

Project Management Certification News

The IPMA met in the Netherlands (The Hague) last week-end to discuss the on-going affairs of the organization with particular emphasis being focussed on certification. The certification panel meeting on Friday was attended by representatives of in excess of 40 countries with Ireland being represented by John Vickery and Ed Naughton. John, who is an engineer by background, is the registrar at the Institute of Technology, Tallaght and is a member of the certification board here in Ireland.



A very positive result to emerge from the meeting was that despite the tough economic climate, certification numbers grew by in excess of 20% last year. Many delegates were surprised by these results in their countries. They commented that despite savage cuts in corporate training and professional development budgets, interest in and demand for certification continued its robust growth.

They attribute much of this demand to the fact that individuals are extremely conscious of their job stability in a rapidly changing work environment. Candidates are seeking to bolster their curriculum vitae in the most effective manner possible and are giving project management certification a big vote of confidence. Individuals believe that doing so will make them more marketable both internally within their existing organization and externally if laid-off or seeking alternate employment opportunities.

In order to achieve this objective there has been a large shift to candidates self-funding the costs of achieving certification as many organizations continue their cost reduction programmes. One of the interesting observations from this trend is that the candidates participating in such programmes appear to exhibit a much higher level of commitment to the initiative than if they were merely depending on corporate sponsorship for funding. This is serious – I am paying for it myself!

This strong growth in certification looks like its set to continue. Each country provides a forecast of the number of certificates it plans to award each year and the cumulative result is that in 2010 the number is expected to grow again by circa 25%.

This will drive the total number of IPMA accredited professionals to circa 140,000.

This number excludes potential growth in countries such as Australia, Mexico and Peru who have recently joined the IPMA family and offer potential for rapid growth.

The Australia membership is good news for Ireland as many of our young project management professionals who are going there seeking employment will have instant recognition of their IPMA credentials.

Ireland continues to play a leading role in this international project management connectivity. This year, as well as celebrating our 20th anniversary, we will also cross the 2000 IPMA certified professionals threshold here, which on a per capita basis makes us one of the leading players in the IPMA internationally recognised four level certification system.