

**PRC ACTIONS ON CPD IMPLEMENTATION:
STEPS TOWARD AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY**
(AFTER AUGUST 9, 2017 SENATE INQUIRY)

PRC has continuously applied its maximum flexibility in order to address the two core issues revolving in the implementation of the CPD Law, *viz.* “**AFFORDABILITY** and **ACCESSIBILITY.**”

AFFORDABILITY

AVAILMENT OF UNDERTAKING EMBEDDED IN THE RENEWAL FORM

After the Senate Inquiry, the PRC Position Paper was forthwith posted in the PRC Website for guidance and reference of the professionals. As have been practiced prior to the Senate Inquiry, the PRC has continuously stretched its flexibility on CPD Implementation. This is exemplified by making the Undertaking available up to December 31, 2018. This means that the professionals who are unable to earn the required number of CPD Credit Units in their respective profession may still renew their Professional Identification Card (PIC) by executing an Undertaking to complete the required CPD units on their next compliance period. To make it even more accessible and convenient, the Undertaking has been embedded in the Renewal Form for the application for renewal of PIC, thereby saving the professionals of time, notarial expense and other incidental costs.

FEES AND CHARGES

In order to address the issue on fees, PRC has gathered preliminary data on Fees and Charges, to provide sampling for the rationalization of fees and charges by the CPD Providers. An extensive data gathering and evaluation will then be conducted in order to address the clamor of the professionals for affordable CPD Seminars.

The CPD Councils have always expressed sensitivity on the issue on fees and charges. While the rationalized fees are yet to be formulated, CPD Councils have disapproved programs of CPD Providers charging exorbitant fees. CPD Councils carefully scrutinize applications for accreditation, taking into consideration, among others, the professionals' capacity to pay, the venue and duration of the CPD activity, the number and qualification of resource speakers, and other inclusions in the packages being offered. Although the charging of fees varies from Provider to Provider, the CPD Councils ensure that the fees will always be reasonable.

For professionals availing CPD under the self-directed modality, the Commission agreed to lower the processing fee at Php 500 per application regardless of the number of programs submitted. OFWs applying for credit units for their in-house trainings and other trainings attended in their country of work will fall under the Self-directed Learning Modality.

ACCESSIBILITY

CALL FOR THE CONDUCT OF CPD SEMINARS AND TRAINING IN REMOTE AREAS

In response to the call of the PRC for CPD providers to offer CPD trainings and seminars in remote and far-flung areas to benefit the professionals assigned or working in those areas, some Accredited Integrated Professional Organizations (AIPOs) and Accredited Professional Organization (APOs) coordinated with their local chapters and respective LGUs to provide venues for the conduct of CPD programs. In the case of the Respiratory Therapists, the local pharmaceutical companies promised to provide resource speakers as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The United Architects of the Philippines, Inc. (UAP) and Philippine Institute of Interior Design, Inc. (PIID) have already conducted free CPD Programs for their members. The Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc. (PPTA) agreed to provide free CPD Seminars particularly on ethics and jurisprudence.

Further, upon the imprimatur of the Commission, some APOs and AIPOs videotaped and recorded their approved CPD activities to be shared to overseas chapters and distant local chapters.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In 2017, the PRC and the CPD Councils have already accredited 28 government agencies which responded to PRC's Memorandum Circular No. 07 S. 2017. A similar call for private sector employers to apply as CPD Providers was made resulting in the accreditation of around 200 corporate/private employers. A total of 7,881 CPD programs from the 780 Accredited CPD Providers were approved.

A pertinent DOLE issuance for the institutionalization of Sec. 13 of the CPD Law to include the CPD as part of the Human Resource Development plan and program of the government agencies and the private sector is under consideration.

CPD ONLINE SYSTEM

CPD Accreditation System (CPDAS) is an online system which enables and hastens application and approval of CPD Providers and Programs, and for the professionals to view their CPD compliance prior to the renewal of their PIC, and the CPD programs available for them. This will also enable the providers to submit the attendance through electronic means.

CPDAS is in its final stage of development.

CPD OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

The PRC and the Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs) have issued the following Operational Guidelines in support of the implementation of the CPD Law:

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| 1. Accountancy | 8. Environmental Planning |
| 2. Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering | 9. Interior Design |
| 3. Architecture | 10. Landscape Architecture |
| 4. Chemistry | 11. Nursing |
| 5. Civil Engineering | 12. Pharmacy |
| 6. Customs Broker | 13. Professional Teachers |
| 7. Electrical Engineering | 14. Respiratory Therapy |

The CPD Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) apply to other professions whose Operational Guidelines are still in the process of consultation or for finalization.

In order to effectively implement the CPD Law and assure compliance thereof, the PRC conducted Briefing/Orientation for Accredited CPD Providers. A Briefing/Orientation was conducted to CPD Monitors in order to assure the quality of programs being offered.

The CPD councils are reviewing the process to streamline the evaluation and to maximize the use of self-directed learning as an additional source for earning CPD credit units.

PRIORITY/COURTESY LANE FOR OFW AND GAD CLIENTS

For Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), the PRC commits to provide them with privilege on the use of priority lane along with Senior Citizens, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs/Physically Challenged), Pregnant Women, and Nursing Mothers. In addition, professionals stationed in areas identified as remote or far-flung will be given opportunity to pass through this special lane.

OTHER ISSUES/MATTERS

A. OPTOMETRY

The issue of Optometrists Association of the Philippines (OAP) with PRC and PRB of Optometry pertaining to the pendency of their application has already been answered. OAP was informed that the PRB had not accredited any CPD Provider until the release of their Operational Guidelines. The finalization of its Operational Guidelines was however stalled due to the acceptance of the resignation of majority members of the PRB. There is no PRB quorum to approve any document submitted by the CPD Council.

B. DENTISTRY

The Operational Guidelines for Dentistry, which included the decrease of the required CPD Credit Units from 60 to 45 units as a response to the clamor of dentists, has been approved by the PRB.

C. CLASSIFYING THE STATUS OF PROFESSIONALS

The Commission is studying the possibility of classifying the status of professionals into "Active" and "Inactive" in relation to the issuance of PICs. "Active" refers to the status of professionals who are practicing the profession and, therefore, has to comply with the CPD requirements. While "Inactive" refers to the status of professionals who are not practicing the profession and, therefore, may not comply with the CPD requirements. In this connection, PRC may issue two types of cards which may be referred to either Professional License and Identification Card (PLIC) or Professional Identification Card (PIC). There may be a need to amend the law to implement the foregoing.