

VIEWPOINT – JANUARY 2008 Tenth Anniversary of Project Management World Today

By R. Max Wideman

Any 10th anniversary is a good reason to pause, look back and review the happenings since then. Project Management World Today, or PMWT, as it became known, was the brainchild of David H. Curling, B.Eng. (Mech), P.Eng., p.t.s.c, APM (CPM), Fellow APM, Fellow PMI, CD, Principal Consultant LODAY Systems Ltd. Ottawa, Ontario Canada. David graduated from McGill University, Montreal, and attended a number of Staff Colleges notably the Royal Military College of Science. He had an extensive knowledge and experience in the formal management of projects in a variety of industrial and government settings having been a manager and consultant to projects involving multi-disciplinary teams. These included a variety of companies working in a number of different countries as well as Canadian Industry and the Public Service.

In particular during his career, David was project manager for a number of major computer systems development projects such as a Project Cost Probability System; Project Management System Development Process; and MISER - A Major Project Executive Oversight System. David was obviously captivated by the computer technology of the day and was always keen to try the latest programs with one focused aim – to enhance project management and spread the word.

He saw the possibilities of the fledgling technology known as the Internet and launched the PM Forum with its vision of being a non-profit resource for information on international project management affairs. As such, the Forum was dedicated to supporting development, international cooperation, promotion and support of a professional and worldwide project management discipline. The earliest record of David's work that I can find is around January 1995, in which he jots down a number of personal notes that I find instructive. For example:

"Global Cooperation Forum

At the Project Management Institute's Seminar/Symposium, held at Vancouver Canada in October 1994, a group of project management practitioners called for a Forum for international cooperation. These practitioners came from many different countries and were currently active in many different Project Management societies and organizations. The initial gathering examined the benefits of a truly global approach in exchanging and sharing ideas and practices of project management. The need for improved international cooperation was unanimous. The group published a manifesto to: 'agree to continue to evaluate opportunities for expanding global cooperation among project management associations and project management professionals' . . ."

The following month, David noted, I am sure with a considerable degree of satisfaction: "PMI

Canada - National Organization Formed. PMI*CANADA . . . A REALITY! The formation of PMI-Canada as a National Project Management Institute with an affiliation to PMI was approved unanimously by PMI's Board at its recent Spring Meeting. This resolution provides for the development of an inter society cooperation agreement which would include commercial arrangements and would be developed to mutual advantage. Current plans are to have this task completed to enable an official signing at PMI-Canada's first symposium/seminar in Ottawa in May. The resolution also included the right to utilize both PMI's name and logo as evidence of a continuing close bond. It also paves the way for PMI-Canada to be registered as a non-profit professional organization with the Government of Canada. This is a new direction for PMI, and a model that could be used to transform the organization into a truly global one. It is designed both to empower and facilitate the Canadian Chapters to work together to improve value to members and stakeholders in areas such as organizational profile, marketing, knowledge building and business networking."

As many people now know, this venture proved to be unsuccessful, but the very idea demonstrated the aspirations of a global group in a bygone era. Ever impatient with the rate of progress by institutionalized bodies and with the PMForum as a base, David moved his attention in 1997 to issuing a regular online magazine, or "Ezine", the now familiar Project Management World Today. This has proved to be very successful, building a worldwide readership with news and articles contributed equally worldwide.

Just prior to David Curling's untimely death in 2005, David Pells, a long-time contributor to the magazine, took on the responsibility of continuing David's brainchild. Thus, the electronic magazine that David Curling envisioned has continued to spread its wings and present itself with a convenience and attractiveness that is now possible with the latest Internet technological capabilities.

In all of this time, I have been pleased to play a modest part by providing editorials, articles, comments and suggestions. David Curling and I worked closely together and gave each other much valued support. With this base, David's website and magazine have become the international source for breaking news from around the world of project management, while my own site has properly become the permanent repository of those articles and ideas that appear to have long-term value. David Curling's many, varied and unique contributions to the global project management community are vast and his vision will be valued for many years to come.

It was my great privilege to know and work with David H. Curling, and I wish the PMWT Ezine long-term success under its current Editor, David Pells.

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Mr. Max Wideman, FCSCE, FEIC, FICE, Fellow PMI, is a global PM advisor for PM World Today. A globally-recognized author, consultant and expert on the subject of project management (PM), Max is widely recognized as one of the world's leading authorities on modern project and program management. The Wideman PM Glossary is one of the most widely-referenced lexicons of PM terms and terminology in the world today. Max Wideman has 40+ years of PM-related experience in a wide range of projects and industries. He is a registered professional engineer specializing in project management consulting. Max is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers (UK), a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada, a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, a Fellow of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) and a long-time member of the Institute of Management (UK). Max served on the PMI Board of Directors as VP Member Services (1984), President (1987) and Chairman of the Board (1988). In the mid-1980's, he led a team of PMI volunteers to document the PM Body of Knowledge for the Institute, published by PMI in 1987. Max won PMI's Distinguished Contribution Award in 1985 and Person of the Year Award in 1986. Max Wideman is the author of *A Framework for Project and Program Integration* (PMI, 1991) and *Project and Program Risk Management: A guide to Managing Project Risk and Opportunities* (PMI, 1992). He contributed chapters to *Project Management Handbook* (PMI/Jossey-Bass, 1998); *Field Guide to Project Management* (Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1998, 2004) and *Project Management for the Business Professional - A Comprehensive Guide* (Wiley, 2001). His latest book is *A Management Framework for Project, Program and Portfolio Integration*. (Trafford Publishing, Victoria, BC, Canada, 2004). A resident of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Max Wideman's personal website can be found at www.wideman.com. Max can be contacted at max@wideman.com.