Professional Code of Ethics

Code of Ethics

- Guide of principles designed to help professionals conduct business honestly and with integrity.

- A code of ethics document may outline:
  - the mission and values of the business or organization,
  - how professionals are supposed to approach problems,
  - the ethical principles based on the organization's core values,
  - and the standards to which the professional is held

A professional is…

- Professionals and those working in acknowledged professions exercise specialist knowledge and skill.

- How the use of this knowledge should be governed when providing a service to the public.

A professional could violate moral issues given the skills and knowledge he possess.

Professional Ethics

- A code of practice is adopted by a **profession** or by a governmental or non-governmental organization to <u>regulate</u> that profession.

- A code of practice may be styled as a code of **professional responsibility**, which will discuss difficult issues, difficult decisions that will often need to be made, and provide a clear account of what <u>behavior is considered "ethical"</u> or "correct" or "right" in the circumstances

Professional Code of Ethics…

Internal Regulation

- In cases where professional bodies regulate their own ethics, there are possibilities for such bodies to become self-serving and fail to follow their own ethical code when dealing with renegade members.

- This is particularly true of professions in which they have almost a complete monopoly on a particular area of knowledge.

Statutory Regulation

- In many countries there is some statutory regulation of professional ethical standards such as the statutory bodies that regulate doctors, nurses, midwifes etc. Failure to comply with these standards can thus become a matter for the courts.

- In the Philippines, the **Professional Regulations Commission (PRC)** can enact such statutory regulations for professionals.

Failure to Comply…

- Failure to comply with a code of practice can result in expulsion from the professional organization be subject to the statutory laws thus lead to criminal or civil prosecution.

Computer Engineering Code of Ethics

- The professional organization for Computer Engineers locally is the Institute of Computer Engineers of the Philippines (ICpEP). The latter has not published a Code of Ethics for Computer Engineers.

- The governing code of ethics of the computer engineering profession will be based on the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Code of Ethics. From IEEE policies Section 7:
  - to hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public, to strive to comply with ethical design and sustainable development practices, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;
  - to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;
  - to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data;

- to reject bribery in all its forms;

- to improve the understanding by individuals and society of the capabilities and societal implications of conventional and emerging technologies, including intelligent systems;

- to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;

- to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;

- to treat fairly all persons and to not engage in acts of discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;

- to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action;

- to assist colleagues and co-workers in their professional development and to support them in following this code of ethics.

Let's examine code of ethics of other engineering profession…

PRC Regulated

- Mechanical Engineers (Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers)

- Electronics Engineers (Institute of Electronics & Communications Engineers)

- Civil Engineers (Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers)

- Chemical Engineers (Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers)

What are common in the code of ethics of the different engineering disciplines (at least in the Philippines)?

Relate the code of ethics of other engineering professions to IEEE's.