by Mr Tom Taylor, who thanked sincerely all organizers and participants for an extremely exciting event.



*Mr Taylor wrapping up the 4<sup>th</sup> IPMA Research Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland*

**Reykjavik University (RU)**, in Icelandic *Háskólinn í Reykjavík*, is a private university in Reykjavik, Iceland, with over 3 500 students and over 500 employees. It is chartered by the Icelandic Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Icelandic Industries, and the Confederation of Icelandic Employers. The university became fully bilingual in beginning of 2010, and it consists of four academic schools: School of Law, School of Business, School of Computer Science, and the School of Science and Engineering.



In addition, there is the Reykjavík University Executive Education for managers and business professionals. The schools offer a three-year study programme leading to a BSc or BA degree. In addition, all four schools offer graduate programs including the Iceland School of Energy, an MSc program within the School of Science and Engineering offering two degrees in the field of sustainable energy science and engineering.

The Reykjavik University offers HMV – a programme that enables people to study and work full-time at the same time. Students in HMV are offered shorter diploma programmes as well as a BSc study. The School of Business and School of Computer Science offer HMV. In addition to the four schools, Reykjavík University has an Open University that serves individuals and the business community with a range of courses.

Reykjavik University operates in Nauthólsvík in a new building that opened in January 2010. The structure of the building portrays the sun with its rays that extend from its core, as a symbol of the culture that spreads in the same way. For further information please navigate to [www.ru.is](http://www.ru.is) .

**IPMA** >>

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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](http://www.ipma.ch) .

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## About the Author



### Jouko Vaskimo

Author



**Jouko Vaskimo** is 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](mailto:jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi).