

Small is Big Enough:

Growing a Group of Enthusiasts into the Chapter of the Year

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PMI Culture Value: All

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- This presentation is for registered attendees of Asia Pacific-South Asia LIM 2026.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Transform their chapter's activities into clear, measurable achievements aligned with PMI Chapter of the Year criteria; and
- Use the award preparation process as a strategic tool for chapter reflection and growth.

Key Takeaways

- Gain a practical framework for turning chapter activities into measurable achievements
- Learn how to structure a strong Chapter of the Year application
- Discover how the preparation process can help chapters reflect on their impact, improve internal processes, and strengthen their strategic storytelling

Be Welcoming

How we evolved

Our Journey: 2009–2018

- Kicked off as a commercial project
- Community had to "kill the dragon"
- Grew into a community of enthusiasts
- Three refused NGO applications
- Officially registered as an NGO



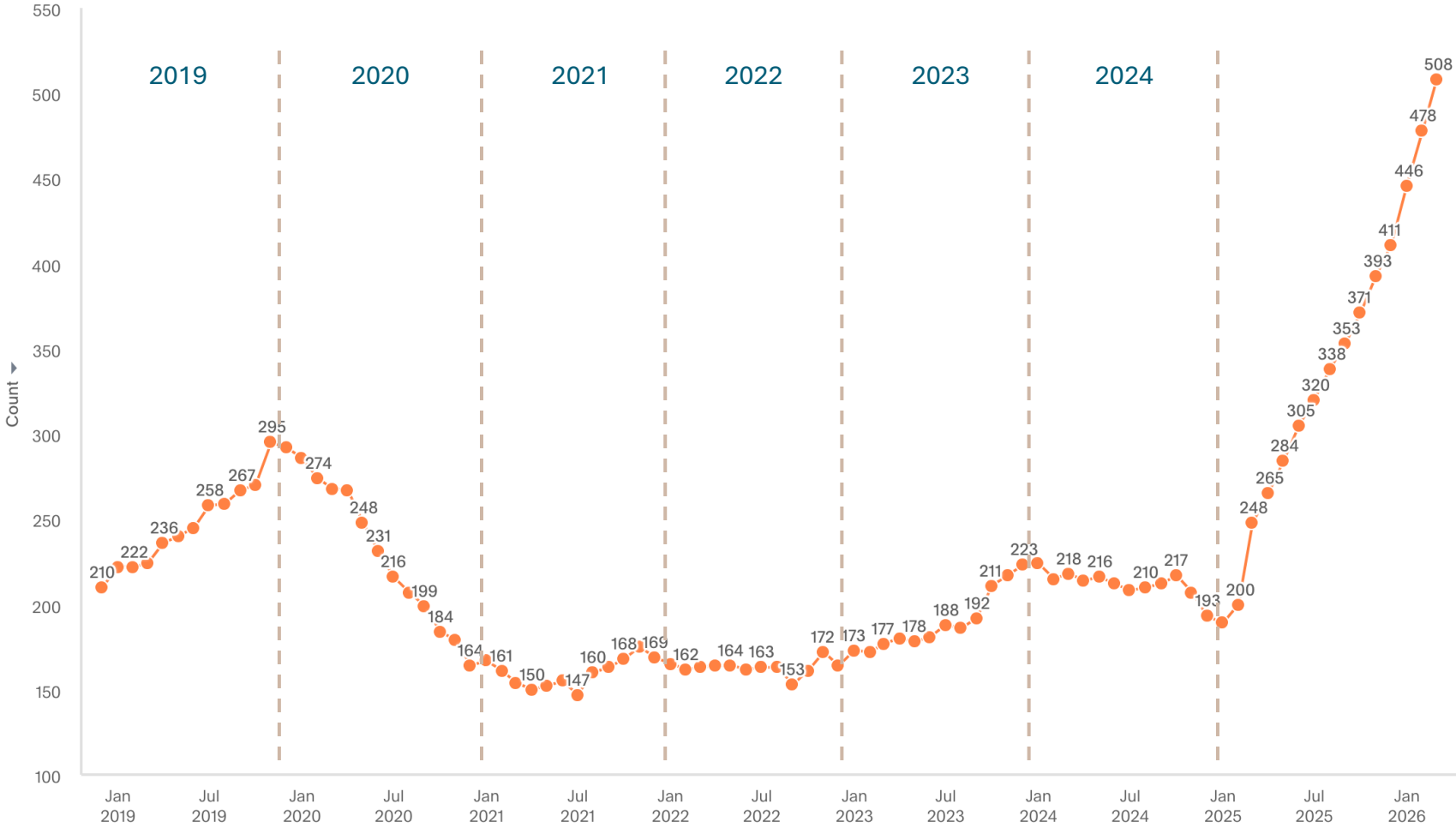
Together We Can
Forever №2

Evolution of the Chapter

- **Two annual conferences** had become a well-established tradition.
- **Volunteers were engaged**, though many contributed only on a short-term basis.
- Memo of understanding with **several key universities**
- **Partnership agreements** helped secure **free event venues**.
- **Coffee talks** remained a key community-building tradition.



Membership at a glance





Aim Higher

Preparing the Winning Application

The Application 2024

1

• Motivated Leader

- Delegate to Global Summit = application coordinator
-
- Grateful for the opportunity, he gladly accepted the duty of coordinating our application process

2

• Gearing Up

- Understand the rules
-
- Review PMI's award criteria
 - Created a roadmap for structuring the submission

3

• Stay Calm

- **Time for troubles**
-
- Ilyas requested a comprehensive list of all 2023 events, and we realized we didn't have one.

4

• Volunteer Power

- Time for troubleshooting from volunteers
-
- Contingent volunteer role to analyze public communications
 - Volunteer compiled a **perfect summary** of events

5

• Hello, AI

- Used ChatGPT to organize the text
-
- Help with structure
 - Mapping achievements to award criteria

6

• Polish & Launch

- Final edits
-
- With a solid draft in hand, we finalized the application to capture our chapter's voice and spirit



PMI Volunteers

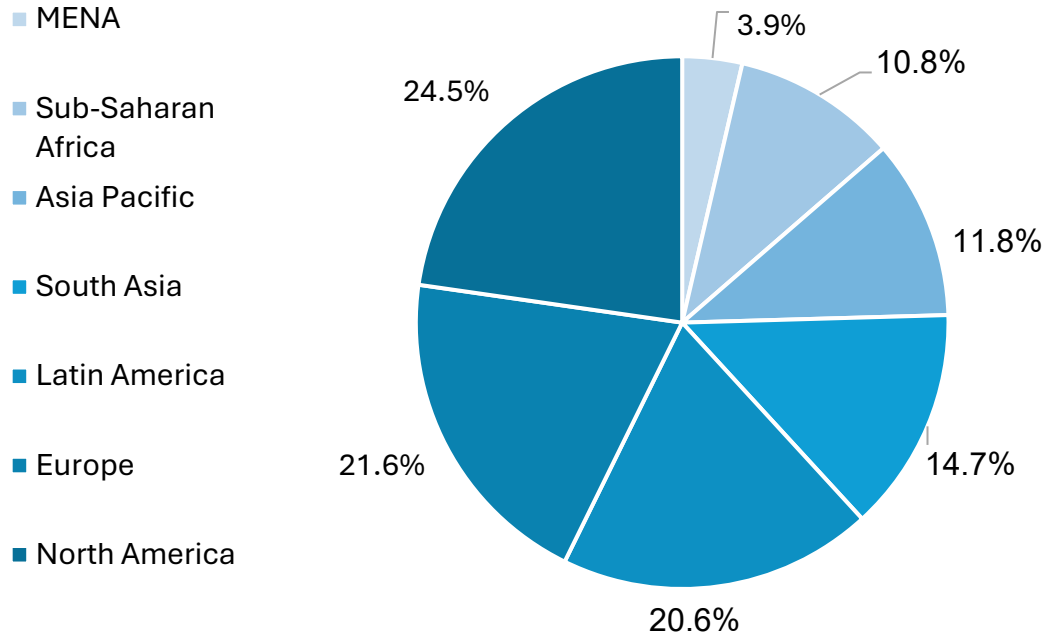


Embrace Curiosity

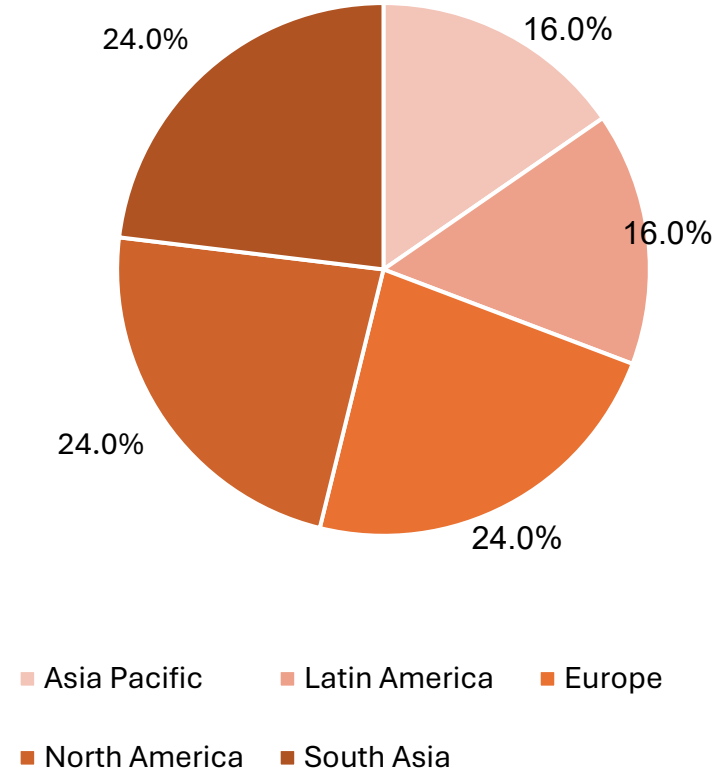
Science and Arts of Chapter Awards

- Total 109 finalists, 26 winners

Finalists by Region



Winners by Region



The idea is...

Size and subjective success are not barriers. Preparing an application is important for every chapter, regardless of how big or small they perceive themselves to be.

Don't be modest.
You've done great work.
Document it and apply.



Make It Easy
Let's actually make it

PMI Chapter of the Year Award – Key Criteria

- **Impact on the Community (20%)**

- How the chapter leverages project management expertise to create social impact.
- Explain how community members, sponsors, and PMs were involved in projects.
- Measurable outcomes and benefits (e.g., supporting sustainability goals).
- Partnerships with other organizations that enhanced outreach.
- Detail how feedback was collected and used for future improvements

- **Community Knowledge Empowerment (20%)**

- Describe your knowledge development initiative.
- Describe how you made PMI content accessible and engaging for members
- Describe your events
- Describe how you created discussion and networking opportunities
- Describe how you collaborated with other organizations to expand resources and enrich learning

PMI Chapter of the Year Award – Key Criteria

- **Member Engagement and Satisfaction (20%)**

- Describe how the chapter welcomes and integrates new members.
- What you do to retain members
- Levels of member participation in chapter events, meetings, and activities
- How you enhance the member experience (networking, resources, or support)
- How chapter acknowledge and celebrate member contributions and achievements

- **Sustainable Chapter and Volunteer Excellence (20%)**

- Use structured recruitment and onboarding strategies to attract new volunteers.
- Recognize and appreciate volunteer contributions regularly.
- Provide training and development opportunities to enhance volunteer skills.
- Gather volunteer feedback and actively address their concerns.
- Implement retention initiatives to foster long-term volunteer commitment and leadership growth.

PMI Chapter of the Year Award – Key Criteria

- **PMI Culture Values (20%)**
- Describe how the chapter embodies PMI's values:
- **Make It Easy:** Reducing barriers to engagement.
- **Aim Higher:** Setting long-term goals for excellence.
- **Be Welcoming:** Creating an inclusive and respectful environment.
- **Embrace Curiosity:** Promoting continuous learning and improvement.
- **Together We Can:** Fostering teamwork and global alignment.

Practice in groups (10 min)

1. Your group picks one chapter (should be represented on your table)
2. Representative of the chapter picks one criterion they find most challenging to address in the Chapter of the Year application
3. Share what your chapter has done related to this criterion: events, initiatives, or programs (even something small)
4. Group helps the chapter to reframe these activities as achievements that align with the award criteria. Think about how you'd write this in the application to highlight your chapter's impact



Example:

When establishing a new regional branch, the chapter made a deliberate choice: rather than appointing a branch leader from the top, we brought all three local volunteers together and asked them directly: who should lead this team? The result was organic consensus, with the group unanimously pointing to the same candidate.

This reflects a principle the chapter holds consistently: volunteers who are closest to the work have the clearest voice in shaping it. Even at the smallest organizational unit, a three-person regional branch, that principle was not set aside for convenience. Volunteer input was not ceremonial; it was the deciding factor.

What's next?

- Start preparing your submission. You might be doing more than you realize.
- Use the process as a reflection tool.
- Don't be afraid to showcase your chapter's impact.

Thank you!

Let's continue the conversation!



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Thank You!

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