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Tribute to Roland Gutsch

By Hiroshi Tanaka

I am strongly sorry for the loss of, but, on the other hand, have been encouraged so much by the long time we in the global project management community have lived together mentally with, Dr. Roland Gutsch, the founder of IPMA, or INTERNET if I am allowed to refer to so with nostalgia.

It is Roland that gave great momentum for the Japanese project management leadership to get out of the small island and speak for itself in the global arena. The Engineering Advancement Association of Japan (ENAA) signed a cooperative agreement with IPMA (then INTERNET) in 1982 on the occasion of INTERNET World Congress in Copenhagen after a series of earnest coaching by Roland on the mission of INTERNET and the value that Japan could expect when Japan joined the broader INTERNET family, for a couple of years.

As I made a world debut as a speaker at the Copenhagen World Congress, I spent hours with Roland there and was strongly charmed with Roland's great leadership and personality. He had been mentoring PM Japan and myself for a decade since then communicating with ENAA and I enjoyed meeting with him repeatedly during PMI's annual seminars and symposia in the 1990's.

I have survived in the global project management community for a quarter century; Roland kindly opened the first page of mine as a global PM player. Thank you deeply, Roland. Mr. Kusano, (former JGC Corporation Senior Managing Director), your Japanese counterpart, departed us 15 years ago and would be pleased to meet you again in the PM heaven.

Dr. Hiroshi (Hiro) Tanaka

President, Project Management Association of Japan

Tokyo, Japan

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