



A VIEW FROM MY TRACTOR

The Keystone of Project Success: Forging Collaboration in Construction and Engineering

"The keystone of success in construction and engineering projects lies in unified collaboration and a shared vision."

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In the intricate dance of construction and engineering projects, be it a major heavy industrial project or a “simple” production improvement project, a single misstep in collaboration can send a well-charted plan into a tailspin. Team members are often working in silos without clear direction and competing on budgets instead of collaborating. In line with a new era of focusing on team results over personal victory, the classic game of Scrabble, has been reimaged as "Scrabble Together." This new version is designed for a new generation that sees the world is in trouble and the way we do things needs to change and we need to stop squabbling and get things done. They see a world of egoic leadership and people divided. This revelation reflects a principle I've long endorsed: the bedrock of effective project management is entrenched in the art of collaborative endeavours.

The Pillars of Collaborative Excellence

- **Inclusive Unity: The Collaborative Continuum**

Collaboration cannot be a mere strategy; it must be a pervasive culture. The leadership must not only preach but practice collaborative ideals, dissolving silos and merging diverse perspectives into a united force. Each member, from the visionary to the bricklayer, forms the tapestry of this collective pursuit.

- **The Expansive Project Community**

Often, the project community extends beyond our calculative scope. Stakeholders encompass a broader spectrum: the local government official whose approval is crucial, the community leader whose endorsement is vital, and the silent worker whose hands will mould the foundations. Understanding their influence, soliciting their input, and ensuring no voice goes unheard is paramount.

- **Equality in Collaboration: The Non-Hierarchical Symphony**

Embracing cross-functional and non-hierarchical collaboration fortifies a project with diverse insights. Building a community where equality reigns supreme not only fosters respect but also empowers every stakeholder to contribute meaningfully.

- **The Collective Reason for Being "Ikigai"**

The 'Why' of a project should resonate with every member. It's not enough to define objectives; we must seek a collective 'Reason for Being', a shared vision that acts as the compass for all collaborative efforts.

- **Defining the Problem Jointly**

What is the true challenge we are facing? Identifying it in unison with all stakeholders, especially those on the ground, ensures a united front when solutions are crafted and executed.

Planning: The Collaborative Blueprint

- **The Premortem Strategy**

Anticipating what could go wrong before it does—the 'Premortem'—is an exercise in collective foresight. It is a pre-emptive strike against the unknown, with every participant dissecting potential pitfalls collaboratively.

- **Stakeholder-Driven Planning**

The intricacy of planning is best unravelled with those who will breathe life into the blueprints. Involving every stakeholder, particularly those responsible for execution, ensures that the plan is robust, realistic, and resilient.

Execution: The Collaborative Journey

- Maintaining the collaborative ethos during execution guarantees that the blueprint is not just followed but lived. It allows for adaptive responses to unexpected challenges, keeping the project aligned with its 'Reason for Being'.

Curbing Project Creep

- Collaboration is the antidote to project creep. Through constant communication and shared accountability, scope changes and unexpected challenges are managed collectively, ensuring they add value and align with the project's core vision.

In essence, collaboration is not just a facet of project management—it is its cornerstone. Like the newly collaborative game of Scrabble, projects in construction and engineering must be orchestrated with a spirit of unity, where every letter, every tile, contributes to the strength of the final construct. It is only through a harmonized collaboration that projects transcend their blueprints and become legacies of collective endeavours.

A View from My Tractor shares my opinion on certain issues with the hopes of us better understanding and addressing the source of the problems present in our turbulent environment.