TMMi CONQUER THE WORLD

TMMi® (Test Maturity Model Integration) is a model for test process improvement. The popularity of the TMMi Model is spreading at a rapid pace. In October 2017, it entered China and the TMMi scheme is available in Chinese – besides English, French and Spanish.
The internationally recognized software testing expert Erik van Veenendaal is the CEO of the TMMi Foundation. Debbie Archer, Managing Director iSQI LTD, spoke with him about the new developments of TMMi.

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Erik van Veenendaal
(www.erikvanveenendaal. nl) is a leading international consultant and trainer. He is one of the core developers of the TMap testing methodology and the TMMi improvement model. Since its foundation in 2002, Erik has been strongly involved in the International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB). From 2005 till 2009 he was the vice-president of the ISTQB organization. Today, he is the president of the Curaçao Testing Qualifications Board(CTQB).
Erik is a frequent keynote and tutorial speaker at international testing and quality conferences. For his major contribution to the field of testing, Erik received the European Testing Excellence Award (2007) and the ISTQB International Testing Excellence Award (2015).

You can follow Erik on twitter via @ErikvVeenendaal.

Debbie Archer: Erik, how is the TMMi model maturing globally?
Erik van Veenendaal: TMMi has become a leading model for test process improvement around the world. The uptake and interest is growing rapidly. As an IT industry, we are still far away from zero defects; this is even true with Agile. Don't get me wrong, Agile provides much added value and delivers many benefits, but of course doing Agile doesn't mean testing and testers are no longer needed. Good testing…. solid testing…. is and will remain indispensable in my view. Many organizations pushing towards a higher level of testing maturity have reported significant improvement, not just testing efficiency and effectiveness, but also the delivery of projects and business value.

TMMi is:

1. *an independent model, which includes not being linked to any commercial organization (the TMMi Foundation is non-profit)*

2. *freely available in several languages; currently (English, French, Spanish and Chinese)*

3. *life cycle and domain independent – so it fits both traditional and Agile approaches.*

One interesting aspect is that the content from TMMi is aligned to ISTQB® terminology.[1]

1. https://www.istqb.org/downloads/glossary.html

> **In Q3 2017 we have seen the number of exams taken double compared to the same quarter 2016.**

You mentioned ISTQB®; I understand that TMMi are seeking collaboration with ISTQB® National and Regional Member Boards.

Indeed, a number of ISTQB® Boards have already established themselves as local TMMi Local Chapters – it makes sense that we collaborate in support of the local testing communities. I am thrilled that the ISTQB® Boards for China, Finland, India, Italy, South Eastern Europe, Hungary, UK and France have now signed Chapter agreements.

Why is TMMi so relevant to the Chinese market?

China is making rapid developments in various fields – also in the software industry with an increasing impetus to guarantee software quality. CMMI is still very strong and well-known in China so the TMMi concept, and its benefit, is easily understood by enterprise organizations in China. We now have several accredited (lead) assessors in China, three organizations are TMMi accredited Assessment Service Providers and there are two recognized TMMi Professional training providers. But even more important there are already three organizations that are officially TMMi certified including one at Level 5 "Optimization". More are expected in the very near future.

You mentioned that the TMMi Professional exam is available in Chinese….

Yes, this was imperative; we saw increasing numbers of people seeking TMMi Professional certification in China and translating into Chinese showed commitment to the market, as well as making it more accessible. iSQI has made the exam available in paper format and it

will also be available on Pearson VUE. The reference book "The Little TMMi"[2] will also be very shortly available in Chinese to offer practical support.

You mentioned that the banking sector is especially interested in TMMi assessment? Is there a specific reason why?

Increasing compliance and regulatory, not only in China but across the world, are necessitating levels of governance that need a different approach. The integrity, management and security of information, including quality of the software by which they are produced and managed, is under even closer scrutiny. TMMi assessment can be a useful tool for assessing processes and reducing risk. If an organization can state we are already level at TMMi level 3 "Defined", then it will be a very clear statement to both internal and external stakeholders.

Is TMMi Professional Certification in good demand?

We are seeing a growing number of very active training providers across the world with growing demand for certification courses and the exam from organizations. The collaboration with the ISTQB® local chapters now starting will most likely increase awareness. Any organization seeking to improve its test processes and level of maturity will benefit from more understanding on the TMMi model. This is where the TMMi Professional certification program comes in. In Q3 2017 we have seen the number of exams taken double compared to the same quarter 2016.

Are there any other future plans for TMMi that you can share with our readers?

I think first of all TMMi will become the "standard" for test improvement in the world. Furthermore, we have recently published a document how to apply TMMi in an Agile context and there is more to come on this topic. We have recognized SCAMPI as a TMMi assessment method; anyone accredited as a SCAMPI (lead) appraiser can also now, in principle, become a (lead) assessor with TMMi. I think in the future, this is not tomorrow, further cooperation with other certification and standards organizations such as ISTQB® or the ISO 29119 committee would be interesting.[3]

How will SCAMPI appraisers transition to become TMMi assessors?

SCAMPI appraisers can apply to the TMMi Foundation to become accredited to perform TMMi assessments. They will need to demonstrate that they have experience in testing (as an example by having the necessary ISTQB® certification) and demonstrate understanding of the TMMi method by passing the TMMi professional certification.

Erik, I think one of the things I'm hearing from you is that TMMi Foundation are looking to be very inclusive and collaborative?

Yes, I think we've been looking too much to the inside, but are changing this to an outgoing perspective currently. Today we are seeking to stay close to the market, seeing what's needed and to work together with the broader community.

With a global aspiration which is certainly coming to fruition now.

Very much so – and bringing real return on investment and benefit for users and customers.

Thank you for the Interview.

2. http://www.erikvanveenendaal.nl/en/the-little-tmmi-objective-driven-test-process-improvement/
3. https://www.tmmi.org/case-studies/