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Interview with Tom Johns of BMC

By Quang Ton, CABM, CISM, PMP



Quang Ton, International Correspondent for Project Management World Today in Houston, Texas interviewed Tom Johns (Chairman of the Business Management Consultant Advisory Council and Managing Director of Americas) last month and Dr. Johns kindly agreed to discuss the 3rd International Houston Conference on Project Management Best Practices.

**3rd International Houston Conference on
Project Management Best Practices**
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PMWT: Good afternoon Dr. Johns and thank you for your time today. To start could you tell a little about the 3rd International Houston Conference on Project Management Best Practices?

Tom Johns: Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you. I should also like to thank PMI Houston for again sponsoring this event. As you mentioned, this was the 3rd International Houston Conference, but in fact our 12th worldwide. BMC's primary objective for the conference was to create a forum for shared learning. As a global provider of project management consulting services, we felt we could best serve our community by leveraging our international contacts to create such a forum. And for PMI members, \$249 makes this one of the best values in the market for this type of professional event.

PMWT: What differentiates the BMC Best Practices Conferences?

Tom Johns: A couple of things. First, it is practitioners learning from practitioners. The BMC Best Practices Conferences feature project, program and portfolio management practitioners, people who are on the front line, speaking on their areas of expertise and real lessons learned. It is not a collection of consultants trying to promote their individual businesses.

Second, we strive to create a more intimate learning environment that promotes discussion and the two-way exchange of ideas and information. To achieve this attendance is limited to 250 – so we encourage people to sign up early.

PMWT: What made this year's conference unique?

Tom Johns: Quang, we were very excited to have Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hammad, Professor of Project Management and Construction Engineering in the College of Engineering at King Saud University join us to speak on the Challenges and Opportunities in Executing Projects in Saudi Arabia, given Houston's leadership role in the global oil & gas industry.

PMWT: In addition to oil & gas, what other industries are represented?

Tom Johns: In addition to oil & gas, we have practitioners from healthcare, IT, engineering & construction, chemicals, packaging & delivery and government participating. One of the interesting aspects of having such diversity is participants often realize the issues and concerns that they are facing are not so different from those being faced in other industries.

PMWT: Are there other activities are involved in the conference?

Tom Johns: If you are asking about vendor exhibitions or other such activities, no – this is not intended to be a that type of commercial event. However, many of our senior consultants from around the world will be on site and available to speak with participants about some of the specific issues they are facing. Anyone wishing to have one on one time with BMC consultants should contact our Headquarters in Houston at

+1 (281) 440-0704 and ask for Bill Doescher to request a meeting.

PMWT: You mentioned this is the 12th International Conference. Where do hold other such events?

Tom Johns: The International Conferences started a few years ago in Athens Greece, with our partner American Hellenic Union, and has since expanded to include Houston, Singapore, Hong Kong, The Caribbean, Serbia, and this year Mexico. And will continue to expand in the coming years.

PMWT: Do you have anything you would like to add in closing?

Tom Johns: We believe conference success is measured by the personal value each delegate takes away. In other words, “did I learn something I can use?” Based on the feedback from previous events, BMC conferences achieve this objective. Therefore I would encourage PMI Houston members to take advantage of his opportunity to come and not only learn, but to share their experiences and make this the best Houston International Conference yet.



For more information, please visit <http://www.bmc-online.com/curriculum-bestpractices-hou.htm>.

About the Author:



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Quang Ton, CABM, CISM, PMP, is an international correspondent for PMForum based in the Houston metropolitan area of South Texas, USA. He is also the Service Manager for Schlumberger Oilfield Services, 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 and program to secure information and offer physically 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) and Foundation Level in Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL).

Quang has been active in leadership positions with the Project Management Institute (PMI®) (VP 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.