

Project Management update from Argentina



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In last month edition, I mentioned that in the PMI Tour Cono Sur Buenos Aires 2015 we have had an interesting exhibition of the Water Plan project of the City of Buenos Aires Government, presented by Rodrigo Silvosa, Undersecretary of Public Space Maintenance, of the Ministry of Environment and Public Space City.

The mentioned project was about the implementation of the System of Hydraulic and Meteorological Monitoring, that allows anticipation and detection of conditions that may cause flooding in the city, and thus take timely contingency measures to avoid or minimize unwanted impacts that affect the population.

In his presentation, Silvosa said that in recent decades the drainage course of the City became insufficient to capture and drive the rainwater to the river mouth, which caused major flooding and waterlogging, transforming floods in greatest risk of natural origin for the City. The City Storm Sewer System of Buenos Aires built in 1941 became insufficient, due to population growth, densification of buildings, lack of maintenance, weather phenomena and lack of adequate infrastructure investment to adjust to the current needs.

As part of the Hydraulic Master Plan, several drainage infrastructure projects were developed, allowing reservoirs to hold about 800 million liters of rain water, and it was implemented a system of monitoring and early warning for floods that provides information in real time of rains, river water levels, storm water runoff system performance, precipitation forecasts and forecasts of the level of the river, and allows to analyze vital information for prevention and emergency scenarios to make decisions based on hard facts of reality.



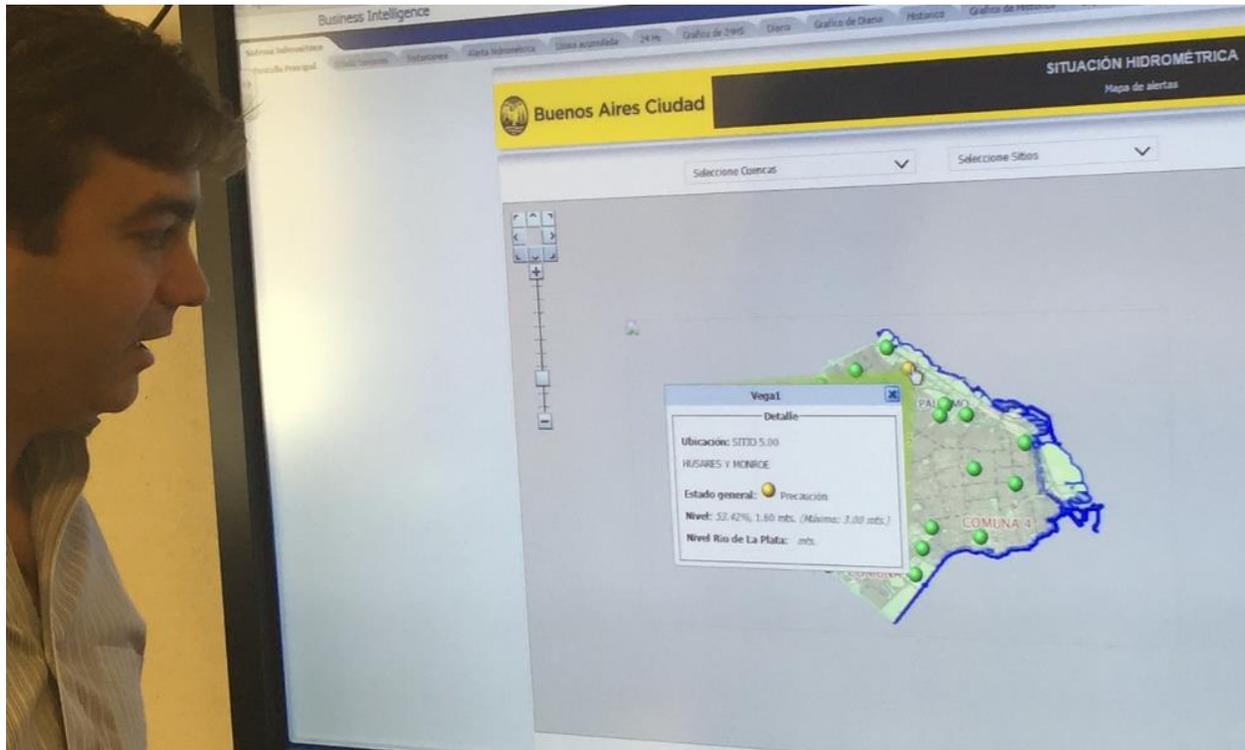
(Photo: Rodrigo Silvosa presenting at PMI Tour Cono Sur Buenos Aires 2015)

Rodrigo Silvosa clarified that the Hydraulic System Project and Meteorological Monitoring Implementation was conducted jointly by the Secretary for Maintenance and Environment of the City with the company BGH Partner Tech, the BGH division of innovative technological solutions and professional services, <http://www.bghtechpartner.com/>, who - recognized Silvosa - was an important partner in the five phases of the project.

The project included various aspects, such as the design and implementation of a system of data collection points within canals and drains relievers, an integration system of weather stations, the development Management System and Monitoring of all the storm drains, and the installation of a Data Integration Platform and Analysis System.

A dashboard displays graphically the data collected, and allows medium and long term studies of rains and drains, and incorporates historical data to make projections. An interactive panel located at the offices of the City Government displays the data collected in real time and presents, in graphic form, the general condition (marking in

red and green for problems if the values are normal). In case of situations that need attention, the panel shows how basin conflict is located and what specific part of it and, finally, which is the specific problem.



(Photo: Rodrigo Silvosa showing the Hydrometric Monitoring System of Buenos Aires City)

Additionally, a database is being created that will guide the implementation of policies in the short, medium and long term, and contribute to the intelligent design of the new infrastructure required to understand and address further the problem of climate change in the area and how it affects the lives of the locals.

Finally, the project integrated the storm sewer system of the City as a whole, through communication systems and special sensors that measure the surface moisture cubic millimeters and accumulated rainfall.

The infrastructure and management systems used were Oracle technology, another key partner in this project.

The monitoring system through dashboards were implemented using SAP technology and is already in use at the Ministry of Environment and Public Space since 2009, and extended to monitoring the hydraulic system since December 2014.

"As an example the implementation of this technology brings the automatization of some maneuvers that were previously manual, as the activation of the pumps according to the amount of water that falls during a rain. Another enhancement is to improve the response speed of the emergency system filling time, which measures how long the water will come to the surface if external conditions continue alike" said Rodrigo Silvosa.

It's interesting to note that both Oracle and BGH have considered this project as a success, and so is presented in their web pages, while SAP distinguished Buenos Aires "for the realization of a technology project that contributes to excellence in operations, efficiency in managing processes and transparency," as it was explained by this company.

Buenos Aires was elected among other major cities in the world that also implement SAP as Boston, USA; Cape Town, South Africa; Pune and Mumbai, India; Sydney in Australia; Melbourne and Montreal, Canada, and Singapore, the capital of the Republic of Singapore.

Silvosa added that the World Bank has approved a loan to the Government of the City destined for the building its own weather radar, whose tender was just launched, and an investment of about \$ 10 million is estimated. The radar will join the network of hydrometeorological information and enable more accurate weather forecasts in the City.

Although there are still several works of the Hydraulic Plan of the City to be done, the results are already visible, given that in recent severe storms that hit Buenos Aires no floods in the city occurred, while the province of the same name had major flooding.

It is interesting to add that the brand new Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, Maria Eugenia Vidal, has been Deputy Head of the city government closely and knows the Water Plan. Vidal program for water infrastructure development will be a priority and given the excellent experience Rodrigo Silvosa, he has been convoked to work in her management.

In his new charge as Secretary for Water Infrastructure of the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires, Silvosa has the enormous challenge of developing the necessary work to prevent or lessen the terrible impacts of floods in the vast area covering the province, more than 300,000 square kilometers, affecting a population of nearly 17 million. Comparing these dimensions with those of Buenos Aires which has an area of 200 square kilometers and a population of 3 million, we see that the challenge is important.



(Photo: Rodrigo Silvosa shows the maps of the watershed system of Provincia de Buenos Aires)

Regarding this, Rodrigo Silvosa mentioned that the province has 56 river basins and streams, of which six watersheds have been prioritized to be addressed in the first instance. Silvosa noted that the Project Management is the key to getting the results expected in strategic projects, corresponding to the six watersheds that affect most of the population of the province.

Silvosa Rodrigo holds a degree in political science from the Catholic University Argentina. Between 2014 and 2015 he served as Assistant Secretary of Public Utilities under the Ministry of Environment and Public Space of the City of Buenos Aires, being in charge of green spaces, trees, sidewalks, pavement, bridges, cemeteries, stormwater works and lighting, with annual budget of \$ 300 million. He currently serves as Assistant Secretary for Water Infrastructure in the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Utilities of the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires. More information about Rodrigo Silvosa in: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rodrigossilvosa>

Rodrigo Silvosa, thank you for giving your time at a time of major challenges and I take this opportunity to wish him success in his new projects!

For more information about local events of Project Management enter the web page **PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter** [website](#) y **PMI Nuevo Cuyo Argentina Chapter** [website](#).

About the Author



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Cecilia Boggi, PMP is founder and Executive Director of activePMO, giving consulting services and training in Project Management and Leadership skills in Argentina and Latin America.

After graduating with a degree in Computer Science Engineering from Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, she has managed software development projects and PMO implementation projects for more than 20 years both in the government and private sector. Cecilia also has graduated from an Executive Program in Business Management at Universidad del CEMA. She holds the Project Management Professional (PMP®) credential since 2003, is certified as SDI Facilitator from Personal Strengths© and is alumni of the PMI Leadership Institute Master Class 2012. Ms. Boggi is Past President of the PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter, and is a founding member of the PMI Nuevo Cuyo Chapter and PMI Santa Cruz Bolivia Chapter. She has been designated by PMI in the role of Mentor of Region 13, Latin America South, for the years 2014-2016. Cecilia has participated in the development of PMBOK® Guide 5th Edition, leading the Chapter 9, Human Resource Management, content team and she is professor of Project Management in some Universities and Institutes in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia.

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