



Inside Issue

August 2008 / Vol 2 Issue 1

- » [Note from the President](#)
- » [Did You Know](#)
- » [Interactive Corner](#)
- » [CCPM](#)
- » [PMI Board Elections](#)
- » [Recent Events](#)

Board of Directors

Bhaskar Swamy
President
Satyam Computer Services Ltd
bhaskar.swamy@pmi-chennai.org

Vajjiravelu Nemasayee
Vice President & Secretary
HP
vajjiravelu.nemasayee@pmi-chennai.org

M. Palaniappan
Vice President
Treasury & Finance
Redington India Ltd
palaniappan.m@pmi-chennai.org

B. Subramaniam
Vice President
Communication & Coordination
Covansys - a CSC Company
b.subramaniam@pmi-chennai.org

A. Chandrasekaran
Vice President
Education & Certification
Infycareer
achandra@pmi-chennai.org

Note from the President

Manage Your Career

As I write the September Message from the President, I was on my way back from Sydney, Australia via Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where Chennai bound plane just returned to the gate late due to inclement weather. Faced with a 4 hour delay, I have a couple of options. I can get really upset or I can accept the situation. As we know, getting upset is not going to be helpful. Life is the result of the choices we make. I might not have control over the weather, but I do have control over my own actions and how I prepare for unplanned events. Through pro-active management and the choices you make (including your attitude), you can have a significant impact on your own life.

Since work is a big part of our life, we should be ready to deal with situations that might face us in the workplace that are out of our control and might impact us positively or negatively. We should prepare for unplanned situations. What can you do?

Tips for Managing Your Career

- **Keep your resume up-to-date** - New bosses, re-organizations, mergers and job opportunities show up unexpectedly. Your resume should honestly and accurately describe your current skills and experiences. Keeping your resume current will mean you are continuously reflecting on the position you have and the position you want. It also means you will have it available when requested. Timing might make the difference between getting the job or not.
- **Invest in yourself** - Change is the only constant. It is important to continue to learn and grow; if it is a new technology, methodology or just a refresher. Step out of your comfort zone and pick up a new skill that would augment your current skill set. In today's market it is important to show that you are investing in yourself. If you lack the finances, volunteer or propose to work pro-bono somewhere to expand your skills.
- **Network** - Actively network with your long-term career needs in mind. Stay in contact with professionals in your field, friends, acquaintances and family. Help them reach their goals without expecting anything in return. Make sure to communicate your goals. Nobody can help you if they don't know what your objectives are. When you least expect it an opportunity might show up.
- **Take risks** - A lot of times we limit ourselves due to perceived risks that are not realistic. Risk manages your life. Think through the worst case scenarios, mitigate them as much as possible and see if you can live with them. Each of us has different tolerance levels for risk and also need to take into account those that are dependent on us.

Pursue your dreams and communicate them. Sometimes we limit ourselves by pursuing perfection. In 2002, I told my Vice President in Motorola that my goal was to work in India within two years. The US went into recession and the opportunity to relocate to Motorola, India became a wish list and the US economy has not recovered from recession till today. However, I had to make a choice filled with uncertainty and took the risk of moving back to India with my family. All I had with me was only persistence and never looked back, and in two years time I joined Satyam. I prepared myself for the worst case scenario, a great learning experience. Life can be a roller coaster and one has to bite the silver bullet with tenacity and courage and nothing can stop you.

Warm regards to all our members - you can also share your experience

Bhaskar Swamy, PMP
President, PMI-Chennai Chapter
president@board-pmichennai.org

Did you know?

Top 10 reasons for Project Success as per Standish Group

1. User Involvement

2. Executive Management Support
3. Clear Business Objectives
4. Optimizing Scope
5. Agile Process
6. Project Management Expertise
7. Financial Management
8. Skilled Resources
9. Formal Methodology
10. Standard Tools and Infrastructure

Interactive Corner

We all have heard the following aphorism called 90-90 rule:

" 90% of the IT project is completed in 90% of the scheduled time and the rest 10% takes another 90% time ".

- What will you attribute this to?
- What are the ways you feel we can avoid falling prey to this rule?
- How will you catch this anomaly early and make the reporting more accurate?

We want to hear from our members. The best answers will find a place in the next newsletter.

Critical Chain Project Management - Demystified

According to Wikipedia, Critical Chain Project Management (CCPM) is a method of planning and managing projects that puts more emphasis on the resources required to execute project tasks developed by Eliyahu M. Goldratt.

Critical Chain Project Management is based on methods and algorithms derived from his Theory of Constraints.

I am giving below a practical approach to applying CCPM concepts in our projects.

Tips for applying CCPM:

- Estimate Activity durations and probability of completion within the estimated duration [say for a task 20 hours with 50% probability, 27 hrs with 90% probability].
- Do the same for all activities in the project
- Build the project network taking only the 50% probability durations
- Do the resource leveling if required at this stage
- Build safety net by having feeding buffers at the end of major activity sequences. The safety net is obtained by finding the square Root of the activity contingencies – square of the difference between 90% duration and 50% duration.
- Build additional safety net by having project buffer at the end of critical chain. Leach suggests 25% of the Critical Chain duration for this.

We can have a PMI Chennai Chapter Talk on the above based on interest from our members.

B Subramaniam, PMP

PMI Board Elections - Please exercise your franchise

PMI Global has released the Election Ballot for this year board elections. These board members play a very significant role in devising the strategies for providing enhanced value to different stakeholders like Members, Business, and Government etc. On behalf of PMI Chennai Chapter we kindly urge you to use your vote to elect the suitable members who could add value to PM community and other stakeholders. Following are the list of members for this year Election 2008.

1. Vijay Prasad, MS, PMP
2. Suketu Nagrecha, MBA, PMP
3. Peter Monkhouse, BSc(Eng), MBA, PEng, PMP
4. Margaret W. Combe
5. Louis J. Mercken, MBA, PMP, PMI Fellow
6. Jon Mihalic, PMP
7. Jane Farley, FPMINZ, BSc, MSc, Dip. Lib., PMP
8. Deanna Landers, MBA, PMP
9. Ali A. Al-Ajmi

For more details about the candidates, please look at August 2008, PMI Today (From Page 7 - 9)

How to Vote Electronically

To have your vote received and counted instantly, you may submit your vote electronically by visiting <https://www.intelliscaninc.com/pmi2008.htm>. You will need to enter your election validation number, along with your PMI identification number. If you need to verify your PMI identification number, please contact customercare@pmi.org.

Recent Events

PMI India launch:



Celebration of the new PMI India office culminated in a lamp lighting ceremony. Symbolically, darkness is replaced by light, and ignorance is replaced by the virtue of gaining knowledge.



Gregory Balestrero, PMI CEO, honored Dr. E. Sreedharan, managing director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, for his outstanding contribution to India and to the project management profession. From left: Mr. Balestrero, Mr. Diab, Dr. Sreedharan, Mr. Kalady.

Leaders from government and industry joined PMI Chair Philip R. Diab, MBA, PMP, and PMI CEO Gregory Balestrero in New Delhi on 24 March to express PMI's commitment to the people of India and the role of project management in helping the nation to achieve its goals.

"Trained and credentialed project managers can help India unlock its obvious potential as they bring projects in on time and within budget, and make project management indispensable for predictable and positive business results that create value for an organization and its stakeholders," said Mr. Balestrero. "Mature project management practices close the gap between strategy and results."

"Now more than ever, we believe PMI must have a fully operational office in India given the huge infrastructure investment being made in India," said Mr. Diab, who is from Amman, Jordan.

Mr. Balestrero honored Dr. E. Sreedharan, who is revered as the father of project management in India.

Dr. Sreedharan, who holds a PhD, is managing director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. He conducted outstanding work on the Calcutta Metro, the Cochin Shipyard and the challenging Konkan Railway, which reduced by almost two-thirds the travel time between Mangalore and Mumbai.

The railway project required dealing with hundreds of contractors and 40,000 landowners yet still was completed without notable cost or time overruns.

Already known to many who attended the celebration, Raj Kalady was introduced as the managing director of the new office.

Mr. Kalady and his team will reach out across industries and organizations to advance the global principles and good practices of project management. They will improve the awareness and use of skills, tools and techniques, and will foster leadership development and certification of project practitioners.

India has the third largest PMI membership after the United States and Canada, with more than 11,000 PMI members and [seven chapters](#). A [service centre for PMI members and customers in India](#) opened last year in New Delhi.

The new office is a milestone in PMI's development that adds to our presence in India. Best of all, it is a means to support the practitioners and organizations that have helped propel India to greatness, and will help it achieve an even greater tomorrow.

Leadership Institute Meeting 2008:



The 2008 EMEA (Europe-Middle East-Africa) Leadership Institute Meeting, held 16 - 18 May in St. Julians, Malta. An EMEA record of over 160 attendees from 33 countries throughout the world participated, representing 36 chapters and 14 specific interest groups.

Mr. Palaniappan, Vice President - Finance and Treasury represented our PMI - Chennai Chapter and attended this event.



Component learning and sharing is the heart of this event. This meet offers a time for leaders to exchange ideas, concerns and experiences. Individual leadership development was also an essential element at this meeting, and a number of sessions were organized under this umbrella. Cultural diversity emerged as a key theme-fostering, maximizing and integrating it.

On the first evening of the event, the entire group of attendees celebrated the graduation of the 15 accomplished leaders who received their certificates from the Masters Class program, a journey of learning and discovery designed to provide intensive ongoing training, development and support.

Many leaders said they attended the leadership Institute Meeting specifically for networking, to meet contacts who could provide help or ideas. That is true. Now our chapter and the Phoenix Chapter, USA are going to be linked for exchanging ideas and collaborating between each other on various focus areas.

**5th July 2008:
Program Management - how distinct is it from Project Management
By Ms Pamela Ramalingam**

Ms Pamela enlightened a full house about the significance of Program Management and how it differs from Project management. She explained various tools and techniques that one could adopt for keeping stakeholders updated on programs.

**1st August 2008:
What Project Managers should know about Contract Management
By Mr. Milind Baride, Chairman, Saipem India Projects Limited**

Mr Milind touched upon the aspects of Contract Management especially related to the Oil industry. He stressed on the need for every Project Manager to understand contracts and their importance for project success.

PMI Bangalore Chapter's Project Management Practitioners' Conference:

PMI Bangalore Chapter is organizing a Project Management Practitioners' Conference on Architecting Project Management theme. Eminent speakers are participating in this event. Our Chapter is a supporting organization and members can avail a discount on the registration fee. Please see <http://www.pmibangalorechapter.org/pmpc2008/registration.php> for more details

" We were unable to publish newsletters for the last 2 quarters due to circumstance beyond our control. We hope to regularly publish in the future"

© 2008 PMI-Chennai Chapter. All Rights Reserved.

Note: For concern and questions, kindly write to VP of Communication & Coordination.
"PMP", "PMI" and PMI logo are registered marks of Project Management Institute, Inc.