

## **Driving Productivity Through Project Management** **by Ed Naughton Director General**



Not for nothing did Harvard professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter observe that the “project management discipline will dominate a substantial part of the 21st century”.

While all organisations – from private sector companies to non-government organisations – need to improve project management skills, the breakthrough will not happen without government commitment and participation.

The government should be project management orientated because of the need to improve productivity enabling sustained economic growth. This can happen only if we utilise our resource’s well. The recently commissioned Microsoft report “Productivity: Ireland’s Economic Imperative” stated that productivity growth is the most important issue to revitalise Irish competitiveness.

Modern project management is about delivering projects – be they facilities, products services or process changes – on time, within budget and to the desired performance and quality standards. This means improving productivity through optimisation of resource utilisation.

With costs, time, scope and quality being ever-changing realities in an era of globalisation and e-technology, effective project management requires skills like any other profession. Many people still believe that you can run a project without training in project management,”

Our government must seriously consider the development, promotion and investment in the continuous education and certification in PM, particularly in the public sector which now accounts for about one in every six employees.

We constantly worry about the threats exposed to our economy from India and China, especially to our fading manufacturing base. Our knowledge economy is also coming under threat where China is gradually taking an unbeatable lead on India in the PM stakes.

“In China, there are 16 universities that are involved in project management. They have 380 publications on project management. According to a study by the UNIDO Investment Promotion Office, five million managers in China need training in project management, and 600,000 persons need certification.”

**In the last two years 12,000 candidates have already been certified – there is no time for complacency.**