PMI LEBANON CHAPTER **NEWSLETTER**

QUARTER 1, 2025

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WORD FROM PMI **LEBANON CHAPTER**



Dear PMI Community,

During the past two years, the PMI Lebanon Chapter has witnessed a remarkable transformation, driven by a passionate and committed board that dared to think big, act boldly, and lead with purpose. I would like to welcome back to the board the following exceptional humans Ms. Liliane El Hajj serving as Vp. Finance, Mr. Paul Awkar serving as Vp. Professional Development, Mr. Hisham Malaeb serving as Vp. Memberships and Mr. Ziad Ibrahim serving as Vp. Volunteers and thank from all my heart those who voted for me to serve a second term.

Together, we have laid a solid foundation of collaboration and influence, not just locally but across the globe. Our chapter strengthened its ties with PMI chapters in the MENA region and beyond—engaging in meaningful partnerships with chapters from Montreal, Sweden, France, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, India, Dallas, and many others. These international connections paved the way for initiatives that transcended borders, bringing knowledge, innovation, and diversity into our community.

Our achievements have been vast and impactful: from launching initiatives like “AI in Project Management” and celebrating Francophonie through specialized programs, to hosting two successful Professional Development Day (PDDs), gathered over one ton of recyclables was collected—underscoring our commitment to sustainability and social impact.

Over the past two years, we’ve delivered more than 24 webinars, livestreamed a panel from the PMI Global Summit in Los Angeles, and proudly represented Lebanon at global summits in LA and Orlando, as well as at Leadership Institute Meetings (LIMs) in Lebanon and Qatar. Our presence extended to key regional platforms like the Global project management forum and Dubai international project management forum, and we played an active role in the PMIXchange and Mediterranean collaborations—amplifying our voice and relevance.

This period also marked significant growth in our membership—crossing 400 members and achieving the highest retention rate in the MENA region. Beyond numbers, we focused on creating value: organizing networking and outdoor events, offering discounted access to mental health services through a dedicated psychological center, and most importantly, launching the first student club in the MENA region, in collaboration with the prestigious LAU. Additional MoUs are in progress with other leading academic institutions—investing in the future of project management in Lebanon and beyond.

When Lebanon faced critical moments, including times of war and crisis, the chapter stood resilient. We opened our doors—offering free resources, online support groups with psychologists, food and aid to displaced families, and educational capsules on project management in times of crisis. Our community came together stronger than ever, united by a mission to serve, support, and uplift.

WORD FROM PMI **LEBANON CHAPTER**

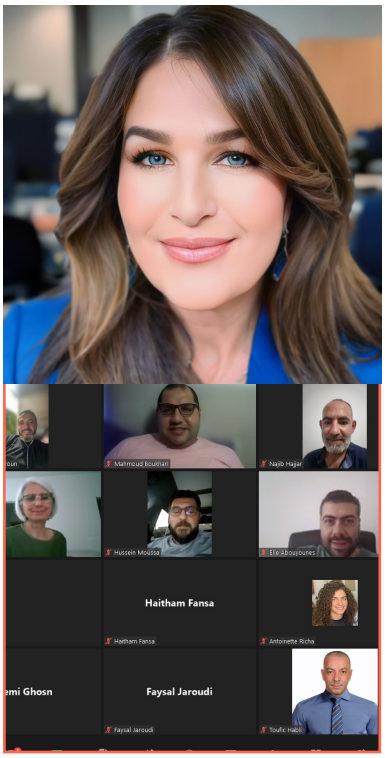
This board has not only endured challenges—it has redefined what it means to lead with impact. From initiating partnerships with Project Managers Without Borders to championing mental well-being as a pillar of professional success, we continuously pushed the boundaries of what a chapter can achieve.

Thank you from the heart to all our VPs: Stephanie, Liliane, Mira, Toufic, Paul, Ziad and Hisham.

Here's to continued growth, collaboration, and purpose-driven impact.

With gratitude and pride,

Riam Chazbek
President; on behalf of PMI Board members.



Dynamic Risk Management in Highly Complex Projects

by **Dr. Mona Zgheib**

DATE: January 30, 2025 / TIME: 7:30 PM
SESSION: Online

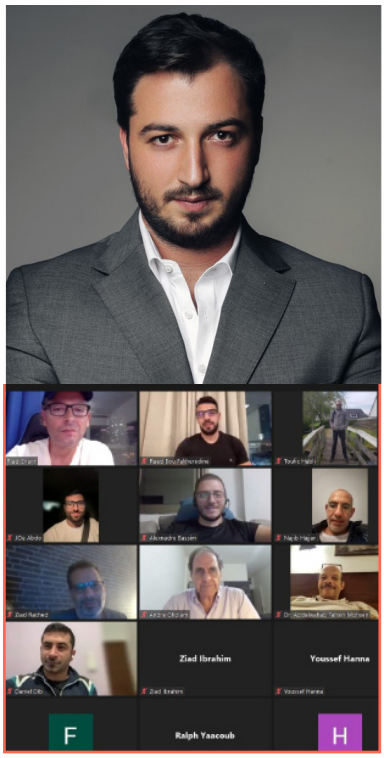
The PMI Lebanon chapter started its first monthly talk of the year with Dr. Mona Zoughaib. She has a proven track record for empowering organizations and individuals through transformative learning. Dr.Mona Zoughaib's brought her extensive background in both IT, and Project management and delivered a remarkable lecture titled "Dynamic Risk Management in Highly Complex Projects"

Talking Points:

- Techniques for identifying risks across multiple projects.
- Strategies for developing effective risk responses.
- Interactive workshop on crafting actionable risk mitigation plans

The attendees were able to:

- Understand the interconnected nature of risks in multiple projects.
- Apply advanced risk identification and assessment techniques.
- Develop robust risk mitigation strategies that can be applied across projects.
- Engage in dynamic, simulation-based risk management exercises.
- Foster a proactive risk management culture within their teams and organizations



Resilience as a skill

by **Mr. Mr. Kevin Gemayel at "The Mediterranean: a Sea of Culture" Program.**

DATE: February 20, 2025 / TIME:7:00 PM
SESSION: Online

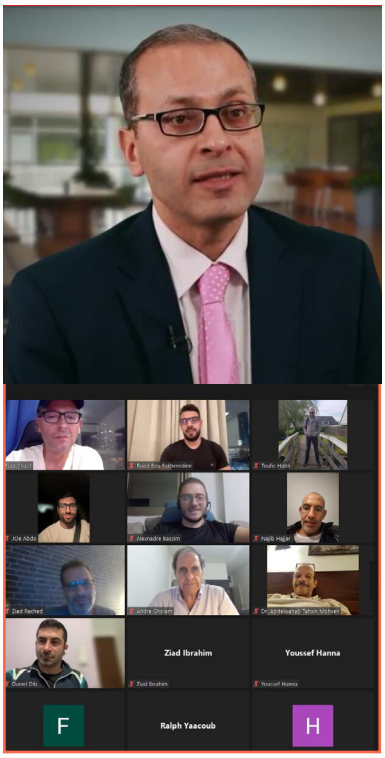
"The Mediterranean: A Sea of Culture" is a collaborative initiative connecting project managers across the Mediterranean. Launched under the sponsorship of PMI Northern Italy Chapter.
This program brings together Lebanon, Greece, Cyprus, Tunisia, Northern and Southern Italy chapters. The vision of this program is to foster knowledge-sharing and collaboration, helping project managers and organizations—both private and governmental—enhance their project management maturity. This, in turn, contributes to local growth while addressing social and environmental challenges.
The PMI Lebanon was glad to announce Kevin Gemayel as the speaker for this month who delivered a lecture titled "Resilience as a skill" on how to deal with unprecedented events. One major event which has affected Lebanon deeply was on August 4th, 2020, Beirut was devastated by an explosion that left thousands homeless and destroyed critical infrastructure. In this lecture, Kevin Gemayel shared how project management principles played a crucial role in the city's reconstruction and how leadership, adaptability, and resilience can drive real impact in crisis situations.
Through personal stories and real-world examples, he was able to take the attendees through his experience in managing large-scale reconstruction efforts, overcoming logistical and political challenges, and leading with purpose during one of Lebanon's most difficult times.

Talking Points:

- Introduction & Personal Journey – From mechanical engineer to project director and crisis leader
- Beirut Explosion: The Aftermath – Understanding the scale of destruction and the challenges ahead
- Project Management in Crisis – How agile methods, risk management, and strategic leadership accelerated rebuilding efforts
- Emotional & Human Impact – The story of restoring homes and hope for displaced families
- Overcoming Challenges – Supply chain disruptions, regulatory hurdles, and team coordination under pressure
- Lessons in Leadership & Resilience – How project management skills supported in rebuilding Beirut and how it affected personal growth
- The Future of Project Management – How technology and human skills will shape the profession

The attendees were able to:

- Understand the role of project management in crisis response and large-scale reconstruction.
- Learn strategies for leading teams under high-pressure and uncertain conditions.
- Explore real-world applications of risk management, agile methodologies, and stakeholder collaboration.
- Gain insight into the emotional and social impact of construction projects.
- Discover how professional certifications and continuous learning contribute to career growth and leadership success.



AI in Project Management

by **Mr. Ghassan Jumblat**

DATE: March 27, 2025 / TIME:7:30 PM
SESSION: Online

For our last monthly talk for Q1, we were pleased to welcome Mr. Ghassan Jumblat, a seasoned Tech Evangelist, Startup & CXO Mentor, and Technology Leader with over 30 years of experience in Fintech, AI, Payments, Security, and Risk Management, who brought a global perspective shaped by extensive work across Canada, the Middle East, and Africa. His expertise spans across various business and technology functions, enabling organizations to navigate complex challenges and drive innovation.

Talking Points:

- General Introduction about artificial intelligence
- Project Management
- Impact of Artificial intelligence on Project Management
- Artificial Intelligence and PM future outlook

The attendees were able to improve their knowledge in following areas:

- What is Project Management: Define project management and its core principles.
- History of Project Management: Review the evolution of project management from traditional methods to modern-day techniques and the role AI plays in this transformation.
- Understand the Role of AI in Project Management: Explore how AI technologies can enhance efficiency and decision-making throughout the project lifecycle.
- Examine AI's Impact on Resource: Discuss how AI can optimize resource management, task scheduling, and project timelines.
- Explore Future Trends of AI in Project Management: Explore emerging trends and innovations in AI that will shape the future of project management practices.

Memorandum Of Understanding with the Lebanese American University

We are proud to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Lebanese American University (LAU) and the PMI Lebanon Chapter, held on February 25th, 2025 in the presence of the Dean of the School of Engineering, esteemed faculty members, and PMI Lebanon Chapter representatives.

The MoU was officially signed by the Dean of LAU's School of Business, Dr. Salpie Djoundourian and the President of the PMI Lebanon Chapter, Mrs. Riam Chazbek, marking the beginning of a strategic collaboration focused on empowering youth and future leaders in project management.

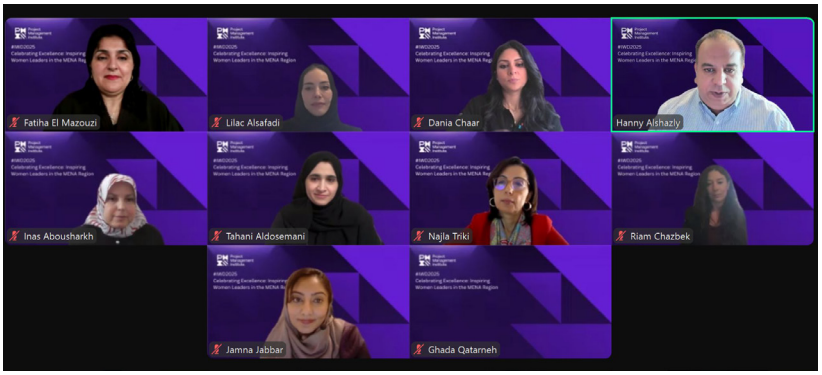
This partnership aims to foster a culture of excellence, innovation, and leadership by offering LAU students access to global standards, certifications, and practical insights from industry professionals. Together, we are committed to preparing the next generation with the skills and knowledge required to lead successful projects and contribute to Lebanon's sustainable development.

A sincere thank you to all who contributed to making this meaningful collaboration a reality especially Dr. Josiane Fahed Sreih, Chairperson of the department of Management, and Dr. Mira Thoumy Ghanem Professor at LAU and the presence of Mrs. Dania Chaar and Mr. Paul Awkar.
We look forward to the positive impact this partnership will have on our students, the academic community, and the future of project management in Lebanon.



International Women's Day 2025

DATE: March 12, 2025 / TIME:12:00 PM UAE / SESSION: Online



On the special occasion of International Women's Day, the PMI MENA brought together in a delightful one-of-a-kind panel. The session started with Mrs. Dania Chaar from the PMI MENA who focused on the importance of Women's role in today's society while acknowledging the still ongoing challenges that women face in most countries. The panel kicked off with Mr. Hany AlShazly PMI MENA Managing Director by expressing how truly blessed he was sitting alongside three exceptional women leaders with whom he had the privilege of working with throughout the years being:

Each dame gave her own perspective on women hood in the everchanging dynamics between men and women in their academic, professional and motherhood journeys.

- Professor Tahani Dusmani, the Director of Cultural Higher Education at the Ministry of Culture in Saudi Arabia, declared that woman empowerment is not a goal as much as it is a journey.
- Professor Lilaq Safadi, the CEO of Iconic educational holding in Saudi Arabia, cheered for a growing culture of mentorship where women are helping each other and championing diversity and encouraging women to pursue a career.
- Professor Inas Abu Shariq, Director of Information Technology at Ajman University, UAE, declared how she enjoys to mentor and how mentorship has been central to her leadership journey. She feels this is the part that where she gets to learn, even when she is mentoring her colleagues, whether they are in new positions or new joiners, or sometimes seniors.

The Second panel was moderated by Mrs. Dania Chaar who introduced four amazing women from our chapters in the MENA region,

- Mrs. Riam Chazbeck, President of the Lebanon Chapter who also previously joined the Dubai Municipality at KPMG, where she served as a PMO establishment consultant and is currently part of the financial transformation team at EY Qatar; Mrs. Riam Chazbeck talked about the importance of not taking a back seat in one's achievements, speaking and advocating for yourself, don't wait for permissions to chase your goals
- Mrs. Fatihal Mazuzi, VP. Administrations from Tunisia Chapter; Mrs. Fatihal Mazuzi underscored the importance of self-awareness in a woman and how it can lead her to discover a lot of new knowledge, good beliefs.
- Mrs. Ghada Qatarne, Volunteer with Morocco Chapter; Mrs. Ghada Qatarne shared with us how she managed to navigate the complex scenario of gender biases at the work place.
- Mrs. Najla Triki VP. Marketing and Communication in Jordan Chapter; described how the diversity of both public and private sectors also affect culture and methods.
- Mrs. Jamna Jabar, VP. governance in UAE, highlighted that the continuous learning opens doors to new opportunities and it is a testament to your commitment to both your personal growth as well as your professional excellence.

Visit to Children Cancer Center

During the visit of the volunteers to the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon held on March 18th, 2025, Ms. Riam Chazbek President of PMILC, Mr. Ziad Ibrahim VP. Volunteers, and Mr. Mahmoud Boukhari member & volunteer have the privilege of bringing joy and warmth to the young fighters as they celebrated Ramadan together. Carrying 35 bags filled with toys. We aimed to spread smiles and uplift their spirits during this blessed month. The children's faces lit up with excitement as they received their gifts, and their laughter filled the room with an atmosphere of love and hope. This experience was a heartfelt reminder of the power of kindness and the importance of sharing happiness with those who need it most.

From the social impact perspective, this activity combined

1. Food packaging,
2. Food donation
3. Materials recycling

From the 17 UN SDGs perspective, it fulfils the following SDGs:

- SDG # 2: Zero Hunger,
- SDG # 3: Good Health & Wellbeing,
- SDG # 10: Reduced inequalities,
- SDG # 12: Responsible consumption & production,
- SDG # 13: Climate action,
- SDG # 15: Life on land,
- SDG # 17: Partnerships for the goal.



Unlocking Talent: Project Management Certifications and Career Opportunities

We had the pleasure of joining Mr. Hanny AlShazly, the Managing Director at Project Management Institute MENA Page, along with the MENA team Mrs. Dania Chaar, Mrs. Mira Hatoum and Mr. Rudolf Khoury at the Lebanese American University, with the presence of the PMI Lebanon Chapter board members represented by its president Ms. Riam Chazbek and board members Mr. Paul Awkar,
Mrs. Mira Thoumy Ghanem and Mr. Ziad Ibrahim along with the Student board represented by its president Mr. Mohammad Bahij Jamil. The session shed light on the growing demand for project management professionals and how certifications like PMP, CAPM, and PMI-ACP are essential for career advancement, especially for youth.

As industries continue to seek certified project managers, staying ahead with the right credentials is key to long-term success.
A big thank you to Mr. Hanny AlShazly for sharing his insights and to everyone who joined the discussion!

Managing Projects in Times of Crisis: Our Capsules

The PMI Lebanon Chapter introduced it's first of a kind communication channel using a video message to demonstrate solutions to problems in a visually engaging way while managing projects in times of crisis. This series of short, insightful videos features practical strategies, real-world examples, and expert tips on navigating challenges during crisis.

Throughout Q1 2025, the PMI Lebanon chapter compiled 10 short videos animated by our VP. Of Membership Mr. Paul Awkar; VP. Of Governance Mrs. Mira Thoumy; Mr. Rachad Issa; Mrs. Taline Nemchehirlian; Mrs. Mary Jarjour; Mrs. Georgia Karam.

- Mrs. Mira Thoumy covered in two short videos the effects of Risk & Uncertainty and the benefits Adaptability & Resilience; Mrs. Taline Nemchehirlian & Mr. Paul Awkar explained in 2 short videos the importance of Stakeholder Management & Team Projects;
- Mrs. Mary Jarjour clarified in 2 short videos the role of Project Measurements and the Development Approach & Life Cycle for Projects;
- Mrs. Georgia Karam highlighted in 2 short videos the processes Project Planning & Project Executions;
- Mr. Rachad Issa emphasized in two short videos the definitions of Project Success and Project Delivery.

Please follow and subscribe to our You tube channel where you can find the videos.

IFTAR WITH MENA

PMI Lebanon Chapter was honored to attend a gracious Iftar gathering hosted by PMI MENA, represented by Managing Director Mr. Hanny, along with Dania, Rudolph, and Mira, at the iconic Em Sherif in Beirut.

The evening was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen bonds and celebrate the spirit of collaboration during the holy month of Ramadan.

A heartfelt thank you to Mr. Hanny AlShazly for the invitation and for fostering such meaningful discussions, and most importantly supporting the Lebanese community. Looking forward to continued collaboration and growth within the Project Management Institute community!



Our Chapter has Transitioned: Welcome to the new PMI® Membership Model

- We are pleased to announce that our chapter has officially transitioned to the new PMI membership model! Moving forward, your chapter membership will be combined with your PMI membership, giving you streamlined access to local and global resources supporting your growth as a Project Professional.
- With this transition, members will enjoy an experience where their chapter and PMI renewals are combined into one, meaning no more managing separate memberships. This allows members to focus on what truly matters—connecting with an expanded network of professionals both locally and globally, gaining insights and mentorship opportunities to drive your career forward. At the same time, our chapter remains dedicated to providing exclusive local events, resources, and opportunities that enhance your professional journey. The unified model empowers us to continue investing in our members development while also giving them access to PMI's global knowledge and thought leadership.
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- What this means for you:
- • Simplified access: The new membership model now gives you seamless access to both local chapter benefits and PMI's global resources—no more managing separate memberships.
- • Maximized network: Connect with a larger community of Project Professionals, locally and globally, unlocking new opportunities for mentorship, collaboration, and professional growth.
- • Enhanced member experience: With this unified membership, our chapter will be able to invest more in exclusive local events, programs, and resources that support your professional journey.
- • Diverse industry connections: Engage with members from a wide range of industries, broadening your insights and career opportunities.
- • Local expertise, and global insights: Continue benefiting from our local chapter's resources while gaining access to PMI's global knowledge and thought leadership.

Please follow and subscribe to our You tube channel where you can find the videos.

Project Management Institute acquired “AI Best Practices” Leader Cognilytica to Enhance Training Content for Project Professionals

To continue guiding project professionals in adding more AI capabilities to their skillsets, PMI announced it has acquired Cognilytica, a leading firm focused on best practices research, training, and certification in AI, machine learning (ML), automation, data, and analytics for organizations and professionals. PMI will integrate into its offerings Cognilytica certifications and learning products, including its flagship CPMAI AI & ML project management training and certification. Thousands of pieces of thought-leading content, research, advisory, education, the AI Today podcast, and other key elements of AI-focused content will also be available to PMI members.About Cognilytica

Cognilytica is focused on Best Practices Research, Training and Certification in AI, ML, Automation, Data, and Analytics for Organizations and professionals. Founded in 2017 by technology and AI researchers Kathleen Walch and Ronald Schmelzer, Cognilytica’s trailblazing Cognitive Project Management for AI (CPMAI) methodology for project management training and certification has been adopted by large, medium and small organizations worldwide. CPMAI is built on the work of some of the most experienced best practice practitioners and analysts working at some of the largest organizations.

Make sure to follow the page on Linked In.

PMI M.O.R.E.

Our CEO Mr. Pierre Le Manh dropped a very short and sweet message on his Linked In profile that made viewers curious to tap on it. It went:” Time to get rid of the “watermelon”? Don’t call it green if it’s red inside”. He was insinuating to project success. In other words, “M.O.R.E> is a call to our profession shifting its focus and accountability beyond project management success, to project success. It represents a sweeping reconsideration of the role of our global project management community.”

Project Success starts with M.O.R.E.

- ▷ Manage Perception
- ▷ Own project success beyond project management success
- ▷ Reassess whether value created is worth the effort and expense
- ▷ Expand perspective to the broader business and the world you serve

Let’s keep elevating our profession together.

Dubai International Project Management Forum 2025

Date: January 15, 2025 / Duration: all day / Location: On-site

The 10th edition of DIPMF brought together notable co-organizers: Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA), DP World, Emaar Properties PJSC, and Project Management Institute (PMI). These strategic partnerships put innovation and sustainability at the heart of projects, redefining the standards of success and inspiring the future.

This year's edition of the Forum, saw a participation of over 50 local and international speakers, representing diverse economic and commercial sectors. Discussions encompassed 19 main themes with key topics including 'Sustainable City', 'Transformation', 'Jobs of the Future', and 'Future-Centric Project Management'.

Participants in this year's edition of the forum, organized by RTA in collaboration with the Project Management Institute (PMI) and Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), included His Excellency Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy; Her Excellency Alia Abdulla Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship; Pierre Le Manh, President and CEO of PMI; Dr Aisha Bin Bishr, Global Digital Transformation Leader, Visionary in Smart City Development; H.E. Mohamed Ali Alabar Founder of Emaar and Noon, Chairman of Eagle Hills, and keynote speaker Arsène Wenger, OBE, former Arsenal manager, and Head of Global Football Development at FIFA.

The forum also featured prominent local and international leaders, influencers, and trainers in project management. These include Etienne Thobois, CEO of the Paris Organizing Committee for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games; Chris Barton, Founder & Creator of Shazam App; and Areej Naqshbandi, Senior Director, Head of PMO at Public Investment Fund (PIF) and Board Member of the Saudi Facility Management Company (FmTech).

International Participants
The forum welcomed renowned international project management figures such as Hanny Alshazly, Med, Managing Director, for the MENA at the PMI; Afdhel Aziz, Chief Purpose Officer, Conspiracy of Love, a leading global consultancy in purpose-driven goals; and Laura Barnard, Chief Impact Driver at PMO Strategies. Other notable participants include Marita Cheng, Founder of Aubot; Dr Stefanie Hare, Technologist & Researcher, Lavagnon Ika, PhD Professor of Project Management, Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa, Canada; and Timothy Papandreou, Founder and CEO of Emerging Transport Advisors.

Additional notable figures attending this year's forum include Lenka Pincot, Chief of Staff to CEO at PMI; Americo Pinto, PMOGA Managing Director, PMI; Kathleen Walch, Managing Partner at Cognilytica; Mark Webster, Senior Vice President & General Manager, Oracle Infrastructure Global Industries Unit; Frank Wolters, Managing Director, Tegel Projekt GmbH, Berlin

Global Influencers
The forum's distinguished line-up includes prominent global and regional project management influencers. Among them are Ian Fraser, Business Advisor, Author, Speaker, and Trainer; Jean-Luc Favrot, Founder and CEO; Brett Harned, Author of "Project Management for Humans, Mentor and Strategist at Same Team Partners; Will Jackson Moore, Global Sustainability Leader PwC; and Sadia Janjua, Chief of Digital Transformation Program & Project Controls at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Other notable figures include Dr. Ozan Koseoglu Global Head of BIM Siemens Energy; Sean McGuinness, instructional designer, BEACON RED; Adrian Morey Author - Project, Programme and Portfolio Governance; Amir Mustafa, Senior Program Manager at AECOM; Ewa Palarczyk, Co-Founder and CEO of Synergist; Ricardo Sastre-Martin, Principal Consulting Project Management at Microsoft; Juan Tena, Digital Services Director at KEO International Consultants; Marios Tsiliakos, Partner, Foster+Partners; Lisa Whited, Consultant and Author; Nelly Wilson, AI Services Lead at Google Cloud; Victoria Wheelahan, Senior Product Development Engineer at Nike; and Alan Zucker, Founding Principal Project Management Essentials.

International Trainers

The forum will also host some of the world's leading project management trainers. These include Christina Kucek, Intelligent Automation Consultant at Independent Consultant; Barbara Porter, COO at Fragrance.com; Philip Burgess, Knowledge Systems, Senior Manager, Beacon Red; Dr Mona Zoughaib Co-Founder & Managing Partner We Grow Minds; and Raphael Ani, Global Business Development Lead (Construction) at PMI, Americo Pinto, PMOGA Managing Director, PMI; and Kathleen Walch, Managing Partner at Cognilytica, will bring their expertise to the event, offering participants insights into global best practices and innovative approaches in project management.

400 experts and 17,000 participants

The previous editions of the forum attracted around 400 experts and specialists from around the world who presented global best practices and innovative solutions in the field of project management, and about 17,000 participants, 49% of whom were project managers, 17% were department directors, 14% were senior engineers and project engineers, and 6% were senior specialists and team leaders, in addition to specialists, project consultants, and university students.

Transformational Topics

This year the forum will cover diverse range of topics including sustainable project management, sustainable mobility, future cities, leadership and strategy, customer centricity, agile management, construction efficiency, artificial intelligence and big data, digital twins and metaverse, blockchain technology, and GPT disruptive changes.
The forum will also discuss efficiency and performance optimization, remote project management, circular economy, project economy, virtual and augmented reality, information exchange management, future trends in project management, and project self-management.

Order of the British Empire

Keynote speaker Arsene Wenger has managed Arsenal FC for 22 years, a record amount of time for a Premier League manager to hold the position, and under his management the club has become one of the most successful teams in the English Premier League.
Nicknamed "Le Professeur" for his role in the professionalization of English football, Arsène has a wealth of experience in management, talent development and competition that has made him unique in his field, and his rich experience in management will be the focus of his participation as a keynote speaker at the Dubai International Project Management Forum.



PMXPO 2025

Date: March 20, 2025 / Time: 10:00 Eastern Time / Session: Online.

PMXPO 2025 is for project management professionals, designed to inspire, educate, and connect you with the latest tools, strategies, and thought leaders. The event allowed participants to:

- Gain exclusive access to keynote speakers and expert panels featuring industry pioneers who share actionable insights and proven strategies.
- Stay updated on the latest project management methodologies, technologies, and trends to future-proof your career.
- Participate in hands-on workshops, breakout sessions, and live demos tailored to enhance your skillset and address real-world challenges.
- Connect with thousands of like-minded professionals from around the world. Build relationships that last beyond the event and expand your professional network.

And at PMILC we are happy to announce that our member Ms. Maria Bassil was recognized as the PM Passport Top Winner and made it to the leaderboard after successfully collecting all the passport stamps from PMI's PMXPO 2025!
PMI Nigeria Chapter, @PMI Cameroon, PMI Luxembourg Chapter LU, PMI Turkey Chapter, PMI Capítulo Jalisco, PMI Taipei Taiwan;PMI Madrid, Spain; PMI Malaysia , PMI Vietnam Chapter, PMI Mongolia Chapter, PMI Bajio, PMI Guayas,

COMMUNITY **THOUGHTS**

Mary Jarjour
Project Manager, Théâtre Le Monnot



I was drawn to PMP certification, not because my job required it, but because I knew I had a natural inclination toward organization and was already managing projects at work. I knew there had to be a better, more structured way to handle my responsibilities, and that curiosity led me to explore the PMP certification.

Learning and teaching languages is something I have always been passionate about. Studying for the PMP exam, I discovered something fascinating: PMP-certified professionals from different industries—construction, engineering, finance, and even non-profits like mine—can all sit down and have a meaningful conversation about project management while speaking the same "language." The shared vocabulary we learn during PMP exam preparation bridges industry gaps and fosters effective communication across sectors.

This realization reinforced my belief in the value of structured project management methodologies. And, it pushed me to get involved with PMI's professional community.

Beyond getting certified, one of the most rewarding aspects of my PMP journey has been volunteering with the PMI Lebanon chapter. As someone who manages capacity-building projects, I was thrilled to participate in a recent volunteer effort aimed at teaching essential project management concepts to NGO staff who do not yet have formal training in the discipline. Our team created "learning capsules"—concise, engaging video lessons— to introduce key project management principles in an accessible way. We then shared these resources with local NGOs and promoted them on LinkedIn and YouTube, to maximize their impact.

My journey with PMP certification has deepened my appreciation for the global community of project professionals. I look forward to continuing to contribute to this diverse and supportive network.

COMMUNITY THOUGHTS

WORD FROM OUR STUDENT CLUB BOARD MEMBERS
Mohamad Bahij Jammal



President PMI Lebanon Chapter - Student Club Board

When I first joined PMI, I was looking for an opportunity to meet new people, step out of my comfort zone, and commit to something where I could truly make an impact. I wanted to challenge myself, explore new experiences, and be part of a community that fosters growth and collaboration.

It all started when Dr. Mira Thoumy at LAU sent an email about a project management club. At first, I didn't think much of it and simply told myself, "Why not?" —not realizing it would turn into something much bigger with PMI. Later, she asked in a WhatsApp group who was interested in taking on a leadership role.

Without hesitation, I immediately texted her. She told me to get ready for an interview with her and Paul Awkar, my soon-to-be advisor and now good friend. Even though I had no prior experience in volunteering, they saw something in my personality and enthusiasm, and that was enough for them to elect me as President.

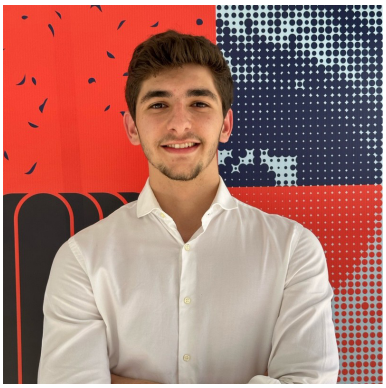
Taking on the role of President wasn't just a choice—it was the only position I would have accepted. I've always had a passion for leadership and teamwork, and I saw this as the perfect opportunity to not only guide others but also refine my own skills. Leading isn't just about making decisions; it's about learning from those around me, adapting, and continuously striving to be better. Through this role, I hope to develop into a more effective leader, not just through experience but also with the support and insights of my peers.

The Unlocking Talent event at LAU reinforced something important: many people know very little about project management, but their eagerness to learn is undeniable. Seeing their curiosity firsthand made me realize how much I want to be a guiding hand for those interested in this field. It's incredibly rewarding to introduce others to project management and watch them discover its value.

This journey with PMI has already been transformative, and I look forward to what's ahead—not just for myself, but for everyone looking to grow within this community.

COMMUNITY **THOUGHTS**

Hadi Mchawrab



VP of Events and Coordination at PMI Lebanon Chapter Student Club

I've always been fascinated by software development—the process of turning an idea into something real. But during a group project, I realized that technical skills alone weren't enough. Deadlines slipped, miscommunication slowed us down, and despite our efforts, the project felt chaotic. That's when I understood the power of project management—not just as a tool for organization but as a way to bring structure and clarity to complex work.

That realization led me to PMI Lebanon's Student Club, where I was introduced to a whole new perspective—one where strategy, teamwork, and leadership shape the success of any project. Now, as a third-year Computer and Communications Engineering student at the American University of Beirut and the Vice President of Events and Communications, I see how seamlessly project management and software development complement each other. A great developer writes efficient code, but a great developer who understands project management builds solutions that actually get delivered.

Beyond my personal journey, I believe in the impact we can have on university students. Many steps into the professional world with strong technical abilities but little exposure to real-world execution. Through events, networking, and hands-on experiences, we aim to change that—to shift mindsets and help students understand the value of planning, collaboration, and adaptability. The goal isn't just to succeed in projects but to be truly prepared for the challenges of any industry.

Becoming highly motivated leaders. We aim to foster daily engagement in impactful projects that reflect our collective passion and dedication.

PMI has fueled my motivation for self-growth and deepened my admiration for aligning personal passion with societal contribution. During my PMI journey, I aim to dig further into Project Management by pursuing certifications such as PMP and CAPM. Above all, I feel immense pride in representing my Lebanese heritage. Despite the challenges we Lebanese citizens faced, I remain eager to prove that our resilience and dedication can drive us toward success and independence.

COMMUNITY THOUGHTS

Meet Rashad Issa

Speaker in Managing Projects in Times of Crisis: Our Capsules

Rashad is a Non-Executive Director, strategy specialist and an operational Quality, governance & assurance expert. With a proven track record of guiding ambitious businesses to operational excellence, Rashad is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Chartered Quality Institute (CQI) and a member of the C-suite at the Baltic Exchange implementing Quality Management principles, spearheading efforts to optimize regulatory compliance in financial benchmarks, fostering process improvements, efficiency and excellence.

Rashad is a thought leader leveraging his platform as a Podcaster and a Blogger. Founder of the Rashad in Conversation podcast and the How To Quality© series, shedding light on the indispensable value that the Quality profession contributes to businesses worldwide, sharing inspiring success stories from global leaders.

He is a PMP, a PMI-PMOCP, and leader auditor. Rashad is a fellow of the chartered quality institute and a fellow of the CX Academy.

About the capsules,
Lebanon, just like many countries in the Middle East, faced a tough 2024. Surviving during times of war is never easy. Many charities and NGOs jump into full crisis mode during such times. Project Management Institute Lebanon Chapter decided to help such charities and NGOs through project management. PMILC reached out to volunteers and asked if anyone would be interested in providing NGOs.

A group of around eight volunteers got together. The initiative takes place over two phases:

- Phase 1: Create 5 min training capsules on different project management domains – Complete
- Phase 2: Offer governance support and leadership coaching for NGOs leaders over project and portfolio management – In Progress in 2025

This topic is close to his heart for many reasons. As a Project Professional, he has always been keen on work that has social impact. One pillar that Project Management Institute champions really well. This initiative is taking place in Lebanon and he is, for the first time in over 15 years, connecting again with Lebanon and with professionals in the country. That is why he felt very proud and enthusiastic when he was asked if he can assist. It all started with Ms. Dania Chaar (PMI MENA Community and Engagement Partner), Ms. Riam Chazbek (PMI Lebanon President), and Dr. Mira Thoumy Ghanem (PMI Lebanon Governance Officer).

Stay tunned for phase 2.

WELCOMING
NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming new member who joined the chapter in Q1 2025

1. Ahida Annous
2. Diala Tawk
3. Nadine Kallas
4. James Khoury
5. Khaled El Orr
6. Michael El Badri
7. Antoinette Mansour
8. Komay Abou Shakra
9. Mazen Saliba
10. Hussein Hazimeh
11. Hasan Mansour
12. Iman Tozlok
13. Rayan Nassar
14. Charbel Semaan
15. Abdulraouf Mohammad Kabbani
16. Alain Aoun
17. Ralph Bou Jaoude
18. Chantal Badrieh
19. Hasan Hawari
20. Beleza Abdallah
21. Yaacoub Ismael
22. Anthony Cattan
23. Freddy Fares
24. Shadi Ismail
25. Lynn Sawaya
26. Mohamad Shaaban
27. Tarek Younes
28. Lora Thebian
29. Elianne Dayekh
30. Joelle Bardawil
31. Ali Banjak
32. Claudia El Khoury
33. Yeghia Torossian
34. Ali Al-Kaissi
35. Hadi Damaj
36. Michele Bitar
37. Mohamad Hajj Hassan
38. Elie Antonios
39. Maya Saleh
40. Sandra Wehbe
41. Ali El Chaabi
42. Stephanie Ferrando
43. Mireille Jazi
44. Rita Koliana
45. George Semaan
46. Fadi Jihad Raya
47. Sara Abou Hamdan
48. Mouemen Mohsen
49. Youssef Kalash
50. Georgio Chahine
51. Akil Harb
52. Joelle Sfeir
53. Salim El Aridi
54. Bahaa El Halabi
55. Rached Makkouk
56. Stephanie Salamoun
57. Tannous Karam
58. Mohamad Kouzi
59. Elly Mary Awada
60. Antoine El Badri
61. Lemir Samir Chehab
62. Julian Barhoun
63. Joseph Semaan
64. Mira Saab
65. Nada Al Khoury
66. Talal Lawand
67. Zuha Helou
68. Serena Haddad

PMI LEBANON CHAPTER **NEWSLETTER**

QUARTER 1, 2025

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