



Badr Burshaid

A Journey Close to Fiction

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL THROUGH THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

— By Badr Burshaid

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Not long ago, someone asked me, "Who are you, and what do you do for the project management community?" That question made me pause and reflect on the extraordinary journey of PMI KSA—a journey that feels almost fictional because of the remarkable things we've achieved together. The story of PMI KSA is not just about growth; it is about building something extraordinary through the power of people and a shared vision.

As I'm only active, president of PMI KSA Chapter at the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, focusing solely on the chapter leadership, I am honored to lead a community of exceptional individuals committed to excellence in project management. PMI KSA is more than an organization; it is a movement powered by people with big dreams and even bigger determination. Doctors, engineers, lawyers, professors, students, and professionals from all walks of life have come together to create a platform where knowledge is shared, networks are built, and careers are transformed.

Many of our leaders, though unsung heroes, have passed the torch to new generations, ensuring the flame of progress continues to burn brightly. Together, we've created a thriving ecosystem that fosters growth, innovation, and opportunity for all.





A COMMUNITY WITHOUT LIMITS

What makes PMI KSA extraordinary is its inclusivity. Here, there are no boundaries—no restrictions of age, gender, or profession. From seasoned thought leaders to ambitious high school students, everyone has a place and a role in this thriving community. This diversity fuels creativity, collaboration, and a shared sense of purpose.

Looking back, I am humbled by how far we've come. The years have flown by, and with them, our shared dreams have reached new heights. Together, we've proven that with determination and collaboration, the unimaginable becomes possible.



FROM LOCAL IMPACT TO GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

PMI KSA is now the largest PMI chapter in the MENA region, the largest in Asia, and even larger than many chapters in Europe and the Americas. Today, we proudly hold the title of the second-largest PMI chapter globally, with aspirations to soon become the largest in the world.

1st in middle East & North Africa
2nd _____ Globally

However, becoming the largest chapter was never our goal. This achievement was not something we set out to accomplish—it is the natural result of relentless focus, strategic planning, and tireless efforts by a community that refuses to settle for mediocrity. The path was not without challenges, but those challenges became opportunities to learn, grow, and excel.



FUELED BY VISION 2030

Someone once remarked, "It's easy for Saudi Arabia to succeed because it's rich." That statement stayed with me, and I responded, "You're absolutely right, but our wealth is not what you think—it's our people."

Saudi Arabia's true strength lies in its young men and women, who are driven by ambition, innovation, and a desire to lead. This determination has been fueled by Vision 2030, the Kingdom's transformative plan led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Vision 2030 is built on three foundational pillars: a Vibrant Society, a Thriving Economy, and an Ambitious Nation. As the Crown Prince eloquently stated:

"It is my pleasure to present Saudi Arabia's Vision for the future. It is an ambitious yet achievable blueprint, which expresses our long-term goals and expectations and reflects our country's strengths and capabilities. All success stories start with a vision, and successful visions are based on strong pillars."



This vision has guided PMI KSA's mission, inspiring us to align our efforts with the Kingdom's goals. It has empowered us to dream bigger, challenge the status quo, and redefine what's possible for project management in Saudi Arabia and beyond.



THE STRATEGIC PATH FORWARD

When we began, we had no roadmap—just a blank canvas and a desire to create meaningful change. We started with questions: Where do we begin? How do we create impact?

We turned to the world's best for inspiration, benchmarking against more than 200 PMI chapters globally. We studied their successes, learned from their challenges, and adapted their best practices to our unique context. We engaged with our community through surveys, interviews, and discussions, gaining invaluable insights that shaped our strategy.

This collaborative approach helped us craft a plan that wasn't just about today or tomorrow but about building something sustainable. Our goal was to create a framework that could evolve and adapt, ensuring PMI KSA remains a force for good for generations to come.





TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

The road wasn't easy. Challenges arose at every turn, but we embraced them as opportunities to innovate and grow. Failure was never feared—it was welcomed as a chance to learn and move forward with greater clarity and strength.

With this mindset, we turned obstacles into stepping stones, transforming ideas into action and dreams into reality.





THE LEGACY WE ARE BUILDING

I am humbled and inspired by the extraordinary journey we've undertaken together. This is not just a story of growth; it is a story of transformation. It is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared purpose and unwavering determination.



PMI KSA is more than a chapter—it is a movement, a legacy, and a testament to the power of people. Together, we are not just building careers; we are building a brighter future for Saudi Arabia and the world.

To all professionals, students, and dreamers, I extend an invitation:



**Join us on this journey.
Together, we can continue to unlock potential, push boundaries,
and redefine what's possible.**

The journey is far from over, and the best is yet to come.



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01.

BUILDING A GAME-CHANGING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

The journey to create an educational experience that delivered over 400 transformative events was one of vision, innovation, and relentless execution. This initiative has not only redefined the project management landscape but has also become a cornerstone of professional growth, aligning seamlessly with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

The success of this experience was driven by three strategic pillars: content relevance, stakeholder engagement, and scalability.

01. Content That Matters

Our diverse programs were designed to meet the evolving needs of project management professionals, covering everything from fundamentals to advanced topics like digital transformation and AI. With over 250 topics, including Emotional Intelligence and Capital Project Management, our events contributed to individual and organizational growth while aligning with Vision 2030.

02. Stakeholder Engagement That Drives Impact

Collaboration drove this initiative, bringing top experts and speakers. Dialogue with Leaders offered insights into Saudi giga-projects like Neom and the Red Sea Development. Interactive workshops and partnerships, including Google Developer Student Clubs, fostered engagement and ensured quality.

03. Scalability Through Innovation

Technology enabled broader accessibility through virtual events like Digital Transformation Workshops and AI in Project Management, breaking geographical barriers and increasing participation. Informal sessions like Coffee Talks fostered deeper discussions on specialized topics such as Green PMOs and Cybersecurity Project Management.

By 2024, the initiative became a trusted resource, supporting thousands of professionals and elevating project management standards, aligning with Vision 2030. Between 2020 and 2024, PMI KSA drove a knowledge-sharing movement, publishing over 400 articles, with a %1,200 growth in five years. Topics like Generative AI in Project Management and Sustainability in Mega Projects positioned it as a leading global resource.

Diverse and Impactful Content

The initiative's success stemmed from relevance and inclusivity, covering basics for beginners, specialized topics for experts, and industry insights, while thought leadership articles sparked innovation.

A Community of Shared Knowledge

This movement fostered collaboration, offering insights on strategic alignment, PMP preparation, and AI in project management, driving career growth and innovation.

The Results

%400

increase in annual events from 2020 to 2024

covering cutting-edge trends and traditional fundamentals

over
250
unique topics

Revolutionizing Knowledge Sharing
A Movement for Global Impact

Driving Strategic Goals and Vision 2030

Aligned with Vision 2030, the initiative promoted innovation, sustainability, and excellence, positioning Saudi Arabia as a global project management leader.



A LEGACY OF TRANSFORMATION

The journey of creating an educational experience and revolutionizing knowledge sharing in project management is a testament to the power of vision, collaboration, and determination. With over 400 educational events and 400 published articles, PMI KSA has redefined excellence in project management, empowering professionals to rise to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

As we look ahead, the legacy is clear: a transformed community

inspired to lead with knowledge and innovation ready to shape the future +



**Together
we've proven that when passion and strategy come together, the
possibilities are limitless.**

02.

Transforming the Project Management Landscape

EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

From 2020 to 2024, the project management community witnessed a transformative journey through the launch of over 31 impactful initiatives, aimed at building a stronger, more inclusive, and innovative professional network. These initiatives were carefully crafted to address the diverse needs of project management professionals, while also fostering collaboration, innovation, and social impact. Each initiative served as a stepping stone toward enhancing the skills, knowledge, and engagement of the project management community, setting new benchmarks in the field.



FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE & ENGAGEMENT

Knowledge sharing was at the heart of these initiatives. Programs such as Question of the Day, Knowledge Hub, and the PM Study Group were designed to provide professionals with accessible and interactive platforms to enhance their expertise. These initiatives encouraged active learning and engagement, equipping project managers with practical insights and tools to excel in their roles. The PM Study Group, in particular, became a critical resource for certification preparation, offering structured support to aspiring professionals.



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MENTORSHIP & VOLUNTEERISM

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Mentorship and volunteerism played pivotal roles in shaping the project management community. The Mentorship Program connected seasoned professionals with emerging talent, fostering a culture of knowledge transfer and mutual growth. Similarly, the Saudi Incubator for Volunteer Work and the Best Volunteer of the Month initiative recognized and rewarded individuals who went above and beyond to contribute to the profession. These programs not only strengthened the community but also reinforced the values of collaboration and service.



INNOVATIVE PLATFORMS FOR ENGAGEMENT

To spark creativity and encourage collaboration, several unique platforms were introduced. The PMI KSA Coffee Talks brought professionals together for informal discussions on pressing topics, creating a space for knowledge sharing and networking. Meanwhile, initiatives like the Smile & Learn with PMI KSA Competition added a playful yet educational twist, engaging participants in fun challenges that also reinforced project management concepts.





03.

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Transforming the Project Management Landscape

PMI KSA'S RELENTLESS MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Membership growth is a clear indicator of an organization's value and impact, and PMI KSA has set a benchmark for success with its remarkable growth trajectory from 2020 to 2024. This growth, which saw membership numbers soar from 2,849 in 2020 to 8,200 in 2024, is the result of a relentless strategy and countless efforts to sustain positive growth and create value for the project management community in Saudi Arabia.

2021

1,738
membership

ADAPTING AND INNOVATING AMID CHALLENGES

The year 2021 presented unique challenges due to the global pandemic, which disrupted industries worldwide. PMI KSA not only adapted but thrived, leveraging digital transformation to deliver value to its members. Although membership dipped to 1,738 during this period, it became a pivotal year in redefining the chapter's strategy. Virtual events, including Q&A workshops, mentorship programs, and thought leadership panels, ensured members continued to benefit from professional development opportunities. The organization's ability to innovate during this time laid the groundwork for the explosive growth that followed.

2022



THE GROWTH SPURT REBOUNDED AND THRIVING

By 2022, membership numbers rebounded dramatically, climbing to 3,861, a 122% increase from the previous year. This growth was fueled by the chapter's commitment to delivering high-value initiatives that aligned with the Kingdom's Vision 2030. Programs such as Women's International Day, and Dialogue with Leaders attracted a diverse group of professionals eager to expand their skills and contribute to the project management community.

2023

4,895
membership

SUSTAINING MOMENTUM & BUILDING EXCELLENCE

The upward trajectory continued in 2023, with membership reaching 4,895, marking another year of impressive growth. PMI KSA's focus on delivering tailored content, such as advanced certifications and niche workshops, ensured its appeal to a wide audience. Signature initiatives like Smile & Learn with PMI KSA enhanced member engagement and satisfaction. The chapter also strengthened partnerships with industry leaders, further cementing its role as a hub for project management excellence.

2024



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS IN 2024

By 2024, PMI KSA's membership soared to an unprecedented 8,200, representing a 68% increase from the previous year and a 188% overall growth since 2020. This milestone reflects the chapter's relentless pursuit of excellence and its ability to create a thriving community that delivers tangible value. The success was driven by the introduction of initiatives like the Saudi Incubator for Volunteer Work, Formula 1 Schools Competition, and Advanced Leadership Workshops, which broadened the chapter's appeal and solidified its reputation as a leader in the project management field.

04.

Sustaining Positive Growth

PMI KSA'S RELENTLESS STRATEGY FOR IMPACTFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Over the five years from 2020 to 2024, PMI KSA achieved extraordinary growth in its hours of impact, delivering a cumulative total of 10,960 hours that directly contributed to the professional and personal development of its members. This remarkable accomplishment reflects the chapter's relentless strategy and unwavering commitment to sustaining positive growth and creating lasting value for the project management community in Saudi Arabia.

A Journey of Consistent Growth



In 2020, PMI KSA laid the foundation for its impactful initiatives, achieving 592 hours of impact through targeted programs and events. Recognizing the potential for greater reach and influence, the chapter implemented a strategic approach to scale its efforts, resulting in an extraordinary leap to 2,324 hours in 2021—a staggering 292% increase. This milestone highlighted the effectiveness of its new programs and marked a turning point in the chapter's ability to deliver meaningful engagement.

The momentum continued in 2022, as PMI KSA recorded its highest-ever hours of impact, reaching 3,132 hours, a further 35% growth from the previous year. This peak reflected the success of a wide range of initiatives, from mentorship programs and workshops to leadership dialogues and youth-focused competitions. Despite a slight decline in subsequent years, the chapter maintained a consistently high level of impact, achieving 2,520 hours in 2023 and 2,392 hours in 2024, underscoring its commitment to sustained value creation.

The Strategy Behind the Success

PMI KSA's success in achieving this impressive growth was no coincidence. It was the result of a well-crafted strategy designed to address the evolving needs of the project management community while aligning with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

The commitment to nurturing future talent was evident in initiatives like the Formula 1 Schools Competition and the Introductory Lecture on Project Management at Google Club. These programs introduced students and young professionals to the world of project management, igniting their interest and preparing them to take on leadership roles in the future. Participation in the Google Student Hackathon Jury, focusing on the use of artificial intelligence in project management, further underscored the commitment to aligning with cutting-edge trends and inspiring innovation among the youth.



SOCIAL IMPACT AND EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Beyond professional development, these initiatives also demonstrated a commitment to social responsibility. The Pediatric Oncology Hospital Visits brought smiles and hope to children undergoing treatment, showcasing the community's compassion and humanity. Similarly, initiatives like the Development of a Comprehensive DBA Program emphasized the importance of emotional intelligence and creating a positive impact in society through project management.



05.

PMI KSA

A JOURNEY OF GROWTH & IMPACT (2024–2020)

Since its establishment in 2020, PMI KSA has rapidly emerged as a cornerstone for project management excellence in Saudi Arabia. Through relentless dedication to advancing the profession, empowering professionals, and driving sustainable growth, PMI KSA has achieved remarkable milestones.

Its efforts have resulted in 800 PDUs delivered, 133 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) signed, a thriving social media following of over 190,000, and contributions to eight Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These achievements reflect a commitment to building a dynamic and forward-thinking project management community.



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BUILDING AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

PMI KSA's exceptional growth in social media followers—reaching over 190,000—highlights its ability to connect with a broad audience and create a thriving online community. By leveraging digital platforms, the chapter ensured that its events, resources, and thought leadership were accessible to professionals across Saudi Arabia and beyond. This vibrant online presence amplified the chapter's reach, fostering a sense of community and enabling professionals to engage with cutting-edge industry insights.



06.

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Saudi Arabia's Unmatched Excellence in Project Management Certifications

A STRATEGIC LEAP FORWARD

Through a well-crafted strategic approach, Saudi Arabia has risen to global prominence in project management excellence, achieving unparalleled milestones in professional certifications. These achievements reflect a focused effort to equip professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to execute the ambitious initiatives of Vision 2030, transforming the Kingdom into a hub of expertise and innovation.



1st GLOBALLY

Guided by this strategy, Saudi Arabia now ranks first globally in Risk Management Professional (PMI-RMP) certifications, holding an extraordinary 36.2% of the worldwide total (7,365 out of 20,347). This accomplishment underscores the Kingdom's commitment to preparing its professionals to identify and mitigate risks in complex projects, a critical capability in delivering Vision 2030's transformative agenda.



The Kingdom has also achieved significant progress in PMO-CP certifications, with a 60% increase in December 2024 alone, adding 294 new certifications in a single month.





2nd GLOBALLY

The strategic emphasis on portfolio, scheduling, and business analysis has also propelled Saudi Arabia to second globally in certifications such as Portfolio Management Professional (PfMP), Scheduling Professional (PMI-SP), PMI Professional in Business Analysis (PMI-PBA), and PMO Certified Practitioner (PMO-CP). Notably, in 2024 alone, Saudi Arabia recorded an astounding 205 new PfMP certifications, representing 44% of global PfMP certifications that year—three times the number achieved by the United States during the same period. This remarkable growth reduced the gap to becoming the global leader in PfMP certifications to just 48 certifications, reflecting the success of the strategic push to develop portfolio management expertise.





3rd GLOBALLY

In addition, Saudi Arabia ranks third globally in certifications such as Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM), Program Management Professional (PgMP), and PMI Construction Professional (PMI-CP). These achievements highlight the Kingdom's comprehensive approach to developing project management capabilities across a broad spectrum of industries, aligning with the diverse demands of Vision 2030 projects.





5th GLOBALLY

Overall, Saudi Arabia now ranks fifth globally in the number of professionals holding one or more PMI certifications, with 49,727 certified individuals, representing 3% of the worldwide total. This reflects the success of strategic initiatives to foster professional development and build a workforce capable of executing large-scale and complex projects.



These achievements are the result of a deliberate and relentless strategy to elevate the standards of project management across Saudi Arabia. By aligning certification priorities with the goals of Vision 2030, the Kingdom has ensured that its professionals are equipped with cutting-edge skills to manage risks, optimize resources, and deliver world-class results.



07.

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Empowering the Future

PMI KSA'S SUPPORT FOR FORMULA 1 IN SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS

In its relentless pursuit of empowering the next generation of leaders and innovators, the PMI Saudi Arabia Chapter (PMI KSA) has become a cornerstone of inspiration for Saudi student teams competing in the globally renowned Formula 1 in Schools program. This transformative STEM competition challenges students to push the boundaries of creativity, design, and engineering as they build and race miniature Formula 1 cars. Through strategic mentorship and unwavering guidance, PMI KSA has not only elevated the skills and confidence of these young visionaries but also positioned Saudi Arabia on the global stage for excellence and innovation.

PMI KSA's collaboration with these student teams has resulted in extraordinary achievements that highlight the synergy of innovation and project management:

Clad Team

Honored with the Enterprise Portfolio Award, this team stood out for their exceptional ability to manage and present a comprehensive business and marketing strategy, exemplifying strategic thinking and entrepreneurship.

Oryx Team

Celebrated for engineering brilliance, they earned the Best Engineered Car Award for their outstanding application of advanced engineering principles, pushing the boundaries of creativity and technical expertise.

Shaheen Team

Demonstrating the transformative power of project management, they secured the Best Application of Project Management Award, showcasing superior planning, execution, and organizational excellence.



PMI KSA's dedication to innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving empowers Saudi youth, aligning with Vision 2030. Through mentorship and initiatives like Formula 1 in Schools, it fosters leadership and prepares future change-makers. The success of Clad, Oryx, and Shaheen showcases the power of passion, guidance, and opportunity, setting a benchmark for future innovators. PMI KSA continues to shape young minds, driving transformation and global excellence.



08.

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Driving Impact

PROJECT MANAGEMENT LOCALIZATION THROUGH PMI KSA COLLABORATION



Human Resources and
Social Development

The Project Management Localization Program, launched in collaboration with PMI Saudi Arabia Chapter (PMI KSA) and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD), has profoundly impacted Saudi Arabia's workforce and national development. By equipping thousands of professionals with world-class project management skills through tailored training, certifications, and mentorship, the program has empowered Saudis to lead and execute complex projects with precision and innovation.

PMI KSA's strategic involvement has ensured that local talent plays a pivotal role in driving key national initiatives and advancing Vision 2030's transformative goals. This collaboration has created a sustainable framework for professional development, significantly increasing the number of certified Saudi project managers and positioning them in leadership roles. By localizing expertise and fostering innovation, the program has left a lasting legacy, ensuring Saudi Arabia's readiness to navigate future challenges and solidifying its position as a global leader in project management excellence.

09.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY



The field of project management thrives on innovation, leadership, and collaboration, and the recognition of significant contributions to the community is a testament to the transformative impact of these efforts. In 2020, the World PMO Leader of the Year Award by the PMO Global Alliance was awarded in acknowledgment of the exceptional leadership that redefined how project management offices (PMOs) drive value and enable strategic success.

In 2023, the PMOGA Fellow Award was granted as recognition of sustained efforts to advance project management practices globally. This honor reflects the commitment to fostering innovation, developing talent, and elevating the standards of the profession. Additionally, in the same year, the Best Leader in Strategy Implementation award from the Strategy Implementation Institute celebrated the ability to turn strategic goals into actionable results, creating tangible value for organizations and communities alike.



These awards are a reflection of the broader impact made on the project management community. They highlight the importance of collaborative efforts, innovative practices, and an unwavering dedication to empowering professionals and advancing the field as a whole.