



CC Consulting brings best practice project management to Wellington

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During August in Wellington project and programme managers from around New Zealand met to hear from international experts Andy Murray and Rod Sowden on best practice project and programme management methodologies PRINCE2™ and MSP™. We heard from the public and private sector about their application of the best practise offerings for project and programme management. Delegates were impressed with the level of expertise brought by these presenters and the local flavour of case studies and real world application. To hear a combination of useful real-life New Zealand practises as well as from the authors of these methodologies was a unique opportunity.

Project management session

In the theme of the conference: *PRINCE2™, MSP™ and Gateway – How the puzzle pieces fit together* the conference started with a cornerstone: PRINCE2™ the project management delivery method.

Andy Murray, lead author of the 2009 version of PRINCE2™, explained how the rewrite is the first significant attempt to address issues that have been raised by the project management community over the past 12 years since 1996 when the method PRINCE was replaced with PRINCE2™. This will not be PRINCE3 however. The rewrite is taking almost 3 years - including public consultations and reviews, with the final release in May 2009. The most striking departure from the current version is the splitting of the manual into two guides; one for project mangers, and the other for senior managers. The release of the new version of PRINCE2™ will be one of the final pieces in the OGC puzzle of best practice products including maturity models, ITL and MSP™. These publications have the primary purpose to save money for the UK government. The fact that prestigious organisations like the United Nations Development Programme, European governments, private enterprise, Australian state and Federal governments and the New Zealand government are adopting the UK Office of Government Commerce (OGC) best practise frameworks in whole or part is a testament to their flexible nature and focus on delivering benefits to organisations. In fact the mandate for PRINCE2™ 2009 states that it must be capable of being used by any project regardless of type, size, geography or culture. It could be concluded that if organisations are not actively standardising their processes of project delivery they are destined to struggle as competitors surpass them.

Mayhew Olivier, a programme manager, presented a case study from the Department of Education regarding the implementation of PRINCE2™ in a PMI environment talking about the challenges in moving accountability from IT departments to the business and the ever-present scaling challenges faced to avoid 'over using' the chosen method.

Programme management session

Rod Sowden, lead author of *Managing Successful Programmes (MSP™)* 2007 and *Project, Programme and Portfolio Management Maturity Model (P3M3)*, introduced the efforts required to adopt MSP™ and some specifics about how it fitted in the land scape of project programmes and portfolios. MSP™ since the launch late last year has been more focused on collections of projects that deliver a transformation within an organisation. Rather than a method MSP™ is a framework to put the efforts required for transformational change in perspective and then be adopted or used when necessary. P3M3, a benchmarking and diagnostic tool for organisations managing projects programmes or portfolios measures capability at 5 levels in 7 perspectives (competency areas). The audience learned that P3M3 is an excellent guide to ensuring the correct aspects of an organisations capabilities are addressed at the right time and correct pace.

Sarah Locky, the leader in a programme management office (PMO) at Westpac, and Stuart Godwin, a consultant from Hunter Group, described the driver for setting up an effective PMO: 1) do the right projects, and then 2) do the those projects right. Sarah and Stuart then set out transforming the perception that the PMO was not merely an administration function but a centre of best practise. The PMO created a vision and then got stropky – enforcing best practise and fostering an understanding that shouting loudest didn't necessarily mean you get the most resources.

OGC Gateway presentations were given by Grant Avery, from the State Service Commission, and a case study was presented where a Heather Daly, from the Inland Revenue Department who was subject to a Gateway review, gave her thoughts on the experience of the receiving end of a Gateway review. The experience was positive and the insight a unique perspective on this new peer review technique being introduced within large government projects and programmes.

Finally Tony West, CIO of Land Transport New Zealand, presenting on the application of portfolio management during an organisation merger. Specifically in the context of IT related projects and along side COBIT, an IT governance framework.

The project, programme and portfolio puzzle is now more than complete for many organisations - all that is required is for other New Zealand organisations in the public and private sector to pick up the pieces and start putting them together for themselves. With access to international experts and a large knowledge base of PRINCE2™ project managers the capacity for change within organisations is the only barrier to improved delivery projects and programmes. The success of this conference has ensured that the next event will be even more informative, CC Consulting are already planning speakers for next year and will make this a fixture in every project and programme manager's calendar.

About CC Consulting

CC Consulting provides quality portfolio, programme and project management training and consulting worldwide, is an Accredited Training Organisation (ATO) for the PRINCE2™ project management methodology and works with UK partners to deliver MSP™ training and P3M3 self assessments. CC Consulting also offer consulting services to help manage and delivery projects and programmes. CC Consulting has been delivering PRINCE2™ training within New Zealand since 2003.

About PRINCE2™ and MSP™

PRINCE2™ is a project management methodology that provides a structure for the management, control and organisation of a project. PRINCE2™ can be applied to help project managers ensure their projects are delivered on time, to budget and with an end result that delivers benefits and meets the project's stakeholders' expectations. PRINCE2™ is owned and maintained by the UK Office of Government Commerce (OGC). PRINCE2™'s proven success in managing a diverse range of projects has seen it spread organically across the globe where it has been readily adopted by private and public organisations alike.

Managing Successful Programmes (MSP™) is a project management methodology also owned and maintained by the UK Office of Government Commerce. It is a management tool for bringing together people, activities and information to achieve change. MSP™ comprises a set of principles and processes for use when managing a programme. The MSP™ method is founded on best practice, although it is not prescriptive. It is very flexible and designed to be adapted to meet the needs of local circumstances.

Key note speaker Rod Sowden

Rod has consulted to the UK Government, the National Health Service, the Victorian State Government in Australia, UK local government, HSBC, the BBC, transportation and retail clients. Rod has been involved in Managing Successful Programmes since it was launched in 1999, and he was the lead author of the 2007 edition of the MSP™ manual. Rod is the lead author of P3M3, the OGC's project portfolio and programme management maturity model which is used by UK government departments, Sun Microsystems and the United Nations Development Programme.

Key note speaker Andy Murray

Andy has implemented PRINCE2™ and MSP™ with clients across thirteen countries in Europe, Asia, North America, Africa and the Middle East over the last twelve years. He has consulted to high technology clients such as EADS Astrium, Sun Microsystems and Vodafone as well as government, healthcare, utilities and transportation clients. Andy's publications on how to use P3M3 for performance improvement and the PRINCE2™ Maturity Model Guide led to the role as Lead Author for the PRINCE2™ refresh (due for publication in May 2009).

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Andy introducing to the group PRINCE2 2009.



Delegates preparing for the afternoon MSP programme management and gateway sessions.