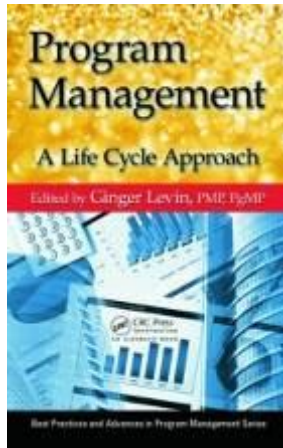

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Program Management: A Life Cycle Approach***

Author: **Ginger Levin, PMP, PgMP** (editor)

Publisher: **CRC Press**

List Price: US\$79.95

Format: hard cover; 541 pages

Publication Date: 2013

ISBN: 978-1-4665-1687-8

Reviewer: ***Nazanin Mehrooz, PMP***

Review Date: January 2013

Introduction to the Book

The need to better understand and realize benefits of Program Management is growing as more companies are required to managing multiple projects with changing business and strategic goals. This book provides a detailed view on what program management is and shares best practices from experienced and certified program managers.

This book contains 23 chapters, each focused on aspects of Program Management from experts from various countries and industries. The editor, Dr. Ginger Levin, does a great job of covering the entire program life cycle and details associated with each phase.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book contains 23 chapters:

1. Achieving Business Advantages through Program Management
2. Strategic Planning and Program Management
3. Change Management: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
4. Communication, Complexity Theory, and Programs
5. Program Initiation
6. Benefits Management
7. The Earned Benefits Method for Controlling Program Performance
8. Demystifying Stakeholder Management: the Science and the Art

9. Closing the Expectations Gap: Setting and Managing Expectations
10. Communication and Its Power at the Program Level
11. Program Governance: Towards a Conceptual Communication
12. Decision Gate Discipline for Programs
13. Mobilizing the Organization: The Discipline of Execution
14. The Program Management Office (PgMO)
15. Program Management Office: Role and Challenges
16. Program Risk Management
17. Program Management Competencies
18. Information Structuring Methodology: Tools and Technologies
19. The Influence of Consortiums in Developing and Developed Countries
20. The Increase Importance of Social and Business Media in Program Management
21. Portfolio, Program, and Project Management as Enablers of Innovation
22. Organizational Maturity: Managing Programs Better
23. Sustainability Management

Highlights: What's New in this Book

- It combines a great introduction to program management life cycles, best practices and advanced topics for more experienced readers.
- Multiple experienced and certified Program Managers added lessons learned on their respective focus areas. The chapters covering each focus area can be read independently or collectively based on the reader's preferences.
- The editor comes has more than 35 years of experience from both public and private sectors. She is a senior consultant and educator in program management and author of several program and project management books.

Highlights: What I liked!

The book is a great source of information covering many aspects of program management. For those who don't have a great deal of exposure to Program Management, the book introduces the life cycle and characteristics of a good program manager. There are supporting charts to illustrate covered topics. It is a good supplement to the PMI Standard for Program Management for those who are interested in PgMT certification.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

The book is very comprehensive, so it's difficult to imagine a topic in Program Management which isn't covered. For those preparing for certification, additional

resources to dive deeper into each focus area to adequately prepare for the test is recommended.

Who might benefit from the Book

Anyone who wants to learn more about Program Management Life Cycles as well as learning best practices and advances would benefit from reading this book. Additionally, PgPM certification candidates would benefit from reading this book because it includes covers topics not mentioned in the PMI Standard for Program Management. For those who are experienced Program Managers, this book also includes the views of many reputable and informative experts who offer valuable lessons learned from their own respective focus areas.

Conclusion

This very comprehensive book offers an extensive range of knowledge on program management. My favorite chapters were related to leadership traits of a good program manager and how to build the right competencies to effectively manage the good, bad and ugly demands of the role. There is even a chapter dedicated to effective network usage of business media tools like LinkedIn. It's a great reference book to revisit to fully absorb the vast coverage of program management topics.

Program Management – A Life Cycle Approach; edited by Ginger Levin; published by CRC Press, © 2012, 541 pages, hard cover, ISBN 9781466516878; List price = \$79.95; For more information, go to <http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466516878>

Editor's note: This book review was the result of cooperation between the publisher, PM World and the Dallas Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI Dallas Chapter – www.pmidallas.org). Publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published by PM World in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members are all mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact editor@pmworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



Nazanin Mehrooz, PMP



Email of reviewer: nazi_mehrooz@yahoo.com

Born in Iran and migrated to the USA. I studied software engineering and have worked in both defense and telecom industries. For the past decade, my focus has been IT Application Support, Operations and Service Delivery Management. I am an active volunteer for the Dallas and Ft Worth PMI chapters.