

PMI Finland Chapter

Newsletter

March 2009

Announcement!

The Chapter will organize an evening course in two parts about project management fundamentals. The target group is people who have not been confronted with projects and project management in the past.

F.Y.I.

Currently the Chapter has **220 members**.
More Chapter statistics on the following page.

Message

If you wish to tell about your own project(s), project experience – good or bad, an interesting book, or anything you think might be interesting for our member community, please, contact Bernhard Korjonen (bernhard.korjonen@pmifinland.org).

UPGRADE

PMBOK & Co: We had a presentation about the changes at the GAM. Old versions of the standards are still valid for credential examinations until:

- PMP®: 30 June 2009
- CAPM®: 31 July 2009
- PMI-SPSM: 31 August 2009
- PMI-RMPSM: 31 August 2009
- PgMP®: 31 August 2009

Come
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Statistics of Interest as of February 2009

	PMI Global	Chapter Finland
Members	293 416	216
Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM®)	6 963	6
Total Project Management Professionals (PMP®)	322 250	211
Total Program Management Professionals (PgMP®)	202	0
Total Scheduling Professionals (PMI-SP®)	123	0
Total Risk Management Professionals SM	55	0

Worldwide there are nearly 250 PMI Chapters with total chapter membership over 190 000.

More statistics about project management can be found on our web-pages www.pmifinland.org.

KEEPING “BUSINESS-AS-USUAL” RISKS OUT OF THE PROJECT RISK REGISTER

One frequent complaint about many project Risk Registers is that they are filled with “risks” that will be addressed in the normal course of events. For example, a software development company may be undertaking a project to produce a new system, with an integration step towards the end of the project. Should the Risk Register include a risk that “Errors might be found during integration”, or is this just the usual technical challenge faced during this type of project?

While it is true that projects are risky ventures and they require uncertainty to be identified and managed proactively, it might be a mistake to include every uncertain task in the Risk Register. If this were the case, there could be a risk for every activity in the project plan: “Activity A might fail”, or “We might have problems with Activity B”, or “Unexpected problems might occur with Activity C”. How should we handle these types of “business-as-usual” risks?

All risks share three essential characteristics:

1. They are in the future and have not yet happened
2. They are uncertain and might not happen
3. They would matter if they did happen

However, some of our planned project tasks also share these characteristics. The reason they are included in the plan is because they occur on all similar projects, so we are ready for them. Our standard operating procedures are designed to deal with these events if they were to occur. So if we included them in the Risk Register, the appropriate response would be for someone to do their job, to follow the normal process for this type of project activity.

In effect, if we include these “business-as-usual” risks in our Risk Registers, we are saying there is a risk that someone might not do their job properly. Is this appropriate to include in the Risk Register? A well-managed project will have management processes to ensure that the appropriate people are on the project team, with the right skills, experience, training and tools for the job. Standard management tasks include monitoring and review of the plan to check that it is being followed. Audits provide assurance that professional procedures and standards are implemented. So we can usually rely on people do their job competently.

Instead of filling the Risk Register with “risks” that are very general and which require no special responses other than doing the job properly, we should focus on finding the real risks that might otherwise surprise us, for good or bad. These are the risks that require our special attention and planning to decide how to address them, since they are not covered by our standard operating procedures. We should keep “business-as-usual” risks out of the Risk Register, and use it to record real threats and opportunities, together with what we plan to do about them.

Having agreed that “business-as-usual” risks should not be included in the Risk Register, how should we stop them getting there? This should be the responsibility of the person who is facilitating the risk process (the Risk Champion or Risk Manager). They need to act as gatekeeper to the Risk Register, deciding whether each proposed risk is valid and can be entered into the Risk Register. They should be clear about what goes in and what does not, and why. This will ensure that generic so-called “risks” are excluded (as well as excluding non-risks such as facts, issues, causes, effects, worries etc.), and will help us to reserve the Risk Register for the real “uncertainties that matter”.

General Annual Meeting 2009

The annual meeting was held in Keilasatama, Espoo, on March 9th. We had slightly more than 30 Chapter members attending the meeting and kicked-off with an overview of the changes in the PMBOK® Guide 4th edition. The presentation was created by PMI and Bernhard Korjonen, PMP, lead though the topic.

After that the meeting turned into the official lane and the highlight was the election of the new Board. Tony McGlenn, PMP, was elected the new president and he will be supported by the following Board members: Ari Aaltonen, PMP; Matti Haukka; Raimo Kaunismäki; Seppo Halminen; Rajiv Arora, PMP; Katri Heinäsuo; Bernhard Korjonen, PMP; Clara Nyman, PMP; Dean Pattrick, PMP.

The meeting elected Petri Jäntti and Eero Tervonen, PMP, to be the new auditors.

The last part of the event was educational again and we put an effort in improving our meeting skills with the training video “Meetings, Bloody Meetings.

5 Points You Can Use to Show Why Project Management is Indispensable in Turbulent Times

By Jack S. Duggal, MBA, PMP

As companies try to cut costs in these tough economic times, few business areas seem safe. Project management can be under pressure as well, as some may consider it to be unnecessary overhead and question its importance.

While your gut instinct might be to lie low, this is actually a time to be proactive and articulate why project management is indispensable, especially in today's turbulent environment.

Here are 5 points you can use to explain the importance of project management to executives and senior managers. These points directly address current challenges facing organizations in today's economic climate. They are not listed in order of priority but are simply arranged in a way that is easy to remember with the mnemonic, *PM SOARS!*

- **Savings** – One of the current priorities is cost savings. Savings can be illustrated through **cost savings** with lower costs or fewer resources used, or through **cost avoidance** with successful execution including less rework, or greater reuse, or both.
It is not enough to say that your project was completed under budget; you need to **show how much you saved**. Calculate how much money was saved due to the application of sound project management practices. Translate and quantify the value of timely and efficient execution.
For example, **the difference in time between when the customer requested project completion and when the project manager delivers can be translated into real money and improved opportunity** to do additional projects with remaining budget.
- **Optimization** – As the pressure increases to do more with less, project managers have to apply optimization techniques to maximize the utilization of resources. More importantly, you have to show how project management techniques help you get more done with the same or even fewer resources.
- **Accountability and Governance** – There is a need for greater accountability and governance at every level. Explain how project management provides a framework for a project lifecycle with appropriate stage gates and standard processes that lead to greater accountability. When you engage in program and portfolio management, accountability and governance can be greater yet.
- **Risk Management** – We have to consider the role of risk in different aspects that lead up to the economic crisis. Emphasize that the risk management knowledge area of project management creates **a culture of proactive risk management** by identification and management of threats as well as opportunities.
- **Selection and Prioritization** – The challenge in a turbulent environment is to focus on the right things and prioritize limited resources. Portfolio management principles provide a framework for your organization to prioritize and select the right projects, and focus on key initiatives that will support a rapid economic recovery.

You can use the above points to craft your own elevator pitch that will help you to better articulate why project management is indispensable to your organization.

In the opening chapter of his book, "Managing in Turbulent Times," management guru Peter F. Drucker wrote: In turbulent times, an enterprise has to be managed to withstand sudden blows and avail itself of sudden, unexpected opportunities. This means that in turbulent times, the fundamentals have to be managed, and managed well¹.

Indeed project, program and portfolio management provide the fundamentals to survive the tough times and position your organization for the future. Now more than ever is the time to talk it up.

Mr. Duggal is the managing principal of [Projectize Group LLC](#), specializing in next generation training, consulting and tools, and a PMI [SeminarsWorld](#)[®] leader of the seminar [Building the Next Generation PMO and Portfolio Management](#). For questions on the content of the seminar, please contact [Mr. Duggal](#).

¹ Drucker, Peter F. 1980. *Managing in Turbulent Times*. New York: [HarperCollins Publishers](#).

Congratulations new PMPs and welcome new Chapter Members

New PMPs

- Mr. Niclas B Hill, PMP
- Mr. Wei-Yu Tai, PMP
- Mr. Deepak Sharma, PMP

New Chapter Members

Mr. Kimmo Ossian Keränen	Mr. Henry Andersson, PMP
Mr. Veli Kouvalainen	Mr. Mikko Piekkala, PMP
Mr. Juha-Pekka Nurro	Mr. Tommi J Soini, PMP
Mr. Bogdan R Stoescu	Mr. Markus Prosch, PMP
Ms. Marianne Pellas, PMP	Ismo Saukkonen, PMP
Ms. Monica E. Back, PMP	Mr. Venkatesh Ramachandran, PMP
Mr. David L. McCloud, PMP	Mr. Yngve U. Dahl, PMP
Mr. Ron Bossen	Mr. Nigel Smith, PMP
Mrs. Ioana Canescu	Mr. Peter Waenerberg, PMP
Mr. Petri Jäntti	Mr. Kenneth C. Engblom, PMP
Mr. Jarmo Tapio Kahala	Mr. Kimmo Lahdenpera, PMP
Mr. Markku Kemppinen	Mr. Pertti Tikkanen, PMP
Mrs. Mari Koskinen	Mr. Benny Krohn
Ms. Mari Kuitunen	Mr. Mauro Sacchi
Miss Susanna Kukkonen	Ms. Terhi Silen
Mr. Markku Mäntysaari	Mr. Wei-Yu Tai, PMP
Mr. Kalle Suominen	Mr. Niklas Reuter, PMP
Mr. Niklas P Svahn	Anthony McGlinn, PMP
Mr. Marko Tapani Ukkola	Mr. Tapio Isolammi, PMP
Ms. Tuija Liisa Tuomainen, PMP	Mr. Jouko J Vaskimo, PMP
Mr. Seppo T Tiensuu, PMP	Mr. Vesa J. Koskela, PMP
Mr. Kimmo J Rantanen, PMP	

Congratulations and all the best
in your future projects.

Thank you for joining PMI Finland Chapter or
renewing your membership.

