

## Members of PMIEF's Community Engagement Committee Share Why It's Important to Learn Project Management Early in Life

In this Q&A series, we asked prominent members of the PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) community how their current skill set could have helped them as a kid.

In the second article of this series, PMIEF's Community Engagement Committee—David Khaw, organizational project management principal “coachsultant” and co-founder of MiNDa Coachsultancy Sdn Bhd; Avdivaragan Chandrasekaran, PMP, founder director, Infocareer Pvt Ltd.; and Connie Hester, PMP and PMO process lead at Dell—share their thoughts on teaching project management skills to youth and why they think it's a vital tool for the future. Read below to learn how they feel project management has changed their career path and what advice they have for the next generation of leaders.

*If you had learned project management skills at a young age, how would that have helped your early growth, school life, opportunities and so forth?*

**David Khaw (DK):** “I think if I had learned project management at a younger age, it would've helped me connect more with my peers and help improve my academic scores.”

**Connie Hester (CH):** “I think, ultimately, if I had known the project management skills then that I know now, I may have chosen to try a new career path early on.”

**Avdivaragan Chandrasekaran (AC):**

“I feel I could've been more successful in my academics. However, aside from that, being a PMP makes me think about being more giving and to give back by teaching others what I've learned. Growing up, I was focused on my path and not necessarily the paths of others. If I had known project management skills, I may have acted differently.”

*In your experience, how have you seen kids with project management skills perform differently than kids without those skills?*

**DK:** “I work as a youth director outside of my day-to-day work. A core value of the club is working together. I've used the [PMIEF] Project Management Skills for Life<sup>®</sup> resource to help train them on project management skills. I think it helps them focus on specific projects.”

**CH:** “I've seen, overall, learning project management skills helps promote confidence in youth.”

**AC:** “Aside from seeing project management skills helping youth complete school projects, they help in



## China PMO Symposium 2019 Held in Beijing

Continued from page 7



Skilling Your PMO: A Guide to Success in a VUCA Economy.” The last three speakers shared their best practices, providing reference for PMOs in primary, middle and senior functions, respectively. They are: Mr. Xiao Yang, organizational project management expert of Goldwind Science & Technology Co., Ltd; Ms. He Min, director of PMO, Neusoft Corporation; and Mr. Zhang Baozhong, director of PMO, ZTE Corporation. The three speakers were then engaged in a Q&A

panel, hosted by Prof. Qiang Maoshan from Tsinghua University, to take deep dives into their topics.

In addition, Mr. Fu Yongkang, founder and chairman of Changeway Management Consulting Co., Ltd, introduced the overview of *The Standard for Organizational Project Management* as one of the translators of the PMI standard.

The meeting ended with a cocktail reception celebrating the 50th

anniversary of PMI and expressing PMI’s appreciation to the sponsors, speakers and volunteers of this symposium.

It was a great platform providing high-quality content and networking opportunities, and we believe PMO Symposium 2020 in Shanghai will continue to be a valuable opportunity for executives and PMO leaders to exchange ideas and learn.



life. They create strong life skills, such as better communication with friends.”

### *What advice would you give to a young person when it comes to learning project management early as a vital tool for the future?*

**DK:** “My advice is to be agile. Project management skills help you work in many environments. Study the resources you have and how you decide to implement them is up to you.”

**CH:** “Learning project management skills early on not only helps create confidence, but it helps create accountability. It holds you accountable to your responsibilities and it holds others accountable as well. Also, I feel it can ultimately help change a lot of conversations about job skills for the younger generation.”

**AC:** “Project management skills help kids to be incredibly successful. The skills help them prepare for problems not only in school, but in life. I’ve been a PMP certification holder for nearly 20 years, and instilled my knowledge to my son. He got into Harvard with the skill set I was able to pass down.”

For more information and for part one of this series, please visit [pmief.org](http://pmief.org).