

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 2018 when I was elected President the world was vastly different. Four years later a pandemic, now endemic behind us and how much has changed. There are many clichés that have been bandied about “the only thing promised is change”; “change is the only constant”; “change is the new norm” and the list goes on and I am sure you can add a few more. But nothing like Mother Nature to show us what real change means and that she should not be taken for granted.

For those of us who were paying attention as miserable as this crisis was, it provided a plethora of opportunities that were not wasted.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Technical Session

As Chapter leaders we believe that our unique Trinidad and Tobago culture requires a diverse approach to learning. In the last year there was another record number of Technical Sessions held, fourteen in all, of which approximately half were affiliate events which leveraged some of the deep relationships fostered during this time, thus exposing our membership to various non-traditional Project Management topics such as:

- Lessons from the Board Room courtesy our relationship with CCGI
- The Impact of the Ukraine/ Russian War in Ukraine on the Caribbean Region
- Financial Planning for Technical Professionals

The relationship established by ILL's CAP program also provided the following:

- Understanding Agile Behaviours and
- A Hybrid approach to Project Management

The ILL relationship gave members who were quick on the draw free attendance to their Leadership Conference in March and the Agile Conference recently concluded in June and for others discounted pricing to attend. We look forward to growing this relationship on your behalf. I would like to thank Ms. Janelle Kowlessar for her dedication ensuring consistency in our approach to Technical Sessions in the past year.

The 11th Bi-ennial Conference: “The Project Economy: Where Project Managers lead the Future of Work?” held in October, 2021 was a product of the Board's determination to deliver a conference of the same high quality PMI SCC has been known to producer despite the constraints the country's response to the pandemic posed. This was one of those great opportunities that the Board decided will not be wasted and whilst the format changed a little, we were able to maintain the normal two day event with excellent relevant content. It was a learning experience not only for those who attended but for the team led by VP Special Events and Volunteerism Ms. Cassandra Ramkerrysingh who gave it her all delivering a great product. A special thanks to the secretariat, Ms. Tricia

Protain, who was instrumental in the production of the virtual conference platform, all of the development and maintenance work were on her shoulders. It is fair to say whilst in person conferences are great and some of us cannot wait for our next physical event, the flexibility and control that is experienced online suggest that some elements of virtual conferences are here to stay. The conference world will never be same. We would like to thank all the sponsors, exhibitors and participant who took a leap of faith and supported the conference.

Volunteer Projects

Our Chapter members are at different stages within their careers with respect to their project management skills and it is this Board's view that growing project skills is multi-dimensional and it is a balance of structured learning, project management experience and mentoring by more experienced project managers that supports the environment for skill enhancement. In 2018 the Board made the decision to create project management skill development opportunities through the volunteer approach, there were some fundamental gaps we wanted to address:

- Many of our members are limited by the project management opportunities in their workplace.
- There exists a human capital development challenge in Trinidad & Tobago (we hear it all the time)
- There are many community and NGO led projects that exists and cannot get off the ground due to much good intentions but no substantial project management behind it
- There is a need to build the volunteering spirit in this country
- It is our remit as Chapter leaders to move the project management awareness to the next generation of Project managers

The VP Special Events and Volunteerism and her team are now on their third cycle of projects some of which have moved to another execution phase. The team has developed a tried and tested template that is constantly refined as they continuously monitor the quality of their output. Their dedication as resulted in a quasi-organizational structure that currently supports well over fifty volunteers. Through this mechanism they are able to give focus to community projects. The flagship school based project initiative is on the third cohort of schools (reported on at the November Technical Sessions in 2021) whilst the Cropper Foundation NGO Hub, Futsal and the Girl Guides have moved to another phase in their execution.

Strategic Partnerships

The Chapter continues to partner and further strengthen relationships with other professional associations for the benefit of the members in recognition that project management is one of the skills that span many disciplines and supports varying career paths. At both the 2019 and the 2021 conferences, CEOs commented that project management was a skill they expected potential employees to have as part of their arsenal to add value to their organization. This feedback suggested that we are doing right by our members by maintaining the partnership strategy which is mutually beneficial to all parties supporting the respective common interests.

We acknowledge ISACA, the University of the West Indies, APETT, TTCSI, CCGI, Cipriani Labour College, The Cropper Foundation and give the commitment to continue to work with and support them through our VP Strategic Alliances,

Education

The PMI SCC continues to follow the PMI mandate that we facilitate access to Authorized Training Partners (ATPs). The Chapter currently has arrangements with IIL and soon with Platinum Edge to ensure the membership has choice. In the coming year our VP Education MS Ava Cunningham Riley will be pursuing more relationships through our other Region 14 Chapters to ensure flexibility of choice particularly as it relates to pricing. We also continue to push the Discipline Agile agenda that PMI promotes, I thank Janelle Kowlessar for taking on the role of DA champion and we are looking for more DA champions in the next year.

Publications

Ms. Debra Johnson, the VP of Publications has been hard at work strategizing the Social Media Agenda for the Chapter. Her team has been focused on consistency in timely delivery and quality relevant content recognizing the fierce competition for eyes in these times as this a boom time for Social Media platform. As members of the Chapter we need step up our game with respect to owning the content on our social media platforms, I know Debra would appreciate more interaction by members on twitter or Instagram creating project management stories.

Membership

We continue to be challenged in growing the membership over the last three years with the pandemic taking its toll particularly on those members who have had make hard choices. Our numbers stand at 487 down from approximately 550 before the pandemic. I thank VP membership Kamla Rampersad DeSilva for her efforts in engaging with members keeping them up to date on their status.

Marketing, Compliance and Finance

These VPs form what I would call the engine room of the Chapter (if I may borrow pan analogies). They are not in front but doing yeoman service behind the scenes paying attention to details and lending support to other VPs wherever there is a need. Mr. Rupert Ramharack VP compliance took on the task of updating the Bylaws and after having several discussions with our PMI Administrators it is now in a state of readiness to bring to the membership for approval before the end of the year.

Our finances are heathy as you will see from the balance sheet, the VP finance has been diligent in advising the team on the best use of the funds. With further relaxation of restrictions, the incoming months the team will be looking

at in person networking events to host. VP Marketing and Sponsorship Mr. John Lewis will be focused on rebuilding sponsor relationships.

Secretariat

There was a reference made earlier to the engine room well the secretariat is the anchor of this Board. Ms. Protain's diligence and passion for this Chapter is more than just administration support for the Board of Directors. The work she has done on maintaining the Chapter's website has been invaluable. I would like to thank her for her insights and having our backs as we carry out our duties.

Farewell

This is my last Board event as President of the Chapter, it is an understatement to say the last four years were interesting, but we will leave it at that. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board for their hard work under the pressures of the famous "new normal". The Chapter has been resilient in weathering this storm and it is only through a united commitment to excellence that we are here today definitely stronger and better for those experiences. As I said in my opening the pandemic gave us a great opportunity and we tried our best to make full use of it.

The Chapter is in great hands with the elected leaders, and I thank them for stepping up to the plate as volunteer leaders and wish them all the best.

**GLYNIS ALEXANDER-TAM
PRESIDENT**