ICCPM Executive Education Foundations Unit

Systems Thinking and Complex Project Management

21 - 24 February 2012, Canberra

ICCPM, in conjunction with the Queensland University of Technology, offers this publicly available Executive Education Foundations Unit course.

Who is the course for?

The course is designed to introduce organisational leaders and core enabling staff to the concepts of complex project management and systems thinking. The course will benefit senior and aspiring projects managers, key project management staff, commercial managers, supply chain managers, portfolio managers and key advisors independent of sector or program type.

What does the course cover?

This course enhances understanding of complex project management. It provides a conceptual bridge, extending traditional analytical tools of senior organisational members into the field of complex project management. The course uses real-world examples to take participants through strategic imperatives within complex systems, as well as organisational and holistic systems approaches, so that viable project systems can be designed and managed, and emerging problems can be solved. The course also considers organisational strategy, stakeholder needs, and project delivery architecture.

What will participants get out of it?

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- make sense of complex problems using soft systems methodology;
- challenge project/problem boundaries and 'taken for granted' assumptions using critical systems heuristics;
- use the 'Viable System Model';
- understand organisational strategy and strategic alignment;
- implement a complex program.

Participants have significant opportunities to consider the transfer of their new knowledge to their own projects and feedback for this course shows that the transfer of learning to the workplace is immediate and powerful.

Duration:	4 Days
Cost:	$4,500 (per participant, discount for group bookings)
Dates:	21 - 24 February 2012
Venue:	2 King Street, Deakin, Canberra
Contact:	To register, or for more information, please contact:

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Please note numbers are limited and places allocated on first to confirm basis.

Module 1 sets the context in which decisions about complex project management are made with a focus on the systemic and strategic context of complex projects. The module covers the language of complexity and the critical variable that is strategy in successful complex project management.

Module 2 demonstrates that due to the evolving and interactive complexity of problems, systems thinking managers must be creative and holistic in their approach to tackling problems. Often several systems approaches will be required in combination to address the root causes of a complex problem.

Module 3 deals with the way that we look at the world and how this view impacts our decisions when managing complex projects.

Module 4 introduces the 'Viable System Model' which contributes to designing a viable organisation to achieve goals, and looks at how cybernetic principles assist organisation design.

Module 5 examines how we make sense of complex problems using Soft Systems Methodology, intervention approaches to solving complex problems, and engagement with complex project stakeholders to achieve a common purpose.

Module 6 challenges project/problem boundaries and assumptions using Critical Systems Heuristics to ensure fairness. It looks at giving a 'voice' to 'silent' stakeholders, and deals with thinking 'out of the box' to address emerging issues in new ways.

Module 7 looks at applying Creative Holism and Critical Systems Practice to generate integrated approaches to deal with complex problems.

The focus is then brought back to participants and their organisation. We encourage participants to identify system methodologies that may be applied to help with their own organisational challenges.