# Project team building, conflict, and negotiation

Chapter 6

## Effective Project Teams

- Clear Sense of Mission
- Productive Interdependency
- Cohesiveness
- ❖ Trust
- Enthusiasm
- Results Orientation

#### Identify skills required (from WBS) Identify personnel to From permanently assigned match the skills staff or functional groups Talk to potential Explain nature of project team members and gauge their interest Negotiate with the functional supervisor Develop skills inventory matrix Develop YES Assemble Success? responsibility matrix the team Clarify roles Clarify methods and procedures NO Renegotiate with top management YES Success? NO Try to get partial Adjust project schedule, Notify top management assistance budget, and/or priorities of consequences

## Reasons Why Teams Fail

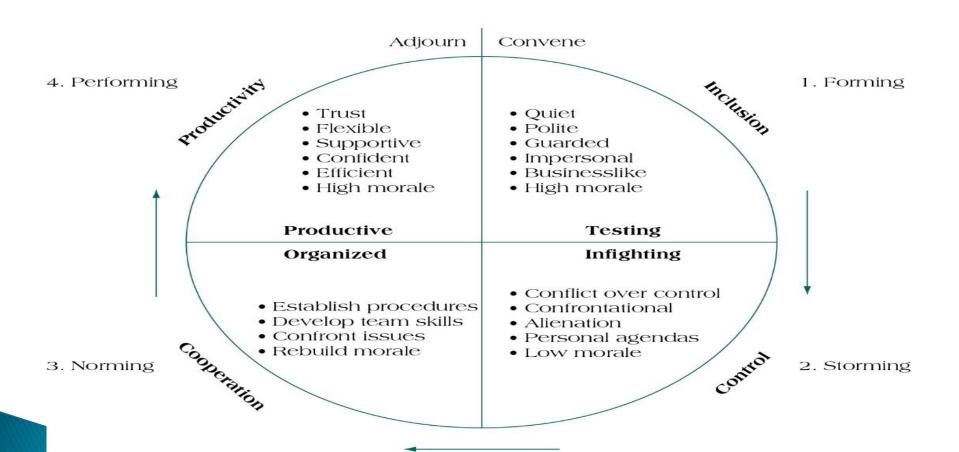
- Poorly developed or *unclear goals*
- Poorly defined project *team roles* & interdependencies
- Lack of project team *motivation*
- Poor *communication*
- Poor *leadership*
- Turnover among project team members
- Dysfunctional behavior

#### Stages in Group Development

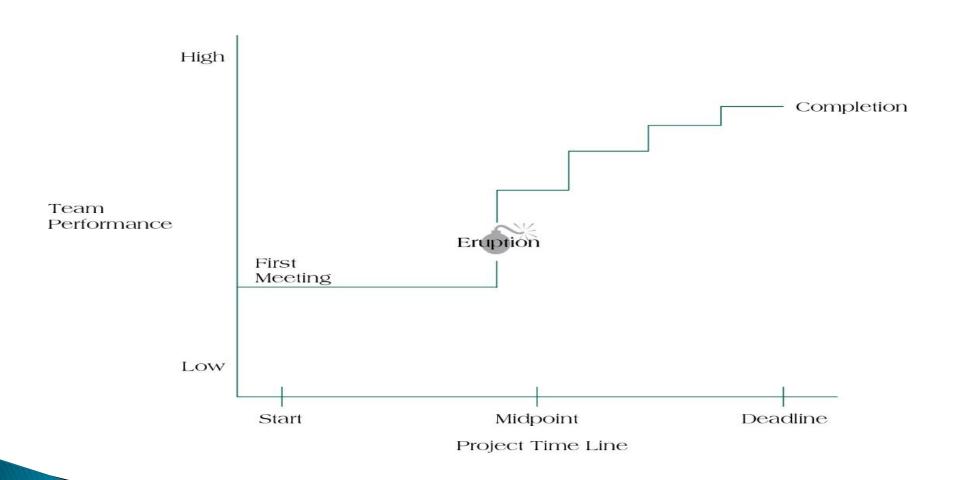
- 1. Forming members become acquainted
- 2. Storming conflict begins
- 3. Norming members reach agreement
- 4. Performing members work together
- 5. Adjourning group disbands

Punctuated Equilibrium is a different model.

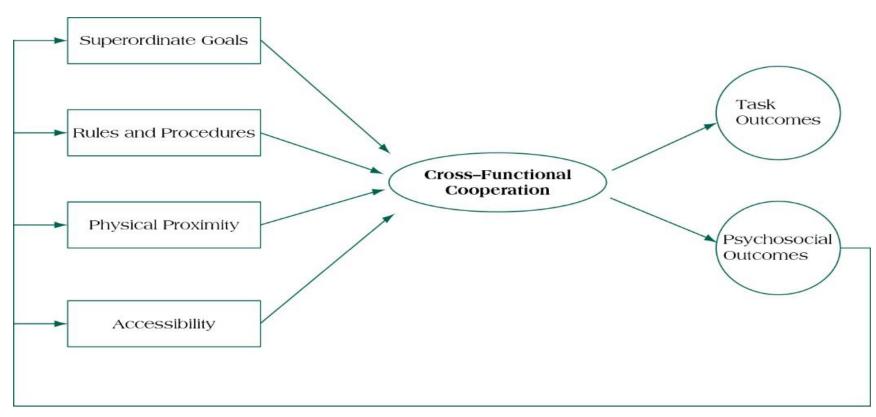
## Team Development Stages



#### Model of Punctuated Equilibrium



## Achieving Cross-Functional Cooperation



Feedback Loop

#### Building High-Performing Teams

Make the project team *tangible*.

- Publicity
- Terminology & language

*Reward* good behavior.

- Flexibility
- Creativity
- Pragmatism

Develop a *personal touch*.

- Lead by example
- Positive feedback for good performance
- Accessibility & consistency

### Virtual Project Teams

Use electronic media to link members of a geographically dispersed project team.

#### How Can Virtual Teams Be Improved?

- ✓ Use face-to-face communication when possible.
- Don't let team members disappear.
- Establish a code of conduct.
- Keep everyone in the communication loop.
- Create a process for addressing conflict.

## **Conflict Management**

Conflict is a process that begins when you perceive that someone has frustrated or is about to frustrate a major concern of yours.

#### **Categories**

- Goal-oriented
- Administrative
- Interpersonal

#### <u>Views</u>

- Traditional
- Behavioral
- Interactionist

#### Sources of Conflict

#### **Organizational**

- > Reward systems
- Scarce resources
- Uncertainty
- Differentiation

#### <u>Interpersonal</u>

- Faulty attributions
- Faulty communication
- Personal grudges & prejudices

#### **Conflict Resolution**

- Mediate diffusion/confrontation
- Arbitrate judgment
- Control cool down period
- Accept unmanageable
- > Eliminate transfer

Conflict is often evidence of progress!

### Negotiation

Negotiation is a *process* that is predicated on a manager's ability to *use influence* productively.

## Questions to Ask Prior to Entering a Negotiation

- How much power do I have?
- 2. What sort of *time pressures* are there?
- 3. Do I *trust* my opponent?

### Principled Negotiation

- Separate the people from the problem.
- 2. Focus on *interests*, not positions.
- 3. Invent options for *mutual gain*.
- 4. Insist on using *objective criteria*.