

Ireland's International Engagement in Project Management



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The project management leaders from 45 countries gathered in Dublin in September to attend the Council of Delegates meeting of the IPMA (International Project Management Association). The Institute of Project Management is proud to have hosted this event which brought together the profession's thought leaders from Africa, Asia, Europe, North & South America.

Following twenty years of sustained effort in project management, Ireland primarily through the Institute of Project Management has built up a strong base of activity that positions us well to engage in a meaningful way on the world stage as a credible partner in international project management networks.

The Council of Delegates is the steering committee of IPMA which determines the policies and the strategies for the organization. The council meeting also provides an opportunity for delegates from all countries to exchange ideas on today's project challenges and emerging trends, to enjoy networking and to sample the culture of the host country.

Our international linkages are important for all aspects of project management. However, there are particular reasons for the enterprise sector to be concerned with the strength of these linkages. It is essential that companies in both the manufacturing and services sectors have access to leading edge project management research, training and certification solutions wherever these may be located in the world.

The IPMA, the world's first project management association, was founded in 1965 by a group of innovative people who created a forum for project managers to network and share information. Since then it has grown and spread worldwide and it is now an international network consisting of 50 national project management associations from all over the world.

As a small country, we must use these international networks in a strategic way to help us achieve our future targets. There are benefits to be derived from having a strong inward flow of internationalise expertise in project management and from being well connected internationally.

This connectivity also helps Ireland to respond strategically to developments at European level in relation to issues such as potential European Project Management Certification. A range of initiatives to encourage a coordinated approach to certification in Europe are currently being launched as EU member states aim to strengthen further the profile of project management and use it to help achieve economic and societal objectives.

It makes no sense for any country, large or small, to pursue a purely national approach. International collaboration allows countries to share the costs and risks of tackling common project management challenges. A country cannot claim to have a "world class" project management system unless that system is firmly embedded within the global system.