

	<b>Head Office</b> <i>Physical Address:</i> 435 Fir ave., Ferndale 2194 Randburg South Africa	<i>Postal Address:</i> P.O. Box 68978 Bryanston 2021 South Africa	<b>APMSA Cert:</b> <i>Postal Address:</i> P.O. Box 68978 Bryanston 2021 South Africa
	<b>Secretariat:</b> Tel: +27 11 787 9721		Tel: +27 11 787 9721
	Fax: +27 11 886 5495		Fax: +27 11 886 5495
	E-mail: tembie@whp.co.za Web : under construction – use www.ipma.ch		e-mail: apmsa@whp.co.za
	Ref: 0610APMSA NewsLetter.doc		

# NEWSLETTER

RANDBURG

OCTOBER 2006

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## APMSA Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held in January or February 2007. A new board will be chosen.

Invitation to attend will be sent out at least 21-days in advance.

APMSA has to consider how to bring first-class value to its membership in addition to the certification programme.

APMSA will also have to consider issues at the Services SETA and a new mandate is required. The relationship with SAPMO needs to be unpacked and APMSA should consider in which direction it wants SAPMO to move. (SAPMO is the SA federation of professional pm bodies).

APMSA is becoming the professional body of choice and this momentum must be increased. We have a world-class product, and a mission in Southern Africa.

## Project Management Certification is now possible in SA....

Because of requests from IPMA and many project managers in SA, APMSA now offers the four-level competence certification (4-L-C) for project managers validated by IPMA.

**Certification is now a reality and candidates can apply to join this exciting and challenging programme and gain an international acknowledged certification.**

A huge amount of preparation had to be done. Firstly, IPMA ([www.ipma.ch](http://www.ipma.ch)) is now public with its revised and updated competence baseline (ICB3) as the basis of its certification programme. South Africa will be the first country to offer PM certification based on ICB3 and not the ICB2. The National Competence Baseline had to be developed and submitted for validation. This has been done.

Secondly, all the certification procedures had to be developed consistent with ISO17'024. Some new insights and tools have been incorporated to bring to SA project managers current "best practices" and an up to date graded certification programme.

The Scheme Committee has been established.

**Persons wanting to join a certification round may do so by contacting us or watch for announcements in Management Today.**

## Project Management at S.SETA.

The news from the Service SETA is that there is no progress this year. No funding was made available and the S.SETA stagnates in training pm-learners.

All the project management guiding policy-making bodies have been dissolved by the S.SETA CEO on the basis that they are not constituted properly by the Service SETA in accordance with the act!

At SAQA SGB's matters are difficult. Very few people contribute and the administrative hurdles seem to become bigger.

## Dr Morten Fangel's SA safari

International guru Morten Fangel (Scandinavia-Denmark) visited SA in July and we arranged presentations on his speciality subjects – Project Start-up processes and the development of pm in organisations.

Those that attended benefited from his insights and experience. He has fresh formulation of "best practice" in start-up procedures and checklists. His workshop addressed three areas of importance: Project complexity and suitable tools for complexity bands, start-up processes and project anchoring, and how to build pm capacity in an organisation.



Wessel Pieters and Dr Morten Fangel.

In dealing with competent persons, there are always new and fresh insights to be gained from them either in participating in the workshop but also in direct discussion. Attending these workshops brings people in contact with leading persons in the pm field. Those that attended also will gain points in their CPD scorecard.

After the workshops and internal discussions, he went on a Garden Route tour, enjoyed the scenery and ended up with a bad cold which was exported to Denmark!

Dr Fangel is writing a practical orientated handbook consistent with the ICB on the tools and techniques for selected pm-competencies.

**APMSA's IPMA accredited Assessors**

We received IPMA notification that South Africa is now equipped with accredited "first assessors" and their names will be listed in the IPMA yearbook. They are Robert Best, Graham Campbell and Theo Swart. This guarantees objective assessments in three discipline areas namely, IT, Business Processes and Construction projects.

**Promoting Certification country-wide**

We had a series of meetings in Cape Town, Knysna, Port Elizabeth, East Londen and Randburg during September and October.

The meetings dealt extensively with the benefits, effort of pm-certification and certification process.



Interested persons attending an APMSA-IPMA certification presentation in September 2006.

People came from Limpopo and Witbank to attend the presentation in Randburg.

We thank Salome Thage, Emmanuel Myalato, Rajan Moodaley, David Gourrah and Tembie Ngwenya for their initiatives and efforts in arranging at the various meetings.

**APMSA at IMESA**

The annual congress of the Institute for Municipal Engineers of SA (IMESA) held its 2006 congress at the Soweto Campus of the Johannesburg University (RAU) in October. 700 delegates attended the three-day congress.

APMSA was invited by an executive board member to submit a paper on the subject of PM Certification as a transformation and development Tool.

The congress dealt with a wide range of technical problems and solutions. The papers on management and behaviour were a notable few and diverse. The complexity of organisational issues between provincial

and local government were highlighted. It became abundantly clear that the majority of problems with service delivery and expenditure have to do with the lack of project management and discipline (functional) competence.

The APMSA paper dealt with the state of pm competence in government structures, BBBEE and scorecards, and made suggestions of how to go about improving personal competence as well as organisational "project readiness" without the negative impacts experienced.



Wessel Pieters and President of IMESA Moses Maliba.

**Refinement Courses**

During the certification process, candidates are assumed familiar with pm tools and techniques. For those that are rusted, or have not practiced these skills recently, a series of refinement courses are offered. These courses are directly related to some of the competence elements in the National Competence Baseline (NCB3) and are as follows:

RC No	Course Description	Basic Lecture Dur <sup>1</sup> [day]	Level-related Lecture Dur <sup>1</sup> [day]
01	Orientation: Learning (Mind Maps & Kolb), NCB3 and Taxonomy. 1.18 Communication.	1	1
02	1.08 Problem resolution & 1.09 Project Structures	1	2
03	1.11 Time, Project phases & 1.12 Resources.	1	1
04	1.13 Cost & Finance, 1.16 Control & Reports.	1	2
05	1.17 Information & Documentation.	1	2
<b>Total lecture days</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

The format of the courses is a lecture session, discussion session to exchange experiences and review of current technologies and practices.

Assignments need to be done in groups and results are presented in a formal manner.

Part 1 Examination follows the courses for Level D (Basic) and Part 2 Examination for Levels A – C.

The course days are spread out over a period not to interfere significantly with the normal working activities.

**Competence certification goes beyond academic qualification.** You will be guided towards valuable experiences, and attitude (behaviour) development, and be certified competent at level D to A.

**Enjoy your profession. Just be competent...**