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Canada's Association of Information Technology (IT) Professionals

Resident Bloggers

Stephen Ibaraki

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FCIPS, I.S.P., DFNPA, CNP,
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IT Pro Advisor
Microsoft Canada**Meet, Share, Learn at the Premier Conference for IT Professionals**

I attend many conferences but there is one that I feel requires your particular attention—INFORMATICS 2006, May 28-30 in Victoria BC.

It is specifically geared for you and so I highly recommend you attend. INFORMATICS 2006 is the premier conference for IT Managers and professionals with "Six thought-provoking keynote sessions, twenty-six workshop sessions focusing on topics related to management, technology, information security and human resources, ITIL Foundation certification, ICCP certification and a post INFORMATICS workshop on RFID." I encourage everyone to continually look at the CIPS INFORMATICS website, www.cipsinformatics.ca for the latest updates.

I am so passionate about the real value you will get from this conference, that I interviewed CIPS [executive director](#), Mary Jean Kucerak where she talks about its history and details the many benefits to "Project Managers, analysts, IT leaders, consultants, anyone who considers themselves an IT professional and who wants to stay on the leading edge of technology issues, add value to their employers or clients and advance their IT careers. The program and registration packages are designed in such a way to encourage IT practitioners at all levels to participate in some way, whether it is for the full event, one or two particular workshops, or just to hear our thought provoking keynotes."

There is even a special bonus/award program for the first 300 to register for the conference. Check the [INFORMATICS web site](#) regularly for the latest details.

Take a moment to read this interview to find out more:
<http://www.stephenibarak.com/cips/v125/mjkucerk.html>

Thank you,
Stephen Ibaraki

Published Friday, January 13, 2006 9:54 AM by [cdnitmgr](#)

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Comments**# re: Meet, Share, Learn at the Premier Conference for IT Professionals**

Monday, January 16, 2006 9:35 AM by [Tatiana Andronache](#)

Nice job as a promotional effort for the Conference. But when are we going to see an interview addressing the real problems facing CIPS? Such as the steady decline in membership, the perceived inertia at national level, the joke which is the certification program? I wonder why the people who draw a salary from CIPS do not see coming the day when they will no longer be able to do so...

re: Meet, Share, Learn at the Premier Conference for IT Professionals

Wednesday, January 18, 2006 5:18 PM by [Stephen Ibaraki](#)

Hello Tatiana,

You bring up some interesting points and an interview about the hard questions is one that I'll look at doing.

In my opinion, the numbers decline has stabilized and we will see growth again. I feel this was a result of the Dot Com bust. This trend was felt worldwide and there have been articles written about it. I also have relationships with many international experts and this is the common opinion when we discuss IT and IT professional groups. I know that the board and CIPS national are working hard to provide more benefits to members and to engage with IT professionals on an expanded level. This forum is one example but there are initiatives on the certification front too. You will be hearing more about them in 2006. Sometimes I think Canadians in particular look too much inward. From an international perspective, CIPS, our academic accreditation, and professional credentialing programs are well respected and looked upon as a model. This viewpoint has been consistent across-the-board in all my discussions. I believe this means something and we can build on it. We have a good brand and it provides a good base.

I work with and talk to professionals worldwide and from this perspective I have some opinions on certification. Specifically vendor certifications have taken a hit after the dot com bust and it is one of the comments I have received behind the scenes. There is a trend towards professionalism and a broader based credentialing system. Vendors are moving in this direction now. However, this is what CIPS has and is expanding upon. For example, their work on a IT Body of Knowledge is one example. So CIPS is a model others are looking at due to its leadership. However the IT field is still relatively a young one compared to other professions so you can look at a longer process for broader build-out. The recognition of the CIPS I.S.P. by the Ontario School Board system is an example of this build-out or the recognition by the NPA of the I.S.P. in their network credentialing. This is going to take time and more hard work but



John Oxley
Director IT Pro Evangelism
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it will happen.

Thank you,
Stephen Ibaraki, I.S.P.

re: Meet, Share, Learn at the Premier Conference for IT Professionals

Wednesday, January 18, 2006 7:33 PM by [Stephen Ibaraki](#)

Here's a recent discussion that brings another perspective including comments about CIPS certification:

<http://blogs.technet.com/cdnitmanagers/archive/2005/12/05/415526.aspx#comments>

Thank you,
Stephen Ibaraki

re: Meet, Share, Learn at the Premier Conference for IT Professionals

Thursday, January 19, 2006 10:47 AM by [Stephen Ibaraki](#)

I asked Dr. Maria Klawe, the hard questions about the profession and some trends over the past years. She supports the idea that the dot com bust had an impact. It's worth listening to her since she provides many ideas. She is a world-renowned computer scientist, educator, innovator and entrepreneur. Maria is also the past Dean of Science at UBC and current Dean of Engineering at Princeton. Here's the interview: http://www.microsoft.com/canada/technet/media/Dr_Maria_Klawe.mp3

Here's a blog I did on Maria:
<http://blogs.technet.com/cdnitmanagers/archive/2005/12/02/415464.aspx>

Thank you,
Stephen Ibaraki

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