

REGIONAL REPORT – ARGENTINA – MARCH 2009



Project Management News from Argentina

*By Ana Maria Rodriguez, MSE, PMP
International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today
Rosario, Argentina*

News about Local Programs and Projects

Argentina began 2009 full of uncertainty. Not only due to the world crisis but also to unclear measures announced by Ms. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner in the last weeks of 2008, as an attempt to increase local demand for goods. January and February are summer time in Argentina, months with a very low level of economical activity. March is almost here and the scenario is still full of uncertainty. To add problems, lack of rains in the agricultural region of the country increased the problems for farmers; strong rains in the northern region of Salta left thousands of families with nothing. Ms. Fernandez continues making announcements of all types, but not real effect has been seen on the economy, or relieve to the farmers problems, or the improvement of conditions of thousands of very poor Argentineans that are feeling the worst of the economical crisis.

Regarding projects, the truth is that the country is on hold. Almost nothing happens; nobody wants to take a risk yet. Some important companies have already announced that 2009 will be a year of very limited investments; other companies are expecting any good signal from the world economy or the local politics to re-launch important projects, with important reduction of budget of course. Most construction companies are intending to obtain contracts on public infrastructure since many projects that have been postponed for years seem to begin soon.

High expectations are placed on March, the month were companies usually return to usual level of activities after the summer time. So I hope to come back in my April regional report with more news, hoping to see projects continuing even though with a lower level of investment.

News From the Project Management Profession

The Buenos Aires Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMIBA) begins this month the regular activity of the chapter, after the summer break. This year PMIBA continues its work toward the establishment and consolidation of regional communities in Argentina. In the last weeks Mr. John C. Huggett, PMI Component & Community Relations Administrator announced to PMIBA that the chapter's transformation toward a chapter with branches has approved phase 1 of 7. This is a great advance on the transformation of the chapter into a national entity.



Another great news that the chapter has received is the attendance of Mr. Gregory Balestrero, President and CEO of PMI to the Leadership Meeting that will be held in late March in Buenos Aires gathering leaders of PMI South America Region 13 (Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru). Mr. Balestrero has suggested a meeting with members of the chapters previous to the event, a very new strategy to meet PMI's most important stakeholders.

The Chapter activity for 2009 will continue including events in its Mendoza Branch and the Córdoba Committee. The Rosario Committee will be back in activity this year, offering services to PMIBA members and to all PM professionals in this city.

PMIBA Agenda for this year includes:

Date	City	Activity
March 19 th	Buenos Aires	Meeting Professional Session
March 26 th	Buenos Aires	Mr. G. Balestrero Meets PMI Region 13 Members
March 27 th and 28 th	Buenos Aires	Leadership Meeting Region 13 South America
May 6 th	Buenos Aires	Meeting Professional Session
May 14 th	Mendoza	Jornadas Cuyanas de PM
July 2 nd	Buenos Aires	Meeting Professional Session
July 16 th	Mendoza	Meeting Professional Session
September 2 nd	Buenos Aires	Meeting Professional Session
November 7th	Mendoza	X Jornada Tour Cono Sur 2009
November 9th	Buenos Aires	X Jornada Tour Cono Sur 2009
December 3rd	Mendoza, Buenos Aires	Meeting Professional Session
December 10th	Buenos Aires	2010 Electoral Process PMIBA
TBD	Buenos Aires	PMP and CAPM Certification Seminar
TBD	Córdoba	Meeting Professional Sessions
TBD	Rosario	Meeting Professional Sessions

For more information on PMIBA visit www.pmi.org.ar

About the Author:**Ana Maria Rodriguez**

*International Correspondent - Argentina
Based in Rosario*



Ms. Ana Maria Rodriguez is founder and manager of ERA Project Management, offering consulting services to the Engineering and Construction Industry in Rosario, Argentina, and is an adjunct professor of project management at the Universidad Nacional de Rosario. Colombian by birth, Ms. Rodriguez graduated with a Civil Engineering Degree from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota and from the University of Texas at Austin, USA with a Masters Degree in Construction Engineering and Project Management (MSE). Ms Rodriguez has implemented Project Management best practices and managed projects both in the government sector and in the engineering and construction private sector. Ms. Rodriguez is also an active member of PMI in Argentina, and is an international correspondent for PMForum and PM World Today in Argentina. Additional information about Ms. Rodriguez can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm>. Ms. Rodriguez welcomes contact at arodriguezdev@gmail.com also at www.erapm.com.ar .