

AGENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2017 PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The PRC plays a significant role in the attainment of the 0+10 point socio economic agenda and the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 under the Duterte Administration, and the 8-Point Labor and Employment Agenda of the Department of Labor and Employment. In order to align existing programs and projects with the aforementioned agenda and in keeping with the new mandate and policy direction under President Duterte's Social Contract with the Filipino people, the PRC has continuously pursued the following thrusts and priority programs.

I. INSTITUTIONAL

PROGRAMS:

1. CONTINUING IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PRC/PRBs LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Professional Regulatory Boards perform regulatory functions in the full exercise of their regulatory powers as mandated by their respective laws. To ensure that the same remain relevant and responsive to the needs of the time, impact assessment of their existing rules, regulations and policies shall be undertaken. The impact assessment will assist the Boards and the Commission to improve better regulation in accordance with regulatory best practices.

In 2016, five (5) bills of the Professional Regulatory Boards were recently passed into law, namely, Pharmacy (R.A. No. 10918), Nutrition-Dietetics (R.A. No. 10862), Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (R.A. No. 10915), Metallurgical Engineering (R.A.No. 10688), Social Work (R.A. No. 10847), Midwifery (R.A. No. 7392) and Naval Architecture (R.A. No. 10698). There are still several pending Professional Regulatory Bills in the 17th Philippine Congress which seek to strengthen, modernize and align professional practice with international standards.

Further, the Commission shall streamline procedures in the preparation of Board and Commission resolutions and other official issuances involving policy decisions, directives and actions, and policy initiatives to meet the current and emerging institutional challenges. It shall also review the PRC Charter to assess its adequacy in view of the enactment of various laws and executive issuances affecting the practice and licensing of professions.

2. IMPROVEMENT ON THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN PRC PROCESSES, DATABASE, ARCHIVES

To promote good governance through eGovernance mechanisms, to provide IT enabled customer-focused services while adhering to strict standards of integrity,

quality, speed, accuracy and convenience, and to make PRC services available and accessible anytime and anywhere, PRC's thrust to improve and strengthen its existing eServices projects and to develop additional eServices that would ensure better and more efficient services to its clientele is needed.

On December 1, 2016, a Memorandum of Agreement was made and entered into by and among the PRC, Development Bank of the Philippines and DBP Data Center, Inc. on the Electronic Payment and Collection System (EPCS) with Licensure and Registration Information System (LERIS) Enhancements. LERIS is one of the core projects/programs in the PRC Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP¹) 2015-2017 together with the Enhancement of PRC Web Portal, improvement of the Network Security Enhancement and Local Area Network (LAN).

The components of the LERIS project are 1) Online Application System (OAS); 2) Online Registration (initial/renewal) System (ORRS); 3) Electronic Payment and Collection System (EPCS); 4) Test Question Databank System (TQDS); 5) Correction And Releasing System (CRS); 6) Centralized Records Management Information System (CRMIS); 7) Legal Management Information System (LMIS); and 8) Continuing Professional Development Accreditation System (CPDAS).

The OAS, ORRS and EPCS modules are implemented and currently being enhanced based on the improved business requirements of the Commission.

LMIS and CPDAS are implemented.

The bidding is on-going for the Enhancement of PRC Web Portal², pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act).

The review of Terms of Reference of the Network Security Enhancement and Local Area Network (LAN) Improvement³ project is ongoing.

Also, the PRC has expressed its intention to avail various eServices of iGov Philippines in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology and Department of Science and Technology – Advanced Science and Technology Institute.

Likewise, Republic Act No. 9470, Section 22 (3) provides that... "each government office shall be responsible for the maintenance and preservation of public records..." The PRC as a government agency is required by law to establish Archives and Records Management Program (ARMP) and as part of its thrusts and priorities. The digitization project was introduced last October 2016.

¹Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP) - refers to a three (3) to five (5) year computerization framework of an agency which describes how the organization intends to strategically use ICT in pursuit of its mission and functions. A written expression of how an agency intends to use ICT to support its data processing and decision-making processes.

² PRC Web Portal - 24/7 online window to our clientele with variety of information about the PRC and the various professions, and, likewise, become the virtual storefront where stakeholders can transact business with.

³ Network Security Enhancement and LAN Improvement - This refers to the continuing enhancement of the overall ICT infrastructure of the Commission in order to provide a proper and more secured operating environment to protect the integrity and confidentiality of PRC information and web services and to ensure continuous service to professionals, stakeholders, users and the general public.

Digitization is established as a medium term plan/goal to achieve in the next three (3) to five (5) years instead of microfilming, because "access to digitize document is more vital in the operation of the Commission now than simply archiving it. This shift from the generally recommended method of preservation can also serve as a practical way of providing protection to voluminous Commission documents and records of more than 3.9 million professionals, as digitization offers a new preservation paradigm.

3. ENHANCEMENT OF PRC PUBLIC ASSISTANCE /INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Commission, in adherence to and support of the principles of good governance and practices, and in compliance with Anti-Red Tape Act will continue to strengthen the Public Assistance/Information and Complaints Desk (PADC) in the Central and Regional offices. It will continue to assign personnel as officer-of-the-day, and assistance officers in the DOLE hotline task to provide with the necessary information to callers and to receive complaints, comments or suggestions from the transacting public. The use of social media to communicate PRC services, policies and guidelines, as well as matters of interest to the regulated professions will also be maximized.

Moreover, the Commission will develop its communication plan to be able to prepare for/and respond to clients with the use of proper communication channel.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

On July 21, 2016, the CPD bill lapsed into law. CPD units is now a mandatory requirement in the renewal of professional identification cards (PICs) of all registered and licensed professionals under the regulation of PRC. The CPD Law (R.A. 10912) Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) was published on February 28, 2017 and date of effectivity is on March 15, 2017. The CPD Council for each regulated professions shall issue its Operational Guidelines to implement the general IRR for its professions.

Capacity building activities for regional officials and employees, and CPD monitors will be conducted after the approval of the CPD law implementing guidelines.

5. BENCHMARKING WITH RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM AND RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING FOR PROFESSIONALS

The PRC is a member of the National Coordinating Committee on the Philippines Qualifications Framework (PQF) and is mandated to lead the Working Group on International Alignment (WGIA). The objective of the WGIA is to align the PQF with other international frameworks in order to facilitate cross-border mobility of workers and professionals thru increased recognition of the value and comparability of the Philippines Qualifications.

The PRC at present has forty-three professions under its regulatory jurisdiction. The majority of professions fall under level 6 of the Qualifications Reference

Frameworks, or equivalent to bachelor's degree, which is the eligibility requirement for the board licensure examination in the Philippines.

The Commission will conduct study visit to Scotland to benchmark with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), the Scotland's national qualifications framework which supports lifelong learning. Specific areas of interest for the visiting group include:

- International alignment of Professional Qualifications,
- Processes for the development of credit transfer and Accumulation,
- Entry requirements, articulation & pre-entry transition support
- Continuous Professional Development opportunities in specific professions
- Credit Rating Processes and Recognition of Prior Learning

6. EXPEDITE RESOLUTION OF CASES FILED WITH THE PRC

With the commitment to resolve cases at the rate of four percent (4%) within three months, the Commission will adopt new rules governing administrative cases to further simplify requirements and expedite investigation, hearing and resolution of cases. The Peer Review Committee created by the Commission to review the quarterly reports submitted by Hearing Officers/Lawyers shall be strengthened to ensure that the year's targets are accomplished.

7. STRENGTHEN PRL-MANDATED INSPECTION AND MONITORING

The Commission through the Standards and Inspection Division (SID) and regional offices committed this year to conduct 1,062 inspections of firms and establishments, including higher educational institutions. The SID has already submitted to CHED the 2017 inspection schedule of the Boards for proper coordination. The PRBs are required to submit their reports within ten (10) days after the conduct of inspection.

The Inspection and Monitoring Tool will be enhanced in order to provide a standard checklist to be used by the Boards and PRC representative/s during inspection. The issuance of certificates of accreditation of various firms/establishments and certificates of compliance will also be expedited.

8. REINFORCE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARDS

To effectively discharge their functions, the Commission will further conduct orientation and workshops on the preparation and updating the Table of Specifications, including Test Construction. For the improvement of the quality, relevance, and acceptability of test questions, the PRBs with the assistance of the PRC consultants, will conduct peer review prior to encoding test questions and item analysis after the release of every examinations. The Commission shall continue to monitor the PRBs strict adherence to the schedule of activities, particularly the encoding, merging and extraction of test questions, and releasing of examination results as stipulated in the Annual Master Schedule of Activities.

9. ATTEND TO PRC REORGANIZATION, INCLUDING HUMAN RESOURCES

The Department of Budget and Management approved the PRC Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern (OSSP) on June 8, 2016. Under the revised organizational structure and staffing pattern, the DBM approved the creation of 21 divisions and the revised staffing pattern comprised of 1,075 positions. The Notice of Organization, Staffing and Compensation Action (NOSCA) for the Central office was also issued on October 10, 2016. The corresponding NOSCA for the creation, conversion and reclassification of Director positions, as well as their immediate support staff, including the creation of Services/Offices under Central Office and Regional Offices is now with the Office of the President for approval.

A Reorganization Placement Committee (RPC) was created under the Office Order No. 2016-339 dated August 12, 2016 as the governing body for the placement of personnel in the approved OSSP. The rules and regulations for the implementation of the approved OSSP was approved on January 20, 2017. An Orientation-briefing on Republic Act No. 6656 or otherwise known as An Act to Protect the Security of Tenure of Civil Service Officers and Employees in the Implementation of Government Reorganization was conducted by CSC representative on October 10-11, 2015. Staffing action will be taken within this year.

The Commission will initiate ways to improve the personnel benefits and working conditions, as well as, strengthen the knowledge, abilities, skills and attitudes of employees through conduct of capacity building activities and attendance to trainings/seminars.

INSTITUTIONAL

PROJECTS:

1. EXPANSION OF PRC SERVICE CENTERS

The Commission, through the regional offices in coordination with the local government, hospitals, schools and other entities, shall increase the number of mobile services to be conducted in order to reach unserved areas due to distance, and poor public transportation. It shall also continue to arrange with malls for rent-free service centers in Santiago, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Dumaguete, and Butuan and these are expected to be operational this year. This undertaking will provide convenient delivery of services to Filipino professionals and help decongest the PRC premises.

2. IMPROVEMENT OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT

a. Electrical/Building Repairs

The central office will undertake various infrastructure renovation and repairs, and rehabilitation of electrical system in response to the infrastructure related-issues and critical areas for improvement which were identified during the ISO 9001:2008 third party audit and ARTA Report Card Survey.

The electrical system in the central office was already dilapidated and compounded by improper electrical connections. Several electrical violations have been committed, and electrical consumption continues to be high. As of last year, the Commission paid more than nine million pesos for electrical bill.

Some executive offices have to move to Philippine International Convention Center to give way to these projects, and to address the scarcity of working space in the present office.

3. UPGRADE REGIONAL OFFICES (facilities and processes) through accelerating procurement of office machine, equipment and supplies, establishment of additional service centers, implementation of enhanced online services, and enhancement of personnel complement to strengthen their capacity to undertake new tasks and responsibilities to be decentralized. Projects in the pipeline include the construction of PRC Executive Office and regional office in Cebu, Pagadian and Koronadal, and rehabilitation of office building in Tuguegarao.

II. INTER-AGENCY

PROGRAMS:

1. MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS

The Commission is on top of the implementation of the seven (7) signed ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) and MRA Frameworks covering 17 professions. They are MRAs on Engineering⁴, Architecture, Accountancy, Surveying, Medicine, Nursing and Dentistry.

A total of 240 Filipino ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers, and 62 Filipino ASEAN Architects were registered under ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer Registry and the ASEAN Architect Registry respectively ready to cross border.

In 2017, the Commission targeted to have 90 Filipino ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers and 10 ASEAN Architects to be registered with the Monitoring Committees.

2. MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

To extend the accruing benefit of the existing seven (7) ASEAN MRA to other professions and to other jurisdictions, the Commission has come up with the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ) as an alternative initiative to MRA as this adopts a more lenient and facilitated process of arriving to an arrangement for the recognition of professional qualifications. It adopts a more

⁴ Aeronautical Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mining Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, Geodetic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, and Naval Architecture

liberalized process of establishment and allows the professional organizations to initiate talks in a less rigid atmosphere of exchange.

The process of MRPQ includes the exchange of information on the professional practice particularly the *description of core competencies, benchmarking of professional competencies, standards and qualifications*, from which commonalities as well as differences will be established for the purpose of bridging identified gaps. It is of this objective that a Memorandum of Agreement is eventually forged PRC and its counter-part qualifications agency abroad to formalize the collaborative work and establish working relationship towards mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

To date, six (6) professions, namely Psychology, Real Estate Service, Professional Teachers, Interior Design, Nutrition and Dietetics, Customs Broker, have already established signed instruments/ agreements.

The Commission identified eight (8) professions, namely Chemistry, Guidance and Counseling, Fishery, Forestry, Geology, Social Workers, Radiologic Technology and Master Plumbers to have sign an agreement or instrument of collaboration in 2017.

3. ASSIST IN INTERNATIONAL/BILATERAL TRADE IN SERVICES, NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICIPATE AT VARIOUS FORA FOR SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES (WITH DOLE/DFA/DTI)

The Commission and the PRBs will continue to actively participate in the negotiations and review of bilateral, multilateral or mutual recognition arrangement to promote and facilitate borderless practice of professions. It shall also pursue conduct of consultations, meetings, negotiations and other fora (local or abroad) in order to formulate policies, negotiation positions and global market information system on professional services.

4. ENHANCE COORDINATION WITH OTHER REGULATORY AGENCIES TO SHARPEN REGULATORY REACH (with DOJ-BID, DOLE, SEC, DTI)

5. RAISE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF PRC (with DOST/DICT/NPC).

The Commission in order to deliver efficient public service will strengthen partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) for the enhancement and modernization of the core projects/programs under ISSP such as Licensure, Examination, and Registration Information System (LERIS) Project, PRC Web Portal, and the Network Security and the Local Area Network (LAN). It shall also coordinate with the National Privacy Commission to ensure appropriate data protection policies and procedures.

PROJECTS:

1. MORE SPLBEs AND OTHER ACCREDITATION OPPORTUNITIES

Executive Order 835 dated October 6, 2009 institutionalizes the conduct of board examination in the Middle East. The Department of Labor and Employment through the PRC, in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs through its Philippine Embassies and with the assistance from the Philippine Professional Organizations- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), hold and conduct SPLBE for the qualified overseas Filipino workers in KSA, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and other Middle East countries with whom the Philippines have diplomatic relations.

In 2016, a total of 3,621 examinee took the Special Professional Licensure Board Examinations (SPLBE) in Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Qatar, Al Khobar, Riyadh and Kuwait and Hong Kong.

The Commission shall continue to expand its reach to its clients not just in the Middle East but in other countries where the demand for examination is high like Hong Kong Singapore, Oman and Israel.

2. UNDERTAKINGS TO BOOST DATABASE OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYED/PRACTICING ABROAD

Enhancement of the database of professionals is being employed through the online renewal of professional identification card, wherein employment information is a mandatory required field. This is to provide data and statistics on professionals as to status of employment, whether practicing or non--practicing, current location and other relevant information relative to the location and updated status of registered professionals.

OTHERS:

1. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

To promote the welfare of and as a crucial support system to its workforce, the Commission and the Philippine Association of Professional Regulatory Boards, Inc. agreed to work together and conceptualized the Educational Assistance Program to provide PRC Employees with opportunities for career development and pave the way to complement the personnel competency requirements of PRC's new organizational structure.

2. HOUSING PROGRAM FOR PRC EMPLOYEES

To advance the welfare of the PRC workforce and to provide decent housing and affordable shelter for its employees, the Commission in collaboration with PAGIBIG, the Organization of Housing Developers of the Philippines and in cooperation with the Philippine Association of Professional Regulatory Boards Inc., conceptualized and initiated the Housing or "Pabahay" Program.

3. PRC SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

The PRC Social Responsibility Program has been institutionalized with the issuance of Commission Resolution No. 2017-1031. The Program aims to

contribute in hastening and assisting victims of natural and/or man-made disasters and calamities and in addressing social consciousness of the professionals in helping less fortunate citizens living in depressed areas of the country. Such policy will steer the Commission's advocacy to deliver programs and missions with the direct participation of the Professional Regulatory Boards, specifically for calamities and disasters and adoption of poor communities.

4. PROMOTION AND BRANDING OF FILIPINO PROFESSIONALS

In order to promote the positive and strong image of Filipino professionals, and in the light of the implementation of ASEAN and other international agreements paving the way for cross-border mobility of professional services, the Commission recognized the necessity of this program. A committee was organized tasked to plan, develop, and identify programs and strategies that will uplift the image, advance capabilities and achievements of the professionals in the local and international settings.