

Professional Development Committee Report 2012

Our annual Change Lecture, held last November in the Tallow Chandlers' Hall, proved to be a challenging and most enjoyable conversation with John Kay, an old friend and colleague of IPM Vicky Pryce, on the topic of good and bad models. Professor Kay, who was at the time working on his report for the government regarding short termism in the City, gave us many pertinent and sad but amusing, examples of once good models behaving badly in the wrong hands.

Professor Anthony Grayling, our principal guest at June's Education Supper which was held in the Skinners' Hall, offered us some reasons for optimism about the developments, such as his New College of the Humanities, under way in the private sector and the importance of the liberal arts as a training-ground for decision making under uncertainty. We look forward to developing our relationship with him and this institution.

Our informal seminars at Cass Business School for members of the Company have continued to attract potential new members. In September, Mark Gibson, who has been a very senior Civil Servant, provided an entertaining, and very enlightening, insider's view of Whitehall; while in February, Alan Rhydderch, introduced us to a host of horizon scanning and scenario planning approaches as deployed within government and, increasingly, among our larger clients.

The PDC has represented the Company in activities involving the other principal management consultancy bodies. Calvert Markham has initiated a project in conjunction with Cass Business School, the IoC and the MCA to look how to accelerate the way that academic research can be profitably utilised by practitioners. Assistant Graham Kennedy, a committee member of the London branch of the IoC, has led a project which has drafted a report looking at the where we, as consultants, could engage with and support the UK's Olympic legacy.

The longer term importance of Education to the UK and the unique role that our Company might play in its improvement is yet another area that we are helping the Company to explore and understand.