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Message from the President

By Yodchai Apisitpisarn, PMP, Prince2 Practitioner, PMI Bangkok Chapter President

I am pleased to have been elected to lead the PMI Bangkok Chapter Board of Directors in our Chapter goals of promoting Project Management (PM) and enhancing member benefit to strengthen the PM community in the Kingdom for year 2012.

Despite the challenges of the last few years the Chapter has continued to grow in membership as well as services and offerings provided to our members and community. As the 2012 chapter president, I look forward to a successful upcoming year with many new programs and leadership initiatives towards providing educational, social and networking opportunities in the PM community.

We recently conducted our annual Strategy meeting. Our new Board is full of energy, with a solid mix of new volunteers and returning members with a wide variety of culture and expertise. In this meeting we drew on experience and ideas from all Board members and considered what we could successfully accomplish over this year. The following strategic goals we would like to archive.

1. Identify, Develop, Enhance and Distribute Members' Benefits.
2. Interact with the professional Community to raise awareness of the importance of PM in Thailand
3. Measure the effectiveness of our efforts

As you can see, we have an exciting and ambitious program planned for 2012. However, realizing the success of this program requires a lot of hard work. The PMI Bangkok Chapter Board is a dedicated group of volunteers who are willing to give of their personal time to towards achieving the listed goals. The truth is, they cannot do it alone. If PMI Bangkok is to be successful in bringing focus to your profession as Project Managers, the Board needs your help. In this newsletter you will find instructions on how to volunteer and participate in this exciting opportunity to bring the spotlight onto your profession.

In closing I want to thank all those who have helped with PMI Bangkok activities over the past years. All of us have discovered the benefits of participating in this organization in terms of our professional and personal development. I hope that many of you will consider joining us and enjoy the benefits of building professionalism in the Thailand PM community.

Thank you for continuing to support the chapter. Please visit our website www.pmithai.org for current events as well as join our PMI Bangkok Chapter LinkedIn Group. We've also established a Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/pmithai> and a twitter account (@pmithai) to communicate with all our Chapter members and other interested professionals. Please be sure to share any concerns you have with us so we can continue to improve and implement new opportunities for professional growth.



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AEC2015: What must we do? And how close are we?

By Tim Kelly, PMP, (PMI Bangkok Vice President of Education)

In October 2011, Thailand's previous prime minister gave an important speech in Manila in which he made a number of important points [Bangkok Post **One ASEAN: What must we do? And how close are we?** Published: 13/10/2011 at 12:00 AM Newspaper section: News]. Some of the very valid points made in his speech include:

"Asia requires some USD8 trillion for infrastructure development, with some USD50 billion required in ASEAN region in the period up to 2020 ..."

"... at the national level, we must ensure that our peoples will reap maximum benefits from the economic integration. I have metaphorically referred to the hardware and software earlier when talking about the process and preparation for the AEC. However, the hardware and software will be of no use if our peoples do not have knowledge and skills."

"For decades, most private companies are so used to operating in a less competitive market in each individual country. However, they now need to change the mindset altogether. They must think of Asean 10 as one market and production base. They must think of how to be part of supply chain whilst sustaining their competitive advantage."

As a Project Management Professional, what are you doing to prepare for this? Large portions of the budgets will be spent on infrastructure projects built by multinational companies in Thailand and neighboring countries. Who will they select for their lead Project Managers? Speaking English and Thai may no longer be enough. Many projects will require high quality, low risk contracting because funding will be coming from outside the countries where the implementation will be taking place. Contract formats such as FIDIC publications will become commonplace. FIDIC publishes the MDB Harmonised Edition of the Construction Contract that is used by Multinational Development Banks including the World Bank for their projects.

Components of all of the projected land transport infrastructure projects and major energy projects will all require significant project management skills and it is highly likely that most of the contracts will be in English and based on the FIDIC Yellow and Silver books, which are becoming more frequently used for major projects in this part of the world. Having a consistent approach to risk allocation provides competent and experienced contractors with a greater level of confidence in bidding for projects, allowing greater competition and provides benefits in reduced prices, better project performance and faster delivery. Such outcomes will provide significant benefits to Thailand's society and economy both in the near term and longer term.

Thailand's government has also identified a need for Thai business professionals to obtain greater competencies in using English to compete with similar professionals from Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines in particular.

While numerous education institutions provide tuition in the English language, there is a need for competencies to be developed in both advanced English in tandem with developing project management expertise in areas such as preparing tender documents, negotiating contracts and administering contracts – particularly in the areas of risk allocation, insurance issues, indemnities and warranties, claims assessment and negotiations and resolving disputes

Thailand's PMI Chapter is now developing introductory courses to address several of these important project related issues.

Reference: www.pmithai.org/attachments/Fidic_Selection.pdf



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'Wunderlist' – A Great Tool for Project Managers

by Petros Rigas, PhD, MBA, PMP (PMI Bangkok Executive Vice President)

How difficult it gets for Project Managers to keep up with tasks for the day? Besides a Work Breakdown Structure and a project schedule built into Microsoft Project or Excel focusing on project tasks, Project Managers still carry on unscheduled tasks daily that support project and non-project activities. Where are such tasks recorded and how do Project Managers keep track of their daily activities and prioritize their actions?

Some project managers choose to include them in the Project Schedule while others record them on a personal notepad. Others keep them on an electronic To-Do-List saved on different digital media (flash drive, PC at work, PC at home, others) of which certain instances are not updated as time progresses leaving the Project Manager with various versions of the information spread without any conformity.

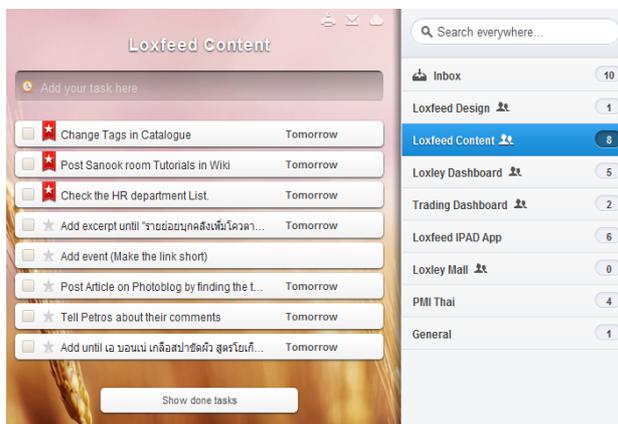


'Wunderlist' is a great solution to this great dilemma. Visit 'Wunderlist' at <http://www.wunderlist.com> and register free for an account. You can then:

1. Create New Tasks
2. Search for Tasks
3. Organize Tasks for different activities by categorizing them under 'Lists'.
4. Check Tasks to mark completion.
5. Share Tasks or Lists with your staff or Project members for better collaboration on activities.
6. Receive daily reminders (by email) of tasks that are outstanding for the day/week/month/year.

This is only a subset of what this great tool has to offer. The best advantage to all this is you can view these tasks anywhere using many digital media.

You can download 'Wunderlist' on your iPhone, iPad, Android-based phones, Blackberry, and even Windows powered phones. And with a basic Internet connection, you can monitor or assign tasks on the road, in meetings, or anywhere you are.



This is not just another Project Management tool. It is rather a great tool for Project Managers or other business professionals to effectively monitor, manage, and control project management activities or any other tasks.

IMPROVE PROJECT PERFORMANCE

Learn Statistically-Proven Best Practices

MEGAPROJECTS
December 11-13, Bangkok
LED BY AUTHOR AND EXPERT EDWARD MERROW

Register Online:
WWW.IPAINSTITUTE.COM

Highlights from Recent Meetings

April 18: “The Task (Traditional) Perspective vs. the Organizational (Scandinavian) Perspective”

by Professor Erling S. Andersen (BI Norwegian Business School, Oslo, Norway) contrasted the view of a project as a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique result with the organizational perspective of a project as a temporary organization set up to carry out an assignment on behalf of the establishing organization.



March 21: “Case Study Aligning a Cross-Functional Organization in Project Management”

by Robert Twiddy who presented a case study of a Semiconductor company where 600 engineers were trained for six months and team members of 50 large projects were coached for one year in the application of PMBOK principles.



February 15: “Avoiding Legal Disasters in Thailand Focusing Labor, Real Estate and Corporate Tax Issues”

by Michael Doyle (Seri Manop and Doyle Law Firm) who discussed the aspects of Thai law in managing outsourcing and service level agreements as applicable to Project Managers.

January 18: “‘Win-Win’ Negotiations - Introduction to Concept and Methodologies” by Stephen Vianelli (The Mentor Group) who explained the concept of “Win – Win” negotiations and how it differs from traditional forms of negotiation with practical implications to Project Managers.

Bangkok Bowling Evening for Project Managers



When?
Friday July 6, 2012

Where?
Major Bowl J-Avenue (Thong Lor 15)

How much?
400 THB per person*

*Please note cost per individual includes: food, drinks, games (3 hours/6 lanes), and shoes' rental.

*For registration: visit <http://www.pmithai.org> and click on 'Bowling Event Registration (2012)'.

*Please help us make this happen. If you or your company would like to contribute towards sponsoring this event, do contact us at: 081-7542121. Thank you!



**Project Management Institute,
Bangkok Chapter**

Phone
+66-81-7542121

Web
<http://www.pmithai.org>

E-mail
info@pmithai.org