

## ***asapm* Involved in Asia Pacific Federation of Project Management Launch**

**Colorado Springs, CO: *asapm* Headquarters, May 9, 2010.** The new Asia Pacific Federation of Project Management (APFPM) was successfully launched in Hong Kong on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010. The launch was celebrated at the Annual Dinner of the Hong Kong Institute of Project Management.

*asapm* was represented at this launch event by one of our favorites, Dr. Paul Giammalvo. He reported back the events of the formation meeting, and the evening dinner. He also provided us with a copy of the official formation Press Release, which we have adapted for our audience. We were originally reticent to participate, until we did a bit of research on APEC, the Asia Pacific Economic Community that this federation is based upon, and encountered a State Department research report citing, "Why America Needs APEC". A range of other searches showed us that there are opportunities and challenges with APEC, and we thought, why not get project management, the discipline for society change, constructively involved?

The evening dinner included Hong Kong luminaries; the Hon. Dr. Raymond Ho Chung-tai - Member of Legislative Council, Ms. Ada Fung - Head of Hong Kong's Public Housing, and the Federation meeting delegates from Hong Kong, India, China, Nepal, Japan, United States, Indonesia, and Australia; plus, 120 other guests. Presenting to the dinner Dr. Bill Young, the APFPM's new Chairman elect, announced the formation of the new Federation. APFPM is an organisation, he said, that will link and help develop and strengthen Project Management institutions across the Asia Pacific region.

Dr. Young shared the Federation's vision *to drive Project Management to deliver real value in the Asia Pacific region*. Creating opportunities through the collaboration of Associations across the dynamic and diverse Asia Pacific will enable the improvement of project management practices and professionalism. He explained that with the high rate of business and social change occurring globally there is an increasing imperative to deliver better project outcomes in terms of capital effectiveness and business value. The end beneficiaries would be individual career PM's, corporations, governments, and society.

The forming of the Federation has been an initiative sponsored by the Australian Institute of Project Management (AIPM). The AIPM, a veteran professional association in its own right, with over 30 years experience and nearly 10,000 members, recognised the huge value in regional Associations working together to build a stronger and more robust profession. The AIPM will act as Secretariat of the new Federation for the next four years to help ensure its foundational development and capacity building.

The Federation is loosely based on the membership of the Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC) membership; literally, the nations that border the Pacific Ocean, with the additional inclusion of India, and Pakistan. In spite of the diversity of languages, cultures, and landscapes, these nations close geographic links inextricably bind them to working together.

The APEC group, coupled with India and Pakistan, represents around two thirds of the world's population and well over half of global trade. Since its genesis in 1989, APEC has established itself as the region's leading forum, where Asia Pacific economies strengthen regional links and pursue common trade and economic goals.

According to Dr. Young, what has made it possible to establish the Federation is the visionary leadership, passion to see professional improvement, and the commitment of individual Association Representatives to deliver tangible outcomes.

Phoenix-like, APFPM has risen from an earlier initiative of the same name. Originally established in 1997, it succumbed over the last five years to the same economic challenges currently facing us all.

The value proposition for the new APFPM organisation is based on:

- Power of collaboration: the benefit of working together brings a huge talent pool to influence and drive change improvements in project management practices and Association management.
- Ability to identify and encourage the embracing of best practice PM across the AP region. Only by openly sharing across partnering Associations can understanding and improved practices be developed.
- A singular regional voice that can represent and interact with governments and regional organisations such as APEC, ADB, ASEAN, and others.
- The opportunity to consider an Asia Pacific PM Baseline Competency Standard. Individual and fragmented local national associations would not be able to lift regional standards by themselves.
- An annual Asia Pacific Excellence Awards Program, commencing in 2011. Providing recognition of professional excellence is highly regarded by both individual and corporate Association members.
- Provides a platform for the development of communities of practice.
- Reciprocity across regional Associations together with facilitating the transportability of competency Certifications.
- An ability to benchmark across regional Associations to identify and drive best practice Association management.
- Regional Collaboration: The world is changing via globalisation and integration of markets, and the formation of many regional trading blocks. Organisations will find it increasingly difficult to act in isolation. Embracing an international approach through collaborative partnering will increase the stature of individual Associations with their governments and key stakeholders.
- Provision of a portal to share Project Management Knowledge & Research.

What will contribute to the sustainability of the Federation is clear alignment of member objectives, support by respective organisations to commit to and make tangible contributions, a robust good corporate governance structure, and effective communications facilitated through regular meetings.

Upcoming face-to-face meetings of the Federation have been agreed for Darwin, Australia in October 2010 (AIPM's National Conference), and New Delhi, India in December 2010 (India's Asia Pacific PM Conference). Organisation structure and Membership will be two key aspects dealt with at respective meetings.

Dr. Young is not expecting the new Federation to make a large change in the short term but is very upbeat on the likely benefits that will appear once disparate organisations build strong cooperative institutional bonds; and the value proposition to the collective organisations and individual Association members alike is realised.

A new website <[www.apfpm.org](http://www.apfpm.org)> is currently being developed that will contain details of the development of the Federation, its aspirations, information and links to all member Associations, an annual calendar of significant events, and an action plan for delivering on joint cooperative projects.

On behalf of *asapm*, thank you Dr. Giammalvo, and thank you Dr. Young!