

Your Community

Music in Italy

The 2009 MPI Italia Chapter's General Assembly held in early July in Acireale, Sicily, was far from usual in its educational content—instead of lecture, keynote, network, delegates embarked on an allegorical journey on the "making of" a meeting through the rehearsal of an orchestra performing a classic quartet.

MPI Netherlands Chapter member Ruud Janssen facilitated the board retreat prior to the meeting as part of the chapter's ambassador program, which invites each of MPI's 69 chapters to appoint an envoy to exchange information and experiences with MPI Italia and create joint initiatives and partnerships. As for Janssen, he embraced his role as facilitator.

"I knew I could trust the Italian emotional intelligence—the way people speak and listen to each other—to enhance interaction and maximise outputs," he said. "Generally speaking, a facilitator should understand where the track is and try to channel the discussion—just presenting the hardware, where the software is crafted by the experience and the cleverness of the participants. This makes things simple and less complicated than they are and brings on a careful discussion. In this Italian general assembly I didn't have to observe the group dynamic; everything worked perfectly by itself."

—Stefano Ferri



Speak Out in 2010

MPI calls all professional speakers, faculty, subject-matter experts and meeting planners and suppliers to submit proposals for the World Education Congress 2010 (scheduled 24-27 July in Vancouver, British Columbia). The event is the world's largest annual gathering of meeting and event professionals. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 1. Visit www.mpiweb.org/events/callforspeakers.aspx for more information.

Got a Minute?

Share your passion for the MPI community, and profit. Every time you recruit a new, full-paying member, you'll receive a £25 or €25 credit toward your membership renewal. Recruit 13 new members and your entire renewal fee is covered. To get credit, have the new member put your name or ID number in the application's "referred by" section.

Making a Difference



Helping Individuals Succeed

Francesca Corradi, CMP, joined MPI in February—less than a month before the European Meetings and Events Conference in Torino—eager to connect with colleagues and peers from across the globe and continue developing her professional skills.

"I wanted to attend the Torino conference to increase my expertise in preparation for the CMP exam," she recalled.

And while her company was unable to pay for her attendance at the event, the MPI Foundation was ready to help. Prompted by Antonio Duceschi, MPI's director of sales and partnership development in EMEA, Corradi applied for a scholarship to attend the annual educational event for free. She was quickly accepted.

"The grant allowed me to attend the conference in Torino, where I was able to get a deeper insight on industry challenges and trends and also expand my professional network," Corradi said.

Peers at the event also alerted her to the MPI

Foundation's CMP Online Study Guide, which she credits for her ultimate achievement—the receipt of her certification as a meeting professional.

What helped Corradi can help any MPI member. Every year, the MPI Foundation offers thousands of euros for members seeking to advance their education in meetings and events. In 2008, individuals received nearly €35,000 in scholarships from the MPI Foundation for educational projects and learning opportunities.

Applications for the next series of grants are due Sept. 30. To apply, visit www.mpiweb.org/foundation.



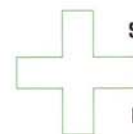
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