

REGIONAL REPORT – AUSTRALIA – SEPTEMBER 2009



Project Management Update from Sydney

By **Jürgen Oschadleus**

*International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today
Sydney, Australia*

Education News

PMI Sydney Chapter Short Courses

The PMI Sydney Chapter offers two short courses in September.

The first course, “*Financial Controls for Project Managers*”, is designed to demystify the financial components of projects, inspire and motivate project managers to take ownership of their budgets, and enable them to reap the rewards of financial control. It runs on 5 September, and is presented by Kim Oschadleus CA(SA) M. Tax and Jürgen Oschadleus PMP® MBA. They are directors of Act Knowledge and the Valense network of organisational consultants.

Then on 26 September the Chapter hosts the renowned Dr Rodney Turner, the managing partner for EuroProjex and Professor of Project Management at the Lille School of Management and the Kemmy Business School of the University of Limerick. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Technology Sydney and Visiting Professor at Henley Business School. His course, *Developing People in Project Management*, will explore key elements of managing human resources on projects, ranging from the management of stakeholders, construction of the project team, project leadership, organizational project management capability and human resources management practices as they apply to project-based organisations.

Course details and registration information for all these courses is available on the PMI Sydney Chapter website, <http://sydney.pmichapters-australia.org.au> .

PM Events

PMI Sydney Chapter Meeting

The next PMI Sydney Chapter meeting will be a breakfast on Wednesday, 16 September. Hosted by Chapter sponsor PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the event features Chapter Director Leigh Moyle presenting “Managing Creative Projects – how to blend the best of traditional Project Management Techniques and Creative Processes & People”. Leigh first presented this paper at the PMOz conference.

The breakfast starts at 7:30 and will end by 9:00 am. The event is free to registered Chapter members, and \$25 for non-members. More information is available on the Events Calendar link at <http://sydney.pmichapters-australia.org.au>.

AIPM NSW Chapter Meeting

The AIPM NSW Chapter's Project Management Achievement Awards will be announced at the annual black tie affaire to be held at Doltone House, Pyrmont, on 17 September. The AIPM's Project Management Achievement Awards (PMAA) have been running annually for more than 10 years, in order to celebrate outstanding projects and individuals in project management across all industries.

This year's event will be preceded by a Forum showcasing five top speakers on topics ranging from Global Economics to Dispute Resolution.

Further details are available at

<http://www.aipm.com.au/events/calendar/calendar.asp?action=viewevent&eventid=524>.



Project Updates – News from some Important local Projects

Fiji Wind Farm blows \$34m

Fiji's F\$34 million (USD17m) Butoni wind farm project in Sigatoka is a failure. This revelation was made by Eparama Tawake, the General Manager Generation at Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA). Speaking at an International Symposium on Renewable Energy at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji on 25 August, Tawake blamed insufficient environmental studies of the area.

"The failure was due to not enough wind and not enough study was undertaken," he said. The performance of the wind farm should be 11.3 giga watt hour for a period of one year at an average wind speed of 5.47metres per second. Performance data collected so far places the site in the "low wind speed" category (4-6 metres per second).

The site was chosen due to easy accessibility, proximity of the Butoni ridge to the FEA grid, and Sigatoka being an area of development. Originally launched in 2003, the project soon ran into problems with joint venture partner Pacific Hydro Limited, pulling out after seeing the project as financially uneconomical based on its development cost and expected cost of energy generation. However, the project pushed ahead in 2004 when a new consulting partner, Australia's PB Power, was appointed.

The project to place 37 wind turbines on the ridge above Butoni, was scheduled for completion in September 2006, but only went into production in October 2007. Only three months later the plant had to be shut down for six months to allow maintenance work following cyclone damage. Despite the failure to achieve its targets, Tawake believes the FEA is saving a million dollars in diesel fuel through the use of the wind farm.

Sydney Water searches for new IT services pathfinder

Sydney's water supply utility, Sydney Water Corporation (SWC), is tendering for program and project delivery services for two of its "pathfinder" programs. Pathfinder programs define and establish new strategic IT business capabilities.

"[Pathfinder programs] are typically enterprise wide, do not follow a well proven path and accordingly will comprise a significant element of organisational discovery and development of new intellectual property," according to SWC's IT department.

The two IT programs are the Sydney Water Information Management (SWIM) program, designed to raise Sydney Water's information management capability and provide a platform for future improvements; and the business intelligence (BI) program aimed at designing an architecture, platform, competency centre, new

operating models, business processes and behaviours based on the Business Objects (SAP-owned) suite.

The contract will run for an initial term of three years and options for two more one-year periods. Subsequent pathfinder programs may also draw on the services available under this contract.

Other News Affecting Projects & PM in New South Wales

Integrated Transport Forum

The City of Sydney will host a forum titled “Integrated Transport for a Connected City”, with former London Mayor Ken Livingstone as a guest speaker. Livingstone, whose term as Mayor ran from 2000 to 2008, tackled the reform of London’s aging transport and ticketing system by introducing London’s congestion charge and the Oyster Card ticketing system. He will be joined by Sydney’s Lord Mayor, Clover Moore MP and the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Government and Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP.

The forum happens against the ongoing backdrop of the controversial metro rail project and an ongoing investigation into the city’s legacy of failed transport plans over the past 30 years.

Tickets to the free event, to be staged at the State Theatre at 6:30pm on 16 September, can be obtained from Ticketmaster.

Star City Upgrade

Sydney’s casino complex, Star City, is undergoing a \$575 million dollar upgrade. Brookfield Multiplex won the contract to renovate the complex and to build a new 13-storey hotel on the adjoining vacant land. The casino, second only to Melbourne’s Crown Casino in the Australian casino stakes, has been in operation since 1994.

About the Author:**Jürgen Oschadleus, MBA, PMP****Author**

*International Correspondent for PMForum
Based in Sydney, Australia*



Jürgen Oschadleus, MBA, PMP, is the Director of Act Knowledge Pty Ltd and the Managing Partner of Valense (Australia). Jürgen has over 15 years of experience across the globe in diverse industry and organizational settings. Formally qualified as an educator and trainer, he held a strategic consulting roles with Booz•Allen & Hamilton (South Africa), Concur UK, CPA International and the SAS Institute. He has helped deploy business solutions into blue chip companies across the UK, Europe and Asia Pacific. Jürgen is the author of *Heart of Influence*, and has written numerous articles and papers on leadership, influential communication and sustainable change. His training programs have been delivered on five continents, and he is a frequent speaker at international conferences and C-level Summits. He currently serves on the Project Management Institute's (PMI) Registered Education Provider Advisory Group, and is a co-author of the PMI's e-learning program on the *PMBOK® Guide to Project Management* (Third and Fourth editions). He is the Course Coordinator and Facilitator for Project Management and Supply Chain Management courses at the University of New South Wales, and presents graduate level project management courses for the University of Sydney. Jürgen is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), is DiSC- and SDI-accredited, and an Advanced Toastmaster (Gold). He holds an Education Diploma, a Masters degree in History and an MBA in International Project Management and Organisational Development, and a Certificate IV in Workplace Training & Assessment. Jürgen speaks Afrikaans, English and German, resides in Sydney and can be contacted at juergeno@actknowledge.com.