

## PMI Japan Chapter - Networking Event for International Project Managers –

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Slowly but surely, PMI Japan chapter (<https://www.pmi-japan.org/>) is going international, attracting more and more expatriate project managers under its various activities. Well, that is obvious from the survey gathered from participants after the networking event organized by its Marketing Committee and jointly hosted by International Relationship Community, organized so well by Secretariat at its premises on 14 March 2019.

Under the theme of "*Share Your Experience, Build Your Network and Learn about PMI and Japan Chapter!*" participants were invited, mainly on PMI-Japan web page advertise and members close circle. It drew a huge response in limited time. The entire event was well planned and executed within a short span of few weeks by close knit office-bearers, volunteers who had thought that practicing Project Managers have to gain so much from PMI's methodologies as well as certification program. Most of the event planning was done in just 1-2 actual meetings and taken to higher level of control and monitoring by series of emails guided by Secretariat. The participant turnout was very impressive.

Tokyo, one of the largest metropolis brimming with several international projects ranging from as diverse as Oil & Gas, Banking, Finance, IT, Telecommunications, Renewable Energy, Insurance, Consulting, Healthcare, Government services (to name a few) had their practicing Project Managers in the event! There could not have been a better way to bring around 10 nationalities, diverse work domains, genders in one room over Beer and Pizza! The event went well with 5 tables each hosting several participants discussing "*how can project managers overcome cultural differences?*" After a brief self-introduction, the facilitators directed the discussion ensuring it is focused on "work" part of the culture. At first the "issues" were identified and a crisp presentation followed. With networking event exchanging business cards over drinks (beer included!) Pizza and intermingling, the second part was to find "solutions" to those issues. Again, presentation focused on the summary made so meticulously by each group.

The event was a grand success and showcased how keen a debate on cultural aspects can lead to with laughter, excites , sarcasm, fun, intense listening, all bundled together! And the survey response shows unanimity that such events should be held frequently and for longer duration (one preferring discussion over dinner!).

As a part of organizing team, I also learnt a lot how diversity helps in identifying the issues so quickly and willingness to find the solutions in a congenial environment. Whether the solutions can be implemented across all platforms unilaterally needs next level of brainstorming!

So, see you soon, for next networking event! Bigger and better!!



