FIRST CALL FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

Project Management South Africa (PMSA) Biennial National Conference 2016
The Wanderers, Illovo, Johannesburg, South Africa
9 to 11 November

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

PMSA cordially invites researchers, practitioners and enthusiasts to submit high-quality, original abstracts. All abstracts that successfully pass the review process will be followed by a final research paper for presentation at the 2016 conference and publication in the official conference proceedings.

NOTE: The purpose of research papers is to grow the body of knowledge with information that has been gained through a formal, verifiable and repeatable process. Research papers should not be opinion based, but rather adhere to the *de facto* criteria for scientific research.

DATES TO DIARISE

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<td>1. Date of issue</td>
<td>Wednesday, 1 June 2016</td>
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<td>2. Abstract submission deadline</td>
<td>Wednesday, 29 June 2016</td>
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<td>3. Notification to authors of abstract evaluation</td>
<td>Wednesday, 13 July 2016</td>
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<td>4. Full paper submission date</td>
<td>Wednesday, 24 August 2016</td>
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<td>5. Full papers sent to reviewers</td>
<td>Wednesday, 31 August 2016</td>
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<td>6. Reviewer feedback on submissions</td>
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<td>7. Feedback to authors on review process</td>
<td>Friday, 16 September 2016</td>
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<td>8. Final registration date for authors</td>
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<td>9. Submission of final paper for publication</td>
<td>Monday, 3 October 2016</td>
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<td>Monday, 10 October 2016</td>
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CONFERENCE THEME: HARNESING THE POWER OF INNOVATION

The speed of change is increasing exponentially, often to the detriment of organisations who struggle to determine which change is applicable and how to manage it to their benefit. Many see “innovation” as the solution. The call is often for creativity and a shift in culture which will enable leaders and employees to optimise change. But how to achieve this is the question.

According to forbes.com, developing innovative environments within organisations is not about providing creative spaces or allowing teams to indulge in over-the-top team-building exercises and hoping that an innovative culture will emerge. Instead, innovation needs to be seen as a discipline – learning to use the right methods, tools and approaches at the right times. In other words: learning to harness innovation.

Project management often provides the ideal environment in which to harness innovation. It requires project managers’ skills sets to include the ability and know-how to encourage and develop creative thinking to achieve results within the parameters set by the project. It’s about developing the ability to marry the traditionally structured project management approach with “out-of-the-box thinking. This means learning, practising and honing innovation skills including what the various methods are and how they are applied in different contexts, as well as measuring the methods and their results, determining what works and what doesn’t.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The PMSA 2016 Conference aims to aid project managers in developing their own innovative skills which they can apply to their teams, as well as to intrinsically innovative projects that they have to manage.

It will look at trends and practices, relevant to the theme of Harnessing the Power of Innovation, that focus on how to effectively apply innovation across a spectrum of industries and types of projects.

Acknowledging the challenges inherent in encouraging and managing innovative thinking and application, the conference will provide input into the ever-growing body of knowledge that project management practitioners require in order to deliver successful projects.

Presentations, workshops and research papers will be presented in topic-specific themes and will cover:

- **BEST PRACTICE**: Proven project management methodologies and success stories that illustrate the benefits of innovative thinking and applications.
- **RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**: What we’ve learned and what we know about overcoming challenges that prohibit innovative project management success.
- **INSIGHTS**: What does innovative thinking and innovation bring to project management? How is this approach different or similar to standard project management practice?
- **TECHNOLOGY**: How IT and telecoms are enabling innovation in project management.
- **THE GREATER GOOD**: Applying innovative project management to social causes, including people, planet and profit.
- **ETHICAL PRACTICE**: Applying ethical practice as project management practitioners
- **UPDATING THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TOOLKIT**: Tips, tools and techniques that pave the way for innovative project management.
- **PROJECT PEOPLE**: Individual characteristics, traits and skills required to run innovative projects and to encourage innovative thinking in project teams.
CONFERENCE TOPICS

With the theme of *Harnessing the Power of Innovation* in mind, consider the following suggested topics which include, but are not limited to:

- Any relevant project, programme or portfolio management (3PM) topic including:
  - Knowledge areas, processes, life-cycle.
  - Standards, methods, methodologies, tools and techniques.
  - Measuring the outcomes of projects, programs and portfolio.
  - Maturity.
  - Agility.
  - Competence structures and standards.
  - Professional development, training and education.
  - Human factors.
  - Cultural issues in project management.
  - Project, programme and portfolio offices.
  - Governance.
- The management of different types of projects, programmes and portfolios.
- Project, programme and portfolio management in different sectors, for example, government, IT, financial services, retail, social development, engineering, construction and business.
- Local and global trends.
- Managing projects during an economic downturn.
- Projects, programme and portfolio leadership.
- Project, programme and portfolio support and management structures (PMOs).
- Managing mega-projects.
- Risks, case studies and lessons learnt.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

STEP 1: ABSTRACT SUBMISSION | DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, 29 JUNE 2016
Authors must submit an abstract not longer than 500 words in English by email to authors@pmsaconference.co.za

The abstract should contain at least the following information:

- **BACKGROUND**: What is the context of the article?
- **PROBLEM STATEMENT**: What is it that the article is going to address and why is this important?
- **SOLUTION**: How is the article going to address the problem?
- **BENEFITS**: What benefit does the information in this article hold for the project management community?

Abstracts are evaluated by a sub-committee of the Programme Committee who consider, among other things, their relevance to the conference theme. The outcome of this evaluation process will be communicated to authors by Wednesday, 13 July 2016.

STEP 2: FULL PAPER SUBMISSION | DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, 24 AUGUST 2016
Should their abstracts be accepted, authors are invited to submit a full paper in English and not longer than 12 pages. A template and details for submission will be sent to authors whose abstracts are accepted.

Authors must not include their information on this paper as this would negate the double-blind peer review process. This process, conducted anonymously by at least two reviewers, is used to evaluate the quality of submissions. PMSA’s Review Committee comprises international and national experts, who apply the following criteria:

- **ORIGINALITY**: How original is the topic covered in the article? Is there any new knowledge?
- **SIGNIFICANCE**: How significant is the article to the discipline? Will conference delegates find it useful?
TECHNICAL QUALITY: Is the article technically and factually correct? Is it based on credible data and/or references?

RELEVANCE: How relevant is the article to the conference? Would attendees benefit from its contents?

PRESENTATION: Is the quality of the article acceptable in terms of grammar, layout, graphs and diagrams?

The outcome of this review process together with the reviewer comments will be communicated to authors by Friday, 16 September 2016.

GUIDELINES

These guidelines are aimed at ensuring consistency in presentations and high-quality documentation for the conference:

- The official conference language is English.
- Papers must relate to project, programme or portfolio management.
- Papers must either contain new knowledge or show current knowledge applied in a new or innovative way.
- Papers must be free of commercial sales content.
- Full papers should not exceed 12 pages.
- At least one author must register and pay to attend the conference. (Special rates apply.)
- A maximum of two presenters per paper.
- All accepted papers must be presented at the conference in order to be included in the proceedings.

PRESENTATION SUPPORT

This year we are offering a service to all speakers to assist them in preparing for their presentations. This includes guidance on:

- Presentations skills.
- Developing PowerPoint slides that effectively get the message across. This includes designing slides and drafting speaker notes on behalf of presenters, based on the content of their papers.

Should you want to make use of this fee-based service, please email authors@pmsaconference.co.za

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, a document that provides guidelines on writing a paper and details of the review process, please contact: authors@pmsaconference.co.za, call the national office on +27 11 257 8003 or visit the PMSA website at www.projectmanagement.org.za.