

## **Welcome to the September 2016 PMWJ and Buy your team a Lunch**

*David Pells, Managing Editor*

Welcome to the September 2016 edition of the **PM World Journal** (PMWJ). This 50<sup>th</sup> edition continues to reflect the international nature of this publication; it contains **30** original articles, papers and other works by **33** different authors in **15** different countries. News articles about projects and project management around the world are also included. Since the primary mission of this journal is to support the global sharing of knowledge, please share this month's edition with others in your network, wherever in the world they may be.

In July I wondered in this space whether my welcome article should contain more than simply a description of the current month's contents. Several readers have now suggested that I use this opportunity to mention new trends or important issues that I see as journal editor. This month I reflect on a recent conversation with a colleague who described a situation in his office that, I think, raises some issues for project teams and some good ideas.

### **Buy your team a lunch**

Over an afternoon coffee a few weekends ago, I asked my friend how things were going with his projects. He's working at a technology company that has both internal and external IT and web-related projects. He is working on some website enhancement projects; others are working on projects for customers. The company specializes in HR and training support software, tools and services and is apparently growing rapidly. Although they are adding staff, current employees are working long days, evenings and some weekends. There are 20-30 people working there now, maybe more.

He told me that over the last month, he has taken some snacks into the office, put them in a glass bowl on his desk and people have been stopping by for something to nibble on during long afternoons. The previous week the CEO of the company came by, noticed the snack bowl, then announced that he was buying everyone lunch on Mondays, starting the following week. "On one condition," he stated. "You have to eat in the cafeteria with co-workers. You cannot bring your lunch back to your desk."

My friend told me, "Hey, it's a free lunch! I guess I'll take it, start eating lunch again." I immediately thought, Wow, that was a great idea, and probably not too expensive for a growing, profitable company or an executive. And it could produce some positive, even powerful results. I immediately thought this could be a good idea for many project managers or team leaders.

Here are some things that came to mind from this simple move – buying the team a lunch:

- It could improve morale, increasing positive attitudes towards the company and leadership;
- It forces people up off their chairs, walking, getting away from work for 30+ minutes – widely recognized as healthy for both mind and body (think health improvement, mindfulness)
- It facilitates and promotes interaction, communication and networking (think team building, teamwork, problem resolution, etc.) – also with potential benefits to body and mind.

We know the benefits from celebrating successes, well established practice on Agile teams and in many project offices. But this move came from a CEO with no background in project management. It was simply a good leadership move, people-friendly, and widely appreciated. The application to project leadership was obvious to me, but we should also recognize that we can learn a lot from good managers and leaders whoever and wherever they might be. And some things like being kind to others, or buying the team a lunch, can generate some really positive results.

Maybe this was not a big new project management idea but I thought it was great and just wanted to pass it on.

### **This month in the Journal**

Now for this month's journal which again contains some interesting and outstanding works. Six featured papers are again included. Frank Parth and Paul Giammalvo are back with papers that continue their recent themes or major program management and project management roles defined, respectively. Four other serious papers are included from researchers in Indonesia, Netherlands, Nigeria and Pakistan. Three very good series articles are included again this month, along with three useful advisory articles. Prof Sampietro has authored a fascinating Commentary article about Britain's Olympic success and how project management concepts played a major role in the UK's success in Rio. Please check out these good articles and papers.

Five second edition papers are here, an important paper by Dr Steen Lichtenberg in Denmark and four interesting papers presented at the recent 10<sup>th</sup> UT Dallas PM Symposium. Five interesting reports from correspondents in Argentina, Finland, Italy, Kosovo, and the UK are also included, as well as five good book reviews. All of these works contribute to the global project management body of knowledge. Find and read those of interest, then share them with others. Sharing knowledge multiplies the impact of good ideas, and some of these ideas (like projects) can change the world.

## Invitation to Share Your Own Experience, Research and Knowledge

We invite you to share your own experience, knowledge or research results related to program and project management. A wide variety of original works are included in the PMWJ each month. Share knowledge and gain visibility for yourself and your organization; publish a paper or article in the PMWJ. See our [Calls for Papers](#) and review the [Author Guidelines](#) for the journal. Then just email your original work to [editor@pmworldjournal.net](mailto:editor@pmworldjournal.net). The PMWJ is not a refereed journal; however we can publish your work quickly for sharing with thousands of readers around the world and for immediate reference. The PMWJ is also indexed by EBSCO, which means that your work may also be found and referenced by students and researchers around the world long into the future.

## Opportunities to get involved

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If you are a student of project management at an accredited university anywhere in the world, consider our virtual project **research internship** program. A dozen university interns are now conducting research and contributing new resources for the PM World Library. [Learn about our interns here.](#) To see opportunities for students, go to <http://pmworldlibrary.net/students/>. The PMWL is intended to support continuous learning in the field of program and project management but is proving especially useful for students. Help us create a truly global resource; visit [www.pmworldlibrary.net](http://www.pmworldlibrary.net) and become a member (discounts available for members of professional associations).

## Thanks to Authors and Sponsors

I want to thank the authors who contributed to this edition of the PMWJ. Most have included an email address at the end of her or his author profile. If you find an article or paper useful or interesting, let the author know. Better yet, ask questions, start a discussion, share information and knowledge. We also want to thank our advisors, correspondents and contributing editors around the world. These teams include leaders from academic and professional organizations in around 50 countries.

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## Share it forward

If you found something interesting in the PMWJ this month, please **SHARE IT FORWARD** - send the link to colleagues, co-workers or friends. If you have knowledge or a story to share, submit an article or paper for publication. We are especially interested in those that contribute to solving global problems. Thank you for reading this month's edition of the PMWJ, and good luck with your projects!

## About the Author



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**David L. Pells** is Managing Editor of the **PM World Journal** ([www.pmworldjournal.net](http://www.pmworldjournal.net)) and Managing Director of the PM World Library ([www.pmworldlibrary.net](http://www.pmworldlibrary.net)). David is an internationally recognized leader in the field of professional project management with more than 35 years of experience on a variety of programs and projects, including engineering, construction, energy, defense, transit, technology and nuclear security, and project sizes ranging from thousands to billions of dollars. He has been an active professional leader in the United States since the 1980s, serving on the board of directors of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) twice. He was founder and chair of the Global Project Management Forum (1995-2000), an annual meeting of leaders of PM associations from around the world.

David was awarded PMI's Person of the Year award in 1998 and Fellow Award, PMI's highest honor, in 1999. He is also an Honorary Fellow of the Association for Project Management (APM) in the UK; Project Management Associates (PMA - India); and Russian Project Management Association. Since 2010 he is an honorary member of the Project Management Association of Nepal. From June 2006 until March 2012, he was the managing editor of *PM World Today*. He occasionally provides high level advisory services for major programs, global organizations and the U.S. federal government. David has a BA in Business Administration from the University of Washington and a Master's degree in business from Idaho State University in the USA. He has published widely, spoken at conferences and events worldwide, and can be contacted at [editor@pmworldjournal.net](mailto:editor@pmworldjournal.net).