

## Meet the Advantage trainer: Victor Fashoro

When Victor Fashoro sets his heart on something, he can be pretty determined. His becoming a PRINCE2 trainer is a case in point. Not content with his purely technical training portfolio, Victor identified Project Management as the way forward. However, at the company he worked for then, it was unheard of for trainers to mix management and technical subjects.

When Victor asked his firm if he could add PRINCE2 to his training portfolio, his bosses explained that he had a big hurdle to overcome – the exams. But he had the perfect response: using his holiday time, Victor had already signed up for an Advantage Learning PRINCE2 course – and passed with flying colours. He went on to become an Accredited PRINCE2 trainer. He is also an Advanced Practitioner in MSP (Managing Successful Programmes) and a Member of the Association for Project Management.

“PRINCE2 fitted brilliantly with the technical IT training I was doing,” explains Victor, adding that he was also active in providing networking and messaging solutions for organisations. “I bring that real-life experience into the classroom. That’s the best way to actually teach these things because Project Management is all about practice really.”

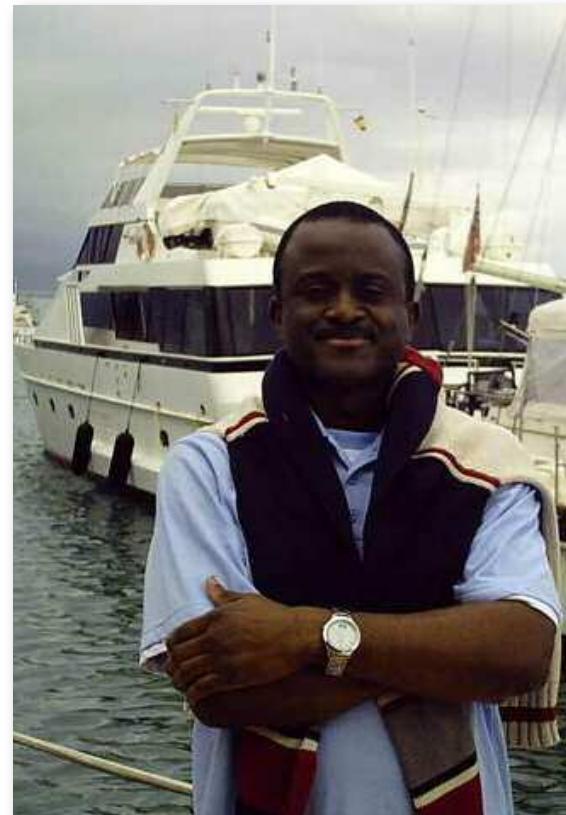
Victor admits to being a “techie at heart” and has a lot of experience in the IT field to call on. Not only does he have an BSc (Hons) in Physics and an MSc in Information Systems Engineering, he has been a college lecturer in computer automation & networking and electronics & computer engineering as well as a Microsoft-Certified Trainer. He started his career as a radio communications engineer with Nigeria Airways.

Before his initial PRINCE2 course, Victor had already done quite a bit of Project Management “but without using any formal method”. It proved to be an eye-opener. “I saw it as something that would definitely impact organisations well into the future.”

He explains: “I couldn’t understand how anyone was doing projects without knowledge of what PRINCE2 was recommending. I just couldn’t figure out how projects were being delivered successfully without most of the thinking and recommendations behind it.”

PRINCE2’s robust roadmap is the key for Victor. “For those who are actually delivering the project and those actively involved in it, PRINCE2 provides a roadmap. It outlines steps to be taken and you can easily explain the logic of taking those steps. They know exactly which steps to take at each stage of the project. It gives them a clear roadmap so that rather than just having a lot of knowledge about techniques and how to do things, you know what you do first when you are asked to start a project; what you do next and how you look after the key aspects of the project to make sure you are likely to be successful.”

The roadmap’s benefits for the organisation and its management are just as important. As Victor explains, it allows them to see how well their projects are being run. “Without a standard methodology there is simply no benchmark to measure against. With PRINCE2 the



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organisation clearly has processes it expects the projects to have gone through – depending on how advanced the projects are. It provides a good reference point for the management to know how projects are doing.”

PRINCE2 training can be an important step for Project Managers, and Victor enjoys helping them take it. “Training is quite an influential activity and I would like to think nobody goes back the same. I hope there is something they are taking away that they can start using immediately to improve their contribution towards their projects.”

He adds: “The project environment can be quite challenging, so to help them, to give them the confidence that they can do better and that they can do things differently, is important. It is an opportunity to change people’s perceptions of how well they can do on their project.”

Training is quite a responsibility. “Essentially we’re asking for a culture change. We’re asking them to change their thinking – their approach towards projects – so I think we’re helping them to change things for the better as professionals in the workplace.”

Delivering PRINCE2 training means a lot of travel for Victor, with Africa, Canada and various parts of the UK and Europe among his recent ports of call. “I do like the fact there are different aspects to my work and I’m not in the same place all the time. I enjoy the travel, but if I’m away for more than two weeks, I miss my family,” adds Victor, who has three children aged between 10 to 18.

Travel also highlights the range of perceptions that Project Managers create in different parts of the world. “The UK and US are at the forefront of recognising Project Management as a profession in its own right. In Africa it’s still very embryonic and they are only just waking up to the fact it’s a profession and that’s a key difference.”

After five years of training and consulting with PRINCE2, is Victor still convinced by it? “Until I come across another methodology that offers the same or more robust roadmap, I am. I go into many organisations and ask how they do things on projects, but I just haven’t seen anyone come up with anything close. I’ve also looked at other methodologies, but I don’t see them doing anything better than PRINCE2.”



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