

Feedback from Titanic Workshops

Feedback from the US Federal Government (Jun 10)

“Mark, the presentation on how lessons from the building and maiden voyage of the RMS Titanic are applicable for today's projects was outstanding. What was particularly useful was how you related the PMBOK knowledge areas to that project, and then discussed with our panelists the parallels that could then be drawn with our agency's projects. It was a perfect example of how, even on the best run projects, the results may be disastrous if shortcuts are taken in quality assurance and control. You definitely made the case for continually reviewing your project's risks and assumptions and checking their validity in the light of changing scope. Well done!”

Bob Morse, PMP

Feedback from (2) Community Services Workshops (Feb/Mar 10)

Thanks Mark, another great workshop!

Able to bring out the concepts of PM further. Great linkage between the story and PM.

Greater audience engagement and variety of exercises.

PMI Southern Alberta Chapter (Nov 09) Professional Development Conference Session Evaluation Results (Summary)

Session Presenter & Session Title: Titanic Lessons: Avoiding Project Disasters

Criteria	Average Rating (out of 7.00)
The quality of the presentation was excellent.	5.59
The presentation was well organized.	5.68
The ideas and skills presented were useful.	5.59
The presentation met my training objectives.	5.30
The presentation pace was comfortable.	5.19
The presenter was able to hold my interest.	5.33
The presenter was knowledgeable about the topic.	6.49
The presenter effectively responded to questions.	5.97
The presenter encouraged audience interaction.	5.86
I would recommend this presenter to others.	5.46
Presenter Average Rating*	5.65

* Number of respondents: 37

Feedback from the PMO Conference Community of Practice (Jul 08)

“Mark kept the group enthralled all the way through the workshop, linking project management today back to the events of the Titanic. A great mix of history that we think we know with project management that we should know. A great practical workshop which kept everyone involved and entertained. For our organization it was an excellent day and really added a lot of value to the overall event.” Richard Bradley, Group Programme Management Office, Business Services

“Mark, many thanks for your efforts. Our post conference survey showed an incredible 96% very good to excellent review of your day. General feedback was very positive, so thanks again.” Colin Smith, Group PMO Leader.

Feedback from PMI South Saskatchewan Conference (Apr 08)

Titanic Workshop written evaluation feedback:

- + Excellent idea/manner to teach PM concepts – risk
- + Fascinating material
- + I found the whole story fascinating

- + Great analogy
 - + Perfect historical story to captivate interest!
 - + Good relationship with real world concepts
 - + Material and presentation were fascinating.
 - + Great backdrop for a PM lesson.
 - + Risk management is critical on projects, Analogy was interesting. History can teach us a lot.
 - + Very educational.
 - + This seminar exceeded my expectations.
 - + Very interesting and informative.
- Average Rating out of 5 (with 5 being excellent): 4.3

ProjectWorld Toronto 2008 Titanic Workshop Evaluation Results (Apr 08)

We asked 3 questions: rate the Overall, Instructor, Content – all out of 5 (with 5 being excellent).

First the big picture:

Overall – best - 4.66 average - 4.18

Instructor – best - 5.00 average – 4.40

Content – best - 4.46 average – 4.05

and your scores: Overall: 4.53, Instructor: 4.53, Content: 4.60

Feedback from City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department (Apr 08)

"The City of Los Angeles and its Emergency Management Department have used the information presented by Mark to increase its emergency preparedness activities and our understanding of effective project management. We were pleased to be able to bring Mark to Los Angeles and share the information with our Executive Management. If any agency is interested in evaluating project management success and thinks a self evaluation would be useful, the Lessons From History offerings are the best course of action." Anna Burton, Assistant General Manager, City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department

Feedback from ACP Los Angeles, Orange County (Feb 08)

Mark Kozak-Holland is a fabulous speaker who was introduced to ACP LA, OC, and SD. He is awesome, down to earth, approachable, and very informative. His presentation is so appropriate for ACP meetings because he takes the historical experience, dissects it according to its business practices, and shows where the process worked or failed based on business principles and relates it to the practices of today! He also provides a very interesting insight to the importance of preparedness and contingency planning—at least with the Titanic topic. His presentation is such an innovative approach to history. We chose the business presentation on the Titanic and scheduled him for a two hour program. It took the full two hours and it was fabulous. I highly recommend including him on our speakers bureau list and promoting him to the other chapters, especially those that conduct the symposiums.

Monique Weiland, President - ACP Orange County

Dear Mark, thanks for your outstanding presentation. I truly enjoyed it both times.

Gunnar J. Kuepper, Chief of Operations Emergency & Disaster Management, Inc., President of IAEM Los Angeles

Feedback from PMI Manitoba Conference Workshops (Apr 07)

It seems that a significant number of people enjoyed your 2 sessions...I have read both books and really enjoyed them. Jon Cook, PMI Manitoba Conference

Feedback from Symcor presentation to Project Managers (Sep 04)

"*The presentation was amazing.* The parallel lessons from the Titanic to projects today are similar. Already I have had opportunity to apply some of those principles on a mini project I have been involved with, and share some ideas that have helped. Mark is very passionate about his delivery and the desire to get his message out. This is a MUST hear for all those in the track of Project Management." Mark

"I found the presentation extremely interesting and very entertaining. Using the Titanic as the subject matter and drawing analogies between today's challenges and the past was very effective. It re-enforced that no matter how much technologies advance over time, business in the past face the same issues and opportunities as the present. The presentation also supported the importance of team communication, openness and integrity. When you come down to it, managing relationships and individual styles is paramount to project success. If you create an atmosphere where one person dominates, you run the risk of shutting others down. This strengthens the position that project managers must also demonstrate leadership (people) and management (project tasks) skills. We definitely want to avoid the Ice Bucket test results and behaviour. Thank you for a great presentation!" KW

"I attended the presentation that Mark did and found it both interesting and informative. In particular, it was very interesting to see that projects are the same whether they were done decades ago, as in the case of the Titanic, or whether they are IT projects that are underway in our world today. The same aspects of planning and risk management are so critical to the completion of any successful project." Gary

"I found Mark's presentation quite interesting in how he compared the an engineering project with and IT project and identified common issues and ways projects cut corners to meet targets and satisfy clients. Him tying it back to a major disaster just emphasized the consequences of taking short-cuts in a large scale project. The only issue I had with the presentation was a desire for him to take it a step further and discuss where IT projects differ and how we can avoid similar issues / mistakes in IT related project." Greg