

ENG3004

Professional Dimension

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

香港工程師學會

Established by Ordinance in December 1975



This is to certify that

Ir CHAN Man Kit

was admitted as

Member

of the Institution on

4 May 2012

Witness our hands and seal

President

Secretary



"Ir" pronounced as "engineer" is the abbreviation for the prefix of Corporate Members of the HKIE

Membership No.

Date of Issue: 18 July 2012

Should engineers be active in their community? Why or Why not?

Should you be active in your community in future ? Why or Why not?



Ways for Engineers to Give Back to the Community



Engineers without Borders



**Engineers Without Borders Hong Kong
Overseas Humanitarian Service
海外人道服務 2018**

Engineers without Borders

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WODX8fyRHA>



What is a Professional?

- The term “professional” has its origins in the Latin verb *profiteri*
- It is used to indicate thoroughness and competence.
- Although modern usage stresses the role of learning and expertise it is important to recognize, in the Latin origins of the term, a strong ethical dimension that is still an essential aspect of professionalism.

What is a Professional?

- Professions and professionalism are central features of modern social organization.
- They provide an important way of managing **specialization** within society, although they are not the only way, or even necessarily the best.
- “Professionalism” is a claim to social standing and recognition, based on **occupational identity**.
- This **élite** status is seen as essential to recruiting, retaining, and motivating quality **practitioners**.

What is a Professional?

- Professions seek autonomy to **regulate** the activities carried out by their members.
- The outcome is a formal recognition by a profession of its members' responsibilities to society, commonly defined in a **code of ethics**.
- Membership of a professional body entails participating in the corporate life of the practitioners.
- Information and experience are shared and a **moral esprit** established.

Debate

- There is great diversity of opinion as to precisely which occupations are professions.
- *Are engineers a profession?*
- *Are youtubers a profession?*

Characteristics of Modern Professions

- The most useful questions may be: To what extent do various occupations exhibit the characteristics of professions?
- In what ways do occupations try to change as they try to become professionalized?
- What criteria for professions do they follow?
- Is there an ideal type on which aspiring professions can model themselves?
- **Professionalism is much more a matter of degree.**

Characteristics of a Profession

- Extensive period of **intellectual training** (e.g. to learn how to learn by yourself) usually obtained at a college or university.
- Possessing **knowledge and skills** vital to the well-being of the larger society.
- A **monopoly** or near-monopoly on the provision of professional services, and considerable control over professional education and the standards for admission into the profession.
- A high degree of **autonomy** in the workplace.
- A claim to be regulated by **ethical** standards.

Concept of Professionalism

- A profession cannot be composed of only one person. It is always composed of a **number of individuals**.
- A profession involves a **public element**.
- A profession is a way people earn a living and is usually something that occupies them during their working hours.
- **Ethical standards**.
- Must serve some **morally praiseworthy goal**.

Professional Dimension



References

- Johnston, S. et al. (2000) *Engineering and society : challenges of professional practice*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Harris, C. E. (Charles E. et al. (2009) *Engineering ethics : concepts and cases*. 4th ed. Belmont, Calif: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.