

PMI SCC's 6TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
Hyatt Regency Trinidad
Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st September, 2011

**BRIDGING THE GAP: Strategic Thought
Transformed Through Project Management**

CONFERENCE THEME & COMPONENTS DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

"Probae esti in segetem sunt deteriozem datae fruges, tamen ipsae suaptae enitent."
(*"A good seed, planted even in poor soil, will bear rich fruit by its own nature."*)
(*Lucius Accius, 170 - c. 86 BC*)

The PMI SCC will host its 6th Biennial International Project Management Conference on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st September, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad, with the aim of bearing rich fruit, as an outcome amidst our challenging times, from the good seeds of its participants.

The theme for the Conference is 'BRIDGING THE GAP: Strategic Thought Transformed through Project Management'. This theme is intended to create a new development planning and management paradigm that will help participants to successfully address the challenges facing the Caribbean Region.

The Conference will bring together participants engaged in all disciplines and levels from both the private and public sectors. Two internationally acclaimed Project Management Keynote speakers have already been confirmed for the Conference, they are Messrs. Gopal K. Kapur and Eugene Bounds.

Some 400 delegates are expected to attend the Conference.



BACKGROUND: Challenges Facing the Caribbean Region

At the start of the second decade of the 21st Century, the countries of the Southern Caribbean including the island states of Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, along with the South American mainland states of Guyana and Suriname have been experiencing varying levels of difficulties in their confrontation with a range of economic, social and environmental challenges. These include:

- *The Lingering Impacts of the 2007-8 Global Financial Collapse;*
- *Escalating and Uncontrollable Energy Costs;*
- *Food Security – Access to Affordable Food Supplies;*
- *Unsatisfactory Governance;*
- *Climate Change and its consequent Sea Level Rise;*
- *Inadequate Natural Disaster Mitigation and Response Management;*
- *Illicit Trade in Drugs (Drug Trafficking) and its Impacts;*
- *Reducing Level of Remittances;*
- *Declining Competitiveness of its Productive Sectors and Capacity to Provide Jobs; and*
- *Inadequate Regional Cooperation and Collaboration*



As a result of these and other challenges and our responses to addressing and overcoming them, our Caribbean development appears to have become stalemated. We appear to be continuously playing catch up in response to dynamic global situations. These myriad strategic challenges being faced; the complexity of issues to be resolved; and the track record of limited successes clearly point to the need for some sort of new development planning and management paradigm.

CONFERENCE FOCUS: Toward A New Development Planning And Management Paradigm

*"Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do."
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

In the spirit of research, innovation, discovery and public discourse; and in keeping with the PMI's tradition of continually advancing its Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK®), the PMI SCC's 6th Biennial Conference will address some of these regional development issues with the answers to thought provoking questions such as: in such environments, can good project management by itself deliver positive results? Can sustainable success be achieved if a project is fundamentally ill-conceived, no matter how good the project management is? Is there a choice to be made in the selection of a most appropriate project management methodology? What are the experiences with the linking of project management processes to other management processes? Is there a case for a paradigm shift?

These and similar questions point to the pressing need for better understanding the processes involved from idea generation to initial strategic thought to concept development to project scope through to the formulation of project portfolios.

A new development planning and management paradigm may be needed, one that incorporates and applies the PMI's best practices for managing portfolios, programs, and projects when planning and implementing wide-spread development efforts, efforts that involve economic growth plans, infrastructure development, and social change initiatives.



CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

"One's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

In the pursuit of stretching our minds to new dimensions with brand new ideas on 'BRIDGING THE GAP', the PMI SCC has set four key objectives to be attained by the conclusion of the conference. These are as follows:

1. PROCESSES: One of the key objectives of the Conference is to more closely examine and map the nature of the comprehensive 'development' process that links the five distinct but more often the five disconnected sets of activities involved in translating the ideas contained in strategic plans into timely and cost-effective action and eventually successful outcomes.

2. ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONNEL: A second objective is to determine the types of organizations and teams; and the quantum and nature of the expertise and talent required to facilitate and manage each stage of the development process.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGIES: The third objective is to identify and describe the infrastructure and the various IT and communications technologies; analytical, planning, scheduling, risk analysis and mitigation and data recording and management techniques essential for supporting effective brain storming, strategic planning, portfolio and project management.

4. ENVIRONMENTS: Another key objective is to describe, discuss and comment on the regional public and private sector environments in which the various sub-processes are conducted with a view to arriving at a consensus on the ideal conditions for gaining successful outcomes.

The conferences papers, presentations, workshops and discussions are to be selected and organized in the itinerary to support the achievement of the above-stated objectives.

Conference Components (Tracks):

The Conference's itinerary has been designed with 3 tracks. To facilitate the achievement of the 4 key objectives set, the following are the themes for each of the 3 tracks:

- **COMPONENT (TRACK) A: PROCESSES, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONNEL AND INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGIES IN PUBLIC SECTOR ENVIRONMENTS**
- **COMPONENT (TRACK) B: PROCESSES, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONNEL AND INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGIES IN PRIVATE SECTOR ENVIRONMENTS**
- **COMPONENT (TRACK) C: PROCESSES, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONNEL AND INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGIES - GAP BRIDGING EXPERIENCES AND METHODOLOGIES**