The PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) sustains its commitment to young people through partnerships with the world’s leading youth-serving nonprofits. This not only enhances these organizations’ operations and programming, but also enables them to more meaningfully engage youth in rigorous, project-based activities as they learn project management. As a result, they develop the life skills necessary for academic, professional and personal success.

PMIEF awarded a grant to Special Olympics, Inc. in 2017 for the “PMIEF–Special Olympics Project Management Center of Excellence” initiative. The organization, founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver 50 years ago, provides year-round athletic training and competitions in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The grant strengthened the project management capabilities of Special Olympics staff across the globe through in-depth training to support its fundraising, programming and communications. It also permitted the organization to establish a Project Management Center of Excellence, through which it develops and implements its project planning, execution, governance and standardization.

The foundation further collaborated with the organization in 2018 to support its newly launched Youth Innovation Grants initiative. PMIEF designed and developed five animated modules to help recipients of Special Olympics’ mini-grants learn project management fundamentals. The modules, which correspond with the five project management Process Groups, are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish to ensure users around the world can easily access and benefit from them.

More than 100 youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities received US$2,000 Youth Innovation Grants to work in pairs to execute more than 80 inclusion-oriented projects in 40 countries. These countries span Special Olympics’ seven regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, East Asia, Europe/Eurasia, Latin America, Middle East/North Africa and North America.

“PMIEF provided us a high-quality product that exceeded our expectations,” said Kaitlyn Smith, senior manager of youth development at Special Olympics, when describing the modules’ value. “We appreciate the foundation’s focus on making certain the content meets our needs and is accessible to our audience. In addition, including real-life project examples in the modules has proven extremely helpful.”

Special Olympics recently hosted its biennial Global Youth Leadership Summit during its World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 in the United Arab Emirates.
that may directly determine the success of a project. It is essential and even more urgent in today’s agile environment to identify such possibilities effectively and make an all-dimension analysis of them.

Confused by this dilemma, nearly 80 project practitioners attended an event hosted in Shanghai by PMI China and Zheng Xiaolong, a project management expert well known for his rich experience and well-received speeches.

Mr. Zheng analyzed the pain points of change management, illustrated his definition of multiple stakeholders involved in it and shared win-win solutions of change management for all stakeholders in an agile environment. Finally, he demonstrated some common tools and templates, and provided typical case studies of best practices.

One of the most impressive parts of the speech was how Mr. Zheng classified stakeholders in change management according to their mindset, interest, adeptness to agility and earnings: namely, decision maker, manager, deliverer, creator and one affected by change. This explanation, as well as on-site discussion and Q&A, helped the attendees gain a clearer understanding about change management.

Another element that contributes to the complexity of change management is that different methods are needed for traditional and agile projects. Traditional projects have clearly defined change management processes. Agile projects are free from inefficient processes but may suffer more waste and even an uncontrol-