

A Global Project Management Philosophy for the New Millennium

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We are approaching the 21st Century with the growth and acceptance of project management on unprecedented scale. We have created a setting in which for the first time in history, global human networks are being formed with more far reaching implications than could be imagined even by the forward management thinkers. A creation of the new world order is under way.

A major shift taking place is in the area of creating “knowledge based” cottage industries. Every one can create a working environment wherever he or she may be. Our global instantaneous connectivity is changing the relations of employees and employers, customers and contractors, individuals and teams, transforming missions and visions to passion.

The need to shorten the time cycles of both products and concepts has never been felt with so much intensity before in the history of civilization. The ‘tail of time’ is no longer behind the head, but has changed its position to the forehead. In order to catch time, one has to be ahead of it. A dramatic change indeed!

Global Mind-Set

In managing projects, one has to totally uproot origins to become a true global citizen. There will be no loss of energy in differentiating people from the caste, creed or national viewpoint. We are partners in the growth of a profession, a profession with tremendous responsibilities to manage both change and transition for the sustainability of civilization as a whole. The building of trust between individuals will be a prerequisite to our existence itself. We would not be driven by the local interest of project management profession in terms of domination. But domination will be based on the logic and acceptability to the end users.

Our narrow interest in the financial plane will be replaced by multidimensional concerns, including the fraternity among global members of the project management profession. Our mind will be free from narrow interests localized to a specific region of the world. This freedom will make people realize the importance of innovation. This innovation is the birthright of every professional. The global project management movement facilitates the creation of such a setting conducive to innovation.

Our global mind-set should evolve towards optimization strategies, from looking at ‘part’ or ‘sub-part’ as an objective function to seeing the ‘whole’ or ‘system’. This is a major challenge to the profession in the coming millennium.

Global Objectives

There will be a major shift from short-term objectives to broader perspectives and longer time frames. A shift from the ‘hard’ domains of quantifiable mission and vision to less quantifiable ‘soft’ domains, being in the shape of passion. Passion will be the key driving force in the formation of integrated global project teams. When passion sets in, employees become entrepreneurs within the physical boundaries of limitless organizations. When passion sets in, we transcend ourselves to higher levels of mental frameworks rather than being confined to the narrow boundaries based on geography

Global Attitude

There will be a new trend in the formation of attitudes, based on integration of the positive elements of a transnational culture, humor, practices and smiles. There will not be blockages in our minds if we perceive the right attitude. Attitude will be the single most governing factor deciding the outcome of a project. The right attitude can benefit all stakeholders. Global attitude will take full cognizance of the global project management fraternity, as the differences in the people will not be based on the regions but on the planes of attitude.

Global Transformation

A shift will take place from the 'project management' dimension to 'project leadership'. Every member of an integrated project team must in essence be a project leader. The area of influence will not be as relevant as assuming the role of leader in his or her own domain.

Global Transparency

More powerful than the nuclear explosion will be that of 'mind', where the correlation between what we think, what we say and what we do will be very high. The tremors created by such transparency will create a non-physical space in the physical plane. We would start appreciating all those who are upfront and straight. It is politics that create low correlation between thinking, saying and doing.

Global Risk

Collectively, we would all create more judicious 'risk' taking apparatus, rather than creating systems to prevent risks. It is a distinct possibility, as we share lessons learned from our own attempts in the field of global project management practices.

Global Values

The value system of the global project management profession and that of its members should be both time invariant and geography-independent. Values will be governed by the desire to create a better globe.

Global Skills

Global project management will be totally based on integrative rather than differentiating skills.

Global Teams

From any permanency, project teams will become more flexible, dynamic and above all temporary. We come, learn lessons, execute and move forward. See the water molecules in the waves generated by the ocean, they all come with tremendous energy, make an impact and disperse. Never ever will these two molecules of water that are responsible for creating those waves ever meet again in eternity. Fantastic!

Global Obsolescence

No egos around. We are all obsolete. Acceptance of obsolescence will become a fundamental aspect of executing projects in the future. It is not the supreme technical knowledge of project managers that will be the important ingredient to manage, but his or her team building processes, his or her involvement. Accepting obsolescence makes oneself less obsolete by 50%, in my own estimation.

In short, we, the project management professionals will be envied by our posterity as we are part of this historic time when this profession has begun to emerge as a key for integrating the globe, in a scale which could never be forecast. Ultimately, the integration of Strategic Vision, Project Teams and Technology will become the denominator of our growth, and the measure of our success..

Let us move on with keeping the profession's growth as the one and only objective, burying our differences. We are creating the future so let us carve it out together to be the best.

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