

REGIONAL REPORT – LINCOLNSHIRE, UK – July 2010



Project Management Update from East Midlands

By Philip Smelt

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Introduction

Welcome to my regional report, for which again I make no apologies for its APM centric nature.

To start however I will raise the issue of Public Sector Project cut-backs. With the Chancellor of the Exchequer making clear the Government's determination to repay the nation's debt over the next four years; the public sector spend will therefore be greatly reduced and there will be pain.

Indications are that income from the Government will be cut by at least 25%, possibly more, over the next four years. This is on top of the reductions already in place.

These reductions will challenge all of the UK's Local Council activities, and certainly means re-visiting all projects and services. At Lincolnshire County Council these projects and services all have their value, so difficult decisions will have to be made over which are absolutely core to what we do, and which are not and need to be revised, reduced or provided in a very different way. With such a scale of reduction we must accept that there will be job losses.

It is perhaps fitting then, that the value of professional project and programme management has at last been recognised in its capacity as the deliverer of the change, transformation and improvements needed to ensure value for money and the successful realisation of identified project and programme benefits; both of which are needed if we are to minimise the impact of such high spending cuts.

Events

At the Sheffield venue, The Source on Tuesday 29th June, I had the pleasure of attending an APM Yorkshire & North Lincolnshire Branch presentation on Social Media and PM 2.0: is it all talk and no trousers?

In his presentation, Kwai Yu, Founder of Leaders Cafe 2020, shared his experience of using social media . Kwai has immersed himself fully in social media over the last 15 months in order to set up Leaders Cafe as a global social enterprise. His success is all the more astonishing because he has spent very little finance in creating a global presence. It has all been done using social media.



I discovered that if there is a rule for social media, it is that it doesn't conform to any rules (but project management is full of rules!).

I also discovered that there is a whole world of social media activity about which I knew very little.

Photograph: (Front) Kwai Yu

Social media is transparent, open, dynamic and organic. Whereas Project Management is steeped in methodologies, processes and rules. These disciplines require lots of information, knowledge and insights to be communicated - to be 'socialised'.



Kwai Yu is the Founder of Leaders Cafe 2020 and the author of KNOWING. DOING. WINNING. He is a leadership philosopher and a social media enthusiast. He also had a long successful career in the IT industry delivering major IT programmes and projects, the last of which was a £42 million Pension Credit Programme for the Department for Work and Pension.

Photograph: (Left to right) Neil Kendall, Business Doctors, Event Organiser; Kwai Yu; Philip Smelt and Kevin Parry, Cogenic Ltd.

Forthcoming Project Management Related Events**Strategic Project Management: International Post Graduate event**

On Sunday 4th July and Monday 5th July, the Centre for Project Management at Leeds Metropolitan University hosts the 2010 international post graduate conference on strategic project management. This two day event is co-sponsored by the APM Yorkshire & North Lincolnshire's INSPIRE initiative.

The conference will present the research work of students of the MSc Strategic Project Management academics and associates of the Centre for Project Management at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Invited are: APM Members, students of project management and guests.

With well over 120 registered attendees, we are particularly hopeful that APM members and practitioners will assist in commenting and influencing the research in this area.

Keynote presentations include:

- APM Fellow Mark Robinson, Head of Programme & Projects BoK at Airbus.
TOPIC: When I grow up I want to be a project manager!
- Markus Bleier, Biodegma. MSc Baumanagement. Würzburg University.
TOPIC: Early Project Phases.

Post graduate research to be presented by Leeds Met's MSc Strategic Project Management students will include:

- The delusion of contract protection
- Planning co-ordination, the missing planning link!
- Examining the application of value management
- Interest based negotiation: Critical skills for PMs
- Patronage vs Business Case!
- First good idea error: Critical thinking for PMs
- The Problem Universe
- Time Management: Critical skills for PMs
- How Programme management might enhance the delivery of value in projects
- The criticality of a strategic perspective for projects

- Using Supply Chain management to better understand the management of projects
- Bad Governance: The impact on project development & delivery
- Modelling the Business for Value Analysis. Poster.
- Sustainable development: A contested paradigm
- A comparison and strategic intent with conventional strategic planning
- NEC3 Core clause application in practice
- The Little Book of Project Management
- A proposal for NEC3 'dirty clause' research
- Contemporary issues in Project Management.
- A proposal for a programme of research investigating innovation and entrepreneurship as topics of direct interest for project management.
- Summary: Internal Conference on Project Futures, Centre for Project Management Post graduate students.
- Communications & Emotional Intelligence.
- Prioritising projects in a portfolio.

Opportunities to talk to the authors will exist and there will be poster presentations of their works. Delegates will be asked to 'vote' for papers they would like to hear in full on the following day.

The event is free and further details can be found at

<https://www.apm.org.uk/eventStrategi3.asp?pdate=0-0&branch=13>

6th July 2010 The Cross-Cultural Project Manager between East and West
Walter Ginevri, PMI Northern Italy Chapter & Carlo Beraha, Eta Beta & **Earned Value : Project Controls for Every Body** Steve Wake, APM EV SIG Chairman , ARM Ltd. Cambridge PMI UK Chapter.

Free to PMI UK Chapter members the event is £20 for non-members. Further details can be found at

<http://www.pmi.org.uk/en/events/midlands-and-north.cfm/Midlands-July>

19th July 2010 How do you build the biggest urban shopping centre in Europe?

Keith Whitmore, Head of Design and Construction, Westfield. Sandiacre Notts. APM Midlands branch in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Building.

See <https://www.apm.org.uk/eventHow%20do%20y.asp?pdate=0-0&branch=5> for further details.

Tuesday 21st September 2010 Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers

Andrew Bragg, APM Chief Executive, Newcastle

The APM standard of professionalism has been defined as comprising five dimensions, namely:

Breadth of knowledge. Depth of competence. Achievement. Demonstration of achievement through professional qualifications. Commitment through continuing professional development. Accountability through adherence to a code of professional conduct.

As APM's major strategic objective for the next few years, the organisation is committed to increasing the awareness and achievement of the five dimensions of professionalism which together represent the standard right across the many organisations committed to the improvement of project management capability.

This event will be an opportunity to hear about how APM seeks to serve its membership and the profession at large through its current campaign for professionalism, together with the current status on the Chartered initiative, from APM Chief Executive, Andrew Bragg.



See <https://www.apm.org.uk/eventA%20new%20da2.asp?pdate=0-0&branch=7> for further details.

This event is free to attend

Other News

Yorkshire Forward Confirms Budget Cuts of £40million

Yorkshire Forward is the regional development agency, charged with improving the Yorkshire & Humber economy. Terry Hodgkinson, its Chairman has recently responded (30/06/10) to the confirmation by Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills, that the Regional Development Agency, will make cuts of £40.27million, in this financial year.

“As a Network England’s Regional Development Agencies were asked to find £270 million of cuts to their projects and programmes as part of the £6.2 billion reduction in public spending for 2010/11 announced by the Chancellor in May. The Secretary of State has now confirmed that Yorkshire Forward is to make cut’s of £40.27million from its budget of £270million, within this financial year.”

Terry added: “We will continue to talk with partners as to where the reductions will need to take place and how individual projects will be affected. This will involve both delaying work, and stopping some schemes and initiatives altogether. In some cases, where funds have already been committed, we will need to investigate existing contractual commitments. We will look to minimise the impact on our partners through this difficult period.”

See <http://www.yorkshire-forward.com/news-events>

for further details.

Government Office Websites

In producing this report I trawl various regional websites for information on local project news and events. All regional Government Office websites are reporting the following on their homepages.

The contents of this website are under review following the formation of a new HM Government. Current information may be found at www.gonetwork.gos.gov.uk.

About the Author:***Philip Smelt****Author**International Correspondent – UK
Based in Lincolnshire*

Philip Smelt, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.Phil., MAPM works at Lincolnshire County Council (England's 4th largest County) as a Project Manager within their new Programme Centre. Philip began his career as a research chemist for the Ministry of Defence at the Chemical Defence Establishment, Porton Down; studying gas adsorption on novel polymeric materials, research that resulted in an M.Phil. Philip has traveled the globe whilst working on projects in the scientific instrumentation industry, including 5 years in the Former Soviet Union at the time of Perestroika and Glasnost. His work involved the commissioning of multi-million pound state-of-the-art Surface Science Instrumentation. Philip also held the post of Innovation & Technology Counsellor for Humberside's new Business Links where he managed a portfolio of 200 companies, providing solutions and advice utilizing schemes and initiatives delivered through the UK's Department of Trade and Industry and European Commission. For a Westland Helicopters Computer Based Training sub-contractor, he led a team of courseware designers, authors, graphics artists and application software engineers in the production of multi-screen Computer Aided Instruction and Emulation Systems. He has also worked for several overseas Navies and delivered multi-million pound control room projects for a 'bluelight' company specializing in Integrated Communications Control Systems. As a Managing Successful Programmes (MSP) Practitioner and Management of Risk (M_O_R) Practitioner, Philip has broad private and public sector exposure. Philip also possesses a Post-graduate Certificate in Systems Thinking and a Post-graduate Diploma in Management Studies, both from the University of Lincoln. He has been a member of the Association for Project Management (APM) since 2005 and Chairman of APM's Yorkshire & North Lincolnshire branch since 2008. Philip is also an Associate Consultant for Cogenic Ltd., www.cogenic.co.uk a UK consultancy that specializes in helping organizations implement strategy, reduce wasted resources and effort, and increase return on investments. Philip can be contacted at project_prince@hotmail.com.