

# 3 Basic Tips for PMO Success

# Ricardo Viana Vargas, MSc, IPMA-B, PMP

Ricardo Viana Vargas is a project, portfolio and risk management specialist. During the past 15 years, he has been responsible for over **80 major projects** in various countries in the areas of petroleum, energy, infrastructure, telecommunications, information technology and finances, comprising an investment portfolio of over 18 billion dollars.

He was the first Latin American volunteer to be elected Chairman of the Board for the **Project Management Institute (PMI)**, the largest project management organization in the world with close to 500,000 members and certified professionals in 175 countries.

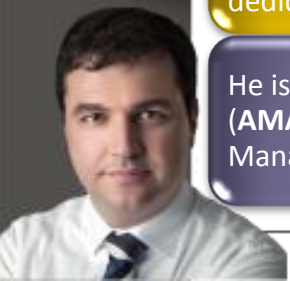
Ricardo Vargas has written **ten books** on project management, published in Portuguese and English, which have sold over 200,000 copies throughout the world. In 2005 he received the PMI Distinguished Award for his contribution to the development of project management and the PMI Professional Development Product of the Year award for the PMDome® workshop, considered the best project management training solution in the world.

He is a project management professor for various MBA courses, and actively participates on editorial boards for specialized journals in Brazil and the United States. Vargas is a recognized reviewer of the **PMBOK Guide**, the most important reference in the world for project management, and also chaired the official translation of PMBOK into Portuguese.

He is a chemical engineer and holds a master's degree in Industrial Engineering from UFMG (Federal University of Minas Gerais). Ricardo Vargas also holds a Master Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University and is certified both as a Project Management Professional (PMP) by PMI and as IPMA-B by the International Project Management Association. He attended the Program on Negotiation for Executives at **Harvard Law School**.

Over an eleven year timeframe, which began in 1995, Ricardo, in conjunction with two partners, established one of the most solid Brazilian businesses in the area of technology, project management and outsourcing, which had a staff of **4,000 collaborators** and an annual income of 50 million dollars in 2006, when Ricardo Vargas sold his share of the company to dedicate himself on a fulltime basis to the internationalization of his project management activities.

He is a member of the Association for Advancement of Cost Engineering (**AACE**), the American Management Association (**AMA**), the International Project Management Association (**IPMA**), the Institute for Global Ethics and the Professional Risk Management International Association (**PRMIA**).



# Critical Success Factors

Corporate  
Sponsorship

Alignment with  
business objectives

Dissemination of  
results and lessons  
learned  
(knowledge base)

Roles and  
responsibilities  
well defined –  
compatible skills

Focus and  
pragmatism  
(priority projects,  
realistic goals)

Dedicated  
infrastructure,  
resources and  
equipments



# Sponsor for the PMO Project

## Essential qualities:

- Enthusiastic and ACTIVE defender of the concept / awareness of key practices
- Respected and influential in the corporation
- Deep expert on organizational policies
- Well-versed in the business of the corporation

# Most Common Problems

Decrease in  
management  
enthusiasm

The value of the PMO  
might be questioned

Mistakes/hastiness  
while choosing the  
critical staff members  
(management)

Current projects x  
new projects

Lack of a minimally  
organized PMIS

Tool mania

“Culture”....



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