



Project Management Institute, Bangkok Chapter  
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## Message from the President

By Joseph Fincher

I have participated in PMI Thailand for about four years now, as Director at Large, VP for Communications and now as President of the Chapter. In that time I have observed a chapter that has remained relatively quiet and stable at 100 to 110 members, of which we are lucky to see 10% at a Monthly Chapter Meeting.

Quite frankly, I had become complacent about the state of Project Management as a profession in Thailand. Recently I have been developing resources to control multiple new IT implementation projects. It has been my pleasure to interview numerous bright young people working as Project Managers in many companies throughout the IT industry.

What I have discovered from this exposure is a) there are a lot of companies with Project Management as a discipline; b) there are a lot of bright young Project Managers; and c) there is a great need for standardization in process and procedures for communicating with implementation teams and customers. In my conversations while interviewing candidates and working with my newly hired staff I have observed that each individual has a different view of what is needed to control an implementation. All are familiar with the personal relationships needed to work with customer and project staff, and many are aware of the "discipline gap" between textbook project management methodology and Thai culture. However, when we get into the tools for tracking and controlling scope, schedule and cost, understanding of available tools and how to adapt them to the Thai working environment gets sketchy. As I work with my current teams, the standard methodologies described in

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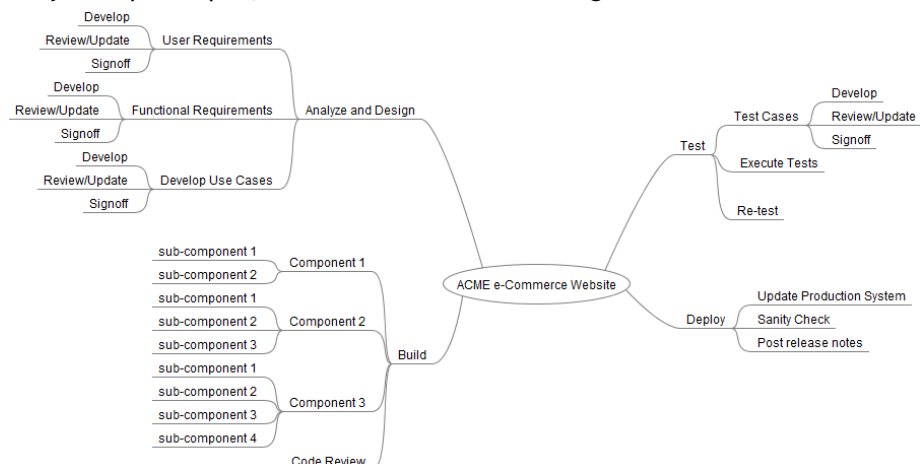
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## Open Source Project Management Tools

By Bill Leece

A number of free open source tools are available to assist project managers. A tool that I particularly like for Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) creation is Freemind.

Freemind is a very intuitive and simple tool to use. It incorporates a hierarchical structure that is easy to expand upon, and is thus ideal for creating work breakdown structures.



*"FREEMIND – A Free  
Open Source Project  
Management Tool."*

## Revised Website

By Petros Rigas

To better service our member community and to ensure Chapter transparency, we have recently concentrated on revising our PMI Bangkok Chapter website. In addition to our standard content regarding history of the Chapter and objectives, we have now included an archive of all our meetings. If you had attended a meeting and would like some notes (or a copy of the presentation) regarding the topic discussed, you may visit this section on the site and obtain the information required. If a copy of the presentation is not provided, feel free to leave us a message and we will make the necessary arrangements for you.

Our New Website is  
**LIVE!**  
(Tell us if you spot any typos)

<http://www.pmithai.org>  
*We need your input!*

A new section included on the site is our Picture Gallery. Please feel free to browse this section for random snapshots from various activities. You may also leave comments or share this gallery with your friends or colleagues.

The survey section will include summaries of different questionnaires conducted by the Chapter for the purpose of continuous activity improvement. We welcome your contribution as well as your constructive input. We aim to serve you better!

All Chapter announcements (specifically meeting invitations) will be posted in the 'Announcement' section of the site. Do feel free to share these postings with concerned professionals.

If you wish to view our publications, please navigate to the 'Newsletter' section.

We hope the new site delivers added value to you and we look forward to improving our communication channels.

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the PMBOK are discussed and adapted and a methodology for managing multiple projects across multiple customers is emerging. The catalyst is conversation guided by proven process and procedure.

If, in this "Corner" there is one message that I would like to put forward as an objective for PMI Thailand, it is to work to discover how we can initiate the conversations about adapting the knowledge base of PMI into the Thailand Project Management Community. Clearly conversations cannot occur without participants. The current events are attracting too few participants to reach a critical mass where these conversations can grow.

So, the question I leave to each of you who read this article is "How do you think we can change the way we interface with the Thailand Project Management community to better benefit from the knowledge base of PMI and the experience of other members?" I would love to hear from you, please feel free to write to me at my email address: [josephfi@yipintsoi.com](mailto:josephfi@yipintsoi.com) and provide your suggestions of what we can do together to help you be more successful in your careers as Project and Program Managers.



*Chapter President Joseph Fincher and  
Mr. Richard Keating*

## Membership Statistics

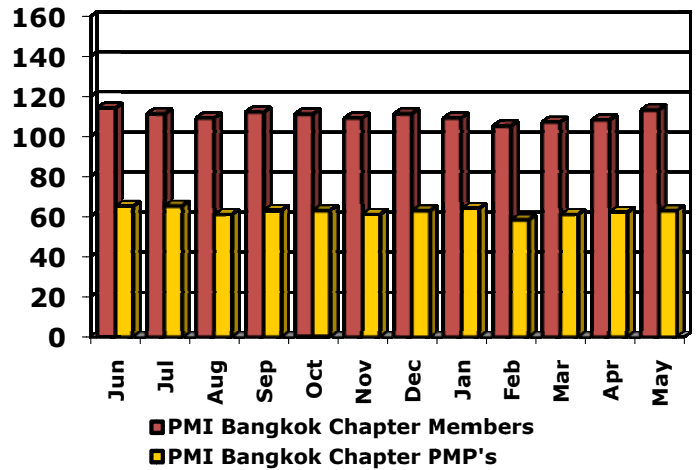
By Stephen Vianelli

The PMI Bangkok Chapter presently has 113 members with 63 of them being PMPs. Approximately 50% of our members are non-Thais. Comparing these numbers to this period last year reveals that they are almost exactly the same when we had 114 members with 64 being PMPs and approximately 50% of members were non-Thais.

In 2011, while our membership and number of PMPs have dropped in the 1st Quarter, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter has seen a full recovery as is evident in the chart on the right.

One of this year’s board objectives is to grow membership and we are striving to maintain the growth of the 2nd Quarter into the second half of this year. Many board members are actively looking to recruit new members in their companies and amongst their colleagues in other companies. We request that all members do the same.

2010 - 2011

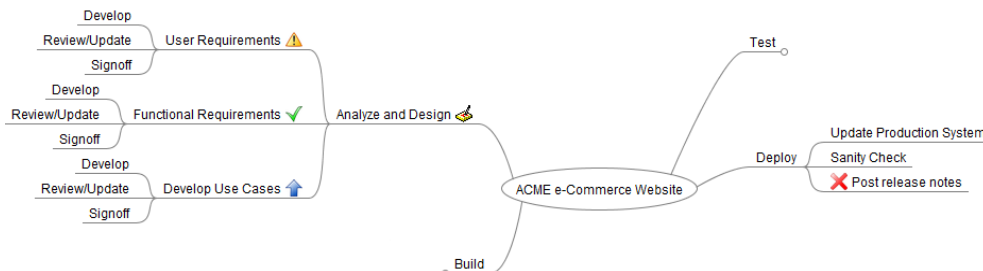


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Continued 'Open Source Project Management Tools' from page 1

Similarly, the various branches of the WBS can be collapsed (see the "Test" branch) to allow for focus on specific branches of the WBS that are deemed important. Similarly, the various WBS branches can be annotated with symbols and notes to assist the project manager in communication about project work elements.



Freemind is also very useful as a mind mapping tool and for idea creation and organization. Mindmapping is an effective technique for everything from generating new ideas, organizing thoughts, building lists, mapping informational relationships, to making key information more easily remembered. I used mind maps extensively for my PMP exam studies, and I found them to be a very effective study tool vs. traditional methods of note taking and note memorization.

## Excerpts from our Meetings this Year

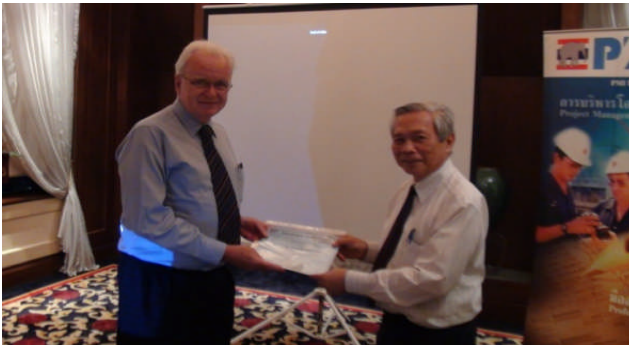
By Petros Rigas

February 16: “Understanding Risk and and Uncertainty in Project Management” by Capt. Eakalak Intarakosit who highlighted the importance of uncertainty and risks in projects with a quantitative approach to risk assessment and prioritization.

March 16: “Cloud Computing: Today and Tomorrow” presented by Dr. Prasopchoke Pramongkit and Mr. Mark Maples discussed Cloud Computing and its application across various industries. Specific discussion on HealthVault product was also presented.



April 20: “Managing Challenges of Multiple Critical Projects” by Khun Pornchai Suviwattanapundee, who presented techniques derived from Risk and Scope Management to deal with numerous concurrent projects.



May 18: “Updates on Capability Maturity Model Integration” presented by Dr. Kanchit Malaivongs, who introduced the various CMMI models and emphasized how these models relate to the Project Management discipline.

June 15: “Internal Readiness: A Key Factor in Optimizing ERP Implementations” by Mr. Gary Tyler who through a case study highlighted the importance of company internal preparation prior to any ERP-implementation initiative.

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