

## REGIONAL REPORT – GERMANY – SEPTEMBER 2008



### Project Management News from Germany *End of August 2008*

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#### **Introduction**

It is beginning of September and most areas of Germany had their vacation and already restarted their business activities. Beneath some summer slump notices the Olympic Games in China dominated the press. The world champions in several sporting disciplines were in a contest to identify the 'cream of the crop'.

Behind the sports scenes the importance of project management is self-evident to prepare the games and to execute them in time and hopefully in budget. But it is difficult to filter the best Project Managers out of the mass. Many are calling themselves Project Managers but never had an own budget to manage or a real leadership function in a project.

There are several filters available to identify the best like assessment centers implemented from Human Resources functions in the organizations or certifications from IPMA or PMI but these are seldom sufficient to separate the wheat from the chaff. As Project Managers have special characteristics the HR organizations need to have insights into them – most suitable when they are Project Managers themselves or are using trusted advisors to find the appropriate support.

However, the named certifications are only one side of the coin as they are focusing on theory and are trying to reflect the practical experience within the exams but how valuable is this in a real project with all its forces? How does the Project Manager react in stress situations? How does he manage customer relationship? This is difficult to mirror in exams and therefore the personal impression is crucial.

The regular events of the project management organizations are a helpful platform to get in contact with Project Managers and to get an impression who they are and whether they fulfill the requirements of “real projects”.

## **News from PM Professional Organizations**

### **PMI Chapter News**

There are several news from the **PMI Frankfurt Chapter** (PMIFC). The chapter had its regular chapter meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> in Frankfurt presenting several interesting speeches on one hand but announcing highly interesting details on the planned **Symposium 2008**. The Symposium is titled “**The Human Factor**” organized from the German speaking chapters in Europe and takes place November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Frankfurt, Germany. The chapter had been able to win the well known author of several project management books **Tom DeMarco** and the Nobel Prize Winner **Prof. Dr. H. A. Wüthrich** introducing “Learning from Pattern Breakers” as keynote speaker.

The next chapter meeting is planned September 29<sup>th</sup> in the Rhein-Main area, the program is in preparation.

Besides these regular activities the chapter is supporting the Polish organization Stowarzyszenie Współpracy Regionalnej (SWR) in Kattowice/Poland in their PMP preparation based on the successful PMP preparation program, which the Frankfurt Chapter is running since several years.

And last but not least the Frankfurt Chapter initiated a second Regular Table in Heidelberg as the success of the PMIFC Cracker Barrel in Frankfurt is tremendous. Here some details about these meetings.

The **PMIFC Regular Table Heidelberg** took place in July 25<sup>th</sup> and was a successful event although it was during vacation time. It was a great opportunity to exchange project experience or just get to know new people in an informal environment and – Heidelberg is what is promises – a great city with a fantastic atmosphere. The next Regular Table Heidelberg is planned September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The **PMIFC Cracker Barrel** had a meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup> in Frankfurt investigating the topic:

*Intercultural management - leadership and projects*

An interesting discussion made it obvious that the Project Manager needs practical experience in international projects to survive in the current project landscape and grow within his role. The next Cracker Barrel is planned October 10<sup>th</sup>.

I don't want to miss to congratulate the **PMI Frankfurt Chapter for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the chapter in the name of PMForum and PM World Today.

For further information on the PMIFC events please visit [www.PMIFC.de](http://www.PMIFC.de)

The **PMI Munich Chapter** plans to celebrate its next chapter meeting at the Oktoberfest in Munich as they were able to reserve the rare places for its members.

The PMI Munich "**Stammtisch**" is planned September 9<sup>th</sup> discussing the topic "IT projects with Offshore Partners". For more information please visit [www.PMI-muc.de](http://www.PMI-muc.de)

The **PMI Berlin Chapter** plans the next chapter meeting September 4<sup>th</sup> investigating the topic "Shared Services" and the topic "CMMI/ITIL integration" in cooperation with itSMF. The announcement sounds promising, for more information please visit [www.PMI-berlin.org](http://www.PMI-berlin.org)

The **PMI Cologne Chapter** plans a workshop on September 5<sup>th</sup> on "Project Engineering". In a first speech the management of complex projects is introduced, in a second speech a simulation of product development processes is presented and in a third presentation a forecast method for the estimation of working duration is given. Details on this highly qualified program can be found at [www.PMICC.de](http://www.PMICC.de)

## **GPM News**

The GPM plans its 25<sup>th</sup> international Project Management Forum on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Wiesbaden, Germany. It has the motto "Project Management: With Collaboration to Success." More than 60 contributions offer insights into the world of project management starting with the basics through best practices and thought leadership topics.

## **Project Updates – News from the German Project Landscape**

I would like to hustle you to a new study from **Roland Berger** investigating why large projects fail. You will find some interesting charts and statistics supporting the approach to use a standard like PMBOK in projects. Its Knowledge Areas covers all identified issues and increase the likelihood for a successful project ([http://www.rolandberger.com/company/press/releases/Launch\\_management.html](http://www.rolandberger.com/company/press/releases/Launch_management.html)).

The **Deutsche Bahn AG** started several interesting projects to improve their logistics. At the station in Berlin the travelers are able to get all needed information at a glance as Fujitsu Siemens implemented a real-time system for arrivals, departures and delays. In the project **WIN** the IT infrastructure, processes and data management are planned to be consolidated based on a SOA architecture.

I hope this update on the German project management landscape finds your pleasure. If you would like to share your experience with the readers of **PMForum** or if you have some important news on the project management landscape or if you have comments and thoughts on my cogitations **please drop me an e-mail at [Manfred.Rieck@de.ibm.com](mailto:Manfred.Rieck@de.ibm.com)**



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