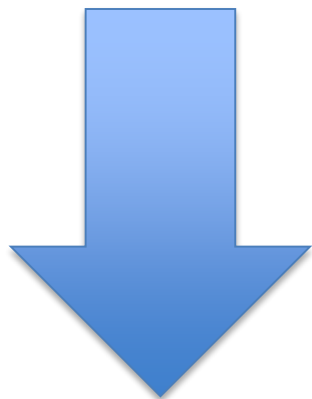




BOOSTING FILIPINO PROFESSIONALS' SKILLS AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

MR. L. LOUIS P. VALERA

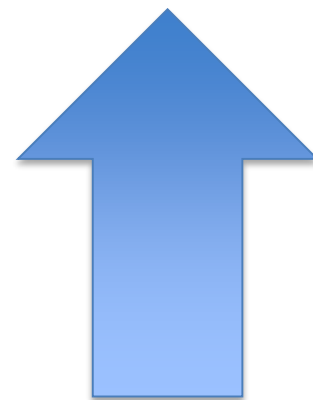
**Officer-in-Charge
International Affairs Division
Professional Regulation Commission**



**Opportunities for
Growth**



**Challenges to
Competitiveness**



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission



SNAPSHOT OF PRC

- **The Commission is headed by one (1) full-time Chairperson and two (2) full time Commissioners**
- It supervises 43 Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs). The members of the PRBs, all presidential appointees, administers the licensure examinations for entry of graduates into the profession; regulates the professions under their jurisdiction.
- 4 Clusters: Engineering, Health, Technology, Business, Education and Arts
- It has 4 stakeholders: the 100.98 million Filipinos, the 39 Accredited Professional Organizations (APO) and 3.9 million Filipino professionals, the 43 PRBs with 140 Members, and the 735 PRC employees.



Republic of the Philippines

Professional Regulation Commission





Challenges to Competitiveness

- Non-recognition of professional license
- Non-alignment of qualifications/competencies
- De-skilling of professionals
- High cost for OFWs to take licensure examination in the Philippines





PRC's intervention

**MRA/
MRPQ/**

SPLBE

**PQF/
AQRF**

CPD



Republic of the Philippines

Professional Regulation Commission





Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)

- Signed by 10 ASEAN Member States
- Promote and facilitate the practice of the professions on the following: Engineering, Architecture, Medicine, Accountancy, Dentistry, Nursing, Surveying, Tourism
- Different implementations: Business Services Sectoral Working Group and Healthcare Services Sectoral Working Group
- Filipino professionals are ready to practice and collaborate with foreign counterparts
- Subject to domestic laws



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Professional Regulation Commission





Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ)

- Extension of recognition of professional qualification to other professions
- It has 4 phases: 1) Research and Data Gathering; 2) Stakeholders' Consultation; 3) Meeting with Foreign counterpart; 4) Signing of an instrument for the MRPQ;
- Intensified networking with counterpart foreign regulatory authorities to resolve issues on alignment of professional qualifications.
- Implementation of the Articles on Recognition under signed Free Trade Agreements



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Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF)



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 83

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS, Section 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society;

WHEREAS, the present Philippine Education System has a unique trifocalized education management system, basic education, technical-vocational education and training and higher education;

WHEREAS, the national agenda for inclusive growth, creation of employment opportunities and poverty reduction can only be achieved through collaboration and unity of purpose of the education and training sectors with industry;

WHEREAS, one of the key result areas (KRAs) under Executive Order (EO) No. 43, is rapid, inclusive and sustained economic growth – one that generates jobs and livelihood for, and increase the income of the poor;

WHEREAS, there are gaps in the education and labor sector brought about by poor information and the continuing disconnect between educational institutions and employment/industry trends which has brought about the mismatch in jobs and skills; and,

WHEREAS, the adoption of a qualifications framework will benefit various sectors and stakeholders of education and training, particularly in: 1) encouraging lifelong learning of individuals; 2) providing employers specific training standards and qualifications that are aligned to industry standards; 3) ensuring that training and educational institutions adhere to specific standards and are accountable for achieving the same; and 4) providing the government with common standards, taxonomy and typology of qualifications as bases for granting approvals to stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Establishment of the Philippine Qualifications Framework. The Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) is hereby established with the following objectives: 1) To adopt national standards and levels for outcomes of education; 2) To support the development and maintenance of pathways and equivalencies which provide access to qualifications and assist people to move easily and readily between the different education and training sectors and between these sectors and the labor



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ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF)



The ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework

1. Background

The basis for an ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework is derived from the ASEAN Charter signed by the ten ASEAN leaders in Singapore on 20 November 2007, where aspirations to become a single entity that is ASEAN Community was reinforced. The Charter aims to develop human resources through closer cooperation in education and life-long learning, and in science and technology, for the empowerment of the peoples of ASEAN and for the strengthening of the ASEAN Community and to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice.¹

Also in 2007, the ASEAN Economic Blueprint (ASEAN 2007) was signed by member countries. It called for areas of cooperation, including the recognition of professional qualifications (ASEAN 2007). In addition to Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) in Engineering and Nursing that had been completed in 2005 and 2006 respectively, five additional MRAs were concluded between 2007 and 2009 in the fields of architecture, surveying, medical practitioners, dental practitioners and accountancy. Another important component of the blueprint was the creation of the free flow of skilled labour through 'harmonisation and standardisation' (ASEAN 2007:18), particularly in preparation for the ASEAN Economic Community 2015.

ASEAN is also linked to the Asia – Pacific region through cross membership of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN). As well, several ASEAN member states that participated in an APEC Mapping of Qualifications Frameworks² indicated in principle support for the concept of a regional qualifications framework.

Regional context

ASEAN member states³ have a combined population of almost 600 million. There are considerable differences in the population levels, sizes of economies and levels of per capita income across countries. While there are labour flows between member states they are not as great as those of some other regions. Nevertheless ASEAN is a robust entity and has been active in building mutual economic and social cooperation between member countries.

The ASEAN region is typical of other global regions in the patterns of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) development across countries. Some countries have established comprehensive

- AQRF is a **common reference framework** or a **translation device** to broaden the understanding of national qualifications systems of ASEAN Member States for people from other ASEAN countries and from outside the ASEAN region.
- Purpose: Support recognition of qualifications, encourage the development of qualifications frameworks that can facilitate lifelong learning , promote and encourage education and learner mobility, promote worker mobility, promote higher quality qualifications systems;

¹ Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (2007), Chapter I, Article 1, paragraph 10 and 11.

² Burke et al (2009).

³ Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.



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ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF)

- The PQF will be part of the AQRF.
- Respects ASEAN Member States specific structures and processes.
- Referencing is not a recognition tool but supports recognition.
- The referencing process will help ASEAN Member States to understand each other educational system and qualification systems and eventually build trust among the 10 countries. Thus, giving more emphasis on learning outcomes and quality assurance in the system.
- A voluntary engagement.



Republic of the Philippines

Professional Regulation Commission





Special Professional Licensure Board Examination (SPLBE)

MALACANANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 835

DIRECTING THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION AND OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT A YEARLY SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE BOARD EXAMINATIONS (SPLBE) IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND OTHER MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF QUALIFIED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the important role of professionals in nation-building and, towards this end, it is imperative to maintain the reservoir of our professionals whose competence has been determined by honest and credible licensure examinations and whose standards of professional service and practice are internationally recognized and considered world-class brought about by regulatory measures, programs and activities that foster professional growth and advancement;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Professional Organization – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (PPO-SA) envisions a united and dedicated professional organizations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East pursuant to its mission of coordinating with and supporting the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and concerned Philippine government agencies and departments in the conduct of a Special Professional Licensure Board Examination (SPLBE) for unlicensed organization members and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East;

WHEREAS, the PPO-SA likewise urged Philippine authorities to give these unlicensed organization members and other overseas Filipino workers the opportunity to take the licensure board examinations while residing and working in the aforesaid foreign countries without the need of returning to the Philippines;



- Executive Order No. 835 (6 October 2009)
- Conducted yearly
- Venue: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates
- So that qualified OFWS may take the licensure board examinations abroad minus the cost of coming home to the country



Republic of the Philippines

Professional Regulation Commission





Retooling workers/professionals

Continuing Professional Development

- Republic Act No. 10912 (lapsed into law on 21 July 2016)
- Target: Promulgation of IRR is due on 21 January 2017
- To promote and upgrade the practice of professions; to improve the competence of the professionals in accordance with international standards of practice;
- CPD is a mandatory requirement for the renewal of professional identification cards (license)

S. No. 2581
H. No. 6423

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Began and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand fifteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10912]

AN ACT MANDATING AND STRENGTHENING THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR ALL REGULATED PROFESSIONS, CREATING THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

ARTICLE I

TITLE, POLICY AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016”.



Republic of the Philippines

Professional Regulation Commission





Other Initiatives Enhancing Global Competitiveness of the Professional

- **Continued impact assessment of PRC/PRBs laws, regulations, policies and procedures**

The PRB and the Commission continuously develop, review and improve better regulation in accordance with regulatory best practices.

- **E-Services: facilitate the processing of application of various services of PRC (e.g. online application, online registration, online verification of license, renewal of professional identification cards)**



Republic of the Philippines

Professional Regulation Commission





Thank you



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