

room to

IMPROVE

information for those serious about improving manufacturing

March 2010

produced by The Improve Group, Australasia's leading productivity improvement provider

Lean Study Mission

Japan, 6-12 June, 2010

The Lean Study Mission is an exciting opportunity for those wanting to learn more about Lean Manufacturing principles.

The tour gives you exclusive behind the scenes access to management executives from successful companies such as Toyota, Nissan and Canon.

You will have the opportunity to interact with the worlds best trained workers in Lean on the shop floor

and get so close you can smell the machinery.

Obtain full access to "Best In Class" management principles and discover the motivations behind Japanese best practices.

"Lean success in Japan is not a cultural phenomena. It is leadership's ability to continuously motivate employees in order to obtain desired results and objectives."



Continuous Improvement

AKA: CI or Kaizen

The continual pursuit of improvements in quality, cost, design and delivery. Requires a defined system for identifying improvements, carrying them out and feeding back results.

Want a copy of our Jargon Buster
[Click here for your free copy](#)



News

An accolade for a Perth-based Manufacturing Excellence Coach:

Carlos,
 "Thank you and your team for the work already undertaken since commencing the course here at Fibre Cement since October 2009. We have seen improvements in bottom line cash flow, Uptime, Productivity, Quality, Waster rejects, costs and morale on the floor, throughout all areas, including housekeeping initiatives and safety statistics."

Cedric Magic, Plant Manager, BGC Fibre Cement

Good luck to the following groups who recently commenced CM programs with us:

- BGC Fibre Cement, WA
- Carlton Taylor Industries, NZ
- Carter Holt Harvey, QLD
- Hydrapower, QLD

The Improve Group welcomes...

Rajesh Verma - Bundaberg Manufacturing Excellence Coach
Bev McPherson - Brisbane Training Services Manager
Adrian Packer - Christchurch Operations Manager, NZ
Doug McGregor - Christchurch Manufacturing Excellence Coach

Looking from A Lean Perspective

Lean is a compilation of world-class practices adapted from Japan, The US and Germany.

The purpose of Lean is to look at a process/es and then eliminate ALL waste or non-value added activities from the process/es.

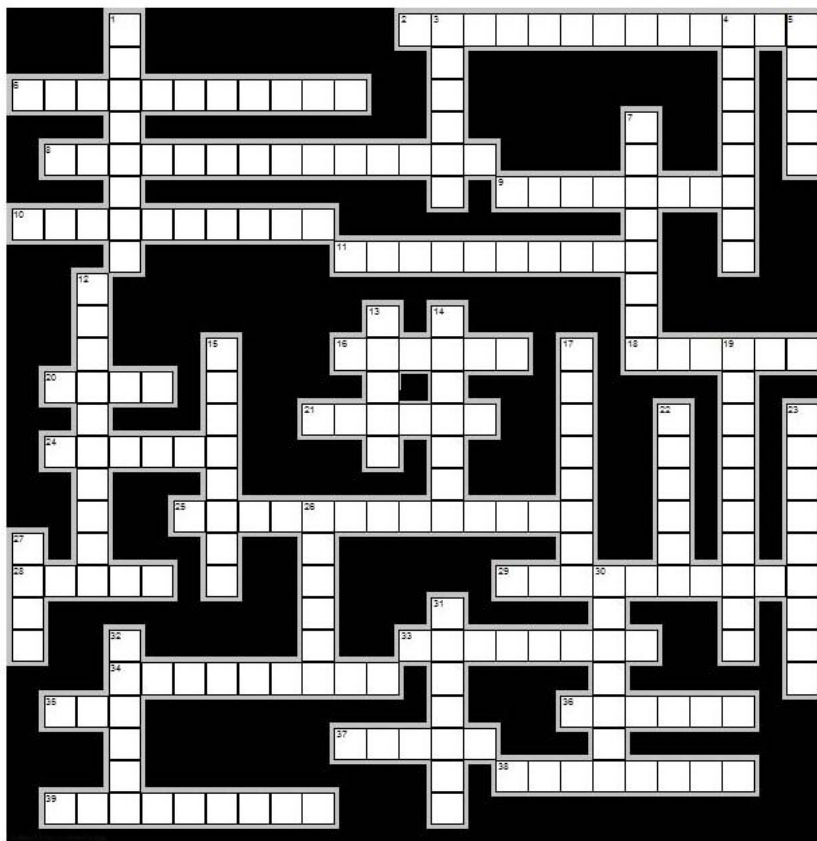
The focus should be continual; hourly, daily and in some cases minute by minute reviews are necessary.

It is important to remember that Lean is not a single event.

Successful implementation is a journey and improvements must be continual. Lean will work in all types of organisations provided a culture of continuous improvement is established and supported by management and employees alike.

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Lean Crossword

Complete this month's Lean Crossword and fax to The Improve Group 07 3488 2153 for your chance to WIN an Imation 2gb USB flash drive.

Entries must be received by 30 March, 2010. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received and will be notified (no correspondence will be entered into).

Down

1. levelling
3. Defect correction
4. Fishbone
5. The work area
7. Final S
12. A process worth doing.
13. Initial S
14. One of seven
15. Breakdown for example
17. Study the data
19. The science related to man and his work.
22. Change for the good
23. Type of diagram
26. Shigeo.....
27. False type of flow
30. 7 waste reminder
31. Ohno
32. Automonation

Across

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2. Group Thinking | 25. Completed stock |
| 6. Plan Do Check Act | 28. visual signal |
| 8. Action to stop re-occurrence | 29. Not to late to please the customer |
| 9. Motorola creation | 33. Beat |
| 10. Load-Load | 34. Too much is not good |
| 11. best type of improvement | 35. 5S tag for example |
| 16. The requirement of the customer | 36. Japanese Car Company |
| 18. Cause and..... | 37. Made together |
| 20. unreasonable | 38. Start to finish |
| 21. 80/20 | 39. six sigma expert |
| 24. Japanese word for signal | |

Want to gain a Nationally Recognised Qualification in Competitive Manufacturing based on your current Lean or Six Sigma skills?

Using our new on-line Recognition for Prior Learning Wizard, you can now gain a qualification in Competitive Manufacturing by simply using your past knowledge and experience with your Lean or Six Sigma programs.

Obviously you're going to have to prove that you know your stuff! Our new online tool provides a series of questions to validate your knowledge - you can even upload copies of files, photo's, etc as evidence. Now you can use your experience to gain the following qualifications.

Your role	Based in Australia?	Based in New Zealand?	Six Sigma Equivalent
Operator	Certificate III in Competitive Manufacturing	Level 2 National Certificate in Competitive Manufacturing	Yellow Belt
Technical Support role	Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing	Level 3 National Certificate in Competitive Manufacturing	Green Belt
Supervisor		Level 4 National Certificate in Competitive Manufacturing	
Continuous Improvement Coordinator	Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing	Level 4 National Certificate in Competitive Manufacturing - Facilitator Strand	Black Belt
Manager / Engineer	Diploma of Competitive Manufacturing	Level 5 Diploma in Competitive Manufacturing	

Our online support team can also assist you to identify any skills gaps and provide one-on-one coaching to complete the qualifications. For more info click [here](#)