

Project Management Report from Belo Horizonte



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A Project Management Symposium in Texas

The UT-Dallas promoted, on 14 and 15 August, the 8th Annual Project Management Symposium. In the period, 43 lectures and 3 Panel discussions were held. More than 400 people, including executives, professionals, academics and students were present.

To the author of this note, it was a very good opportunity to exchange experiences, meet people, discuss ideas, discover new insights, review concepts and realize where will go the theory and practice of Project Management.

Again we saw the close relationship between strategy and projects, the importance and the complexity of managing the project team (people is leading projects), communication problems, issues of innovation, change management, the advantages of growth in maturity, the Earned Schedule Technique and many other meaningful and significant contributions.

The already airy atmosphere of a university seems to be optimal for this type of Symposium. The friendliness of Texans, the Dallas sun and the architecture full of glass and clarity of the excellent facilities of the Naveen Jindal School of Management facilitate the exchange of ideas and discussions and to whet interest in the various developments that Project Management have and envision many other yet to come.

Next year, the 9th Symposium is scheduled for August 13 and 14. Schedule it.

Project Managers Liability and a Viaduct Collapse

On the afternoon of July 3, 2014, an overpass under construction collapsed in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil, killing two people. The viaduct was in the final stages of construction and is on a very busy road, which is also the best way to

connect the Confins International Airport and the Stadium where some games of the FIFA World Cup were being conducted.

Given the movement of the avenue over which was, the amount of casualties could have been much higher.

Authorities have not yet completed the analysis about the collapse, which would give an official explanation about the causes of the accident. However, the construction company hired a private study performed by an expert that after his analysis accused the company who did the structural design of the viaduct having wrong, in a crude way, the calculation of foundations.

By the way he gave the collapse, it seems that, indeed, one or more pillars of the overpass, broke or, bases its foundation gave way.

What does an accident of this nature have to do with Project Management?

A careful reading of the PMBOK or ICB, edited by IPMA, leads us to conclude that it is up to the Project Manager, among other things, to meet stakeholder requirements, take care of Project quality and Project Product quality, and meet the scope (project scope and product scope).

Some authors, for example PRADO (2011), believe that Project Management is composed of two complementary and integrated parts, the Labor Management Project and Technical Management or Product Management.

Others, including the author of this note, consider that there are three categories of processes that need to be performed to execute a project, the specific processes of Project Management, administrative processes or business processes of performing and client organizations and, technical process.

Technical processes, driven by the product (or technical) management - it is worth remembering, component of Project Management - ensure compliance with the technical requirements and the project success, as regards to product performance. So the question is, what is the responsibility of the Project Manager in relation to project product performance? This issue has been present in discussions carried out at conferences, seminars and symposia, and always in private conversations between Project Managers and academics.

Returning to the viaduct: how an engineer (and his crew), who is the Project Manager Construction Viaduct, did not notice the error, either in design or in execution? He is supposed to be an experienced and prepared professional, and able to direct the work.

If the error identified by the private expert is confirmed, contracted by the construction company, the liability of the Construction Project Manager is even greater. Obviously, the Design and Calculation of the Project Manager also failed. Managing something means taking responsibility, and that covers all aspects involved.

It's easy and convenient to say that the Project Manager responds by Project Management processes only. It is time for professionals and Project Management organizations that bring together and represent practitioners, to take a clear and definitive position about it.

About the Author



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Manuel Carvalho da Silva Neto, MSc, Mech. Engineer and PMP is Fundação Dom Cabral Invited Professor and also Consultant. He is a seasoned professional with over 39 years of experience in Project Management, Process Management and Strategy. Manuel has managed or participated in more than three hundred huge projects across different fields including Steel, Mining, IT, Telecom, Food Processing, Government and Construction to mention a few. He worked also in projects to implement PMO (Project Management Office) and Project Management Methodology. He has also strong skills in Leading People and Finance. He served as Minas Gerais State Undersecretary for Planning and Budget, from 2007 to 2008. Manuel can be contacted at carvalhoneto.manuel@gmail.com.