Article written for Pmgreece flyer at IPMA congress

Diaspora - looking back to my roots but working afar from Ithaki

Let us start with a fact: 'we are not always bearing gifts'.
Most of the times we are blunt, straight talking individuals that forgot we invented politics and democracy.

Speaking about democracy; Does it and should it exist in a project?
And does team work really absolve the PM from his responsibility to deliver the project to stakeholder requirements?

Does our culture come out in our day-to-day behaviour and dealings in projects?

Absolutely.

In most of us there is no 'low' volume control when we speak, but you can sense it when something has gone wrong.
Short fused and explosive? Most of the times yes but it does wear out, especially as you grow older and wiser.
To paraphrase the team building process - *forming, storming, norming, performing*, we form teams by storming, storming and more storming and it works miracles.

However, and despite what some of the psychologists say about forming your character by the age of four, we do change, and adapt, and analyse and we take corrective action - we find our way. Let's not forget Ulysses returned to Ithaki even though his labours' lasted 10 years.

We love the challenge and usually the impossible and there is only one acceptable result - perfect.

It is funny, however, how one feels more comfortable and understanding in a multi-ethnic project. You see how, when you speak to your German colleagues in the morning, lunch time to the guys in the States and late in the afternoon to the Client in Honk Kong, the whole team becomes more tolerant.

Issues in all the projects are the same whatever your race, but what difference does it make when you have to deal and comprehend the local contract law and the bidding process (to mention but few). You wish Alexander the Great could appear once more to cut this '*Gordium's inextricable knot*' and make things much more simple for us poor Project Managers.