

Ricardo Vargas,
Chair of the PMI Board of Director

RICARDO VARGAS - REACH OUT OF ENDEAVOR

reported by Ola Fathalla, PMP

A self-builder, a model for our youth to believe in the future; believes that education, creation, and loving what one is doing is the key to life success. Mr. Ricardo V. Vargas (M.Sc., IPMA-B, PMP), from Belo Horizonte, Brazil, is a member of PMI since 1997. He is the first Brazilian member to serve on the PMI Board of Directors. November 2009 in Cairo, where his attendance to the opening and his speech have made the desired effect among all those intellectuals who gathered for their interest in project management.

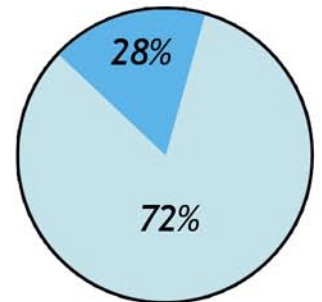


“When I was fourteen years of age” Mr. Vargas said, “I started by selling perfumes to be able to buy books necessary to carry on my education”. He added that in Brazil you may have a scholarship- which he enjoyed for his father was a professor- yet, he knew that he had to do more to avail the money for books buying which was not covered by the scholarship. As a teenager, he started leading his own projects and got to appreciate the idea of good management and few resources utilization to reach best results in hand.

Till 15 years ago, when he was only 22 years old, he led the most two important projects in his life; marriage, and his own company (Macro solutions based in Brazil) at a Zero budget, but in 15 years later this company was running a 100 million US\$ business under a 100% private sector ownership.



Mr. Vargas, currently 37 years of age, when was asked to compare between the difference between the chance he was given in Brazil and how that would work for Egypt from his point of view, he emphasized that like in Brazil like in Egypt, governments are exerting their best with more or less the same percentage of total projects contribution in each country as H.E. Dr. Ahmed M. Darwish the minister of State of Administrative Development declared in his speech; 28% of the projects are led by the government while 72% are private sector’s operated projects. So he believes that it is people who should be finding opportunities and making them come true, instead of waiting for chances to happen, and that certainly will be through education and knowledge spreading, focusing on the youth as the near future working force. That could start by penetrating the students’ community and transferring the culture of project management way of thinking and methodology to them to create the needed awareness of how they would be able to lead their own lives and be self-employed rather than being employed.



He also talked about his own experience in Brazil with 7000 students who were brought to classes to be educated about project management as a profession and know where and how their knowledge may lead them. We talked about a similar project in Egypt to be led by PMI MENA Chapter in favor of the Egyptian students and a better life in the Egyptian community.

As we discussed the statistics of the worldwide membership in PMI which shows the PM community interested individuals, the total was an approximate of 480,000 intellectuals, among which - amazingly - only half of them are certified PMP

Needing project management talents and expertise in the time of the economical depression rather than the time of welfare, was also a point he discussed in his speech at the opening. The world got to learn that project management is a solution at all times and is a tool to prepare for down times during high times, not only a tool that we run to at the time of despair.

We enjoyed much meeting Mr. Vargas in Egypt and wish to have a chance in the future to meet him again.