PM World *Journal*
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Say Yes to Project Success
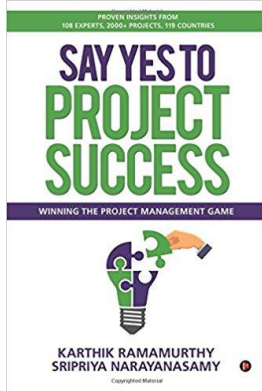Authors: Ramamurthy & Narayanasamy
Reviewer: Raju Rao

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

Title: ***Say Yes to Project Success: Winning the Project Management Game***

Authors: **Karthik Ramamurthy and Sripriya Narayanasamy**

Publisher: Notion Press www.notionpress.com

Publication Date: 2017   List Price: US $14.40

Format: Paperback; 198 pages   ISBN-13: 978-1947949034

Reviewer: Raju Rao, PMP, SCPM

Review date: November 2017

Introduction to the Book

This book presents best practices and tools and techniques of project management in an easy-to-read story-telling format. It is supplemented by cartoons and expert insights from professionals all over the world. A problem-to-solution approach has been followed with an appendix mapping 'failure factors' to various chapters.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book consists of 52 chapters each of which is based on a tip, technique or principle valuable for project success. Each chapter is followed by a list of bullet points as 'keys to success' and expert insights.

Some examples of chapter headings are

> Me, CEO?
> Vendor or Friendor?
> A Risky Proposition
> Trusty Bases
> Fun and Games at Work
> Minor Changes, Major Disaster

More than 100 professionals have provided their expert insights in this book who have worked on projects in 119 countries.

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Highlights: What's New in this Book

Expert insights on each topic are a welcome feature in this book .This is particularly so because they have given their views from practical experience which is valuable for professionals who want to apply them.

Highlights: What I liked!

▪ Story telling mode has been followed and content is easy to read. It is brief and concise and well supported by cartoons to convey the message.

▪ Mapping of 'failure factors' to Chapters is a good way to use the book whenever there is a challenge.

▪ Expert Insights are one of the best features in this book and could be very useful to readers to apply them in practice.

In my opinion, 3 chapters in this book are significant and deal with critical areas which all project professionals should definitely consider.

Chapter 12 - Mr. Client, You are wrong!
Chapter 18 - Zero Sum Game or Not?
Chapter 22 - Explicitly Excluded

Shortfalls: What was missing!

The book has been structured so that each chapter can be read as a standalone. Further, the appendix also lists the 'failure factors' to various chapters. While this is a great benefit, it would have added more value if the 52 chapters had been classified additionally in other ways for e.g. in terms of processes, knowledge areas or organizational level best practices. The content in the book would then could be used those involved in planning and not only during trouble shooting.

Who might benefit from the Book

This book is a good read for project managers at all levels. It can serve as ready-reckoner for them to apply tips, tools or principles in their work and organizations.

Conclusion

This book is easy to read, concise and is well supported by cartoons and expert insights. It has followed the problem solving approach and can be used from a trouble shooting perspective .In general, it is a good read and will be of value to project professionals.

About the Author

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Raju Rao, PMP, SCPM, OPM3 Cert Professional is Founder and Principal consultant - Xtraplus Solutions, a PM consulting and training company based in Chennai, India. Mr Rao has a B.Tech degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Madras, India; an Advanced PM certificate from Stanford University; and a certificate from IIM Calcutta. He has about 40 years' experience in engineering, process and project management and has been an active member of PMI for several years. He held leadership positions in both the 1st and 2nd edition projects of OPM3 and has been involved in development of several PMI standards and awards.

Mr Rao has been a visiting and adjunct faculty for engineering and business schools in India. He has presented numerous papers in global congresses and is the coauthor of two books - *Project Management Circa 2025* published by PMI and *Organizational Project Management* published by Management Concepts, USA. Raju has been a President of South India section of AACE International and is the founder of the Indian Project Management Forum.

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