



Grupo JHR use MindMeister, MeisterTask and G Suite to Manage Projects Collaboratively



Adriana Ramirez,
Project Manager

www.groupojhr.com

At a Glance...

- ★ As documents are updated in real-time, management teams feel on the same page, despite being located across different offices.
- ★ Ideas and concepts are developed during cross-departmental meetings using MindMeister and Google Hangouts.
- ★ With MeisterTask these ideas are then turned into actionable tasks, ensuring every concept or idea is seen through to completion.

40 years ago, Adriana's father founded Group JHR in Costa Rica. Since then the company has gone from strength to strength, **growing to a team of 100** and spanning four companies across four diverse sectors: transportation, health and fitness, real estate and finance.

The Challenge: Searching for an agile project management tool

While undertaking a Masters program in project management, Adriana started looking for a project management tool which would help "bring Grupo JHR's projects into the future".

On the Masters course, students were encouraged to use Microsoft Projects but Adriana found it stiff to use, so began looking for an intuitive tool which **enables an agile approach to project work**. It was then that Adriana came across MeisterTask.

The Aim: Collaboration Across All Offices

Grupo JHR are based across numerous locations in Costa Rica, with the head office based in San Jose and the other departments based across the country in Limon and Guanacaste. For this reason, **the company relies hugely on collaborative tools**.

At their head office in San Jose, Adriana and her fellow directors manage work centrally for the satellite business. To contribute to documents shared with managers located elsewhere, the Directors and management team use G Suite products. Using Gmail and Google Hangouts to communicate, along with Google Docs and Google Sheets for editing documents in real-time, Grupo JHR are able to feel far more integrated and on the same page, despite being located physically apart.

As a result, the collaborative aspect of MindMeister and MeisterTask is a particular appeal for Adriana and her team, and the ability to integrate the tools with G Suite is an added bonus. Using Google Docs, team managers are able to upload documents to their relevant project tasks, ensuring the Directors at head office are viewing and working on the most up-to-date document for the task in question. This is a huge plus, having previously used Word documents, where multiple versions of the same document were continually lost amongst endless email trails.

Adriana views MindMeister to be an essential part of their meetings between departmental managers and the Directors at head office, as the integration with Google Hangouts allows the team to capture all ideas and concepts, while mind mapping collaboratively during planning meetings.

As a group of companies spread across four different business areas,

Website:
www.grupojhr.com

Region: Costa Rica

Size: 100 employees

Industry: Transport, Real Estate, Finance, Health & Fitness

Adriana describes that the executive and management teams of the company are “drawn to creating new ideas and businesses”, so the ability to hold a meeting while being able to visualize the ideas and strategies via a mind map is hugely useful in deciding what is feasible to pursue.

The team of Directors then use MeisterTask to turn these plans into action. Last year, MeisterTask was used by the company to successfully complete a large transition in which Grupo JHR aimed to become less departmentalized and more project focused. As a result, the Directors used MeisterTask to plan new infrastructure, human resources and implement the onboarding of new hires. By assigning every new idea from MindMeister to a specific person in MeisterTask, via the integration, the team were able to ensure that the transition was successfully completed.

The Results

“With the collaborative nature of MindMeister and MeisterTask, our projects are far more efficient.” Adriana explains that ideas are conceptualized with ease through collaborative mind mapping at meetings, and with the MeisterTask integration, the process of seeing these ideas through to implementation has been made quicker.

“Our Head of Directors is a pilot by trade so he loves the fact that project managers using MeisterTask can have a clear overview of all of the ongoing projects, and see how things are progressing.” If the Head of Directors, or any other members of the management team, have any questions or concerns, these can be quickly and directly voiced via the task in question, using the comment feature.

“Anxiety levels amongst the Directors of projects have hugely reduced, as everyone feels on the same page with progression”

“Anxiety levels amongst the Directors of projects have reduced as a result, as everyone feels on the same page with progression, and knows how easy it is to step-in if there are any doubts. It also makes it a lot easier for departmental managers to report back to the team of Directors at our head office, keeping everyone informed.”

Adriana explains: “Our Head of Directors is goal-minded and these collaborative tools - MindMeister, MeisterTask and the G Suite - have really helped us to make these goals into a reality.”

“Our Head of Directors is goal-minded and these collaborative tools - MindMeister, MeisterTask and the G Suite - have really helped us to make these goals into a reality.”