

# Preface

The Spanish Association of Project Management and Engineering is pleased to issue this volume. It compiles a selection of the best papers presented at the 18th International Congress on Project Management and Engineering held in Alcañiz (Teruel). They are a good sample of the state of the art in the fields of project management and project engineering.

After having organized an annual Congress—first at the national and then at the international level—with an array of universities over the last 18 years, by the end of 2008, the AEIPRO Directive Board decided to introduce a two-step procedure to evaluate the papers presented. First, the Scientific Committee assess all the papers presented to select the approved ones to the Congress. After the conclusion and taking into account the chairman reports of the session, a second assessment is performed by a reduced Scientific Committee. We hope that the fruit of this process, this volume, contributes to the improvement of project engineering research and enhance the transfer of results to the job of project engineers and project managers.

The Spanish Association of Project Management and Engineering (Asociación Española de Dirección e Ingeniería de Proyectos—AEIPRO) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1992. It is an entity for the professionalization of project management and engineering with the following goals: to facilitate the association of scientists and professionals within the project management and engineering areas; to serve as a tool for improving communication and cooperation among these professionals; to improve experts' knowledge in the different fields of project management and engineering; to promote the best professional practices in these fields; to identify and define the needs that may arise in the everyday development of these activities; and finally, to adopt positions in order to orientate society when faced with differences in the fields of action. At present, it is the Spanish Association Member of International Project Management Association (IPMA), an international association that brings together more than 48,000 project management professionals and researchers from 59 countries.

The papers presented in this book, address methods, techniques, studies and applications to project management and all the project engineering areas. The contributions have been arranged in seven chapters:

- Project Management
- Civil engineering, urban planning, building and architecture
- Product and Process Engineering and Industrial Design
- Environmental engineering and natural resource management
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Rural development and development co-operation projects
- Training in project engineering

We want acknowledge our gratitude to all the contributors and reviewers.

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