

VIEWPOINT

A Challenge for Project Management Organizations!

By Paul Giammalvo

I received this in my in box today which inspired a “call to arms” for the project management community of practice to renew the call for the International Development lenders to adopt Earned Value Management for all projects funded by these agencies.

“At the bank's annual meeting in Singapore in September, Wolfowitz was admonished by several European countries and by developing nations for putting the anti-corruption initiative ahead of the needs of the poor.

Countries like Britain, France and Germany were all wary about attaching restrictive conditions to the World Bank's multi-billion-dollar development assistance. Wolfowitz did win the backing of US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who described corruption as "probably the cruelest" tax imposed on a country's population.

Wolfowitz's plan would link World Bank financial aid to commitments by beneficiary countries to good governance, such as transparency in public procurement, and anti-graft measures.”

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070130/bs_afp/worldbankcorruption_070130220252

At the same time, the American Society of Civil Engineers has embarked on a “zero tolerance” policy for corruption in construction project management.

<http://email.asce.org/international/documents/GLOBALACETPROJECTDESCRIPTIONDraftJan52007.pdf> (See attached .pdf file)

What better time than now, for all globally influential organizations representing project managers, to join ASCE in calling for a “zero tolerance” on corrupt and collusive practices?

I have long been advocating for the implementation of Earned Value Management as one of the ways to help control “leakage” in project funds. While it won't stop the leakage outright, it will make it more difficult for the corruptors to skim funds from the project and, if implemented along with activity based costing, it will provide the auditors with a much better trail to track and follow where the money went.

By implementing Earned Value as it was intended, it should not have any negative impact on the World Bank or other multi- or bi-lateral lending agencies in providing services for the poor. Yet at the same time, as it worked so well for the US Government for over 45 years in minimizing rip-offs by savvy contractors, so it should also help governments funded by the World Bank in preventing or at least slowing down the leakage in project funds.

Please join me in lobbying your preferred project management organization to join ASCE in their efforts, and lobby all International Development lenders to adopt Earned Value Management.



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