

## **MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS (MRA) ON ENGINEERING SERVICES**

MRA on Engineering Services was signed at the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur by all the 10 ASEAN Ministers of Trade. It is the most recent development in ASEAN cooperation in trade in services. It enables the qualifications of professional services suppliers to be mutually recognized by signatory member countries, hence facilitating easier flow of professional services providers in ASEAN region.

Article V of ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) provides that ASEAN Member Countries may recognise the education or experience obtained, requirements met, and license or certification granted in other ASEAN Member Countries, for the purpose of licensing or certification of service suppliers.

The objectives of this Arrangement are:

- i) To facilitate mobility of engineering services professionals; and
- i) To exchange information in order to promote adoption of best practices on standards and qualifications.

**Under the MRA, a professional engineer or practitioner who holds the nationality of an ASEAN Member Country and who possesses qualifications and experience that complies with the requirements specified in \*Part B of the Assessment Statement may apply to be placed on the ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers Register (ACPER) and accorded the title of ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer (ACPE).**

**All professional engineers who satisfy the qualification (as enclosed in the ACPE form) are welcomed to send in the application to BEM.**

### **\*PART B: ASSESSMENT MECHANISM**

#### **2. Requirements for registration as ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer (ACPE)**

A professional engineer or practitioner who meets the following qualifications, practical experience and conditions is eligible for registration as an ACPE:

- (a) completed an accredited or recognized engineering programme;
- (b) is a registered professional Engineer with BEM
- (c) possesses a minimum of seven years of practical experience since graduation;
- (d) has spent at least two years in responsible charge of significant engineering work;
- (e) complied with the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) policy at a satisfactory level; and
- (f) agrees to be bound by code of professional conduct and ethics.

Details of each of the above qualifications, practical experience and conditions are described in the ensuing paragraphs.

An application for registration as an ACPE shall be made in the format prescribed in **Annex II** to this Assessment Statement.

### **3. Completion of an accredited or recognized engineering programme**

An applicant for registration with the MC as an ACPE must be a registered professional Engineer with the Board who has at least 7 years working experience.

### **4. Eligibility for Professional Practice**

A registered professional engineer with BEM

### **5. Attainment of a minimum of seven years of practical experience since graduation**

A professional engineer or practitioner is eligible for registration as an ACPE if he/she has at least 7 years of relevant practical work experience after completing the accredited or recognized engineering programme. Assessment of practical work experience shall be carried out through:

- a) submission of a report describing the type, significance and level of responsibility of the practical engineering work experience attained over a period of at least 7 years since graduation. The report must demonstrate that the candidate has engaged in professional practice which, directly or indirectly, calls upon his engineering knowledge, skills, experience and judgment, and has a significant influence on the technical direction of engineering projects or programmes; and
- b) a professional interview to review the practical work experience claimed and assess the relevance and adequacy for registration.

The report on practical engineering work experience attained over a period of at least 7 years since graduation shall be submitted to the MC; using **Form ACPE-1** in **Annex II**.

The MC will arrange for the assessment to be conducted; to assess the practical engineering work experience attained over a period of at least 7 years since graduation.

### **6. Completion of at least 2 years in responsible charge of significant engineering work**

A professional engineer or practitioner should have spent at least 2 years in responsible charge of significant engineering work and this period could be within the course of the practical work experience since graduation. Assessment will be carried out based on a report to be submitted by the professional engineer or practitioner to the MC.

Responsible charge of significant engineering work would be assessed as being equivalent to any one of the following situations:

- i) planned, designed and implemented a complete engineering project;
- ii) undertaken a substantial part of engineering project while understanding the total project concept;

- iii) undertaken a project that requires multi-disciplinary, complex or novel work responsibility.

## **7. Maintenance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

Every ACPE is required to engage in CPD to the extent that meets the prevailing norms prescribed by BEM for the renewal of registration as professional engineer as stipulated in the Registration of Engineers Act.

The objectives of BEM CPD programme is to reinforce the need for lifelong learning and to provide a framework through which professional engineers could systematically maintain and enhance competency to do a job in their area of expertise. BEM's requirement on CPD is attainment of a minimum of 50 CPD hours average over 3 years.

Every ACPE shall be required to submit evidence on compliance with the CPD requirement.

## **8. Compliance with Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics**

All professional engineers who are registered with BEM are bound by the Professional Engineers (Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics) Rules. The MC will also require all practitioners who are registered on the ACPER to be bound by the same Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics Rules.

Every ACPE will be held individually accountable for his/her actions taken in their professional work. In his/her practice of engineering, he/she shall not have any record of serious violation on technical, professional or ethical standards, either in Malaysia or elsewhere.

Every ACPE is bound by the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics Rules to practice only in areas which they are competent in.

## **9. Keeping of records for continuing mutual monitoring**

In order to facilitate mutual monitoring, verification of operations of the procedures of participating ASEAN Member Countries and information exchange, the MC shall keep a set of all successful applications for registration on ACPER, which shall include:

- a) a copy of the report describing the practical engineering work experience attained over a period of at least 7 years since graduation;
- b) a report describing the completion significant engineering work in which professional engineer or practitioner was in responsible charge of; and
- c) evidence of participation in CPD programme

The MC will carry out annual random audits of at least 5% of the records in the ACPER to determine:

- a) declarations of participation in CPD; and
- b) continued compliance with the conditions of registration.