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Project Management Today - A Personal Point of View of the Near Future

By Marcio Prieto

We are facing the continuous growth of Project Management concepts, increasing more and more during almost 40 years.

In the late 1960's we viewed the identification of processes related to Modern Project Management, due to the ambient results of technology development, mainly data processing through main frames. Entities such as PMI and IPMA (former INTERNET) among others were created, basically related to utilization of tools involved.

This process had a continuous, but small, development during the 1970's and the 1980's. With the technological boom many entities related to PM reacted, developing a wider perspective, attending the stakeholders and processes involved.

In my opinion, a major turning point could be envisaged about ten years ago, which also coincided with the first Global Project Management Forum in New Orleans, USA. We were attending a moment of absolute fantastic information technology development, combined with new visions for globalization of PM.

After that, a lot of initiatives took place.

We saw a more formal breaking between PMI and IPMA, consequently both entities became more consolidated tactically. Each one now clearly seems to be trying to better attend to stakeholder pressures, increasing their deliverables, and seeking better ways to lead.

The results during the last ten years seem absolutely incredible, with much augmenting of the processes involved in project management and their presence becoming better known worldwide.

We are seeing now the wider process approach becoming a more and more strategic point of view. But the changes so far have not yet grown to include their own governance. Therefore, the present moment brings us to a wider dimension of challenges involving a governance definition, in a global perspective.

PMI seems to be conscious of the challenges, developing the Community Transformation Project (CTP), hopefully taking the best results of this moment. Now it is time to find mechanisms to integrate the efforts. It's a good start to a new turning point.

Marcio Prieto
Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Mr. Marcio Prieto



Considered one of the fathers of modern project management in Brazil, Marcio Prieto was one of the founders of the first chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) outside North America in 1978. Since 1995, he has led the resurgence of the PM profession in Brazil, resulting in new PMI chapters in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and other states and cities around the country. President of the PMI Brazil chapter during 1978-80 and again during 2002/2006 of the Sao Paulo chapter, Mr. Prieto is widely known throughout the Americas as an active leader in the PM profession. He is currently a Steering Team member of PMI's global Community Transformation Project. With a civil engineering degree from Sao Paulo University, Mr. Prieto has over 35 years of experience in a wide range of projects and PM related activities all over the world. He is retired from the largest engineering and construction company in Brazil, Camargo Correa, and lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Marcio can be reached at marcioprieto@uol.com.br.