

PM WORLD TODAY – JORDAN – NOVEMBER 2009



Project Management Update from Jordan

By **Ammar Mango**

International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today

Amman, Jordan

Downtown Amman Gets a Facelift¹

All those who visited Amman, the capital of Jordan, or who were raised there have profound memories of its older downtown. A place that combines a hodgepodge of stores, cars, shoppers, and street vendors, all entangled into the panoramic view of the old capital.

However, as of lately, with the fast expansion of the city, traffic has shifted significantly from the downtown into the suburbs. This shift has caused considerable distress to the commercial sectors downtown. Many stores opened other branches in the suburbs so as not to miss out on the new trend. Others just closed shop and moved on.

One project that might bring downtown Amman to shine again is the “Amman Valley” Project. The project aims at revitalize the downtown area over a four kilometers stretch. The construction will include commercial units like cafes, hotels, and restaurants, in addition to some residential units targeting middle income dwellers. The project will add more greenery and pedestrian walkways to attract more shoppers, visitors, and tourists. The project will link the area with surrounding Amman neighborhoods through creative and even fun methods of transportation including cable car like carriages taking passengers to the nearby historic Qall’aa (Fortress) Mountain.

Despite its future economical prospects, the project is raising concerns from some stakeholders. Some merchants and shop owners in the downtown district are

¹ This article is based on information obtained from multiple news sources.

worried about the effects the construction work would have on their shops. Others point to the inconveniences and hassle caused by previous downtown projects. Others are skeptical about how much this project is going to help them.

The Amman municipality is the owner of this project. Work on the project, which is owned by Amman Municipality, is expected to proceed in a few days on the first stage of the project. The project, which is to be implemented over three stages, is estimated to take around seven years. Meanwhile, the Municipality is already evaluating prequalification proposals from many global companies for the implementation of the second stage of the project.



Downtown Amman today

About the Author:**Ammar Mango***Author*

Ammar W. Mango, PMP, CSSBB, is principal consultant for Method Corporation, a project management consulting, product and services company based in Amman, Jordan. He is also an International Correspondent for PMForum and *PM World Today* in Jordan. With over seventeen years of global experience in Project Management & Leadership consulting and training, he is considered an international expert on the subjects and enjoys a superb reputation as an inspirational trainer and consultant. He holds a bachelor's degree from Jordan University and a Master's Degree in Construction Engineering and Management from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. He has been certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP) by the Project Management Institute (PMI) since 1991, and as a Six Sigma Black Belt by the American Society for Quality. He served as Vice President, Education, PMI Great Lakes Chapter in 1993, and is the founder and currently an active member of the PMI Jordanian Chapter. Additional information can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#5>. Ammar can be contacted at amango@methodcorp.com.