

Welcome to the July 2021 PMWJ¹

David L. Pells

Welcome to the July 2021 issue of the PM World Journal, the 107th monthly edition. This month's edition contains 26 new works by 33 authors in 17 different countries. This is another unique edition with some very interesting works, many diverse voices and perspectives included.

Three interviews – Spring's interview with Prof Lavagnon Ika is especially interesting, covering some current and perhaps controversial topics. The interviews by Ipek and Aiina will be of interest to PMI members everywhere, as they deal with both agile and technology.

I want to discuss our featured papers in a little more depth this month. Most of you will know that the PMWJ is not a refereed journal; we do not solicit nor cater to academic writers who are focused on program/project management theories and models. We do not know if we have an impact factor or not, although we should because some of the works we publish are by true thought leaders in the PM field; they should be read and referenced by many others. In any case, the PMWJ is practitioner-oriented; we publish works by and for those actually planning and managing projects and programs around the world.

That said, we do receive and publish quite a number of papers by academic researchers, including many from authors associated with universities in African and Middle Eastern countries. This month is no exception, as three papers are included from Nigeria, one from South Africa and one from Algeria. For the most part, these papers are based on studies of local economies, industries, programs and projects. That is, they are aimed at both local and regional organizations, and project managers, executives and policy makers. They are more practitioner-oriented than most papers that I have read in traditional academic journals. These are the ones that we welcome to the PMWJ.

Of course, we do publish exceptions and the paper this month by Dr. Pavel Barseghyan is a good example. His paper on the "Quantitative description of the dynamics of interactions of living systems by the method of state equations, Part 3..." is a good example. If you want papers full of theory, new models, statistics and calculus, this is one for you. I can't follow all of his math, but the underlying concepts are intriguing; it seems a perfect future application of AI, in this generation or the next. In any case, all of our featured papers are research based, fully referenced and authored by highly educated contributors. Some of the English is not always perfect, but the topics and logic are generally excellent.

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On the other hand, our articles are shorter, easier to read and more pointed. Series articles are by regular contributors, all of whom are well-qualified, well-known and highly-respected authorities on PPM. Prof John Cable's article this month on "active teaching" continues his series on converting to online teaching of project management. Oliver Lehmann's "Letter to Covid" discusses some of the impacts that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on 'project business', his specialty.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Advisory articles are almost always by American authors. It seems that American PM practitioners are focused on "the bottom line" and want to just get on with it. Nevertheless, they are most often highly useful; this month's contributions by Dr. Ken Smith in Hawaii and Latoya Morris in Virginia are no exception. Ken offers a methodology for self-audits while Latoya answers the question, "don't churches and religious institutions have projects and need project management too?" Hopefully these two articles will be useful to some of you, or to someone you know (if so, please share the links.)

Commentary articles are somewhat more substantive and more personal, offering experienced experts and practitioners an opportunity to share opinions and perspectives on various PM topics. Alan Stretton in Australia offers new perspective on organizational strategic management challenges posed by multiple project management definitions and terminologies. John Cable in the USA offers some new perspective on "combining behavioral science with project management", reflecting on some related presentations at recent University of Maryland PM Symposia. Adesh Jain in India provides some background and reasons for the launch of their highly successful Executive Diploma in Project Management, which is attracting executives from many different countries.

Very happy to include reports from seven correspondents this month. Alfonso (Spain), Jouko (Finland) and Miles (UK) are back with very interesting reports from their respective countries, on both actual projects as well as the PM community. Angelica in Mexico and Adriana in Argentina both provided great reports about the 25th year anniversary celebrations at the PMI Mexico City and PMI Buenos Aires chapters. Ipek in Turkey has provided a great report on the results of the PMO Summit held in Istanbul in June. Peter in Zimbabwe has reported about the new Parliament building project in Harare. Please read these interesting reports from multiple corners of the world.

Three papers are included in our Second Editions category this month, including a 2011 paper on stakeholder management on large programs by Bob Prieto, and two papers from the 2021 virtual UMD PM Symposium. These are substantive papers that deserve additional attention; I hope some of you will read them. We conclude with one book review and several recent news stories. Of interest to the international PM professional community are the news that APM has selected a new executive director, while PMI has announced that it's CEO Sunil Prashara is leaving. Rapid changes appear to be hitting the professional world as well these days.

On that note, thank you for reading this edition and good luck with your projects.

About the Author



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David L. Pells, PMI Fellow, HonFAPM, ISIPM, PMA, SOVNET is Managing Editor and publisher of the **PM World Journal** (www.peworldjournal.com) and Managing Director of the PM World Library (www.peworldlibrary.net). David is an internationally recognized leader in the field of professional project management with more than 40 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 international programs, and currently serves as an independent advisor for a major U.S. national security program.

David Pells has been an active professional leader in the United States since the 1980s, as founder and president of several PMI chapters, founder of PMI's first SIG (Project Earth), and member of the PMI board of directors 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; the Instituto Italiano di Project Management (ISIMP - Italy); Project Management Associates (PMA - India); and the Russian Project Management Association (SOVNET). In 2010 he was made 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 in Addison, Texas and can be contacted at editor@peworldjournal.com.

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