



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Memorandum of Agreement made and entered into this 28th day of January 2004, by and among:

The **PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION**, an agency of the national government created pursuant to Republic Act No. 8981 otherwise known as the "PRC Modernization Act of 2000" with office address at P. Paredes Street, Sampaloc, Manila, represented by its Chairperson, **HON. ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE**, hereinafter referred to as the PRC;

The **COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**, a government agency created under Republic Act No. 7722, with principal office at 5th Floor, Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, represented by its Chairman, **HON. ROLANDO R. DIZON**, hereinafter referred to as the CHED;

-and-

The **UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES**, a non-stock and non-profit organization duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the accredited professional organization of architects in the Philippines, with national headquarters at 53 Scout Rallos, Quezon City, represented by its National President, **ARCHT. ROBERT S. SAC**, hereinafter referred to as the UAP;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Human Resource Development Working Group (HRDWG), in which the Philippines is one of the participating economies, has established a project "to assist professional architect bodies to maintain an APEC Architect Register in each economy as a basis of a transparent system to facilitate the mobility of professional architects for cross-border practice within the region."

WHEREAS, the APEC Architect Register would provide a reliable framework for liberalization of access to professional recognition and the

WHEREAS, the Philippines participated in the Steering Committee Meetings of the APEC Architect Register Project under the APEC-HRDWG through the representatives of two (2) government agencies, namely, the PRC and the CHED and one private organization, the UAP.

WHEREAS, the PRC under its charter, is mandated to implement, administer and enforce the regulatory policies of the State with respect to the regulation and licensing of the various professions and occupations under its jurisdiction, and to conduct and administer the licensure examinations of the various Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs).

WHEREAS, the CHED under its charter, is mandated to pursue State policies on quality education such as the education of high-level and middle-level professionals through the regulation and supervision of institutions of higher education, both public and private, which implement degree-granting programs.

WHEREAS, the UAP as defined above, shall represent the regular council member organization in the meetings of the APEC Architect Register Project under the APEC-HRD Working Group.

WHEREAS, given these mandates of the two (2) government agencies and one (1) chartered private association, the parties have decided to delineate their functions and to work harmoniously towards the establishment of the APEC Architect Register in the Philippines in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the participating economies.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises and their mutual covenants, the parties hereto have agreed and bound themselves to do and perform their respective undertaking/responsibilities as follows:

SEC. 2. Undertaking/Responsibilities of the PRC. – The PRC, representing the Board of Architecture, shall:


- a) Confirm that the applicant for registration in the APEC Architect Register is a registered architect.
- b) Assess, using appropriate criteria and established assessment standards, the competence of the applicant for registration in the APEC Architect Register.
- c) Issue special temporary permits to foreign architects registered in their economy's APEC Architect Register who desire to practice in the Philippines, after validation of their qualifications as APEC Architects.
- d) Exercise jurisdiction through the Board of Architecture in the suspension of the licenses issued to Filipino architects registered

in the APEC Architect Register and foreign architects practicing in the Philippines by virtue of temporary special permits issued by the PRC.

SEC. 1. *Undertaking/Responsibilities of the CHED.* – The CHED shall:

- a) Determine, in coordination with the PRC through the Board of Architecture and in accordance with the principles adopted by the APEC Architect Register Project, the substantial equivalence of foreign architectural programs in education to the Philippine architectural education programs.
- b) Assess the educational qualifications of applicants for registration in the APEC Architect Register in the Philippines.
- c) In consultation with the PRC through the Board of Architecture, establish and/or adopt alternative additional qualification requirements for architectural education programs taken or completed by applicants found to be deficient or not equivalent, taking into consideration the relevant provisions of the law regulating the profession and provide and develop a program for the applicant's compliance.
- d) Designate the institution or institutions which shall implement the program providing for alternative educational requirements to enable them to meet substantial equivalence for registration in the APEC Architect Register.
- e) Issue certification that the applicant has pursued and completed the alternative additional educational qualification requirements to establish substantial equivalence.

SEC. 3. - *Undertaking/Responsibilities of the UAP.* – The UAP, in coordination with the Board of Architecture, shall:

- a) Establish and/or provide the criteria or guidelines in accordance with the framework, guidelines, and policies agreed upon by participating economies, for the assessment and validation of the applicant's relevant seven (7) years experience and the minimum three (3) years experience within the seven (7) years spent as an architect with sole professional responsibility for projects of moderate complexity, or as an architect working in collaboration with other architects in charge of and responsible for a significant aspect of the design of a complex project.
 - b) Assess, on the basis of the documents submitted, the applicant's compliance with the seven (7) years experience and the minimum
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three (3) years experience within the seven (7) years spent as an architect with sole professional responsibility for projects of moderate complexity, or as an architect working in collaboration with other architects in charge of and responsible for a significant aspect of the design of a complex project and issue certification, if warranted.

- c) Certify the status of the applicant with regards to his/her membership in the accredited professional organization.
- d) Make available its data bank with regards to the professional competence, qualifications and accomplishments of applicant.

SEC. 4. – Joint Undertaking/Responsibilities of the Parties. – The three (3) parties to this Agreement shall:

- a) Establish and maintain a section of the APEC Architect Register for the enrolment of APEC Architects registered/licensed in the Philippines.
- b) Create an APEC Architect National Monitoring Committee composed of representatives from each party with the rank of Commissioner or its equivalent and the President of the UAP or its designated representative who shall choose their own chair on rotational basis annually to monitor the implementation of the APEC Architect Register in the Philippines through the Panel of Experts.
- c) Develop, maintain and implement the APEC Architect Register in the Philippines in accordance with the criteria agreed upon by participating economies in the APEC Architect Project.
- d) Create a three-person Panel of Experts, one (1) from each party to pass upon the qualifications of applicants for registration in the APEC Architect Register where each party shall nominate/designate its representative to the panel.

The PRC representative shall take charge of the ethical, moral, and professional qualifications of the applicant for registration on the basis of his records at the PRC.

The CHED representative shall be the expert on educational qualification and shall review the documents of the applicant to establish equivalence of the educational program completed.

The UAP official representative shall take charge of the assessment and evaluation of professional experience qualifications to meet the criteria and standards agreed upon by the participating economies in the APEC Architect Project.

Committee. The Secretariat shall be headed by the representatives from PRC. The number of Secretariat personnel shall be decided by the parties.

- f) Upon recommendation of the Panel of Experts on the basis of their assessment of the documents submitted and upon approval by the APEC Architect National Monitoring Committee, the Secretariat shall register approved applicants in the APEC Architect Register Project for the Philippines.
- g) Upon prior notice from the APEC-HRDWG, participate in the Meetings of the APEC-HRDWG and other bodies of the APEC involved in the establishment of the APEC Architect Register.
- h) Constitute the bodies that will undertake the activities to be done under the APEC Architect Register Project.
- i) Perform such other functions as required to be undertaken in the establishment of the APEC Architect Register.

SEC. 5. Budgetary Requirements. – The National Monitoring Committee shall prepare the implementing guidelines to include budget details.

SEC. 6. Amendments. – This Agreement may be amended by the parties as the need arises and to conform with the requirements of the APEC Architect Project.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. – This Agreement shall take effect upon the signing thereof by the designated representatives of the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have affixed their signatures this 28TH day of January 2004.

COMMISSION ON HIGHER
EDUCATION

By:


ROLANDO R. DIZON
Chairman

PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
COMMISSION


ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE
Chairperson

UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

By:


ROBERT S. SAC
National President