



Talk on “A Snapshot of a Typical Schedule Management Methodology”

By : Engr. Faizal bin A. Sanusi, M.I.E.M., P.Eng.

The talk on “A Snapshot of a Typical Schedule Management Methodology” took place at the IEM building on 11 November 2006 at 9.30 a.m. and was attended by 131 participants. The talk was delivered by Engr. Faizal A. Sanusi and the event was chaired by Engr. C.M. Mohamed Aboobucker. The talk lasted for an hour and a half followed by a question and answer session which lasted for another hour and a half. The demographics of the participants included practicing consultants, developers and contractors.

The talk touched on how a typical schedule management methodology should be formulated which was

prefaced on the project management process from project inception to site execution and the impact and evolution of the schedule management process throughout the phases of the project.

At the end of the talk, the participants have queries and concerns relating to the current industry practice of project management in general. Various views and perspectives were voiced out from the participants because the scope and domain of the project management discipline vary from the type of environment in which it resides (e.g. consulting organisation, developer organisation, contracting organisation, etc.)

Both Engr. C.M. Mohamed Aboobucker and Engr. Faizal shared with the participants their experiences and some ideas to initiate better awareness in the industry and urged those who are passionate about project management applications in the community to play some role to improve the situation.

The Project Management Technical Division is pleased to note that the interest on the talk has garnered good participation amongst IEM members and more importantly, the event spurred greater awareness in the importance of project management in the role of community development. ■

COMMENTS



The Tourist Engineer

By: Engr. Chin Mee Poon, F.I.E.M., P. Eng.

“Read ten thousand books, walk ten thousand miles”, so goes a Chinese saying.

It is not easy at all to read ten thousand books in one’s life time, but with the world having become so much smaller than before with the various fast means of transport, one can traverse ten thousand miles without much sweat.

The point is, reading allows us to acquire other people’s wisdom without repeating their mistakes, and traveling exposes one to the cultures, traditions and developments of fellow human beings sharing the same little planet. Reading alone may produce some walking encyclopedias, people who know a little about a wide range of subjects; and traveling alone gives one lots of superficial observations without much understanding. Reading and traveling together help us acquire a profound understanding of the world around us and of our position vis-à-vis all the other living things sharing this earth.

Engineers like to travel like everybody else. We are not only curious

about natural wonders, we are equally curious about man-made wonders as well. Looking at the Grand Canyon in the United States, we wonder how the great chasm has been formed by the forces of nature, and wish there is a write-up somewhere to explain the process. Admiring the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, we want to know a little about their history and how the pharaohs mobilised tens of thousands of workers to construct such monumental structures that today’s engineers with all the modern construction techniques and machinery at their disposal find it hard to emulate. We look at those natural as well as man-made wonders as the average tourists do. All the questions that crop up in our minds are the same as those that will crop up in the mind of the average tourist when he or she is looking at the same natural or man-made wonder.

So when we pay host to foreign tourists who come to our country to admire our natural and built heritage, we

know what they are looking for. And it becomes not too difficult to make our foreign visitors happy so that they will go back to their country and share their pleasant experiences with their relatives and friends. Just answer their needs and give them what they are looking for. Make it easier for them to enjoy the attractions and provide the basic information that will enhance their traveling experience.

Tourism is our country’s second largest foreign exchange earner at the moment. With concerted effort from all concerned parties to woo more tourists to our country, tourism may well overtake manufacturing as the number one foreign exchange earner in the not-too-distant future. Engineers are one of the concerned parties in this respect. Just be positive and proactive about the projects we are undertaking on behalf of the owners. Some of those projects may one day become tourist attractions, so it makes sense to make some provisions for tourist visits in their design. ■