



Project Management?

Organisations decide to invest in project management processes and learning for different reasons

Some are entrepreneurial start-ups that have grown to the point where they need to introduce more structure and process, often to the dismay of many in the company who see this as unnecessary bureaucracy and a threat to their creativity

Some have grown through acquisition and have different project management practices and loyalties to different methodologies (PRINCE2, PMI, Agile ...) which, it is felt, should be aligned for greater efficiency and cross team collaboration

Some have evolved to have specialist, trained groups of full time project managers, and a far larger community of people who act as resource to those projects. Those people have 'day-jobs' but also have to provide their specialist functional expertise to project managers. Juggling projects and operational work is a core competence for everyone in a Matrix structure.

The Challenge of Egypt™ can help in each of these situations



The Challenge of Egypt



The Pharaoh has instructed Grand Visir Hainunu to build the biggest pyramid in the world, to help him through his journey to the hereafter, along with everything that is precious to him. Hainanu has found a suitable location for the pyramid, a quarry for the stone and a village for the workers. He has also arranged the infrastructure between these locations

You will set up the project organisation, analyse the risks and create a plan. Along the way you will have to deal with the challenges faced by all project managers in ancient Egypt including war, pestilence and famine. You will need to use all of your modern project management knowledge and techniques, which have their roots in the ancient Egyptian practices. Your performance will of course be monitored very closely by the Grand Visir and we may expect site visits from Pharaoh himself

Objectives

The focus of the simulation will be different for each company. Here are examples of objectives set by past clients

- Introduce a simple, proven 'method neutral' process and common language into an entrepreneurial, creative culture, demonstrate the value of right-sized project processes and project management thinking
- Improve collaboration across teams in a matrix structure, to deliver projects that involve multiple specialist teams working remotely
- Learn to scope and 'sell' the business value of a project rather than focusing on the technical deliverables
- Getting buy-in to your projects from people in other teams when you are not their boss

Simulation content

Introduction to experiential learning and the simulation structure and game rules

Clarification of aims, deliverables, roles and responsibilities

The day is divided into 4 rounds where the group follows the best practice 'plan-do-check-act' cycle and simulates the complete project to build the pyramid

Action planning and follow-up – The outputs will include practical ideas for building on existing processes, behaviour and practices and creating sustainable improvements within and across teams, on current and future projects

This challenging, enjoyable simulation will require you to

- Set up a project organisation: roles, tasks, responsibilities
- Plan the work to be done
- Analyse and manage risks
- Carry out work packages and monitor progress
- Monitor against tolerances in budget, time, scope and quality
- Deal with the unexpected
- Run project meetings that are short, productive and motivating
- Handle changes within the project
- Manage all manner of demands from the project board and stakeholders
- Evaluate and continually improve your own performance and provide inspiring project leadership to enable your project team to do the same

Contact

Nigel Hale, Open Limits Ltd
01202 473782
07737 819225
Nigel.hale@openlimits.com
www.openlimits.com

How to use The Challenge of Egypt™

As support and learning for specific project teams and their stakeholders, for example, incorporated into the Kick-off of a large project where cross-team collaboration is critical to success

To help to embed a new or enhanced project management process and the related attitudes and behaviour into the organisation's culture

The business simulation can be followed by light-touch, facilitated Team Coaching to build and/or implement the targeted project management practices and processes. Teams can work on

- Designing the programme of work, work streams and accompanying communication plan
- Building internal change leadership capability to assure the transition of the project's results into the organisation
- Facilitation of senior team meetings, project steering committees and Action Learning groups
- Work planning and knowledge sharing with next levels of management, to encourage cross-team collaboration
- Continual process improvement and reinforcement of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities



Who are the facilitators?

This business simulation was designed by the team at www.gamingworks.nl, who have in-depth knowledge and practical experience of designing and implementing process changes. They are CMMi, Project Management and ITIL specialists who can quickly identify what processes and tools will add genuine value to your organisation. They have written influential books and articles on the pitfalls, myths and madness that can surround process, projects and organisational change

Open Limits are Organisation Development specialists with expertise in the process of facilitation of learning and change. We work with teams and managers at all levels, helping them to build knowledge, confidence and motivation to spot and remove barriers to change, even when the local received wisdom is that this cannot be done