

REGIONAL REPORT – PANAMA – FEBRUARY 2010



Project Management Update from Panama *End of January 2010*

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New Year for Projects in Panama

2010 seems a good year for projects in Panama. With a yet to be finished 1st year in the new government, the pieces of the puzzle seem to be locking up to start with the deployment of important projects with millionaire investments.

Among these projects we have, the Design of a Metro System for the Capital City and the modernization of Government Banks.

Construction in these latitudes has slowed down but hasn't stop. Perhaps, by learning on what has happened in the past, the country wasn't affected as much. After 4-5 years of being in a bubble with residential investments, and a lot of market speculation, finally the bubble stopped and it is now stabilizing.

In Commercial construction the story is different, just last year the biggest mall in Latin America opened up for Christmas, and two others are in their way.

The Panama Canal Expansion Program is right on track with all the major participants finally selected and already starting with the construction of the new locks.

2nd Annual PMI Panama Project Management Conference

In other news the PMI Panama Chapter is ready for their second annual Symposium, with 28 presentations and 4 workshops and seminars. The event that expects around 300 participants is the result of the effort of a well committed Board



of Directors, intensive networking and careful planning.



To see the full program plan, with speakers and topics, or to register, visit <http://www.pmi-panama.org/simposio2010/>. For additional information contact **Luis Fasano** (PMI Panama) at lfasano@pmi-panama.org or **Robin Arjona** (PMI Panama) at rarjona@pmi-panama.org.

The symposium will be bilingual with translation available (Spanish or English). Registration fees are \$320, \$250 for PMI members, and \$120 for students. Attendees can receive up to 8 PDUs for PMP recertification for each day attended. The symposium venue will be the Panama Canal Authority Auditorium and facilities.

In addition to the PMI Panama Chapter, local sponsors include the Panama Canal Authority. Participants will also have an opportunity to tour the canal and meet the program manager.

The 2nd PMI Panama Project Management Conference is being organized by the PMI Panama Chapter, the local component of the Project Management Institute (PMI^(R)). PMI is the world's largest member-based organization devoted to professional project management. Founded in 1969 in the United States, PMI now has more than 280,000 members in 170 plus countries. Founded in 2001, the PMI Panama Chapter is a volunteer based professional association dedicated to supporting the growth and development of the project management discipline and its critical role in business and organization success. The PMI Panama Chapter has approximately 150 members and serves the project management and business communities of Panama and nearby countries. For more information, visit <http://www.pmi-panama.org/>.

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About the Author

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Luis Fasano is an International Correspondent for PMForum and *PM World Today* in Panama. Mr. Fasano has 17 years of experience in the field technology and computer science and 8 years of experience in positions related to Project Management. Most of his experience is related to technology integration and implementation of Information Systems such as CRM, ERP, PMIS. He has participated in government projects financed by the Inter American Development Bank (IADB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Bank, and has handled 3 offices of projects for local consultants and governmental offices. He is an Engineer in Computer Systems from the Technological Institute of Monterrey (ITESM), and has achieved a Masters in Computer Science also from ITESM and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Notre Dame, USA. He is a PMP certified and has been part of the educational body of institutions like the Inter-American University and University of Louisville. Luis is a Project Management Specialist for the IADB in their initiative of realignment of their local programs. He is also currently the President of the PMI Panama Chapter and an active volunteer having participated in initiatives such as PMP Exam Question Revisions, PMI Leadership Conferences and PMI Leadership Master Class. He owns and operates Haxis Consultoria, a Panama based Consulting company focused in Project Management Services. Luis can be contacted at lfasano@haxisconsultoria.com.