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Project Management News from Brazil

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Toss a coin!
Maybe you will get some good project management in Brazil

I'm sure there are differences about maturity in project management in any country. You will find the good and the bad anywhere you look at. But while audiences in project management seminars grow in Brazil and more and more training opportunities appear around every city in the Country, we are sadly behind the good and too close to the bad.

I had the opportunity to travel around many cities tagged along Mr. Vladimir Liberzon that came from Russia to present seminars about Success Driven Project Management, a highly successful Project Management Methodology that combines risk simulation and management by tendencies into one integrated schedule of three-point scenarios. While presenting about very large projects integrated into one multi-billion dollar portfolio (the preparation for the Winter Olympics of 2014) and many others, he expected to enchant the audience with advanced features of risk simulation but in fact we stood there to actually "prove" that some project planning can make a difference, even to so-called-senior project managers that would not understand basic CPM scheduling or what critical chain stands for.

From over 1,200 people that attended such seminars, I think we actually spoke to an audience of no more than 50. If we made any difference to the others, it was about that jealous feeling of "Ouch! Maybe I should start studying about my chosen occupation".

Besides the ones that went with no structure to actually enjoy the new approaches, many Project Management Professors published invitations to thousands of their students in Project Management MBAs across the country. To see that many other had a chance to go to such meetings and not even bothered to is also alarming. Some of them, already working on their final paper for their MBAs, can't even understand why PMBOK is a guide, not a methodology.

Maybe the best question we got in one of such seminars was "Mr. Liberzon, from what you saw about project managers' lack of maturity in Brazil, do you think one day we may become real project managers?". If there is no light, at least some recognize we are in the dark!

That reminds me of Plato's Cave, where some people were chained to each other in the back of a cave and all they could see in the world was their shadow in a wall. At some point, one of them breaks from there and finds a 3D world, with colors and shapes. When he returns to pass the knowledge, he is actually seen as a lunatic by most of them.

Not all is that bad. We are actually exporting some highly appreciated Project Managers to many companies around the world. And from time to time we actually have some interesting talks and knowledge share in the growing number of events.



From one standing point, new events and project management schools give us a great sense of growing in the profession. From another standing point, recently trained so-called-project-managers are actually propagating their lack of knowledge as professors give us a sense of disruption. Toss a coin. And do it a couple of times more. If you get three straight heads, you got yourself a good project manager.

Image from:

http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_coiqgshAu1Q/SGP0MSMjbRI/AAAAAAAADAI/8e9715YMics/s320/coin_toss_714417_2.jpg

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