

FOREWORD

It is a real pleasure for us to have the opportunity of hosting the IX ICEC World Congress in Milan, which is recognized internationally as a major event putting together professionals, researchers and academic people to discuss about Total Cost Management and the future of the profession. We deem it is even more important for Europe, where Total Cost Management is being understood in a peculiar way that creates overlapping and interferences, as well as synergies, with related professions.

The focus of this year Congress is on the various aspects of Total Cost Management, which can be exploited in the practical dimension of use and be considered as possible leverage for overcoming or counteracting the present worldwide economic crisis. The event also intends to offer a unique occasion for debating on TCM future perspectives and scenarios, also thanks to the interventions of renowned experts.

The approved papers have been organized in the following main topics: Long Term Project Controlling, Strategic Project Decisions and Cost Controls, Methodologies and Quantitative Methods, Contract Management, Claim & Dispute Resolution, Challenges in Details, Projects Global Control, Estimating, Risk Management, Controlling Practices, Owner Contractor and Advanced Issues, The New Frontiers of BIM, From Individual to Corporate Training and Certification, New Trends.

At the beginning, the main research path has been to compare the structure of the body of knowledge of the member associations, to verify their updating aiming at building a common body of knowledge for ICEC as a whole. Then, other research paths have been relevant to the validity and analysis of certification systems, compared with other certificates such as IPMA, PMI, etc.

The Congress is an important opportunity for professionals and scientists to meet between peers in order to confront their vision about the profession and the relevant body of knowledge and competence; to be informed about the new research paths and methodologies; to know how the profession is evolving in several parts of the world. Useless to say, there are other opportunities, such as to know new people and new professional opportunities and to meet colleagues and old friends. Last but not least, to find some spare time to visit Milano or other parts of Italy.

The Congress is hosted by AICE (Italian Association for Total Cost Management) and FAST (Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations). AICE, founded in 1978, has been member of ICEC ever since. The accreditation of certification procedures was granted for the "expert" level since 1992 and for the practitioner (entry level) since 2000. FAST is an independent non-profit organization with a long tradition in promoting scientific and technical culture. It groups the main national scientific associations with around 50.000 members mostly from industry, research, and technology development sector.

We are particularly proud of the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, of the Lombardy Region and the Milan Municipality, as well as the commitment of our sponsor Microsoft.

Special thanks are addressed to all those who contributed to the organization of this event, to the scientific and organizing committees, to exhibitors, to key-note speakers, authors and delegates and all those who helped us to make this event happen.

Gianluca di Castri

ICEC 2014 Congress Director