

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When we embarked into the world of the new normal in 2020 as the country responded the global pandemic, many of us whilst acknowledging these necessary actions, were also guardedly hoping that this was truly a short-term response. However, the science behind the virus had suggested otherwise and the stark reality is that the world will be in a defensive position for an indefinite period. As you are all aware by now operating in a purely virtual world is not the easiest of things, the old-time warning of “be careful what you wish for” ironically rings true. Pre-pandemic many of us wished to do more online activities, now that we have no choice, we long for the physical. None the less as the board of PMI SCC continues to meet expectations, defeating the challenges that may come and constantly re-inventing the delivery process.

Another online AGM is before us and reflecting on the success of the last two, in terms of ease of administration and the increase in participation, we can safely say that this format is here to stay.

The PMI SCC Board continues to adhere to and adapt the global PMI strategic plan of focusing on the member as opposed to the membership. You would have noticed that we have been partnering with different organizations in an effort to make available diverse learning opportunities to our members. In doing so, the intention was, and still is, to promote the fact that project management is everywhere and to add further context to its practicalities in all spheres of life and livelihood.

I would like to thank those members of the Board, who stepped up as a team and have provided yeoman service over the past year. It has been the year of creativity and thinking outside the box to meet and execute our strategic objectives. Our ultimate goal is to focus on the customer, i.e., our members, who continue to reach out for services to assist wherever they are in their respective career path.

Volunteer Opportunities

One of main goals of PMI is its focus on providing volunteers the opportunities to grow their skills through giving back. PMI Education foundation – PMIEF - is the philanthropic arm of PMI and it thrives on developing project management skills within NGOs and youth focused NGOs. It was in 2019 that the Board decided to broaden its volunteering program to beyond in-chapter activities and move outside to the community. Coincidentally, without knowing the PMIEF's change in focus, the Volunteer group, led by VP Volunteerism and Special Events, Ms. Cassandra Ramkerrysingh, began implementing a strategy and supporting plans to go out to the schools. In 2020 a pilot project saw that strategy delivering project management education to two schools. In the 2020 -21 period, despite the pandemic and schools adjusting to academics online, the Volunteer Group was also able to pivot and

deliver PM introductory training to Carapichaima Secondary, Moruga Secondary, El Dorado East Secondary, Tunapuna Secondary and Naparima Girls High Schools. The group also engaged The Girl Guide Association to conduct similar training to their members. The feedback from all these entities was extremely positive and gave full marks for the structure and implementation of the exercise.

The Volunteer group is currently designing a programme for the Cropper Foundation that is building a NGO service delivery hub. The Board expresses immense gratitude to the volunteer team since every activity requires time an effort to plan and execute. There are many things to be done but for every “like to do” there needs to be somebody/bodies to execute and the volunteer group has stepped up. The Board encourages more of the membership volunteer to get involved in these “giving back” activities.

A related activity to the volunteer program was the appointment of Mr. Selris Mahabir as PMI SCC’s Youth & Social Impact Liaison under the PMIEF umbrella providing the link between PMI EF and PMI SCC. We thank Mr. Mahabir for volunteering and we note the enthusiasm that he brings to the position.

Relationships

In our quest to grow our members we have recognized that not only should there be opportunities to practice the discipline there must also be opportunities to connect to like-minded professional associations and groups. The Vice President Strategic Alliances, Ms. Margaret De Peza, was very busy during her first term in office. Through her efforts the chapter was able to sign MOUs with

- The University of the West Indies
- The Girl Guides Association
- The Cropper Foundation
- Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute (CCGI)
- FUTSAL868

All of these would result in tangible benefits to the memberships such as member pricing for CCGI events and invitation to FUTSAL868 podcasts and videocasts. The Chapter also joined the IIL CAP Programme which gives all our members discounts with all IIL events and training. All these relationships give our members access to diverse opportunities outside of the chapter.

Continuous Learning

The learning opportunities during this period via Technical Sessions and other related events were phenomenal. The chapter introduced a category, Affiliated Chapter Events, which amounted to nineteen in total during the past year and were made up of either PMI SCC partner event or Project Management

events not hosted by PMI SCC. The posting and advertising of these events were ably done by the Secretariat.

The chapter also held eight technical sessions each of them exceeding expectations in terms of content and the ability to establish relationships future relationships. VP Technical Sessions Ms. Janelle Kowlessar did an outstanding job in soliciting and coordinating the Technical Sessions by leveraging her relationships throughout the sector.

Education

The opportunities for Education further evolved during the period 2020-21. PMI changed its approach to Training and launched the system that supports Authorized Training Partners (ATPs), an updated and more standardized version of the REP. Chapters can only align themselves with ATPs or become an ATP themselves. To ensure that our members can access quality training PMI SCC leveraged on its existing partnership with IIL by signing on to its Chapter Affiliate Programme (CAP). With CAP, members will benefit from training discounts and event discounts during the year. PMI SCC also established a relationship with Peakes. The VP Education and Certification is leading the charge in ensuring that all members maximize the benefits afforded by these relationships.

Marketing and Brand Awareness

The Vice President Marketing - Dr. John Lewis has been engaged in refreshing the chapter's brand by providing stimulating ideas and suggestions in raising the profile of the chapter. VP Marketing has ably represented the chapter at the Cipriani Labour College's "Using ISL to deliver on Business Project in a Covid-19 environment" providing the context for its Project Management application in the life of the professional. His last appearance on the FUTSAL868 videocast making the case for Project Management in Sports was outstanding, aptly laying analogies for the management of the sport against a project management background. The VP Marketing has also taken on the Social Media platform management for the chapter supported ably by the Secretariat, thus ensuring that the full breadth of the chapter's communication strategy is executed.

Membership

The chapter has seen a decline in membership in the last year which is a visible impact of the pandemic despite the number of engagements offered. Feedback suggests that there are many factors at play:

- There have been job loss or furloughs within the sector
- The chapter is not only competing for time but screen time amongst the many other on online activities.

Despite these challenges, VP Membership – Ms. Kamla Rampersad De Silva continued to focus on the needs of the membership ensuring that the new members are welcomed, and reminders are sent out for upcoming expirations of PMP accreditations.

Finance

The chapter has suffered financially during this period. Despite moving online for technical sessions and delivering superior content, the chapter has not been able to generate any income from this. All attempts to charge for any Technical session event have not been successful since charging seems to result in an unfortunate change in the registration patterns and on a few occasions had to be converted to a free event to avoid cancellations. This anomaly has not been the experience of the other chapters in the region and in the coming year PMI SCC will have relook its strategy to earn income.

Social Media

With the change in what is normal PMI SCC has updated the website as the new standard for our membership to obtain training and general PM information. This in conjunction with the new monthly newsletter “Know your Chapter” aims at keeping our members versed as to what is happening within in PM world.

Conclusion

At this this point it would be remiss of me not pay tribute to our beloved Cynthia Gloria Hayes, Past President an extraordinary person who impacted us tremendously, her legacy is what we have been building upon over the past years. She was a mentor to many of us around this table and it is common knowledge that if it was not for her encouragement many of us board members would not have even considered taking up these positions. We are thankful for having known her and for all that she contributed to the project management profession. We are deeply saddened with her passing. Condolences to her family and may she rest in peace.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all the volunteers who continue to support the activities and the partners who have worked with us to change the dynamics of the service offerings in the chapter’s remit. We look forward to your continued support as the chapter continues to grow the project management discipline in the Region.

**GLYNIS ALEXANDER-TAM
PRESIDENT**