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Premier Issue

Joukshuk
"In the image of man"
Practice must always be founded on sound theory, and to that, perspective is the guide and the gateway.

*Leonardo DaVinci*

Letter from the Editor:

Glass half empty/full, failure/understanding (of what won’t work), poor performance/opportunity for improvement. So often overcoming challenges put before us in life starts with attaining the proper perspective from which to attack the challenge. Successful and sustainable Lean implementation is no different. Having the proper perspective allows us to be forward seeking, not backward reaching, to see opportunities, not challenges, to believe you can help make a better future. These are the reasons that we chose PERSPECTIVE as the name of our new ASQ Lean Enterprise Division e-magazine.

So what’s different between this new e-magazine and the newsletter that many of you have enjoyed previously, and which we will continue to publish? This format will allow for more in depth coverage of topics of interest to our readers. There will be three-four feature length (2000-2500 words) articles discussing the cultural underpinnings and related thought systems needed for successful and sustainable Lean implementation. PERSPECTIVE will also have more of an international flair and so will actively seek contributors as well as information on Lean related news and events from around the globe.

Our cover photo is that of an Inukshuk which means in one Inuit language “in the image of man”. I chose this powerful image to grace the cover of our inaugural issue of PERSPECTIVE because of what they meant to the native peoples of upper Northern America, and for what it can symbolize to we who work in the field of Lean improvement. Says artist Jon Fathom:

> Inukshuks are stacked rocks assembled to catch someone’s attention marking a safe trail, a food cache, or even to identify a good fishing area. When seen from a boat on the water, an inukshuk looks like an actual person that stands out from the rest of the rocks marking a safe exit point with a walking path to beach your boat at. If the inukshuk is found inland, the opening between the legs may suggest a safe route. Another gesture they may have is a longer arm to point you in a certain direction along a trail. What a great thing to find an inukshuk when you are lost or don’t quite know the direction you should go. The inukshuk was an essential tool for the arctic.
> Jon Geoffrey Fathom, Founding Artist
> www.fathomstone.com

What struck me as so significant when I saw one of these on a visit to Vancouver, BC was that the Inukshuk were guide posts and way finders for those who may have lost their way; a critical survival tool in an arctic wasteland where there were few natural landmarks, to point one in the right direction. Where making the right choice at key decision points along the journey could mean the difference between life and death. How encouraging then, when far from the nearest settlement for the weary traveler to see an Inukshuk to guide you on your way? To let you know that while you may be lonely, you are not alone. As Lean professionals we are often on our own or leading a small team in what seems like a wasteland of inefficiency. Where whether or not reaching your destination could mean the difference between company or even individual survival.

The goal of this magazine is to encourage our readers to learn from the past as they look to the future. To embrace a big vision. To practice Lean with a capital “L”. We hope that you read and enjoy this magazine. Share it with others. Tell us what you like and dislike. And most importantly, add your perspective to our own...

Warm regards and safe travels,

*Lance B. Coleman*