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Project Management in France End of November 2007

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French PM associations' activity is burning up in this end of year

Project Management professional associations delivered a huge number of PM conferences during the last weeks around France. It shows a growing interest for this discipline from the public. Let's come back on some of these events:

- Multiculturalism in projects: break or motor of the enterprise? At Aix en Provence (PMI France Sud)
- Risk quantitative analysis in projects at Paris (PMI Paris) with Philippe Stollsteiner, Projiris, who will discuss risk management and its tools, and Lessons Learned from the oil industry with Saipem.
- Lessons Learned from an industrial project: Methan terminal at Fos at Marseille (PMI France Sud)
- Investment project at Lyon (AFAV Rhône-Alpes Auvergne). AFAV, the *French value analysis association*, reported on choice and optimization processes which are implemented and their evaluation criteria;
- Human Resources in PM at Grenoble (PMI France Sud)
- Progress of an industrial affair at Villiers les Nancy (AFITEP Lorraine) where the incidence of the business negotiation and the importance of adapting the methodology were highlighted by Pascal Lambert, Business Engineer, Soderel;
- How to manage successfully project virtual teams? And how to utilize well collaborative tools? At Toulouse (PMI France Sud). Fabrice Tocci, PMP, Project Manager, Wireless & Mobile Solution group, gathered useful subjects to answer to the following questions:
 - o What is a team?

- o Why the use of virtual teams is raising?
- o Benefits and problems of virtual teams,
- o How to deal with communication issues in this context,
- o Collaborative tools;
- Management control and Projects at Paris (SMaP) with Herbert Gourden, Solving, who disserted on management dialogue, and Frédéric Thos, Argain, who exposed difficulties of the matrice organization;
- Innovation management at Paris: what stakes for the company? What organization? At Paris (AFITEP)
- Innovation and projects at Sophia Antipolis (PMI France Sud). This session which had a great success, was led by Pascal Sire, IBM, who presented the TRIZ method to resolve invention issues. This method is also an outstanding tool to collect lessons learned during a project closure.
- The management system of an engineering, specificities of a project oriented company at Paris (AFITEP). Philippe Ialynko, Quality Manager at Systra, recalled quality management principles to the audience, and described the organization of an engineering company to deliver its projects.
- PM norms at Nancy (AFITEP Lorraine) presented by Bertrand Denis, QSE Auditor.

December also will host some very interesting events to conclude 2007.

- Contract management 4 December at Lyon (PMI France Sud). Professionals will testimony their experience:
 - o Project slippages by Robert Gravrand, Judiciary Expert at Lyon's court,
 - o Contract as a formatting and founding tool of Pm by Christian Mignonat, Cementer performance direction at Lafarge,
 - o Legal management of contracts by Caroline Stéphane, Lawyer at Lemy Lexel chamber;
- Managing projects' lessons learned 7 December at Toulouse (PMI France Sud). Bas Noorlander, PMP, will lead this session around:
 - o the lessons learned objectives,
 - o who, when and how collecting lessons learned,
 - o analyzing lessons learned and defining improvements,
 - o implementing the improvements;
- PM profession presented by PMI France – Atlantic 13 December at Forum Atlantic, Nantes a congress organized by Nantes' Engineering schools;
- PMI relays in enterprises 13 December at Sophia Antipolis (PMI France Sud) . During this session, PMI France Sud will propose to its members to become 'PMI relays' toward their companies. Once 'PMI relays', they will be able to forward PMI France Sud communications to their own



companies, to propose the management of their organization to meet PMI France Sud Direction, and to introduce the chapter to any people interested in PM;

- Francophone congress of Project Management: competencies to succeed 17-18 December at Paris (AFITEP). To study
 - o if yesterday's necessary competencies are still needed,
 - o if they are sufficient for today's project success,
 - o if new competencies, collective or individual, will be essential to manage tomorrow's projects,
 - o how to identify and evaluate the necessary skills for each project,
 - o what stakes and contributions bring the project standards,
 - o and what challenges to allow these competencies to be available in the next years,AFITEP will gather during two days a panel of experts which will answer all these questions. More information on: www.afitep.fr;
- Lessons Learned from SNCF's IRIS 320 project 18 December at Paris (PMI Paris) *previously planned on 20 November but delayed due to the strikes*. G. Foeillet, SNCF, will present Lessons Learned from this project which intended to adapt a TGV to rail infrastructure inspections for maintenance and security;
- Contractual documents during project lifecycle and IS projects for management control 19 December at Paris (SMaP) presented by Isabelle Renard, lawyer at Vaughan Avocats, and Philippe Lebigot, EDF;
- Quality management in projects 20 December at Marseille (PMI France Sud). This breakfast meeting will be the occasion for the chapter to present
 - o Project quality management specific processes,
 - o What PMI is proposing,
 - o What kind of implementations?

In 2007, Project Management has been the basis for numerous conferences, and there is no need to demonstrate again the growing interest of the public for this field. With no doubt, 2008 will also give an important place to the wonderful world of projects.

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Mr. Thibaut Goupil is an International Correspondent for PMForum.org in France. Based in Evreux, one hour from Paris, he is currently also a project management consultant for KAPPA International Consulting Engineers, based in Paris, providing consulting services for a major pharmaceutical company in France. Thibaut has a degree Mechanical and Production Engineering (DUT GMP) from Toulon University in France, and is concurrently pursuing a Graduate Diploma in Business Engineering from EUROMED Toulon (formerly ESCT) and a Masters Degree in Project and Programme Management from ESC Lille, with both diplomas expected in 2007. He is a member of Paris Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) and the Association of Project Management (APM) in the UK. Mr. Goupil is a certified CAPM, and AFITEP/IPMA level D. Additional information about Mr. Goupil can be found at

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