

Board of Environmental Planning

Resolution No. 01 Series of 1997

CODE OF ETHICS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Pursuant to its powers and functions under Section 8(e) and (1), Article of P.D. 1308, otherwise known as the "Law Regulating the Environmental Planning Profession in the Philippines", the Board hereby adopts and promulgates the "Code of Ethics for Environmental Planners in the Philippines".

Article I FORWARD AND CONSTRUCTION

Section 1. The "Code shall be known as the Code of Ethics for Environmental Planners in the Philippines". It is a norm of ethical standards that shall govern the personal and professional conduct of Environmental Planners in the practice of their profession.

Section 2. It shall be liberally construed to promote public interest and provide the Environmental Planners with respectable standards of behavior in the practice of the profession.

Article II DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Section 3. The Environmental Planner shall, first and foremost, commit himself to the service of God, country, and mankind. His services and endeavors shall advance the art and science of environmental planning in accordance with the constitutional mandate of protecting the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Section 4. He shall commit himself to the highest degree of professionalism, excellence, intelligence, skill and integrity in the practice of his profession. He shall be a professional with utmost devotion and dedication to his career and craft.

Section 5. He shall uphold and obey all relevant laws, rules and regulations and legal orders; observe and esteem fairness, courage, honesty and sincerity; and mindful of his role in attaining ecological balance, public order, safety and convenience at all times.

Article III RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PROFESSION AND TO THE ORGANIZATION

Section 6. The Environmental Planner shall contribute to the incessant development of the profession by sharing and improving knowledge and initiating new and innovative planning concepts and techniques. He shall devote considerable period of time, effort, talent, and resources for the advancement of the profession.

Article IV INITIATIVE, DISCIPLINE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Section 7. He shall strive to promote the healthy growth of a strong and active professional organization.

Section 8. The Environmental Planner shall strive for high standards of professional integrity, proficiency and knowledge. He shall take upon himself to:

- a. Represent his professional qualifications, affiliations, and experience accurately.
- b. Analyze ethical and moral issues in the practice of his profession systematically and critically and give due respect to the professional rights of others.
- c. Pursue a program of continuing professional education.
- d. Exercise independent and sound professional decision or judgment.

- e. Demonstrate a high degree of moral and professional integrity at all times.

**Article V
RESPONSIBILITY TO CO-PROFESSIONALS**

Section 9. In the practice of his profession, the Environmental Planner shall develop and enhance a healthy professional relationship with his colleagues and other professionals.

- a. He shall share with them the results of experience and research which could contribute to the body of planning knowledge.
- b. He shall contribute time and information to the professional development of new professionals and other colleagues, including students of the profession.
- c. He shall not give opinion which will tend to destroy the professional image of his colleagues except upon lawful order from the Court or on subpoena issued by the Board.
- d. He shall endeavor to increase and broaden the range of opportunities for professional involvement/competence/development

**Article VI
RELATIONSHIP TO CLIENT**

Section 10. The Environmental Planner shall at all times endeavor to maintain a harmonious working relationship with his client. He shall consider his client a partner in a noble undertaking, and shall, therefore, render professional service with honesty, transparency and good faith.

- a. He shall observe candor and fairness in the presentation of his professional competence to his client.
- b. He shall render competent professional service to his client within the context of the "scope of practice" of his profession.
- c. He shall be transparent in his dealings with his client and shall avoid activities which will create a situation/condition of "conflict of interest" between him and his client.
- d. He shall render professional advice to his client on environmentally critical or significant matters. He shall caution his client on proposed projects which may cast questionable or controversial issues that threaten the peace and tranquillity of the community.
- e. He shall exercise utmost confidentiality of information and related documents obtained in the course of his professional service to his client. Such information and documents may be made available upon written consent of the client by legal means.
- f. He shall collect professional fees commensurate with the services rendered. The professional fees to be collected shall be within the limits of the "schedule of professional fees" adopted by the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners.
- g. He shall seek the settlement of any dispute with his client as the need arises, through voluntary arbitration, and shall exhaust all possible means for settlement through an "arbitration committee" created for the purpose.

**Article VII
RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC
AND TO THE COUNTRY**

Section 11. The primary obligation of the Environmental Planner is to serve the country and in so doing safeguard public interest.

- a. He shall have special concern for long-range consequence of present actions and must therefore pay close attention to the inter-relatedness of his decisions and opinions.
- b. He shall strive to provide full, clear, and accurate information on planning issues and concerns to the general public and government decision-makers in order to optimize their participation in the planning process.
- c. He shall strive to increase choice and opportunity for all persons, a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged, disabled and recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged, disabled and underprivileged groups or persons.
- d. He shall diligently protect the natural environment, opt for excellence of environment design and endeavor to conserve and sustain the unique physical heritage of the environment.
- e. He shall devote adequate attention to the physical, economic and social problems and needs of the people, as well as identification of positive cultural and social values and historical assets to be preserved.

- f. He shall provide flexibility and choice in planning without sacrificing the integrity of the master plan to give priority to proposals and projects which would contribute to the alleviation of poverty and inequity, thus, promoting community and national stability and unity.
- g. He shall strive for a balanced urban and countryside development in support of the efforts for our comprehensive and sustainable economic recovery and growth.

**Article VIII
PENAL PROVISIONS**

Section 12. Violation of any of the provisions in this Code shall constitute unethical and unprofessional conduct and, therefore, shall be a sufficient cause for the revocation of the Certificate of Registration of a Registered Environmental Planner or the suspension from the practice of his profession in accordance with Sections 17 and 22, Article III of P.D. No. 1308 and Sections, 26 and 27, Rule VII, the "Rules and Regulations Governing the Examination, Registration, Licensure and the Practice of Environmental Planning".

**Article IX
EFFECTIVITY**

Section 13. This Code shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or newspaper of general circulation, whichever is earlier.

Done in the City of Manila on 28th day of May, 1997.

SERAFIN G. AQUINO, JR.
Chairman

LUIS T. TUNGPALAN
Member

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Attested to:

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