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The Zero-Waste AI Leader: Operationalizing Intelligence Through Lean Six Sigma Rigor in the Era of Leadership 5.0

Mayet Mendoza

Global Operational Excellence Business Consultant, California, USA

Abstract

Background

The AI industry is currently intoxicated by hype, yet sobered by a 90% failure rate in moving projects from pilot to production. As leaders, we must admit a hard truth: AI doesn't fix a broken process; it simply accelerates the chaos. This presentation introduces the **Zero-Waste AI Leader Framework**—a high-end blueprint that synthesizes the uncompromising rigor of Lean Six Sigma (LSS) with the human-centric conviction of **Leadership 5.0**.

We move beyond basic automation to identify "**Digital Muda**" (Waste)—the dark data silos, the algorithmic latencies, and the over-engineered complexities that act as a "Hidden Tax" on your growth. By repurposing the **DMAIC** (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control) roadmap, I demonstrate how to treat AI as an operational flow-enhancer rather than a standalone tech-fix, grounding every deployment in **Critical to Quality (CTQ)** business outcomes.

Key Insights & Innovative Solutions:

1. **The AI Success Formula:** I define AI sustainability as a balance: (Process Rigor/ Discipline × Data Integrity) / Ethical Responsibility. Without this balance, ROI is a moving target.
2. **Data Kaizen & CoPQ:** We treat data pipelines as "Digital Cellars"—requiring continuous refinement to reduce the Cost of Poor Quality (CoPQ) before a single model is trained.
3. **Leadership 5.0 & the Female STEM Catalyst:** Leadership 5.0 isn't about "Command and Control"; it's about the "Leader-as-Coach." I highlight how female leaders in STEM serve as the ultimate "Translators," using tools like A3 Thinking to bridge high-dimensional tech architectures with low-variance business value.
4. **Agentic Mentorship:** The framework introduces a new paradigm where leaders coach technical teams to build "Self-Correcting" workflows. We embed the LA Mandate for ethical governance directly into the Value Stream Map, ensuring that integrity is an operational constraint, not an afterthought.

This session is a call to action for architects of the future. We are moving beyond "efficiency" toward a double-digit ROI (15-30% improvement) and a legacy of Operational Excellence.

Keywords: Zero-Waste AI, Leadership 5.0, Digital Muda, DMAIC, AI ROI, Women in STEM, Operational Excellence, Ethical AI