

Project Management Framework for the 2026 Pan American Conference in Transportation and Logistics Research

Introduction

The upcoming XIII Pan American Conference in Transportation and Logistics Research (PANAM 2026) is a premier forum for exchanging knowledge and driving innovation in the field. This project applies a structured project management approach aligned with PMI-PMBOK standards to ensure efficient planning, execution, and accessibility of the conference. PANAM 2026 represents a critical opportunity to advance transportation and logistics research through a dual-site model between San Diego State University and Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, requiring a robust project management framework to ensure successful execution and establish standards for future conferences.

The significance of this project lies in its potential to enhance global collaboration, streamline event management, and leverage technology for a seamless conference experience. As an MSIS project, it integrates key principles of information systems, project management, and digital innovation to ensure effective planning and execution. By addressing logistical and technological challenges with structured methodologies, this project aligns with the core competencies of MIS, making it a vital contribution to the field.

Objectives:

1. Develop and implement a project management framework to optimize the planning, coordination, and execution of PANAM 2026.
2. Design and deploy a comprehensive database and dashboard to track key conference metrics, analyse historical trends, and support data-driven decision-making for future events.
3. Implement a dual-site conference model to enhance international engagement and accessibility

Methodology:

- **Conference Planning & Documentation:** A systematic project management framework in accordance with PMI-PMBOK guidelines will be established in this project. To record best practices, lessons learnt, and standardised procedures, an extensive conference handbook will be created. This manual will serve as a foundational reference for future PANAM conferences.
- **Data-Driven Insights:** To monitor important conference parameters like participant demographics, research themes, and nation participation, a centralised database will be created. To improve event planning and strategic decision-making, past conference trends will be examined. Additionally, an interactive dashboard will provide real-time monitoring and reporting of conference performance indicators.
- **International Collaboration:** In collaboration with SDSU and UABC, a dual-site conference format will be used to assist participants facing visa restrictions. This collaboration will leverage funding and institutional support to facilitate a seamless hybrid conference experience. Robust cross-border communication channels will be established to ensure smooth logistical operations between two locations.

Preliminary Timeline:

- **February 2025:** Initial project planning, stakeholder engagement, and framework development.
- **March 2025:** Finalization of project management framework, data collection strategy, and preliminary database structure.
- **April 2025:** Development of the conference database, analysis of historical trends, and initial draft of the conference manual.
- **May 2025:** Refinement of data insights and completion of the conference manual.

References:

PANAM 2026 Conference. (2024). *PANAM 2026 Conference website*.

<https://www.panamstr.org/sandiego-2026>

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