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Project Management Update from UK

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Project management profile being raised

There is so much happening within the world of project management that we sometimes fail to lift our eyes over the parapet and appreciate the rapid changes in our context. We have however been encouraged to do so:

The 5th edition of the APM's BoK urges sensitivity to and understanding of contextual factors including PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technical, Legal, and Environmental) and organisational capability and maturity, structure, processes and resources.

PMI's PMBOK third edition identifies critical inputs as being enterprise environmental factors and organisational process assets.

Several recent events illustrate how the overall context for the practice of our profession is changing. Sometimes, it seems, we should stop proselytizing and simply respond to the welcome recognition that project management is achieving.

1. Workshop at the UK Institute of Directors

In April 2008 APM sponsored an all-day event at the IoD in Pall Mall, London aimed not at project management professionals but at Directors and their governance advisors. Leaders in organisational direction, such as Dr Neville Bain, strongly endorsed the need for governance to take full recognition of project management.

2. Study on value of project management in organisations.

On 14 July at the 2008 PMI Research Conference held in Warsaw, Poland, Janice L. Thomas, PhD and Mark Mullaly, PMP, presented the preliminary findings of their study *Researching the Value of Project Management*. The study uses data generated through 65 case studies, 447 interviews and 418 project summaries conducted by a team of 48 researchers from 15 countries during the last three years. The final results of this work will be widely promoted and should influence commissioners of project management as much as practitioners.

3. Inspire at House of Lords

On 24 July 2008 APM organised a national event at the UK House of Lords raising the profile of their Inspire group. This group is a forum for members in the early stages of their project management career. It is committed to delivering site visits, networking events, technical presentations, seminars/workshops and more.



The event was held on the riverside terrace at the Houses of Parliament.

4. Launch of PPPRM News

Later in July 2008 the UK Government Office of Government Commerce issued the first edition of a newsletter, PPPRM News, devoted to its "Best Practice" products in the area of Portfolio, Programme, Project and Risk Management.

5. Lastly, new books

Have you noticed that there seems to be an increasing market for books not on project management, but about how to use project management? Recent, and not so recent, examples include:

Title: *Essentials of Strategic Project Management*
Authors: Kevin R. Callahan (Author), Lynne M. Brooks

Title: *Linking Project Management to Business Strategy*

Authors: Aaron J. Shenhar, Dragan Milosevic, Dov Dvir, Hans Thamhain

Title: *Reinventing Project Management: The Diamond Approach to Successful Growth and Innovation*

Authors: Aaron Shenhar & Dov Dvir

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David Shannon is an International Correspondent for www.pmforum.org and *PM World Today* in the United Kingdom (UK). Mr. Shannon is also Managing Director of Oxford Project Management Ltd., a UK-based project management advisory and consulting firm. David has a Natural Sciences degree and MA degree from Oxford University (Oriel College), and a Diploma in Accountancy and Finance from the Association of Certified Accountants in the UK. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Management Consultancy, Honorary Fellow of the Association for Project Management (APM), and a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Institute of Directors, and British Quality Foundation. He is a lifetime member of the Oxford Business Alumni. David has over 40 years of experience on programmes and projects throughout the UK, Africa and the Middle East. He was an internal management consultant for the World Bank during 1985-1987. David has been Branch Chairman, Director, Deputy Chairman, Head of Professional Board, SIG Coordinator and Interim Chief Executive of APM, and was intimately involved in developing APM's Guidance on Project Management Governance. David Shannon is based in London and can be contacted at David.Shannon@opmg.co.uk.