



**Qualification System  
of Registered Consulting Engineers (RCE)  
in China**

**China National Association of Engineering  
Consultants**

**( September, 2004 – Copenhagen, Denmark )**

## In the 1980s

- China's reform and opening-up
- Large size of projects of infrastructure
- Engineering Consulting Industry rapidly developing

# Domestic Organization and Engineers in China

- **3000 Engineering Consulting Firms**
- **300,000 Professional Consultants**

## To Enhance

- **System of Qualification**
- **Professionalism**
- **Self-Discipline**

## **Under Active Promotion of CNAEC**

**At the end of 2001**

**The Chinese Government Decided to  
establish the Qualification System of  
Registered Consulting Engineer (RCE)**

## The Objectives of Establishing the System:

- **To set up a minimum threshold for critical positions, so as to ensure that only qualified and high-caliber professionals are admitted into practice to reduce social risks.**
- **To enhance the sense of professional liability and implement the individual-organization dual responsibility system, so as to ensure the project quality and increase investment efficiency.**

- **To motivate continual institutional education and urge the consultants to improve their knowledge, so as to improve their qualifications and keep up with industry innovation.**
- **To facilitate mutual recognition and exchanges with international engineering consultants, so as to create conditions for Chinese consulting engineers to be integrated into the international arena and its practices**

## The Method of Authentication

- **Examination for most of Consultants**
- **Exempt from examination only for senior experts who meet certain strict conditions and procedure stipulated in the system**



## Conditions for Exempting from Examination

- The number of years of holding a senior title
- Holding a degree or other similar academic qualifications
- Years of experience in engineering consulting
- Achievements obtained through successful completion of project consulting jobs

# The First Appraisal for the Consultants of Exempting from Examination

- Expert Team work for appraisal in March, 2003
- More than 6000 professionals submitted applications
- 3943 of them meet the conditions and were certified as registered consulting engineers

# The Subjects of Examination

- **Specifications for engineering consulting business**
- **Relevant policies and regulations for construction**
- **Development planning**
- **Project organization and management**
- **Universal knowledge in project consulting methods and operating practice**

## The Procedure of Examination

- **CNAEC organize relevant experts to draw up the examination curriculum**
- **CNAEC compile textbooks**
- **CNAEC draft test papers and submit them to relevant government departments for approval**
- **Nationwide unified examinations organized once a year**

# **The First Examination Organized by CNAEC**

- **The first examination on Apr. 23-25, 2004**
- **More than 63,800 engineers participated**
- **14,538 passed the examination and received their certification of registered consulting engineer**

## **RCE have to meet the following conditions for practice**

- **Membership in an engineering consulting firm**
- **Abiding by the code of ethics**
- **Good health condition**
- **Good performance record**
- **Proper educational background and adequate working experience in engineering consulting business**

## Concerned Regulations for RCE

- **Period of valid for three years**
- **Continued education for renewing**
- **Re-register if any condition change**

## The Service Areas for RCE

- **consulting on economic and social development programs and planning**
- **industrial development planning and policy**
- **construction economics**
- **investment opportunity research**



## The Service Areas for RCE

- **development of project proposal**
- **development of project feasibility study report**
- **project assessment**
- **consulting on project financing, performance assessment, post-assessment and training consulting**

## **The Service Areas for CRE not include**

- **Engineering Design**
- **Construction Supervision**

**The other certificate for the above two areas**

# Responsibilities and Obligations for RCE

- **Accept unified assignment and commission by his service organization**
- **Implement consulting service for national investment projects or government approved projects and the projects assigned by other owners**
- **Take responsibility for the documents which are not subject to further modification.**
- **Abide by the code of ethics.**

## Responsibilities and Obligations for RCE

- **The service organization bears liabilities for any losses resulting from project consulting quality, and will further hold the individual consultant responsible.**
- **If quality problems result in any serious consequences short of criminal liabilities, corresponding sanctions or penalties may be imposed on the responsible consultant.**
- **Record for the performance of a registered consulting engineer.**

## **Continued Education for RCE in three years validity period**

- **RCE must receive education no less than 120 hours**
- **Of which, 40 hours for compulsory subject and 80 hours for selective subject**
- **Compulsory subjects generally cover macro, policy topics, forward-looking and universal**
- **Textbooks for compulsory subjects compiled by CNAEC**
- **Selective subjects focus on the improvement of personal knowledge and competencies**

## **Method of Continued Education for Selective subjects**

- **participation in domestic and international engineering consulting training courses, seminars and forums**
- **Attendance in courses provided by the FTC Training Center, other universities and colleges**
- **Compilation of engineering consulting works and papers**
- **Subject research**

## Summary

- The system for RCE is in early phase
- The system for RCE is subject to further evolution taking into account Chinese characteristics
- The system will be improved steadily with deepening of reform
- The system will be eventually match international practice

**CNAEC will make unrelenting efforts to perfect the system in the future**

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