Project Managers Global Summit 2019 on 'Sustainability Through Competent Project Leadership'

Sustainability has become one of the foremost objectives for all Projects and Programs of today. New Technologies, Disruptive Business Models, Social challenges and Environmental considerations are just some of the factors which are driving the need to integrate the element of Sustainability into Strategic Decision making processes for Project-led Leadership. India as a fast emerging economic power is poised to acquire the status of the third largest economy by 2030. In order to maintain the economic trajectory of the nation, the Government has launched many major nation-wide programmes. In this socio-economic backdrop, PMA-India organized its Project Managers Global Summit 2019 at New Delhi on 20th and 21st August 2019, with widespread participation from the industry, the academia and Government departments. The Summit dwelled on new Competences and Best Practices in Project Leadership for Projects & Programs to truly become instruments in achieving sustainable growth and development.

In his welcome address, Dr A S Pillai, President, PMA-India stressed the need to first cut the large time and cost overruns in core projects of the Govt. of India, using proven Project Management techniques, in order to create a Society where all Projects succeed and achieve Sustainable outcomes. While highlighting the quality of the IPMA 4LC process, in reference to the GAPPS Analysis, and speaking on the significance of the migration to ICB 4, he emphasized the need to build competence among the people who plan and execute the projects and programs. In this connection he said that PMA India would to associate with NITI Aayog (the foremost Policy think tank of the Govt. of India), to outline, propose and recommend measures that would help solve many of the impediments related to the Project Management challenges, and make a Project Oriented India where all projects succeed. He also spoke about the need for Project organisations to consider and adopt new Technologies like AI and Blockchain and new methodologies like Agile into their processes for better
efficiency and effectiveness. He also mentioned about IPMA’s Agile Leadership Product.

In his Theme Address, Mr. Anil Razdan, Patron, PMA India and Fmr. Secretary (Min.of Power), Govt. of India, spoke at length about the tremendous benefits that could be realized for nation development across core sectors such as Power, Oil & Gas, Construction, Engineering, by eliminating delays and cost overruns through widespread adoption of Project Management competences to create Competent Project Professionals at all levels. Speaking about the various Programs and Missions initiated by the Govt. of India, he noted that the current socio-economic scenario demanded that sustainable growth and development be integral elements of all Projects – Social, Environmental or Business.

In his Presidential Address, Mr. Jesus Martinez Almela, President, IPMA, provided a global perspective on why it was imperative to integrate Sustainability with competent Project Leadership. Outlining various initiatives underway across IPMA, including Special Interest Groups, building new MAs and expanding to newer countries, he emphasized the significance of the transition to the ICB 4, and IPMA’s Agile Leadership Product. He highlighted the need for Project Management to be recognized as an independent discipline with specific competences and also drew attention to the significance of effective Program and Portfolio Management.

The Chief Guest of the Summit, Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, spoke at length on the critical importance of building Project Management competences to eliminate widespread time and cost overruns and bring about a culture of timely and effective Project deliveries. Speaking about the various nation-wide Programs launched by the Govt. of India, he exhorted the Project Management Community and all participating industries to adopt effective Project Management practices and competences in order to truly contribute to the success of these flagship Missions.

Dr. E Sreedharan, Founder MD, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and presently Principal Adviser, DMRC, spoke about his experiences and journey from conceiving the flagship

"My belief is that communication is the best way to create strong relationships.”
~ Jada Pinkett Smith
Delhi Metro Rail Project, the Best Practices employed and the systems and competences that were adopted to ensure that all Projects related to the Mass Urban Transportation System of India’s most populous metropolis not only met their delivery timelines but also achieved sustainable outcomes by way of world class and consistent operational service.

Mr. S N Subrahmanyan, CEO & MD of Larsen & Toubro, India’s leading diversified conglomerate, spoke about how implementation of Project Management practices across its businesses, had resulted in achieving effective and timely deliveries even in highly complex projects across diversified sectors such as Construction, Engineering and Defence. He highlighted how adoption of new technologies was resulting in further improvements in effectiveness of the Project Management process through better monitoring, control and a superior safety record.


In his Keynote address, Mr. Jesus Martinez Almela, President, IPMA, spoke about the various dimensions of Sustainability relating to environmental, social, technological and other factors, in the global context.

In the subsequent Session on Energy, speakers presented about the Sustainability aspect of Projects relating to Conventional Energy, Future Energy Sources and on Energy Security.

The next Session on Defence and Aerospace addressed the emergence of Defence Strategic Industry in India and included a presentation on the challenges and best practices associated with a flagship defence project.


During the speeches and subsequent discussions, some key observations emerged:

- Core Projects across various sectors are reporting significant time overruns, cost overruns, or both. These delays can impact economic growth. To look towards sustainable outcomes, delays must first be controlled and therefore it is essential that professionals managing these projects be competent in Project Management techniques and best practices. In this context there is a need to impress upon Government departments to recognize Project Management as a separate competence that must be addressed, assessed and developed independently.

- Project Management certification must be made as a mandatory requirement for all Project-related roles and responsibilities by the Govt. of India and IPMA 4 Level Certification be recognized by the Government departments as also by the industries, for assessment of vital Project Management competences among Project Professionals at all levels.

- The members appreciated the GAPPS Analysis and concluded that IPMA 4 Level Certification was superior to its international counterparts and is therefore most suitable PM Certification system.

- ICB 4 as the latest and highly comprehensive baseline for PM Competences, provides the ideal standard that should be adopted by Govt. Departments and Industry in this connection. PMA India shall associate with NITI Aayog, to propose and recommend measures in this regard.

- A talent pool of competence-certified Project Management professionals must be developed by the Industry and Govt. Departments who can contribute effectively to the success of their Projects.

- Core sector industries are now actively considering and adopting New Technologies like AI, IoT, Additive Manufacturing as well as newer PM methodologies like Agile into their Projects.

“Management is a position that is granted; leadership is a status that is earned.”
~ K. Scott Derrick
**PMA Awards 2019**

The PMA Awards Ceremony conducted during the latter half of the Inaugural Function, comprised the following Award categories:

- Organisational Excellence Award
- National Project Excellence Awards
- Project Leader of the Year Awards
- Young Project Manager Awards

Organisations, Projects and Project Leaders, who were adjudged from the applications received from the industry by PMA committee, were personally handed over their awards and certificates, by the Chief Guest, President IPMA and President PMA India. Successful projects and project leaders represented key sectors like Energy, Construction, Mass Urban Transportation, Defence & Aerospace and Engineering.

Dr. E Sreedharan  Founder MD, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and presently Principal Adviser, DMRC, was honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award for his unmatched contributions and successes in the area of Project Leadership.

PMA Honorary Fellowship 2019 was conferred on Dr. S Christopher, Fmr. Secretary (Dept. of Defence R&D) and Chairman, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, for his outstanding contributions in the area of Project Management for Defence Projects in India.

PMA Organisational Excellence Award 2019 was conferred on Larsen & Toubro Limited in recognition of its consistent approach to Project Management Best practices in delivering world class project across a diverse portfolio of businesses.
Mr. Arvind Rai, CGM, Chennai Metro Rail Limited accepting the National Project Excellence Award for Chennai Metro Rail Project, Phase - I.

Mr. Rajeev Mehrotra, CMD, RITES, accepting the National Project Excellence Award for the Bogibeel Bridge Project.

Mr. U Raja Babu, Programme Director – AD, RCI, DRDO, accepting the Project Leader of the Year Award for Mission Shakti, ASAT Project.

Mr. Mukesh S Raval, Project Director, Larsen & Toubro, accepting the National Project Excellence Award for the ‘Statue of Unity’ Project.

"Vision without action is a dream. Action without vision is simply passing the time. Action with Vision is making a positive difference." ~ Joel Barker
Mr. Pramit Kumar Garg, Project Director, DMRC, accepting the Project Leader of the Year Award for Noida – Greater Noida Metro Line Project

Mr. Ajay Shukla, Head, NTPC – PMI-PMG Group, accepting the Project Leader of the Year Award for Super Thermal Power Plant at Koregaon

Mr. Brahmananda Reddy, DGM, HPCL, accepting the Project Leader of the Year Award for LPG Bottling Plant in Warangal

Mr. Akshay Dhar, Sterlite Power Grid Ventures Limited, accepting the Young Project Manager Award

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." ~ Mattie Stepanek
Mr. A. Gowri Sankara Rao, HPCL Vizag, accepting the Young Project Manager Award

Section of the Audience during the Inaugural Function

“Your may delay, but time will not.” ~ Benjamin Franklin

Audience Interaction Session

Section of the audience during the second day’s proceedings.
The International Project Management Association (IPMA) is holding its 31st World Congress from 30th September through 2nd October, 2019 at Merida, Mexico. The World Congress will deliberate on the Theme ‘Integrating Sustainability into Project Management’, and leading Project Management Speakers, have been invited to share and present trends as well as Best practices on the theme, with emphasis on the following streams:

- Clean Energy
- Infrastructure
- Automotive & Aerospace
- Environment
- Tourism
- Smart Cities
- Agribusiness & Smart Rural
- Education & Welfare

President, PMA India, Dr. A S Pillai, who is one of the distinguished speakers, shall be addressing the gathering on the Topic: ‘Project Management in Space Technology Ventures for Human Sustainability’.

IPMA’s Council of Delegates (CoD) meeting is scheduled alongside the World Congress and will be held on 28th and 29th September at Merida.

**About PMA India**

A not for profit registered Society established in 1993, PMA India is the National Association of Project Managers in India that is actively engaged with the Industry, Academia and Govt. Departments to promote Competence based Project Management.

PMA India strives to promote competence at different levels to facilitate successful completion of all projects. Competence building and development of Project Management Mindset across Industry, Academia and Government are undertaken by PMA through its global and national level events, certification, membership, workshops. Classroom trainings are conducted by independent accredited organizations / individuals.

PMA India has a wide network of Members. Ministry of Shipping and Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India and over 75 leading organisations including from Maharatna, Navratna PSUs and Private companies.

With its headquarters at New Delhi, PMA India’s wide network of Chapters across India and regional offices in Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai, lend robust support to its mission.

PMA India is the Exclusive Indian Member of the International Project Management Association (IPMA) - a Federation of 73 Member Associations from countries across all continents and a leading global authority on Project, Program & Portfolio Management.

Appropriate best practices in Project Management, learnt and shared by IPMA, from their wealth of experience and knowledge base, are passed over to Project practitioners and Academia by PMA India.

IPMA’s globally recognized 4 Level Certification system in Project Management is exclusively administered and awarded in India by PMA Certification Body - PMA Cert.

More than 7000 professionals across a range of leading organizations in India, have been awarded IPMA Certifications.

PMA India also offers industries a unique and comprehensive organization level assessment of Project Management Maturity.

PMA India actively recognizes the spirit of excellence among Projects, Young Project Managers, Project Leaders and Organisations, through its Excellence Awards.

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*Leaders are more powerful role models when they learn than when they teach.*
~ Rosabeth Moss Kanter