

FEATURED INTERVIEW

The PM World in Peru
An Interview with Luis Alfredo Chepote
Project Manager, Peruvian entrepreneur.

By José Machicao,
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This interview is the first of a series with some members of the Peruvian PM Community. These interviews are intended to provide some more personal and relevant information about the PM world in Peru. Luis Alfredo Chepote is a Peruvian entrepreneur and a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) and the PMI Government Specific Interest Group (GovSIG). Some public and private projects managed by him have been recognized with awards, and today he is one of the main characters in the Peruvian project management community who better combines many disciplines. I have met Luis Alfredo Chepote through the PMI GovSIG and we have now developed together many project management training and promotion projects.

PMWT: In recent years, two of your projects have received awards and recognitions for the successes they achieved.

Luis Alfredo Chepote: Yes, by 2001, I was involved in an IT project which had as final deliverable an integrated system for container load management for an important maritime agent in the US, who decided to outsource this complex system to a Peruvian company. This system was recognized with the Corporate Creativity Award in 2001.

Afterwards in 2006, for General Elections for Presidency of Peru, I was assigned for the Electoral Ethics Pact project, an initiative from the National Elections Agency obtaining the Award for Best Government Practices by Ciudadanos al Día (www.ciudadanosaldia.org, [see the news](#)). Also, Lloyd Axworthy, Chief of the Mission of Observers from the OAS, [recommended to replicate the initiative](#) for elections in all countries in the Region. The OAS General Secretary, Jose Miguel Insulza, recognized this program as an important initiative for the promotion of electoral ethics.

PMWT: Do you think project management has been involved to obtain these distinctions?

Luis Alfredo Chepote: I think it was a very important factor. But I should be clear saying that there is a need for leadership, conviction of what you are doing and professional ethics, because you are the head of the team and the example to follow. In my university training as Bachelor in Computing Sciences at the School of Business at Florida Atlantic University (1986) I had no courses of project management in the study plan. Neither at ESAN www.esan.edu.pe (1994), rich in many concepts and tools, but without driving you to develop capacities to manage projects. These I found lately at specialization courses (IT Project Management – ESAN) where authors like Sprague, Pressman, Rakos among others showed me a clearer North. It is because I won the Corporate Creativity Award in 2001 with the WTS which opened to me the possibility to search for better



project management practices. That was because the BST (blood, sweat and tears) methodology was too expensive in both the emotional and economical sense. It is clear that the PMBOK greatly influenced all my projects from then on, including especially the Electoral Ethics Pact in 2006.

PMWT: Which are the most important projects in which you have been involved these years and how has project management helped you?

Luis Alfredo Chepote: I was lucky to participate on projects with very different environments. The one with IT faced a geographically dispersed team scenario, combining 2 or more cultures (both social and organizational) demanding a lot of specialization, concentration and coordination and also, the client team. It is clear that the WTS project has given me uncountable experiences which I was able to apply in other environments.



Another project in which I was involved that has very important results in Peru, is the Commercial Justice Process Implementation. The need was originated in the Judicial Power in Peru, but got involved many organizations such as USAID and the Civil Society. Here, the scenario was different because work has been done inside a public institution and with an international cooperation agency, each one with its own norms and procedures demanding a fine coordination under a restricted budget and with an inflexible calendar. This model of Commercial Justice, implemented in its first stage on 2005, is considered currently as the model to follow for judicial administration in the country.

Currently, I am participating on a project to create a natural reserve in the high jungle of Peru. The project has, among its features, some topics I consider important. The conservation and study of our natural regions, sustainable development of neighbor communities generating job opportunities and economical development, and why not, generating financial returns for the investors.

PMWT: You are also teaching. How would you define your interest in teaching?

Luis Alfredo Chepote: Thanks to the invitation from a colleague to teach at the university (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru), I was able to develop my interest in networking with the project management professional community. Besides the enrichment experience, this allowed me to know the great interest in Peru in order to acquire competitive advantages as a tool for professional development of the participants. Also, find the value of sharing new experiences and expectancies happens to be tremendously productive for the lecturer.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to lead some training workshops organized by the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the International Coordination for Technical Group (GTCI Camisea) for the local and regional government staff. This experience allowed me to bring my experience and PMI best practices to many regions in the country where transference of capacities is called in order to have a better administration of public resources.

I hope to continue working soon in sharing project management best practices and of course continue helping to consolidate through them the suitable professional groups to carry on successful projects and I hope these groups to become true agents of change.

PMWT: You also are devoted to many activities as a volunteer. What kind of activities do you develop and how project management helps you to do it?

Luis Alfredo Chepote: Currently I am working in 2 associations in which I am keen to help: AGESAN and PMI GovSIG (Peru). As VP of the Alumni Association of ESAN, I want to help to improve the quantity and quality of the services to nearly 1000 associates. As MBA from ESAN, I am interested on assure for the association to have a management team (steering committee) with a proactive mentality and the search of new approaches to attract active participation of the associates. We want to build the largest MBA network in Peru. My experience and knowledge about project management is a tool which helps me to define goals, targets, strategies and achieve the time for these objectives.

At the PMI GovSIG, I want to help our public members to have the best tools for its function to respond to the needs of the users of the State, achieving optimally, making the most of the scarce resources and funds of the State in order to face the demands of Peruvian population, which in majority have no the basic services indispensable for its development.

PMWT: How do you see project management general perspective in Peru?

Luis Alfredo Chepote: I think we live in a very competitive era within the private sector and many defects and limitations within the public sector. I am not worried about private sector since I consider it has its own incentives and mechanisms to reinforce its capacities, one of them the optimization of resources, an element very clearly associated to a very good project management.

On the contrary, the public sector is the one which needs to receive a stronger attention. I think is not only a matter of capacities but also continuity of the technical staff for public entities. A very strange policy of professional development blocks us all Peruvians to have public servers highly skilled, formed and trained. I don't know if sustainable economical development is going to be achieved if professional capacity doesn't exist for an adequate welfare distribution

PMWT : How you will define yourself professionally?

Luis Alfredo Chepote: As a professional continually seeking a space where to be able to contribute and learn. A person who always find unavoidable to be a good leader, it is necessary to be rooted on solid ethical and moral principles. I am a professional convinced that successful project managed by people who are convinced of the benefits of the project and its capacity to transfer that feeling to other people. I am a person grateful of the respect and affection of the students when I end a class which recognizes the effort to communicate knowledge.



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