

The Importance and Trending of IT Project Management

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Abstract— The exposure of the real life industries is very crucial especially to the student. Students need to know every valuable knowledge that not only can be obtained in class learning, but also can go apart from the academics to develop insights, critical minds and have the practical knowledge as well as theoretical applications. Therefore, this industrial talk is very important for each of student to develop their skills and mind. Recently, an industrial talk regarding IT project management had been held for all students as part of the lesson and learning. In this report, all the contents of the talk will be discussed from the start of the talk until the end. A lot of important points had been shared by the speaker to all of the students.

Keywords—IT project management, Importance of IT project management, Trending of IT project management

I. INTRODUCTION

On 1st December 2020, an industrial talk was conducted for students that enroll in the Technology and Information Systems course. The objective of this talk is to expose the students to industrial world besides to improve on the cognitive complexity, intrapersonal/interpersonal relationship and practical competence [1]. It was organized by Technology and Information Systems (SECP1513), School of Computing, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) using Cisco WebEx Meeting. The talk started on 10.00 AM and ended on 11AM. The title for this industrial talk is about “The Importance and Trending of IT Project Management”. Dr. Goh Eg Su, Senior Lecturer of School of Computing, UTM was the moderator for the talk. Later, students were introduced to the speaker which was Mr. Khairul Reeza Ruslan. Mr. Khairul who has about 14 years experiences in a Portfolio/ Programme/ Project Management and is currently the Head of Project Management Office Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd and has more than RM150 Million for total portfolio value.

II. IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A. The Importance of IT Project Management

Project management is very crucial and important in everything we do. To understand deeper, we need to know what a project is. A project can be defined as a group of tasks that need to be completed in order to obtain the desired outcome. It is “one-off” scope of work defined by time, cost, and quality.

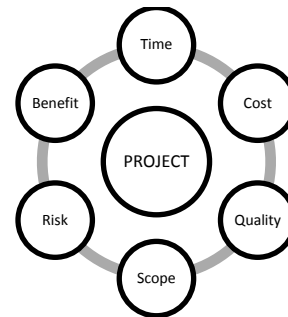


Fig. 1. Basically a project consists of several important elements such as time, cost, quality, scope, risk, and benefit. For the first element, a project needs to have time duration. We need to know the starting point and the how long the project will get finished. Second, a cost is needed in a project. According to Mr. Khairul that has a lot of experiences in industry field; time also can be counted as cost. Third, the element for the quality important in a project. A good quality project only can be achieved if everyone gives a great effort since from the beginning. Fourth, scope is basically a boundary for a project. Several task needed to be planned carefully to complete a project. Fifth, risk also one of the elements in a project. A wise decision should be made to lessen the risk in order to accomplish a project with good quality. Lastly, project should have benefit. In a project, once it has been done, it will give the benefit to everyone and not a waste of time and cost. In addition, a project should be unique, has specific goals, and usually have time or cost limit.

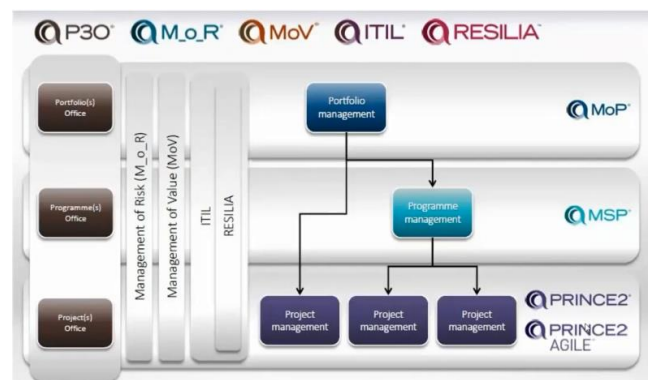


Fig. 2. The image above is a visual explanation for project(s), programme(s), and portfolio(s). According to Mr. Khairul, there are other important things beside the project which are portfolio and programme. Basically, a project is unique on its own to achieve a specific goal or target. A few projects that contribute to a bigger target are called a program. Also, a few programmes that contribute for the whole desired goal or target are called as a portfolio.

In order to execute a project, we need to know about project management. Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tool and techniques to project activities to meet the requirements. The integration of all the elements which are knowledge, skills, tool and techniques are important because it is needed to bring a project to success. Example of structured project management method is PRINCE 2 which

was developed by the UK government. IT project management is kind of new in industrial world because project management method focused on construction field years ago. However, the rapid change in technology has made this method to be applied in IT field as it will help to complete the project as scheduled. Project management is very important in selected field and can be various or different such as in banking system and health because any loss of lives and cost can be avoided if there is a good and proper planning since the start. In a project, there are a few processes which are the starting up, planning, execution, monitor and control, and closing. This process is important to keep track of the progress and finish within allocated time. However, this process can be tailored depend on the time and cost to ensure that project management can be applied and still include the process from starting point until closing to produce a good quality for the outcome.

B. Trending of IT Project Management

Generally, project management had been applied since a long time. However, it still can be used until now in everything because of its flexibility to achieve the outcome based on the trending. In addition, project management environment is changing rapidly with all the tools, technologies and the latest trends. Mr. Khairul also shared about the emerging trends in project management that happens around the world.

Firstly, is how the shifting, globalized gig economy is changing the role of project management. Gig economy also can be known as hiring contractual and freelancers instead of fulltime worker [2]. The gig economy will provide a greater reliance in digital and remote teams such as work from home and also co-working arrangements. Besides, it also will help to reduce the cost used once a project has been finished because of the contract.

Onto the next trend which is greater focus on data, we can use the data that had been collected. It will become useful for the companies with the huge information. From understanding customer needs to detailing risks, analyzing data for important insight is a key activity in almost any development project. Any mistake in interpreting the data will bring a great loss to a company.

Next trend is the expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automotive. People need to understand how the machine works and understand them to ease the task. As example, AI-powered bots can help to calculate the best projects to take on. AI also can quickly and efficiently schedule and assign resources in real-time. This will help people as it will save time and cost.

Besides, the importance of change management to project success also can be seen as a trend. A project needs to stay flexible for it to become useful and company must always adapt to adjust the processes, workflows, and competencies. They must manage change efficiently in order to complete a project.

Next, growing tendency for method melding which various techniques and methods will be used together in a single project, different from the past which only a method will be used. This way, the cost and time can be reduced to achieve the intended objective. People should know the latest and popular methodologies to make a wise decision and how to use it.

Moreover, advanced project management tools and solutions also become a revolutionary factor. It can be used in project planning where it can keep track of time and manages meetings and events. Communication and collaboration also can be conducted easily as everyone can share information with others. Any project can get delivered within the allocated budget before deadline.

Lastly, the impact of emotional intelligence (EQ) also plays a role in project management. EQ is very important that will determine a person to be successful or not. Apart from the IQ, EQ will get a person promoted. To get a project to work, the emotion needs to be stable as it will help to make decision faster and lessen the risk. Therefore, the project will go smoothly and any problem can be avoided.

III. RELEVANT IT CAREERS

Based on the talk and the information that we have gathered, a lot of careers can be related to project management especially in IT field. Project management can be applied in every job to ease the task and work. Software developer is among the career that can apply the project management skill. A software developer creates the application or system that runs on a computer [3]. Once their clients state their needs, software developers can work with their team decide the steps and sequences to make sure the project can be finished with good quality. This will also help them to avoid any problem and save time and cost.

Other than that, project management also can be applied by IT manager. Similar to data scientist, IT manager works with large volumes of digital information and helps the client to manage data. IT manager can utilize the technical and business skill to sort the activities related to computer. They keep an eye on factors such as security, cost efficiency and many more. Applying the project management in their work can get their project finished without any trouble before the deadline.

IV. REFLECTIONS

We have gained a lot of information during the talk. Below are the reflections from each member regarding the talk.

- Reflection Muhammad Hafizzul bin Abdul Manap.

My goal regarding this course is to learn and know deeper about technology and information system so I can apply it to help other people and contribute to the country. I want to see a future where everything can be done in a short time and use less energy and cost. I also wish for my country to lead in the IT and industry field.

Regarding the talk, I had learned many things that are important and it can help me to reach my goal as I have learned

what I need to know about the industry that I had never heard before. This talk helps me to understand better about the project management and its importance.

In order to improve my potential in the industry, I need to do a lot of practical training besides getting advice from the expert. This advice will help me to know more about the industry. Therefore, I will have enough preparation to step in the industry world and to adapt with it quickly.

- Reflection Savero Fajri Sutiono.

To be honest, I don't have any actual dreams right now. Though I have some thoughts to be an app designer one day but since this pandemic all that I could dream of feels impossible to reach.

This talk taught me about IT project management, the systems in project management, financial and many other things. This seminar will help me achieve my dreams for sure, because from this talk I could understand more about how things work in the industry, how to handle a project, how to manage them properly.

What I'm going to do for now I must improve my grades and study harder. I'll try to do my best and hopefully get the best score out of it, improving my soft skill also one of the actions that I'm going to do and be more active on the group project since most of the industry work, works as a group.

- Reflection Abdulrahman Rahmet Rafat Abdelhamid.

When I learn about this course, I have set a goal to become an expert in technology so I can get a chance to provide my service to the entire world. I also have a goal to involve myself in this field once I have graduated in the future because the demand in this field is high.

This talk helps me a lot to understand what I need to know to achieve my goal. I can set a plan with the help from the information that I got from the talk. It really inspires me to work hard to achieve my goal.

In order to improve my potential in the industry, I have set a plan which I need to have a continuous learning. This will help

me to understand more and deeply about the industry. Besides, I also should ask for help or seek a mentor. The help will guide me to become aware of the industry.

- Reflection Ibtesham Ahmed Promit.

I learned about the administration of IT ventures, project management systems, financing and many other things from this talk. This seminar would definitely help me achieve my goals, because I will learn more about how industry works from this, how to deal with a project and manage them perfectly.

We still have to sharpen our skills which are required to run an industry. Also need to study and work harder. As projects are handled in groups, so I need to learn leadership, communication, decision making and respecting group mates

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