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**From the Editor – About this issue – perceptions of project management in traditionally non-PM industry sectors**

This special issue is timely and appropriate, coming at the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century...to help “pass the baton” in the PM journey of self-discovery that has been manifest in papers published in the International Journal of Project Management and the Project Management Journal.

**The aim of this issue was to provide a focal point for demonstrating that project management applies in different ways and can be seen from a number of different perspectives.** In this way, as a special issue it provides a series of papers providing a theme of different ways of looking at the lived experience of project management.

**The papers presented in this issue have been chosen to challenge some readers who may still be accustomed to thinking of project management in terms of more traditional sectors.** While many of my colleagues acknowledge that project management is ubiquitous in terms of industry sectors there is still a lot of debate about what PM really means and what we should be focused on in developing research and developing project management practice.

**The paper by Kersti Nogeste from Australia, is entitled “Understanding Mergers and Acquisitions from a Program Management Perspective”.** The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate how the practice of program management can be used to manage strategically oriented initiatives such as mergers and acquisitions (M&As). This is a project management related area that receives scant attention and yet we in the business world are seemingly continually buffeted by the fallout from M&As and related restructuring and re-framing of organisations. This paper takes a program management stance and opens our eyes to the ramifications of a merger or acquisition upon organisational change, customer services, human resource management, marketing and a number of other aspects that are so heavily impacted that they spawn projects within the acquisition program of change. **Her research approach is that of a reflective practitioner** who was intimately involved in the case study. As a result she developed her own deep insights along with having access to program participants who provided their own deep knowledge and insights from which conclusions could be drawn. **Being a reflective practitioner is what many of us espouse as a desirable state for project managers.** Therefore, this paper has value as an exemplar paper from a practitioner who with the benefit of doctoral level research training allows us to gain a glimpse into their world.