


PMI Eric Jenett

PERSON OF THE **YEAR**



TAOPHEEK BABAYEJU

About PMI Eric Jenett Person of the Year Award



The PMI Eric Jenett Person of The Year Award recognizes and honors an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the project management profession or its practice through leadership, technical project management, and strategic and business management acumen.

Award Criteria

To be eligible and awarded the prestigious award the honoree must satisfy the following criteria

1. Exceptional contributions and lasting positive impact on the project management profession over a decade.
2. Contributions to the project management profession demonstrate benefits to the larger project management community
3. Contributions demonstrate excellence in leadership and initiative.
4. Contributions demonstrate an understanding of PMI standards, practices, and ethics.
5. Contributions are impactful within the individual's organization or industry as demonstrated by specific benchmarks of changes.



PMI GLOBAL NAMED TAOPHEEK BABAYEJU PERSON OF THE YEAR



History was made on the 19th of September 2024 when Taopheek Babayeju was named the Person of the Year by the Project Management Institute, USA at the Global Summit in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Babayeju was presented with the highly coveted Eric Jenett Award in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the project management profession, his technical expertise, strategic leadership, and business acumen.

TAOPHEEK BABAYEJU'S Outstanding Achievements

The summary below highlights the impact, outcomes, and results of Taopheek Babayeju's extraordinary efforts.

1. Taopheek Babayeju's exceptional contributions to the project management profession have had a lasting and profoundly positive impact, spanning over a decade. His transformative initiatives have not only reshaped project management practices in Nigeria but have also left an indelible mark on the broader project management community in Africa.

In 2009, Mr. Babayeju took a bold step by spearheading Nigeria's inaugural National Project Management Conference. Mr. Babayeju's visionary leadership in convening the historic event marked a pivotal moment in Nigeria's project management landscape. His commitment to fostering honest dialogue and finding sustainable solutions laid the groundwork for future advancements in the field.



The ProMaCon initiative is a unique and exceptional contribution to the advancement of the field of project management in Nigeria and Africa. An initiative started by Mr. Babayeju in Nigeria has expanded across the African continent.

2. Taopheek Babayeju's contributions to the project management profession have undoubtedly had a significant impact, not only within Africa but also within the larger project management community. His decade-long commitment to the development of project management practice in his home country Nigeria, the most populous black nation globally, has left a lasting impression on the profession.

One of Mr. Babayeju's most notable achievements is his role as a catalyst for the growth of project management practice in Africa. Through effective engagement with stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, he has been instrumental in elevating project management to a recognized career path in his home country Nigeria. This accomplishment has not only benefited professionals within West African region but has also raised awareness of project management





Left to right: Pierre Le Manh – President & CEO, Project Management Institute, PMI, Taopheek Babayeju, CEO, iCentra and Award Recipient – PMI Person of the Year, LuAnn Piccard – Chair, Board of Directors, Project Management Institute, PMI

3. Mr. Babayeju has no doubt demonstrated excellence in leadership and initiative through his work as a professional and his service to several organizations both business and not-for-profits. Dedicated to empowering people and organizations, Taopheek co-founded and leads several social enterprises, impacting hundreds of thousands through his initiatives such as LeadPreneur, ProMaCon Africa, W40 etc.

As a business leader with over two decades of professional experience, Mr. Babayeju has served as the CEO of iCentra, a leading business and technology solutions company since 2009. Under his leadership, the company has expanded its presence

from Abuja, Nigeria to Texas, United States and with contact office in London, United Kingdom, serving clients globally.

Mr. Babayeju who is also an angel investor and a mentor to many start-ups, his expertise in the field of technology and project management positioned him for leadership positions on the board of several business and not-for-profit organizations.

Mr. Babayeju has served as a member of government technology and innovation initiatives including the Presidential Committee on Innovation where he contributed to the development of innovation policy for the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Babayeju has garnered numerous prestigious awards, but one stands out as particularly significant within the field of Project Management. In 2010, the Project Management Institute, Nigeria

Chapter bestowed upon Mr. Babayeju Excellence Award for the **"Most Outstanding Contribution to Project Management in Nigeria"** marking a historic milestone in the discipline.

4. Mr. Babayeju, through his work has continued to live and demonstrate a deep understanding of PMI standards, practices, and ethics. His educational background, including an MBA from Lagos Business School and executive education from esteemed institutions like Harvard Business School, IESE Business School and numerous certifications reflect his relentless pursuit of knowledge and expertise. Mr. Babayeju is a published author, contributor at Forbes Magazine and columnist at BusinessDay newspaper amongst others. He has written numerous scholarly articles featured in major media platforms. As a keynote speaker, he advocates for leadership, entrepreneurship, technology and innovation.

Based on his documented extraordinary achievements in the field of project management, business and technology, Mr. Babayeju was designated by the United States government as a Person with Extraordinary Achievement and Abilities. And was duly granted permanent residency to extend his professional practice and business acumen to the United States. In the United States, besides from developing iCentra's business, Mr. Babayeju has continued to serve as a mentor at various PMI chapters like and educational institutions. He is an active member of PMI Dallas, PMI Fort Worth, and PMI Nigeria Chapters. He served as Vice President, Outreach (2011-12) at PMI Nigeria.



5. Mr. Babayeju's work has been impactful not only to his industry but also to his organization, he has cultivated a culture of project management excellence, ensuring that team members are equipped with certified project, programs and portfolio skills to deliver exceptional results for clients worldwide. Mr. Babayeju has demonstrated exemplary leadership in steering his team through high-impact transformation projects and overseeing multi-million-dollar portfolios across diverse sectors. At iCentra, he has played a pivotal role in driving digital, organizational, and agile transformations, establishing the company as a frontrunner in the field.

Under Mr. Babayeju's guidance, iCentra has spearheaded the establishment of numerous project and program management offices within both public and private organizations. Notably, their expertise has been instrumental in initiatives undertaken by prominent institutions such as Nigeria's apex bank, the federal revenue agency, and various other governmental agencies and development partners. Through these endeavors, Mr. Babayeju and his team have made significant contributions to enhancing operational efficiency, driving innovation, and achieving strategic objectives across a broad spectrum of sectors.



Taopheek Babayeju stands as an exemplary leader in the project management profession, distinguished by his outstanding accomplishments and unwavering dedication.

His visionary leadership, technical proficiency, and business acumen have set him apart as a trailblazer in the field, garnering both national and international acclaim.

A full-length portrait of Taopheek Babayeju, a Black man with a short beard, wearing a dark blue pinstripe suit over a white shirt. He is holding a small, dark award with both hands in front of his waist. The background is a vibrant red and blue geometric design with soft bokeh light effects.

Taopheek Babayeju

becomes the first African to receive
the prestigious honor from PMI

Taopheek Babayeju is an exemplary leader and entrepreneur known for his outstanding commitment to excellence and dedication to service. As a transformation expert and management and technology professional, he is passionate about developing individuals, transforming organizations, and impacting society.

His exceptional contributions to the project management profession have had a lasting and profoundly positive impact, spanning over a decade. His transformative initiatives have not only reshaped project management practices in Nigeria but have also left an indelible mark on the broader project management community in Africa.