Strategic Program Management

A classical definition of programme management by D.C.Ferns, "a group of projects that are maintained in a coordinated way to gain benefits that would not be possible where the projects to be managed independently".

Different forms of Programme Management

There are various forms of programme management exists. They are

- Strategic programmes
- Business cycle programmes
- Infrastructure programmes
- Research and development programmes

1. Strategic Programmes

- Portfolio programme models define a strategic domain process within the organization.
- Group of projects can lead to single strategy.
- Organizations can be grouped together and every activity associated with each distinct project can be controlled and coordinated manner as a programme

Strategic Programme Management

A programme manager must possess these qualities:

- Managing simultaneous projects inside the portfolio
- Resources must be well understood
- Utilization of resources must be attained
- Optimal usage of specialist staff for specific tasks

When portfolios of projects contribute to a common objective, it leads to strategic management. To have consistent and uniformity of projects, a business objective is defined to coordinate the project at a different level. Large organizations typically have a large and complicated organizational structure. For example, government department like OGC (Office of Government Commerce) has defined effective guidelines for the strategic programme development.

2. Business Cycle Programmes

- A project portfolio is a group of projects carried out under the sponsorship ormanagement of an organization.
- Prioritizing projects must be based on decisions made by the project manager to handlethem in different situations.
- If one project needs more resources than expected, expenses can be incorporated fromother projects giving preference to the former one.

- Importance must be given to individual projects inside the portfolio

3. Infrastructure Programmes

- Organizations differ in the way they exist. Some of them have distinct departments while others have integrated systems.
- Each department might be unique in handling different information having distinct databases defined.
- A uniform infrastructure will allow sharing of applications between various departments which would help in the development process

4. Research and Development Programmes

- Innovative companies develop new products that are too risky. If the new product fails in the market, it will be difficult to handle the situation.
- On the other hand, the new product becomes success, then there will be huge reap in the business organization.
- Certain development projects results in a good planned project. But projects that are too risky if successful yields more benefit than the innovative ones.