Looking Beyond Culture: Success Factors for Collaborative Cross-Border Multiparty Projects

Presented by James R. Hemsath, DM, PE, PMP

“The road is long, supplies are costly, seasons are short, fortune is fickle.” Who hasn't seen similar constraints in projects? Cost and timing are driving these projects to consider working with parties outside their national boundaries, with cultures that differ from theirs. This session will describe the results of two years of research to identify success factors for these complex transnational projects, and how this research can be applied to a variety of projects.

Dr. James (Jim) Hemsath is a licensed Professional Engineer and a certified Project Management Professional who is responsible for the Project Development and Asset Management division of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, a statutory corporation of the State of Alaska. In addition to his time at AIDEA, Jim has thirty years' experience managing large projects, predominantly in the oil and gas fields. As a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Arctic Energy Office, he managed research projects at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Dr. Hemsath has an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan, and Master's degrees in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management. He received his Doctor of Management from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University, where his research focused on understanding multiparty collaboration that crosses borders and spans cultures; specifically, looking at collaboration as an emergent property from the interaction of empathy, trust, identity and shared vision.

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