

Welcome to the October 2021 PMWJ¹

David L. Pells

Welcome to the October 2021 edition of the PM World Journal, the 110th monthly edition. This month's PMWJ contains 24 new works by 24 different authors representing 14 different countries. Not so many new works again this month, but impactful as usual. You won't be disappointed.

The recent publication by PMI of their "Standard for Project Management" and PMBOK® Guide, 7th Edition, seems to have stirred up some emotional reactions among some readers. Massimo Pirozzi in Italy weighed in last month with his reaction in a commentary article titled "The Everlasting importance of a Common Project Management Language." Kik Piney in France responds this month with a letter to the editor "On the Subject of Language", while Martin Smit in South Africa lays out the major changes in his commentary with a title too long to repeat but summarized as "Will the PMBOK Guide 7th Ed lead to more successful delivery of projects?"). With their wholesale shift from a process to principles-based standard, PMI has moved the goal posts with some potentially disruptive impacts on many stakeholders. It's going to be interesting to see how it all works out.

Meanwhile, we start with three very interesting interviews again this month. Spring in Beijing has interviewed Dr. Youcef J-T Zidane, senior PM researcher at CREAD in Algiers; Yasmina Khalifi in Paris has interviewed design thinking guru John Coyle; and Ipek Sahra Ozguler in Istanbul has interviewed Brantlee Underhill, Managing Director for North America at PMI in the USA. Different topics, but all highly relevant for many! Don't overlook these outstanding new works.

Three Featured papers are included in the October PMWJ. We welcome Dr. Al Zeitoun and Dr. Harold Kerzner, two highly sought-after thought leaders in the USA, who have co-authored a new work titled "Project Management Pain Points and a Path Forward." Bob Prieto is back with a thought-provoking new paper on the subject of "Sensemaking in Project Management"; Alan Stretton has continued his recent themes in his new paper titled "An exploration of assets and projects: Types of assets, and project deliverables as assets, in an organisational context." These are significant contributions to the body of project management literature, so please read if you can, now or later.

Four advisory articles are included this month, including a new one by Dr. Ken Smith who continues to share his vast experience with our readers. This month's title – and topics – is "Decision Trees, EMV and Thee". Angelica Larios in Mexico City has authored a new article on "How to Implement a Satisfactory Organizational Change"; Ram Tava in Kolkota has shared some professional perspective in "Comprehensive Guide to Start a

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Career in Project Management”; Gaurang Vora in Mumbai has authored a second article in his “Leadership – Fulcrum Above and Beyond” series. Advisory articles really reflect the mission of this journal, the sharing of PM knowledge. Thank you to these authors.

Reinhard Wagner, former IPMA president and chair and now an honorary global advisor for the PMWJ, has authored a new commentary article that everyone associated with PM professional bodies should read – “Turning professional potential into social impact – The new mission for project management associations.” His challenge clearly builds on my “project management needs a higher purpose” theme from earlier this year; I hope some leaders embrace the opportunity soon. As mentioned earlier, Dr. Martin Smit has provided a nice summary of the changes embodied in PMI’s new PMBOK Guide in his commentary article. John Cable has summarized another significant May presentation from the UMD PM symposium in his commentary article titled “Managing in Times of Crisis.” Joshua Farnsworth, carbon reduction engineer at Tunley Engineering in Leeds is the author of “Road to Net Zero”, offering further clarification of an important current hot topic. These also clearly support the PMWJ mission. If you have some experiences, opinions or information to share, please consider authoring an article for the journal.

Six correspondents have authored very interesting reports this month. Yasmina Khelifi in Paris has not only provided a brief update about PMI France and a description of the La Samaritaine project, she also interviewed Mr. Didier Duchêne, Program Director of the Magasins 2 & 4 of the La Samartaine renovation programme. Outstanding! Alessandro Quagliarini in Rome has provided a great report about all major project management associations operating in Italy, including PMI Italy chapters, IPMA Italy and ISIPM. Antonio Bassi in Lugano has authored a short report about Project Management Forum 2021, an event in the Ticino Canton in Switzerland. Kartik Ramamurthy in Bengaluru has authored an update about PMO Global Awards 2021, PMO Insights and PMO Global Alliance India Hub. Miles Shepherd in Salisbury has provided another UK project management roundup, with coverage of “Sad news, bad news, good news, English hedgerows and two Cricket stories.” Jouko Vaskimo in Espoo has provided another “Finland Project Management Roundup”, with news from PMA Finland, PMI Finland and several major projects underway around the country. This section of the PMWJ is tremendous this month.

The Second Editions category contains another of Bob Prieto’s older papers, “Ten Common Problems on Poor Performing Programs” from 2011. I think most readers will agree that the topic is still quite relevant. The book review this month is about “Let it Simmer” by Douglas Brown and reviewed by Margaret Shoults in Maryland, USA. We close with a few recent news articles of potential interest to those in the PM field.

That’s it. I hope you enjoy this edition.

Stay safe, and have a good month.

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 near Dallas, Texas and can be contacted at editor@peworldjournal.com.

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