



PMI Lahore Newsletter

Lahore Chapter Crosses 400 Member Mark



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the third issue of the PMI Lahore Newsletter.

As mentioned earlier, we are experiencing exponential growth every month and February 2008 saw our active membership count crossing the 400 member mark...!!! This is a great achievement and really commendable for the entire project management community of Lahore Chapter. Well done team...keep pushing!!

With increasing members, we can definitely feel the increasing responsibility of ensuring professional and personal growth of our members. Also, now we have a fresh inflow of volunteers who are willing to work with us for enhancing their exposure to international best practices in project management, as well as earn valuable PDUs redeemable towards annual membership renewals.

Also, the Chapter is initiating some interesting ventures and we need additional hands to execute them. Some of them are included in this newsletter such as one regarding involvement of Chapter members with a public university with a mandate to include PMBOK in their course curriculum and design undergraduate courses for ensuring availability of project management trained professionals when they complete their undergraduate degrees.

Another initiative is being taken for Chapter Mentoring Program. Through this program, Mentors and Mentees will be matched through the Chapter, keeping in view their strengths and requirements for professional & personal growth. Chapter facilitated PMP Preparation courses are in full swing as well with an average frequency of one course per month. Few more ideas are also being communicated to us through our members and we are working with them to implement these ideas.

Finally, as always, I would like to invite your suggestions in improving this publication including contributions for upcoming issues. Enjoy...!

Khalid Ahmad Khan, PMP

**President
PMI Lahore Chapter**

Inside this issue:

<i>Supporting Institutions for Modern Project Management Courses</i>	2
<i>PMP Preparation Training Program</i>	2
<i>Product In Focus—Open Workbench</i>	2
<i>Lahore Chapter's Int'l PM Day Featured in PMI Today</i>	3
<i>Lahore Chapter Monthly Seminar Series</i>	3
<i>Impact of High Oil Prices on Economy</i>	3
<i>Joke of the Month</i>	4
<i>Lahore Projects Featured in PMI's PM Network</i>	4
<i>Lahore Chapter Initiating Mentoring Program</i>	4
<i>Construction News—Dubai Crossing Design Unveiled</i>	5
<i>The FIDIC Standard Form of Contracts</i>	5
<i>PMI and Lahore Chapter Overview</i>	6

PMI News: Exposure Drafts for Review

As mentioned in the previous newsletter (February 2008), new standards are evolving and few of them have already been made available for review of the international community of project management practitioners. The exposure draft public comment period is a critical component in building consensus for finalizing the standards drafts. The standards drafts available for review include "A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)", "The Standard for Program Management", "The Standard for Portfolio Management", and "Organizational Project Management Maturity Model (OPM3®)". The review period is 45 days and will end on 22-March-2008. It is recommended to all Chapter members that they should review the exposure drafts in order to keep abreast of the next wave of modifications coming in the PMI Standards.



Supporting Institutions for Modern Project Management Courses

By Noman Zafar Chaudry, PMP



Keeping in view the existing inadequate exposure to project management in our institutions producing graduates professionals, a volunteer group from Lahore Chapter has partnered with a public sector university in order to enhance the project management curriculum. The idea is to provide enough basics to the students during their BS and MS studies, so that when they come out of their institutions, they are already trained in the project management way of structured thinking.

Once this idea is successful in one institution, we plan to initiate in other public and private institutions as well. During its execution, the volunteer group will collaborate with the administrative and teaching staff at the institution to define the

modalities of this program.

“This initiative will go a long way in preparing our coming generations for the realities of practical project management,” said Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan, President Lahore Chapter. “It would also increase the chances of employment and growth for these young graduates over their peers due to the additional exposure to Project Management” he further added.

In addition to redesigning their course curriculum, Lahore Chapter will also provide the students training on Project Maker, an ingenious freely available project management tool developed by Lahore Chapter. This will further help in converting sequential thinking to structured thought process. Further details on this initiative will be shared in near future.

PMP Preparation Training Program

By M. Naveed Akhtar, PMP



Group of participants from the PMP Preparation Training Program

The quality of the courses being conducted by Lahore Chapter has been consistent which has resulted in a constant inflow of applications for attending these courses.

Since Lahore Chapter members are also given a discount in these

courses, therefore it is very attractive for them to join these courses in their preparation for PMP status.

Lahore Chapter has partnered with BMC and Dr.

Azhar Mansur Khan, Associate Dir. BMC, has been given the task of conducting this 5-day training workshop in Lahore.

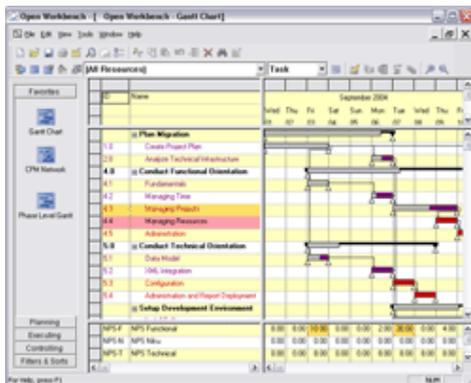


Last month another batch of PMP preparation course was conducted by the Lahore Chapter; during February 11-15, 2008 having 30 attendees. Next courses are scheduled for March 24-28, 2008 and April 14-18, 2008.

Further courses are also being planned almost every month and interested readers can contact the PMI Lahore Chapter Coordinator for being placed in one of the upcoming courses.

Product In Focus—Open Workbench

By M. Naveed Akhtar, PMP



Open Workbench is an open source Windows-based desktop application that provides robust project scheduling and management functionality and is free to distribute throughout the enterprise. It conforms to and supports the underlying ideals of project management while presenting information in an intuitive manner.

The current version enables project managers to create

work breakdown structures (WBS) with tasks and milestones, set baselines, schedule project plans with dependencies, assign resources to tasks, schedule work on tasks over a period of time, and conduct earned value analysis.

Once the project plan is created, project managers have access to a library of project views in Open Workbench, including Gantt and Phase Level Gantt charts, logical PERT-style displays as well as customizable views as per requirements.

Further details on this tool is available at www.OpenWorkBench.org.

Lahore Chapter's Int'l PM Day Featured in PMI Today



In the PMI Today January 2008 edition, the Lahore Chapter's International Project Management Day event has been featured with a picture of all participants standing beside the pool.

Inclusion of this story in the newsletter actually provides an opportunity to all participants to boast off their involvement with the professional project management community as well as use it as a marketing tool to bring in their fellows as well.

Lahore Chapter Monthly Seminar Series

By Arif Majeed Butt



“Strategic Quality Assurance” was the topic of the seminar held during February as part of the monthly seminar series. Mr. Kamran Moosa, MSc in Total Quality Management from Sheffield Hallam University, UK and, CEO and Principal Consultant at PIQC Institute of Quality, Pakistan graced the occasion through his insightful delivery on this topic.

Mr. Kamran Moosa highlighted the importance of strategic quality assurance in meeting today's highly competitive and demanding requirements. He also explained the various methods available for implementing strategic quality assurance practices in projects of all kinds.

Following the presentation and Q&A session, reimbursement cheques were distributed among the winners of “PMP Preparation Course Contest” from the latest training batches. Afterwards, a sumptuous high-tea finished off the evening.

The seminar was held at Holiday Inn Hotel, Lahore on Saturday, February 23, 2008 and was attended by almost 100 members of Lahore Chapter.

The seminar presentation has been uploaded to the Chapter's Google Group for access by all Lahore Chapter Members.

Impact of High Oil Prices on Economy

By Ubaidullah Khan, PMP



High oil prices push up inflation in consuming countries through higher energy and transport costs, and can push up interest rates and trim economic growth. If they are steep enough or last long enough, they can trigger recessions, as happened in 1973-74 when OPEC tripled oil prices overnight, in the 1980s during Iran-Iraq war and during the 1990s at the time of Kuwait's invasion.

With the fuel prices crossing 100 USD/Barrel barrier, the economy is bound to be further constrained by the all-time high rates. An oil-price increase also changes the balance of trade between countries and countries normally experience a deterioration in their balance of payments, putting downward pressure on exchange rates. As a result, imports become more expensive and exports less valuable, leading to a drop in real national income.

Many factors are fueling the upward trend of fuel prices including but not limited to the depleting oil reserves, growing oil demand due to global economic growth, volatile security situation in the Persian Gulf. All these factors are slowing the economic growth and are significantly increasing the construction costs of global infrastructure projects.

We should be vigilant on this front and brace ourselves for the upcoming fuel crises, and the Government should adopt such policies which can gear our economy towards bearing this fuel price shock with minimum impact to the common man.

Joke of the Month



Once upon a time, a British company and a Japanese company decided to have a competitive boat race on the River Thames. The Japanese won by a mile.

The British firm became very discouraged and morale sagged. Senior Management decided that the reason for the crushing defeat had to be found and a project team was set up to investigate the problem and recommend the appropriate action.

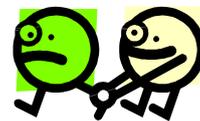
Their conclusion: the Japanese team had eight people rowing and one person steering. The British team had one person rowing and eight people steering.

Senior Management immediately hired a consultant company to do a study of the British team's structure. Millions of pounds and several months later

they concluded that too many people were steering and not enough rowing.

To prevent losing to the Japanese next year, the team structure was changed to four 'Steering Managers', three 'Senior Steering Managers' and one 'Executive Steering Manager'. A performance and appraisal system was set up to give the person rowing the boat more incentive to work harder and become a key performer.

The next year the Japanese won by two miles.



Lahore Projects Featured in PMI's PM Network



Lahore City got another feather in its cap when the PM Network featured Lahore's mega-projects in the infrastructure domain in its December 2007 edition.

The featured projects included Software Technology Park, Mass Transit Project, Lahore Ring Road, Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and Lahore Sports City Projects. Our Chapter President, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan, contributed data while Ms. Sandra A. Swanson did a marvelous depiction of the provided material into this insightful article.

Also quoted is the following from Khalid sb, "Now we don't have people asking if project management will make a difference—instead, they want to know how best to implement it in their projects."

Lahore Chapter Initiating Mentoring Program

By Najam Ahmad Shah, PMP



A mentor is a caring, senior friend who devotes time to a younger professional. Although mentors can fill any number of different roles, all mentors have the same goal in common: to help young professionals achieve their potential and discover their strengths.

A mentor's main purpose is to help a young professional define individual goals and find ways to achieve them. Since the expectations of each mentee will vary, the mentor's job is to encourage the development of a flexible relationship that responds to both the mentor's and the young person's needs.

A mentor may help a young professional to:

1. Set career goals & start taking steps to realize them;
2. Think through professional problems etc.

Right now we are in the first phase of this program where lists of potential mentors and mentees are being compiled. If you are interested to be either a mentor or a mentee, kindly send in your interest to the Chapter through an email. Once we have sufficient members in both lists, we will initiate the second phase of this program.

Construction News—Dubai Crossing Design Unveiled

By Noman Zafar Chaudry, PMP



Dubai's Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) recently conducted an international design competition for selecting the design of the iconic structure for a sixth crossing at Dubai's Creek. US-based FXFOWLE International's design has been declared as the winner of this competition.

The Crossing will carry six lanes of traffic in each direction plus two lanes for the extension of the Dubai's Green Metro line. It will have a total span of 1.7 KM which will make it the largest spanning arch bridge in the world. The firm's winning bridge design is poised to join five existing Dubai Creek crossings (four bridges and one tunnel), further advancing the infrastructure and transportation initiatives in Dubai.

The bridge will join the areas of Jadaf on the Burj Dubai side to the west of the creek with the Lagoons and Festival City developments to the east.

Further details on this story can be found at www.KHL.com and www.FXFOWLE.com.



The FIDIC Standard Form of Contracts

By Ubaidullah Khan, PMP



FIDIC, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (the acronym stands for the French version of the name) represents globally the consulting engineering industry. As such, the Federation promotes the business interest of firms supplying technology-based intellectual services.

Founded in 1913, FIDIC membership today numbers 75 Member Associations representing some 1 million professionals worldwide. Through various initiatives, FIDIC has introduced and published standard form of agreements for several types of international works contracts for infrastructure including Construction Contract, Plant & Design-Build Contract, EPC/Turnkey Contract etc.

Due to the explicit definitions and safe-guards built into these standard forms of agreements, they are widely used in International Competitive Bidding projects. World Bank has also adapted this standard into their form of standard contracting agreement.

Pakistan has also been using this standard form of agreement for various Donor projects. Recently Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has published an adapted version of this agreement to manage mega-projects in the country. It is expected that soon all mega-projects within the country will be executed using these standard forms. More information can be found on www.FIDIC.org.

PMI Lahore Newsletter

Making Project Management Indispensable for Business Results

For any comment or participation in future issues of PMI Lahore Newsletter, please contact:

PMI Lahore Chapter
415, 4th Floor, Sadiq Plaza,
The Mall, Lahore
Pakistan

Phone: +92 42 7066879
Cell: +92 333 4475828
coordinator@pmlhr.org.pk

List Of PMI Lahore Chapter Office Bearers:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan | President |
| • Mr. Rizwan Amin Sheikh | Vice President |
| • Mr. Yaser J. Pasha | Secretary |
| • Mr. M. Naveed Akhtar | Director Finance |
| • Mr. Ahsan Maqbool | Director Marketing & Communication |
| • Mr. Khalid Bashir | Director At Large |
| • Mr. Muhammad Yaqoob | Director At Large |
| • Lt. Col. (R) Arif Majeed | Director Professional Development |
| • Mr. Fayyaz Hussain Shah | Director Legal |
| • Mr. Muhammad Adeel Khan | Director Memberships |
| • Mr. Muhammad Amjad | Director Sponsorships & Events |



PMI and Lahore Chapter Overview

PMI Lahore Chapter growth has been very aggressive since its creation and the numbers have been doubling every year. Current active membership stands at 400 members by the end of February 2008, while more members are joining every day. Number of certified PMPs is also growing every day with a lot of PMPs coming from the Public Sector in Punjab.



About PMI

With more than 250,000 members in over 160 countries, PMI is the leading membership association for the project management profession. PMI is actively engaged in advocacy for the profession, setting professional standards, conducting research and providing access to a wealth of information and resources. PMI also promotes career and professional development and offers certification, networking and community involvement opportunities.

For more than 36 years, PMI has advanced the careers of practitioners who have made project management indispensable in achieving business results.

