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Project Management Update from Geneva

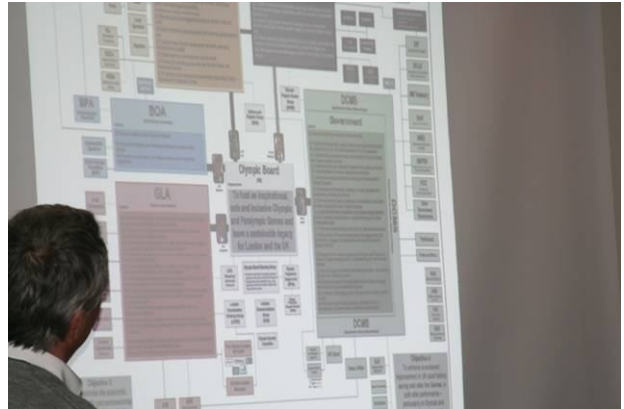
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PMI Switzerland Chapter's Event « Project & Program Management in the Olympics », presented by Pascal Wattiaux, Lausanne, February, the 4th.

An exhaustive overview of the Olympics' Program framework.

Pascal Wattiaux, expert and consultant for the different National Olympic Committees and for the International Olympic Committee, presented to the audience the specificities and constraints imbedded in the large Program which is the organization of the Olympic Games.

Taking as an example the Program launched for the Olympics in London, to be achieved in 2012 by the closing ceremony, Pascal Wattiaux shown how the different teams, local and international organizations and governmental bodies are involved at various levels of this very complex endeavor.



Photos: Pascal Wattiaux, speaking on Program Management in the Olympics

The Olympic Program is indeed a long run, lasting for more than 12 years, from the early submission to the Olympic authorities, to the final closing ceremony of the Paralympic Games. During this very long process, hundreds of organizations, companies, sponsors, and media are involved. In the same time, thousands of volunteers give their time and effort to make this most important event possible. One the major difficulty lies in the unmovable milestones. Dates have to be met, whatever happens. This implies very strong Risk Management, and particular planning processes, or, as Pascal Wattiaux said “retro-planning” processes.

Another complementary aspect to be considered lies in what Pascal Wattiaux calls “the Legacy”. The Olympic Games is an early champion of Sustainable Development. Indeed, the entire infrastructure built for the Games will have to enter into a second life afterwards. The sport facilities will have to be reused, as well as all transportation, telecom and housing infrastructures which will have to be integrated into the common usage and landscape of the hosting country. All of the specific developments done for the Games, have then to be designed in a Sustainable perspective.

About 80 participants attended the event.



These different aspects have been addressed by Pascal Wattiaux during his one hour presentation, captivating the exceptionally large audience (78 participants) and raising a lot of questions and backstage discussions during the reception after the conference.



Photo above left: Elisabeth Weber, Chapter VP and Pascal Wattiaux

Photo at right: Pascal Wattiaux and Olivier Lazar, who organized the event.



PMI Switzerland Chapter organizes this kind of conference on a monthly basis in different locations in Switzerland, such as Geneva, Lausanne, Zurich or Basel. This particular event gathered together 78 participants, stating then a record for the Chapter for this kind of event. The Chapter is one of the most active in Europe, with more than 1,000 members to-date (including about 60% certified). The Switzerland Chapter is also co-organizing the yearly Project Management Congress with the SMP, local IPMA association, which will take place on April the 7th and 8th, in Lausanne.

Link to PMI Switzerland Chapter: <http://www.pmi-switzerland.ch>

Link to the Project Management Swiss Congress: <http://www.congres-pm.ch>

About the Author:***Olivier Lazar, PMP******Author******International Correspondent
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Olivier Lazar, PMP is a freelance Project Management consultant, coach and trainer. Among other activities, he's visiting professor of project management at the Geneva School of Business Administration. Olivier is a graduate with MSc and MBA in Strategy, Project and Programme Management from the Lille Graduate School of Management (now Skema Graduate School). With more than 10 years of Project and Programme Management experience, both on the operational and consulting perspective, Oliver has developed various skills and competence in a large scope of industries, from Corporate Finance to Aerospace, from E-business to Pharmaceutical industry as consultant, coach and trainer mostly involved in the implementation of Project Oriented Organizations. Olivier has developed the "Project Driven Strategic Chain©" concept which covers the full organizational scope, from the Strategic Vision to the Project operational level. Developing a complete Governance approach for each organizational level and overall Strategic execution. In parallel, Olivier is also active on the academic field, conducting research on Project Management Organizations, which should be made concrete by a PhD in Project Management at the Skema Graduate School of Management, under the supervision of Pr. Christophe Bredillet. Oliver has also been published in professional press and has presented in several conferences around the world. An active Member of the Project Management Institute, Olivier is also a member of Valense, worldwide Organizational Consulting network acting in UK, USA, France, Australia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Dubai and China. Olivier's letmotiv lies in his conviction that sharing Knowledge is a major factor for global performance and common development, organizational and personal. As an International Correspondent for **PMForum** and **PM World Today**, Olivier will report news about projects and project management in Switzerland and across Europe. Olivier Lazar can be contacted at olivier.lazar@valense.com.