

## REGIONAL REPORT – HOUSTON, USA – MARCH 2010



### Project Management Update from Houston

*By Quang Ton, CABM, CGEIT, CISM, PMP  
International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today  
Houston, Texas, USA*

#### **PMI Houston Chapter News**

The Project Management Institute – Houston Chapter, Inc. has 6 different venues within the Houston metropolitan area:

- Central Meeting (University of Houston, Caspian Room #87 , Houston, TX 77204)
- Downtown Meeting (Main Houston Public Library Branch, Concourse Level Meeting Room, 500 McKinney Street, Houston, TX 77002)
- Galleria Meeting (HESS Club, 5430 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77056)
- North Meeting (Strack Farms Restaurant, 5707 Louetta, Spring, TX 77379)
- Southwest Meeting (Schlumberger Forum Cafe, 210 Schlumberger Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77478)
- Westside Meeting (Sysco, 1390 Enclave Parkway Building 1390, Houston, TX)

The topics of meetings in February 2010 were:

***“Trial and Error to Recognized Global Turn-Key Supplier”*** by Vesa Koivumaa, Vesa and Rashid N Kapadia - The presentation started with an introduction to Wärtsilä; an overview of its 175 year history. This was followed by a brief description of the company’s strategies and growth over its life time. (Wärtsilä was recognized as one of the 100 most sustainable companies in the world in the recent World Economic Forum at Davos) its ability to adapt and recognize synergies and opportunities.

The main body of the presentation focused on how the power plant business grew and the way the company increasingly used Project Management best practices to grow the business. It also enumerated how the company adapted and modified its “project based” organization during the growth phase. There were some comments on how from 1994 to 2009 there was a transformation from using basic Project Management processes to creating a PM profession within the organization. The presentation concluded with a description of the way that Wärtsilä uses project management to combine, arts, finance and technology to create customer value.

**“7 Trends That Could Impact Your Project Management Career”** by James Del Monte - James, president of JDA Professional Services, Inc., discussed JDA's findings regarding research done with over 100 Houston-area executives. Research topics to be included in this timely presentation included:

- Current trends in the Houston employment market affecting project managers
- Executives' perspectives on the value of education and certification on careers
- Advancement/promotion
- How the evolving roles and team building skills of project managers will impact business over the next 5 years

James also discussed key findings in JDA's recently completed annual Houston salary survey as well as what expectations a project manager should have in the coming year. Since 1981 James Del Monte has been president of JDA Professional Services. JDA helps Houston businesses build great IT departments by indentifying strategic technical to executive-level IT resources while helping IT professionals advance their careers through direct placement and career coaching.

**“Project Management Lessons in New Business Startup”** by Michel Ghosn: **“Starting Your Business - Challenges, Risks, and Rewards - Lessons learned by a Project Manager”**. The purpose of going into business is to expand beyond your existing horizons. So you can invent something that satisfies a need in the marketplace that has never been satisfied before. So you can live an expanded, stimulating new life. Developing a business is a never-ending inquiry, an on-going investigation, an active engagement with a world of forces, within us and without, that continually amaze and confound the true seekers among us with awesome variety, unending surprises, and untold complexity. Throughout this meeting, Michel shared his takes and experience in starting his venture and insights about the importance of the project management skills to pave the road.

***“Social Media in PM”***

***“Fearless Networking”*** by Kenneth P. Marsh – The attendees learned what is business networking and what isn't business networking. How to overcome any fear and reluctance to connect with others. How to break the ice and confidently work a room. The 3 keys to fearless face-to-face networking and 5 tips to successful social media networking

Please go to <http://www.pmihouston.org/p/cm/ld/fid=17> to view upcoming events this month.

**2010 President of PMI Houston Interviewed at the “Innovator” Talk Radio Show...**



On January 25<sup>th</sup> 2010, **Kathy Ridley**, President of PMI Houston Chapter was interviewed on "The Innovators" talk radio show. During the interview, she enlightened and entertained millions of airline travelers on the value of Project Management. During a one-on-one interview, she promoted the profession of project management and PMP certification as well as the “Optimizing Business Results Through Innovative Project Management”, this very important topic from industry leaders and experts.

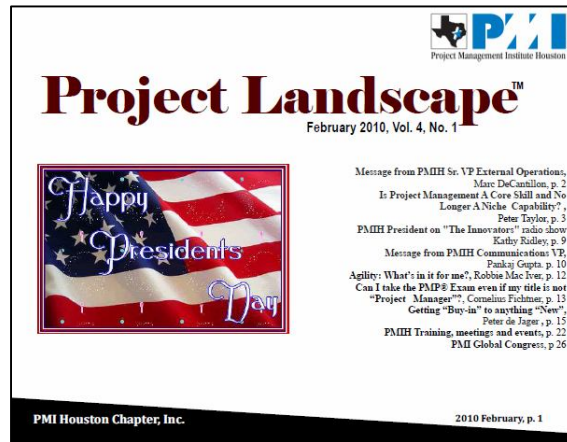
The interview will be heard on 40,000+ [Delta Air Lines](#) flights reaching 10.1 million+ travelers during the full months of May and June 2010 and 4,000+ [US Airways](#) flights reaching 400,000+ travelers during the full months of July and August 2010 with mention in 615,000 monthly copies of Delta Sky Magazine! You can hear the interview now at this link: <http://www.pmihouston.org/download.php?sid=1467>

As heard on **SKY**  
RADIO  
and US Airways

As heard on **SKY**  
RADIO  
and Delta Air Lines



The Houston CHAPTER is one of the largest in the USA, boasting more than 3000 members. Members come from all sectors where Project Management plays a crucial role, including Engineering and Construction, Industrial, Information Systems, Oil and Gas, Healthcare, Education, Telecommunications, Government, Marketing and Advertising, and Service/Support sectors. The Chapter holds meetings at various locations in the Houston metropolis area; check our Programs page for details. We invite you to learn more on how to become involved in this dynamic organization, or consider becoming a member. Please visit <http://www.pmi-houston.org>.



The Project Management Institute – Houston Chapter, Inc. published their newsletter on a monthly basis, the contents are diverse going from the message from one of their Board members, chapter meetings announcements, compelling feature articles to the art project to promote creativity and innovation with the project manager skill set.

The edition for February 2010 is now available on their web site (as well as the archived publications) at: <http://www.pmi-houston.org/download.php?sid=1529>.

## 2010 PMI Houston Conference & Expo

The 2010 PMI Houston Conference & Expo will be held June 14 through June 16, 2010 at the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB) in downtown Houston, Texas USA. We are excited to be returning to the GRB as it affords us the opportunity to expand our program for this annual conference, vendor expo and job fair. Potential to earn 22.5 PDUs over this 3-day event – [www.pmi-houston.org/conference](http://www.pmi-houston.org/conference), click on Registration for details.



Optimize Business Results through Innovative Project Management Practices

**Two new tracks have been added:**

- Agile Project Management
- Professional Development
- Program Management
- Project Management
- **Project Management from an O&G Perspective**
- **S/W Tools for Project Management**

**Special price: \$99 for the Rick Gillis Workshop**

This special price is for the Rick Gillis workshop “Getting you through the Pipeline...How to Play the Keywords Game & Land Your Next Job,” and only being offered to PMI Houston members who are unemployed. Those who are not PMI Houston members, who are unemployed, can attend this full-day workshop for the special price of **\$199**. Register now...this workshop is filling up fast, and space is limited!

All eleven (11) Workshops are scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2010 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with registration on a first-come-first-served basis for each of the workshops. Go to [www.pmihouston.org/conference](http://www.pmihouston.org/conference) and click on the Program tab for a complete listing.

**Conference Program Schedule**

**Monday, June 14, 2010**

|           |    |           |                                                                                                      |
|-----------|----|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | To | 4:00 p.m. | Registration                                                                                         |
| 8:00 a.m. | To | 5:00 p.m. | Workshops                                                                                            |
| 3:00 p.m. | To | 6:30 p.m. | Vendor Expo                                                                                          |
| 5:00 p.m. | To | 6:30 p.m. | Ice Breaker / Meet the Speakers Reception (complimentary drink tickets to registrants) – Vendor Expo |
| 6:30 p.m. | To | 8:00 p.m. | Opening Banquet with <b>Pat Johns</b> - "Innovative Solutions for Lean Times and Creative Minds"     |

**Tuesday, June 15, 2010**

|            |    |            |                                                                            |
|------------|----|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m.  | To | 4:00 p.m.  | Registration                                                               |
| 10:00 a.m. | To | 6:30 p.m.  | Vendor Expo                                                                |
| 8:00 a.m.  | To | 9:30 a.m.  | Tuesday breakfast session: <b>Michelle LaBrosse</b> - “Science of Success” |
| 9:45 a.m.  | To | 10:45 a.m. | 1 <sup>st</sup> breakout session                                           |

Published in *PM World Today* – March 2010 (Vol XII, Issue III)

|            |    |            |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|----|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00 a.m. | To | 12:00 noon | 2 <sup>nd</sup> breakout session                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:00 noon | To | 12:30 p.m. | Vendor Expo drawings for prizes, Book Signing events, etc.                                                                                                       |
| 12:30 p.m. | To | 2:00 p.m.  | Tuesday luncheon session: <b>Traci Duez</b> - "The Power of Nice"                                                                                                |
| 2:00 p.m.  | To | 2:30 p.m.  | Vendor Expo - drawings for prizes, Book Signing events, etc.                                                                                                     |
| 2:30 p.m.  | To | 3:30 p.m.  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> breakout session                                                                                                                                 |
| 3:30 p.m.  | To | 4:00 p.m.  | Vendor Expo – drawings for prizes, Book Signing events, etc.                                                                                                     |
| 4:00 p.m.  | To | 5:00 p.m.  | 4 <sup>th</sup> breakout session                                                                                                                                 |
| 5:00 p.m.  | To | 6:30 p.m.  | Networking Reception / Meet the Speakers (complimentary drink tickets to registrants)<br>Drawings for prizes, Book Signing events, etc. – all in the Vendor Expo |

**Wednesday, June 16, 2010**

|            |    |            |                                                                                                          |
|------------|----|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 a.m.  | To | 4:00 p.m.  | Registration                                                                                             |
| 10:00 a.m. | To | 4:00 p.m.  | Vendor Expo & <b>Annual Job Fair</b>                                                                     |
| 8:00 a.m.  | To | 9:30 a.m.  | Tuesday breakfast session: <b>Walter Viali</b> - "RMS Titanic - Could Project Management Have Helped?"   |
| 9:45 a.m.  | To | 10:45 a.m. | 1 <sup>st</sup> breakout session                                                                         |
| 11:00 a.m. | To | 12:00 noon | 2 <sup>nd</sup> breakout session                                                                         |
| 12:00 noon | To | 12:30 p.m. | Vendor Expo drawings for prizes, Book Signing events, etc.                                               |
| 12:30 p.m. | To | 2:00 p.m.  | Tuesday luncheon session: <b>Rory Vaden</b> - "Take the stairs - Success Means Doing What Others Won't " |
| 2:00 p.m.  | To | 2:30 p.m.  | Vendor Expo - drawings for prizes, Book Signing events, etc.                                             |
| 2:30 p.m.  | To | 3:30 p.m.  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> breakout session                                                                         |
| 3:30 p.m.  | To | 4:00 p.m.  | Vendor Expo – drawings for prizes, Book Signing events, etc.                                             |
| 4:00 p.m.  | To | 5:00 p.m.  | 4 <sup>th</sup> breakout session                                                                         |

Visit the website for up-to-date information on the 2010 PMI Houston Conference & Expo:  
[www.pmi-houston.org/conference](http://www.pmi-houston.org/conference)

**About the Author:****Quang Ton**

*International Correspondent*  
Houston, Texas, USA



**Quang Ton**, CABM, CISM, CGEIT, PMP, is an international correspondent for [PMForum](#) and *PM World Today* based in the Houston metropolitan area of South Texas, USA. He is also the IT Security Manager – North & Latin America for [Schlumberger Limited](#), the leading oilfield services provider, trusted to deliver superior results and improved E&P performance for oil and gas companies around the world. Through well site operations and in research and engineering facilities, the organization is working to develop products, services and solutions that optimize customer performance in a safe and environmentally sound manner. He has been working on global projects, programs and strategy to secure information and offer security solutions, implementation and integration for the enterprise of 70,000+ employees located world-wide, his main focuses are in service quality, business processes and operational excellence. He currently holds a Masters degree in Computer Engineering from the *Université de Technologie de Compiègne (UTC)* in France as well as a Bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering from the *Institut Universitaire de Technologie de Créteil (IUT)* in France and he has also acquired several credentials such as Certified Associate Business Manager (CABM), Project Management Professional (PMP®), Certified Information Security Manager (CISM®), Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT (CGEIT®) and Foundation Level in Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL). Additionally, Quang has been active in leadership positions with the Project Management Institute (PMI®) (Director at Large and VP of Communications) and Schlumberger Limited (Eureka SIG Leader in Process Management). Quang lives in Houston, Texas, USA and can be contacted at [pmi.qton@yahoo.com](mailto:pmi.qton@yahoo.com).