

## **PMI Global Volunteer Summit 2023, Madrid (Spain) Together We Can! Together We Did!<sup>1</sup>**

**By Dr. Deepa Bhide and Yasmina Khelifi**

Dr. Deepa Bhide and Yasmina Khelifi, both volunteer contributors to PM World Journal and PMI Global Volunteers, participated in the PMI Global Volunteer Summit in Madrid from the 14th to the 17th of March. Here are some highlights from the summit.



Yasmina (left) and Dr. Deepa (right)

### **Executive Summary**

To tackle the current need of businesses worldwide, the Project Management Institute (PMI) showed how important camaraderie, communication, and collaboration (3Cs) support the project management discipline. The pandemic left behind a trail of changes and impacts in our personal and professional lives like never before. New challenges,

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such as lack of resources, climate changes, conflicts, war and economic instability, and many more, are staring widely at us. Understanding, assimilation, flexibility, and action with discipline are the need of the hour.

The project management community and PMI, the leading organization for Project Management, are responsible for leading the change for a more inclusive and sustainable world.

## **Organization**

The PMI Global Volunteer Summit took place from the 14th to the 17th of March in Madrid (Spain). This summit has gathered 170 volunteers from around the world. The event was themed “Together We Can.”

The summit was a mix of formal presentations by PMI about the strategy, panel discussions, workshops, working sessions in volunteer teams, and delicious networking lunches and fun parties.

## **Message from PMI CEO and President (Pierre Le Manh)**

Pierre Le Manh, PMI CEO, and President could not attend the summit in Madrid as he had to fly to China to renew the agreement between China authorities and PMI - a strategic activity for PMI. He, however, had recorded a video for the audience about his thoughts and the organization's current and future. Presenting the new PMI organization and the main pillars, his e-presence was insightful for the global PMI volunteer community assembled.

PMI Strategy Panel discussion (Lenka Pincot, Brantlee Underhill, Mark Broome) gave insight into PMI's overall strategy, Short Term Value Initiatives (STVIs), and more. The session was followed by questions and answers from the audience, including questions about the current and future of PMI's strides.

## **New PMI Culture Values (Jennifer Richards, Culture & Change Leadership, PMI)**

They say culture eats strategy for breakfast! Isn't that true? To march towards its mission and vision of volunteering for a cause, PMI uncovered in detail its cultural values:

- Make it Easy
- Aim Higher
- Be Welcoming
- Embrace Curiosity

- TogetherWe Can

The new cultural values were introduced to the participants in two interactive workshops to understand better and personalize the new PMI cultural values and behaviors. As a result, the volunteers could relate to these values in translating their life as a volunteer and beyond. You can learn more about PMI's culture [here](#) if you are a PMI member.

### **Delivering Value through xMOs**

**You can find the latest thought leadership reports [here](#). [The State of Women in Project Management](#) is particularly insightful and highlights data per regions and countries.**

Lenka Pincot, Chief of Staff, PMI, facilitated a panel discussion around The Evolution of PMOs: Delivering Value through XMOs, [a report](#) by PMI and PwC. between Jennifer Tharp, Chair, PMI Board of Directors, Sarina Arcari, PMI Board of Directors, Diane Alsing, PMI Board of Directors and Tahirou Assane, Director, Brightline (Streamed Live).

Organizations are adopting approaches to enhance project outcomes by concentrating on delivering value to the customer. This shift from traditional delivery models has resulted in transforming the Project Management Office (PMO). In their multiple forms, PMOs can be termed as xMOs to suit varied needs and purposes.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Two interesting topics were discussed.

Shola Kaye shared two frameworks for creating psychological safety and intersectionality in your teams. Shola also guided the attendees through a practical exercise on applying these concepts of power and privilege and headwinds versus tailwinds. The workshops helped the group understand the concept and gave ideas on the tactical and practical application of the same in daily life.

The closing keynote by the international generational expert, Henry Rose Lee, was highly insightful; where Lee focused on the importance of age diversity and how it can positively impact innovation, collaboration, and even revenue. The session was informational in busting a few generational myths fostering engagement with the tiers of generations that the professional spaces are made up of. In today's world, with a mix of teams from baby

boomers to generation alpha, the session delivered tips and tricks on how to make a successful relationship for value delivery.

**Madrid for Refugees** (Laura Davidson, Manager, Societal Engagement and Impact, PMI, introduced Meredith Moore, Donations Coordinator, Madrid for Refugees)

PMI has partnered with Madrid for Refugees, a local non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to helping and empowering individuals who are refugees, asylum seekers, stateless, and migrants in need of international protection and at risk of social exclusion. Each of the volunteers wrote a note and prepared one kit bag. It was emotional. These kits provide the basics to help individuals and families make a fresh start in their new homes and help get some of the more costly basics covered so that they can approach the task of getting settled, starting school, looking for work, and making connections in the community in comfort and with confidence.

### **Beyond the presentations....**

The opening reception initiated a camaraderie between the volunteers. Over a flamenco dance performance by a local group and cocktail dinner, the team of global volunteers was seen bonding with their team members, PMI staff, and other volunteers.

Intentional networking lunches helped us eat with different peers and learn more about their volunteering roles and lives. Volunteering is all about fostering connections to create enjoyable and fruitful work together.

It's said that our paths cross for a purpose. PMI creates that opportunity for people's paths to cross for the greater good of society and the planet. About 170 volunteers from over 56 countries representing 20 volunteer teams had a chance to interact on various topics from ethics to technology.

This is an incredible opportunity to meet people we have exchanged with by email in person. It is a way to build deep relationships and find familiar friends. That happened to Deepa and Yasmina, both contributors to PMWorld Journal. Their exchanges at the PMI Global Volunteer Summit led them to a new collaboration to share how effective volunteering is in making an impact.

"It was such a great event to reunite after the pandemic." – Yasmina.

"Sharing, Caring and Learning – A delightful meeting" - Deepa

## About the Authors



### **Dr. Deepa Bhide**

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**Dr. Deepa Bhide**, MBBS, DCH, PMP, has over 20 years of professional experience where she has blended medical practice and research with IT and Project Management. She juggles consulting, training, and operations and is proficient in clinical medicine, project management, and healthcare information technology. Starting her career as a medical practitioner, she has worked with varied organizations before her current stint as director and clinical expert for Inventurus Knowledge Solutions.

Her passion for IT and Project Management was born from her day-to-day patient interactions. Deepa's growing interest and work in these areas helped her view Project Management as a backbone of progressive healthcare. Her paper on "Patient Care - A Project Management Perspective" has received global recognition and acclaim. Deepa is an active contributor to PMI with her articles on a cross-domain confluence of Healthcare and Project Management. With a physician background as a solid foundation to leverage IT/PM skills and knowledge, Deepa has blended her broad-based experience and learnings to present a unified, holistic, wholesome view of Project Management and Healthcare. Through various webinars, events, talks, and writings across platforms, Deepa has been an evangelist in championing global project management during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A Gold medalist from Osmania University for standing First in the MBBS course and also for Human Physiology, she went ahead to pursue her DCH in Pediatrics and Child health. Deepa is an active member of their volunteer initiatives. Deepa has served a variety of roles in local and global PMI regions. The part of Council Lead for PMI's Healthcare Community of Practice for two years (2013-15) involved identifying and mentoring volunteers and collaborating across geographies for knowledge assets. Deepa remains actively engaged with PMI and has been a participant and speaker for various meetings and online events.

Deepa lives in Hyderabad, India, and loves to travel, sing and experiment with global cuisine. She can be contacted at [deepabhide@gmail.com](mailto:deepabhide@gmail.com).



## **Yasmina Khelifi**

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**Yasmina Khelifi**, PMP, PMI- ACP, PMI-PBA is an experienced project manager in the telecom industry. Along with her 20-year career at [Orange S.A.](#) (the large French multinational telecommunications corporation), she sharpened her global leadership skills, delivering projects with major manufacturers and SIM makers. Yasmina strives for building collaborative bridges between people to make international projects successful. She relies on three pillars: project management skills, the languages she speaks, and a passion for sharing knowledge.

She is a PMP certification holder since 2013, a PMI- ACP and PMI-PBA certification holder since 2020. She is an active volunteer member at PMI France and PMI UAE, and a member of PMI Germany Chapter. French-native, she can speak German, English, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and she is learning Arabic. Yasmina loves sharing her knowledge and experiences at work, in her volunteers' activities at PMI, and in [projectmanagement.com](#) as a regular blogger. She is also the host and co-founder of the podcast [Global Leaders Talk with Yasmina Khelifi](#) to help people in becoming better international leaders.

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