

# Project Managers Without Borders - A Video Post



**"Ari" Arivazhagan, PMP, PMI-SP, PMI-RMP, MBB**

Founder-CEO at International Institute of Project Management (IIPM)

Project Management is an industry-independent discipline, if understood well by the project manager. Though each industry has its own peculiarities (i.e, industry-specific nitty-gritties) , a working knowledge of the industry is just sufficient in managing projects across various industries or domains if you are good in other aspects of project management.



What one manages essentially as a "project" is not the technicalities of that project but the time, cost, quality , HR, communication, risk, scope, procurement, etc of the project. If one analyses carefully, all these areas of a project have nothing to do with your technical skills. They are common to all projects in all industries across the globe. It is possible for a PM with sufficient experience in one industry + global certifications like PMP® , Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma + soft-skills + working knowledge in the said domain to

manage projects in any chosen domain across borders.

As a standing example, I have been a PM for various projects listed below in extremely different domains/industries in different countries to successful completion apart from projects in my core domain which is Civil & Structural Engineering projects.

- #1. Electrical Power project in Saudi Arabia .
- #2. New Product Development projects in E-learning [E-learning Projects](#)
- #3. Software development in IT industry [IT Projects](#)
- #4. Three low-budget DVD Movies in Film industry [Movie Projects](#)
- #5. Event management across various domains [Events & Conferences](#)
- #6. Social Projects as part of IIPM's CSR initiatives [CSR Projects](#)

My recent interview to News 7 TV Channel throws some more inputs on managing projects across industries globally, challenges in such projects, and the importance of certifications like PMP® , Lean Six Sigma

etc. Here is the link for the video on the YouTube of my recent interview.

In all the industries mentioned above, what I needed to do was to focus on the time, budget, risk, resource utilization, scope etc. I never realized any borders nor had I faced difficulties in the technical skills required in these domains as , as PM, I had access to the support of good technical managers to design and sort-out technical issues. What was more helpful than my project management knowledge was my soft-skills and situational /cultural sensitivity to local issues in those projects and of-course, all the above, the blessings of the Omnipotent.



If one just thinks of the projects our parents have managed , one can realize that managing project is simply a matter of commitment coupled with soft skills rather than the technicalities of the domain. Still, what helped them succeed in their projects without any previous experience was, in my observation, that they had genuine fear-of-failure and good amount of soft-skills but no formal certifications like we do today.

Budget, Scope creeps, Risks, Communications, and Integration were the tough areas to deal with in all these projects and as one would expect or believe, the technical skills were never a challenge, for project management is not mainly technical management but mostly a people management affair.

Be a Project Manager without Borders.

Live your life as a Project rather than as an Operation. You will live longer, healthier, and happier.

**About the Author :** The author, Ondiappan Arivazhagan, "Ari", is an Honors graduate in Civil / Structural Engineering from University of Madras. He is a certified PMP, PMI-SP, PMI-RMP from PMI, USA. He is also a Master Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma and has done Business Analytics from IIM,Bangalore. He has 30+ years of professional global project management experience in various countries around the World including 14 years of consulting and teaching / training experience in Project management, Analytics, Risk Management and Lean Six Sigma. He is Founder-CEO of International Institute of Project Management (IIPM), Chennai and can be reached at [askari@iipmchennai.com](mailto:askari@iipmchennai.com)