

Welcome to the July 2020 PMWJ¹

David L. Pells

Welcome to the July 2020 edition of the PM World Journal, the 95th monthly edition. For many of those previous editions, a welcome article was included to briefly describe the articles, papers and other works included that month. The welcome articles often also included an editorial on some current topic, or one that I felt compelled to discuss. For example, the April 2019 welcome article discussed the recent crash and loss of the PMWJ website and database, which had to be rebuilt. Since then, however, the volume of works received for publication grew so much that I found less and less time for either welcome articles or editorials.

A few readers actually complained about my silence. So last month I included my first editorial in over a year, but no welcome article. This month, here is a welcome article but without an editorial. The editorial that I planned to publish this month is too important to rush and I ran out of time. Maybe I can say something intelligent in this article, but... I'm going to keep it short, maybe a new model for welcome articles.

My Black Elephants editorial last month generated some interesting feedback and emails. See the four letters to the editor this month for examples. I will partially return to this topic next month, as there seem to be differing definitions of black swans and black elephants among our readers. In the meantime, if anyone else wants to weigh in, please send an email to me at editor@peworldjournal.com.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 Pandemic continues to ravage the world. Here in the U.S. and in Texas in particular, it's getting worse. We've had 1,100 new cases in Dallas, 8,000 in Texas and 50,000 nationwide just in the last 24 hours. The number of cases is increasing now in 37 out of 50 U.S. states and in many other countries. One affect of the lockdown seems to be more researchers and professionals authoring articles and papers. That is reflected in this edition, which includes 34 works by 44 authors in 16 different countries. It's not a record, but enough to keep me very busy.

We've republished another **Interview** provided by Spring, our correspondent in Beijing and our connection to PM Review, an outstanding publication that burst onto the PM scene about two years ago. We're now a media partner for PMR; check out their website (English version as I must do). The link is at the top of the PMWJ website at www.peworldjournal.com.

The **Featured Papers** this month includes a translated paper authored in China by Prof Xiaojin Wang at Yunnan University in Southwest China. We were honored in June to have Dr. Wang join our academic advisory team. Please read his paper to understand

¹ How to cite this paper: Pells, D.L. (2020). Welcome to the July 2020 PMWJ; *PM World Journal*, Vol. IX, Issue VII, July.

the depth of his knowledge about project management. New papers are also included by Alan Stretton in Australia and Bob Prieto in Florida, two of our regular authors who are also two of the most experienced and knowledgeable men in the PM field. PMWJ readers should never miss reading any of their works; this month's papers are no exception. The remaining seven featured papers are by authors and researchers in African countries – Nigeria, Somaliland, South Africa, Zimbabwe.

Some may question why we publish so many papers from Africa. I am actually happy and proud to do so. I have long thought that project management leaders and organizations based in North America and Europe are sometimes somewhat arrogant, as if they are the most expert because many PM concepts originated there. I wrote an article some years ago about "leap frogging" that is relevant here; it's the idea that one does not need to experience all of the stages that the PM profession has undergone in order to implement and use the latest concepts, technologies, tools or ideas. Forget the landline phone, use a mobile device, for example. The papers in this edition are excellent, on topics relevant to professionals and organizations in their countries and beyond. I learn something new in all of these works and am proud to publish them. Frankly, there are many in America and Europe who still need to learn the latest PM solutions quickly; they need to leapfrog as well. And they could learn something from our African colleagues. Anyway, give these papers a look.

We welcome a new **Series** this month by Iain Fraser in New Zealand on the topic of "smarter portfolio management", the general topic of his excellent 2017 book titled "The Business of Portfolio Management. I've known Iain for 20+ years and finally talked him into authoring a series of articles for us. Massimo Pirozzi in Rome is also back with another article in his series on the "Stakeholder Perspective and Effective Relationship Management", based on his great book published earlier this year titled "The Stakeholder Perspective." John Cable, director of the project management center for excellence at the University of Maryland and an academic advisor has authored another short guidance article for those converting to online teaching (which is almost all professors and teachers this year). And Alfonso Bucero in Madrid has contributed a useful Risk Doctor Briefing this month. These articles are by very well known and respected PM leaders, so check them out.

The **Advisory Articles** are always interesting, especially for those new to the PM field or facing challenges on current projects or with organizational constraints. We welcome first **Reports** by two new PMWJ correspondents this month, Adriana Cibelli in Buenos Aires and Angelica Larios in Mexico City. Please read these and send the authors a congratulations. We're happy to get some PM news from two such important countries. But don't miss the reports by our regular contributing correspondents – Peter Banda in Zimbabwe, Jouko Vaskimo in Finland, Alfonso Bucero in Spain and Miles Shepherd in England. As always, Miles' report is both informative and entertaining.

Finally, we include three papers in our **Second Editions** category, two from the recent PM conference hosted by the University of Latvia in Riga and an older paper by Bob Prieto. Two **Book Reviews** and some **Recent News** articles are included. Thank you for reading this month's edition. Ok, not so short!

About the Author



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David L. Pells is Managing Editor and publisher of the **PM World Journal** (www.pmworldjournal.com) and Managing Director of the PM World Library (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 occasionally acts as project management advisor for U.S. national laboratories and agencies, and currently serves as an independent advisor for a major U.S. national nuclear security program.

David Pells 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); the Istituto Italiano di Project Management (ISIMP); and the Russian Project Management Association (SOVNET). Since 2010 he is an honorary member of the Project Management Association of Nepal.

Former managing editor of *PM World Today*, he is the creator, editor and publisher of the *PM World Journal* (ISSN: 2330-4880). David has a BA in Business Administration from the University of Washington and an MBA from Idaho State University in the USA. He has published widely and spoken at conferences and events worldwide. David lives near Dallas, Texas and can be contacted at editor@pmworldjournal.com.

To view other works by David Pells, visit his author showcase in the PM World Library at <https://pmworldlibrary.net/authors/david-l-pells/>