

AROUND THE WORLD

MANULIFE STRATEGY HEAD WINS PMO OF THE YEAR AWARD

October's FuturePMO conference welcomed the finalists of the prestigious PMO Global Awards, which recognises the world's best programme management offices (PMOs). Overall winner of PMO of the Year 2018 was Bianca Ilibasic, head of strategic PMO for financial services company Manulife Asia.



ICCPM TO HOLD AUSTRALIA WORKSHOPS

The International Centre for Complex Project Management will hold public consultation workshops in Australian cities in early 2019 as it reviews its Complex Project Manager Competency Standards. The aim is to release a reviewed final standard towards the end of next year.



Construction slowly 'losing 1970s monoculture'

A roundtable hosted by consultancy ResoLex provided an insight into why the culture in construction has been slow to change over the past two decades and how the millennial generation might be expected to make a difference.

Speakers included Richard Bayfield, panel member at ResoLex; Tes Adamou, senior project manager at 3PM; and Roger Martin, co-founder of The Mindset Difference. They noted that the construction industry faces continued criticism for "transactional working practices and low levels of innovation".

Bayfield opened the session with observations on the development of Honda's factory at Swindon in 1985. The project successfully introduced Japanese working practices, such as a "one team, one goal" philosophy and a flexible, non-adversarial climate for construction, he said. The building of Honda's second factory at Swindon, meanwhile, applied total quality management principles, including a high level of client engagement, emphasis on collaboration and the use of the 'five whys' tool to identify the root cause of problems, leading to a 40 per cent financial saving compared to the development of the first factory.



Adamou presented an optimistic view of the future of construction, observing that the culture is changing as more young people enter the industry. He believes the industry is slowly "losing its 1970s monoculture" and becoming multidisciplinary, multicultural and cross-generational. Adamou pointed to a number of recent technological shifts, such as prefabrication, building information modelling and cloud-based real-time collaboration. The drivers for change in construction will be influenced by the millennial generation, he said.

Adamou dispelled some of the myths around millennials, pointing to statistics which show that brand loyalty, commitment and communication are high priorities for many graduates in their mid-to-late 20s. Among the younger generation, 'meaningful work' and 'accomplishment' matter much more than many leaders from the older generation think, he said. Other traits of the younger generation include loyalty to their employer's brand, a different style of communication and quick learning. Millennials are also likely to embrace projects and companies that reflect their values. In this context, "companies that fail to drive their values and stay true to them will fail in the long term", Adamou predicted.

For more on millennials and project management, see page 48.

University of Auckland PMO takes NZ prize

The University of Auckland's University Strategic Programme Office (USPO) was named Project Management Office of the Year at the 10th New Zealand Project Management Awards, organised by the Project Management Institute of New Zealand.

The awards recognised the USPO for demonstrating "outstanding performance in portfolio management, programme and project management, and [being] a driver of project professional excellence both inside the university and in the wider community".

The USPO has become an integral component in helping the university achieve its strategic objectives, which in turn contribute to wider society in New Zealand. It has enhanced governance structures, managed portfolios with a focus on strategic alignment and benefit management, and managed successful project and programme delivery. This is recognised both internally through high stakeholder satisfaction and externally thanks to the USPO achieving a P3M3 Level 4 maturity assessment.