



Toni Ruttiman

"el Suizo", "the Swiss", an extraordinary Project Manager, forty years old, of Swiss Citizenship, a polyglot, a man who has built 400 bridges around the world, in countries where wars or natural disasters were making everyday life difficult.

Toni can be considered to be a modern-day Saint, a second Saint Francis. He has no home; he owns just two small brief-cases - one for his personal effects, the other for his suspension bridge designs. Yes, because Toni helps the most destitute of people to build or re-build their own bridges to link up two sides of a river after a hurricane, an earthquake or an armed conflict.

The story began in Ecuador after a destructive earthquake. At the time Tony was twenty and, as he had finished his secondary studies, he decided to leave Engadina in Switzerland to go and help the survivors. Within a month a suspension bridge had been built utilizing used and scrap materials and the help of the people of the village destroyed by the earthquake.

After the first bridge others followed in Ecuador, Colombia, El Salvador and Honduras and then in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and yet other countries. To date Toni has built more than 400 suspension bridges, strictly for pedestrian use only. A support system has been created around him. He receives materials free of charge, the ropes are those discarded by the Swiss cableways, the tubes are from Tenaris, transportation and other materials are all offered to him free of charge. People on the spot build to his instructions. Toni is the perfect project manager. In his brief case he carries his personal computer with his calculation programs. Although he gave up his engineering studies to help poor people to build their bridges, he has excellent work organisation skills. He is also able to respond to everyone's needs and to build bridges from long distance too, developing projects and shipping all the necessary materials in short timescales, thanks also to Governments that by now have got to know him well and that help him to cut through the mass of bureaucracy.

He speaks with simplicity, smiles and shows films telling the stories of his bridges through the eyes of smiling, happy people. Bridges of love and we could also say of happiness. A real project manager who knows how to organize his work and how to build up his teams that consist of different people for each bridge, people who have never built bridges before.

At **the XXII IPMA WC in Rome**, as the key-note speaker, Toni will explain how his personal action and perseverance have succeeded in overcoming all difficulties and why the connection between heart and mind is essential for everyone involved in a project and even more of a basic requirement for a team to ensure success and accomplishment. Is this the first "bridge" to be built?

Come to Rome 2008 to hear Toni tell his key-note story, to learn how to make what appears difficult simple and share with him the happiness of good results.



Bridge, Cambodia



Bridge, Ecuador