

# **Strengthening the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program to Ensure International Alignment of Competencies and Qualifications Towards Capacity Building: The Philippine Geodetic Engineering Experience**

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**Key words:** Capacity building; CPD; Professional practice; capacity building, geodetic engineers, international alignment of competencies and qualifications

## **SUMMARY**

The Philippines' Republic Act No. 10912, known as the "CPD Act of 2016", was enacted to strengthen the CPD Program for all regulated professions, create the CPD Councils, and appropriate funds therefore, among others. The legislation is consistent with the policy of the State to promote and upgrade the practice of professions, and fulfill the role of the State to institute measures that will continuously improve the competence of professionals in accordance with international standards of practice. The law also calls for the formulation and implementation of CPD Programs to ensure international alignment of competencies and qualifications of professionals through career progression mechanisms leading to specialization or sub-specialization.

The three-man CPD Council of Geodetic Engineering, under the supervision of the Professional Regulatory Board of Geodetic Engineering (PRBGE) and duly assisted by a Secretariat, is primarily responsible for the overall administration, operation, and implementation of the CPD Program for Geodetic Engineering. The Council is also mandated to ensure adequate and appropriate provisions of CPD Programs, evaluate and act on application for accreditation of CPD Providers and their CPD Programs, monitor and evaluate CPD Programs, develop mechanisms for the validation and recognition of self-directed and prior/informal learning modalities as well as online learning, conduct researches and studies, issue operational guidelines, among others.

To date, the CPD Council have already accredited six (6) CPD Providers including the Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines, Inc., the duly Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of Geodetic Engineers. After the creation of the Council in 2016, there were 150 CPD Programs that were already accredited and eventually implemented by CPD Providers. On policy formulation, the transition operational guidelines has already passed the review and approval of the CPD Review Committee of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). The regular

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operational guidelines had been finalized but was held in abeyance due to some antecedent requirements that need to be complied with by the PRC, PRBGE, Council, and AIPO.

Next steps include the formulation of CPD Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, formulation of Career Progression and Specialization Guidelines, consultation assemblies for the development of the Philippine Qualifications Framework for Geodetic Engineering, CPD Forum and related consultation meetings, and orientation of major stakeholders including the monitors, evaluator and CPD Providers. Once all of these stages are finalized and operationalized, the alignment of competencies and qualifications with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific counterparts will be more straightforward and effective.

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