

Project Management Development in Malaysia: A Case Study

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Summary. Even though the concept of project management has developed tremendously in the construction industry for the past 40 years, the maturity and attitude of our construction industry in Malaysia towards project management knowledge and practice is still of a concern. This research study had look into the various types of practices and tools and techniques that project management has to offer. Based on a local Malaysian case study of an infrastructure project over RM100 million worth, namely "The Project", this study reviewed how two local construction companies, who had joined to form a joint venture vehicle, namely "The JV Contractors", had utilized and carried out some of the project management tools, techniques and procedures in order to fulfil the objectives of the Project. Recommendations were also included in this paper for project teams to enhance and sharpen their skills and knowledge in project management and create the awareness towards the power and strength that project management has to offer to provide the winning edge in civil engineering projects.

Keywords: Project Management Knowledge, Development

1 Introduction

The Malaysian construction industry represents a strong push and an important element in the country's economy, not only as a stand-alone but also because of its extensive linkages with the rest of the economy. Even so, the construction industry in Malaysia has been regarded as a sector, which is plagued with bad publicity of cost overruns, uncontrolled and unrealistic schedules, accidents, shoddy workmanship, conflicts among project team members and worse still, abandoned and unfinished private and public construction projects, requiring huge amount of money and time to revive. By its nature, construction is a risky business. It encompasses many elements, which have to be synchronized to ensure the project success. There are the human factor, material factor, site condition factor, and machinery and equipment factor and all these elements have to be managed and controlled.

Project management represents a powerful vehicle, which contains various tools and techniques and procedures for planning, managing and controlling that albeit may not entirely eliminate the challenges and problems mentioned, could to a certain extent actually prevent them from occurring, controlling the possible causes and minimizing the effects and impacts of their occurrences. This goes to say that practice of project management knowledge and