

# AWARD OF THE CHARTER

To become a Chartered Environmentalist in Sri Lanka, an individual must be a current member (or Fellow) of the Institute of Environmental Professionals, Sri Lanka, and demonstrate (through qualifications and experience) competence, knowledge and engagement in sustainable environmental management and development. Such demonstration will include a professional review.

## Why become a Chartered Environmental Professional?

Members of the Institute of Environmental Professionals embrace a wide range of disciplines related to Environmental Protection, Management and Sustainable Development. A 'Chartered Environmental Professional' will stand out as an Environmental Professional who has demonstrated that he/she possesses the key competencies, knowledge and experience in sustainable environmental management and development, through a rigorous professional review process.

*The designation 'Chartered Environmental Professional' would benefit all stakeholders, those seeking the services of an Environmental Professional, the practitioners themselves, their employers and the general public, by virtue of the value attached to it.*

- *Governments and governmental bodies seeking to appoint advisers or consultants will be assured about an individual's competence;*
- *Other Professional Bodies will be able to benchmark the qualification for membership purposes;*
- *Regulatory Bodies could be confident in specifying the CEnvP designation in Acts of Parliament and regulations;*
- *It will assure legal credibility, enabling expert witness participation at a defined standard;*
- *It will assure an environmental Practitioner's Professional standing, recognizing equality of excellence across a wide range of environment disciplines.*
- *Practitioners will benefit by identification as a professionally qualified environmentalist that puts them at the forefront of their profession;*
- *Employers and potential employers will benefit as it will confirm the professional ability and competence of their employees and candidates for employment*
- *The public can be confident in the knowledge and competence of an environmental practitioner;*

## The Process for Award of Charter

### 1. Eligibility for Application for Award of Charter

An Environmental Professional will be eligible for application provided that he/she

- Is a current (paid up) member or fellow of the Institution of Environmental Professionals, Sri Lanka (IEPSL)
- Has been a member of IEPSL for a minimum of 3 years
- Is a graduate of a recognized University or has professional qualifications academically equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

- Has a minimum of 5 years of experience related to Environmental Protection, Management, Sustainability or other related area in his/her professional capacity.

## **2. Application for the Charter**

Any candidate eligible to apply for award of the Charter as per section 1 above may submit an Application on the prescribed form, along with the following documents:

- Two hard copies and a soft copy of a *Curriculum Vitae* to demonstrate that he/she meets the minimum academic and experience requirements
- Two hard copies and a soft copy of a report/review of not more than 6000 words (excluding references), which demonstrates the candidate's development and achievement with reference to the Key Competences stipulated by the IEPSL, as stated in Section 5 of this document.
  - The Report shall be in two parts; the first part, of 2500 – 3000 words, shall include an account of the candidate's career progression, in chronological order, showing the achievement of a level of professional competence in his/her own professional field.
  - The second part, which shall also contain 2500 – 3000 words, must include details of relevant projects or specified activities demonstrating competence relating to actual work for which the Candidate has been personally responsible. The activities may be taken from one project or a number of projects in which the candidate has been actively involved.
  - The Report shall clearly cross reference to the key competences that are demonstrated, so that all required competences according to section 5 of this document, are covered.
  - All reports shall be validated by at least two mentors, sponsors or supervisors, who shall confirm that the report represents the Candidate's own work.
  - Reports that are too long or too short will be returned to the candidates for amendments, before being subjected to assessment.
- Receipt issued by the IEPSL Secretariat for the Application Processing Fee of Rs. 2500/- paid to the IEPSL Secretariat.

## **3. Professional Review Interview and Examination**

The Professional Review Interview and Examination is held for those candidates who have applied for the award of the Charter, and whose applications and Reports have been reviewed and accepted by the Membership Committee of the IEPSL as suitable for calling for the Professional Review Interview and Examination. Any candidates whose applications are incomplete or inadequate for this stage of the application process will be informed accordingly, and will be given a chance to resubmit their applications after the necessary amendment/s.

The Membership Committee will submit the list of candidates whose applications are recommended for the Professional Review and Examination, with brief notes on eligibility and experience of each candidate, and their recommendation for the mode of conducting the Professional Review. Based on the Application and Supporting Documents submitted by the candidate, the IEPSL Council may, on the recommendation of the Membership Committee, decide to conduct the Professional Review in order to

assess the candidate's competences in the key areas mentioned in Section 5 below, by one of the 3 modes of assessment shown below:

- a) An Interview and two Written Examination papers, one of which is an examination paper on professional matters related to environment and sustainability and the other on logical communication of ideas through the written medium, social responsibilities and ethics.

OR

- b) An Interview and one Examination Paper, on logical communication of ideas through the written medium, social responsibilities and ethics.

OR

- c) An interview only.

The mode of assessment will be based on the following criteria. The relevance of the field of study and the experience as stated above will be determined by the Council, based on the candidate's submissions.

- Candidates with the basic eligibility requirements as given in Section 1 of this document will be assessed according to the mode of assessment given in category a) above.
- Candidates with postgraduate qualifications at Master's or higher level in a relevant field of study may be exempted from the written paper on professional matters related to environment and sustainability, and will thus be considered under category b) above.
- Candidates with postgraduate qualifications at Master's or higher level in a relevant field of study and more than 12 years of relevant experience may be considered under category (3) above.
- However, all candidates will be subjected to a structured interview, at which the Panel will verify the authenticity of the candidate's submissions and assess the candidate's knowledge and understanding, competence and engagement in sustainable environmental management and development, as set out in Section 5 of this document. It is recognized that each Candidate will have a unique engagement with the environment, dependent upon his or her job role, experience and/or qualifications, and the assessment will be mainly based on the training and experience of the candidate, as stated in their submissions.

The Council will appoint the Panel of Examiners for the Professional Review Interview and Examination for each candidate, on the recommendation of the Membership Committee. The Panel will consist of a minimum of two Senior Members of the IEPSL, at least one of whom will be in the candidate's area of professional specialization.

#### **4. Decision to Award the Charter**

Candidates who have satisfied the Panel of Examiners of their Professional Competence at the Professional Review will be proposed to the Council for award of the Charter. The names of candidates will be circulated among the general membership of the IEPSL, who will be given the opportunity to make any representations to the Secretariat in writing, within one calendar month of the publishing of the proposed name, if any such candidate is deemed unsuitable for the award of the Charter, by virtue of unprofessional or unethical conduct in the execution of duties as an Environmental Professional of high calibre. In the event of receipt of any such written representations, the secretary will take action to inform the Council and appoint a committee of enquiry to the allegations, and delay the award of the charter until the report of the committee of enquiry is received by the Council.

After completion of one calendar month from the date of circulation of the names, the names of those candidates who have not been challenged, and any names that have been cleared by the Committee of Enquiry, will be recommended to the Council for award of the Charter, for approval. The decision of the council will be notified in writing to the candidates after the confirmation of the minutes of the Council at the next Council Meeting.

The list of candidates who have not been successful at the Professional Review will also be submitted to Council with brief notes on reason for failure, and the Reports of the Panels of Examiners will be tabled at the Council Meeting, for information of the Council Members. The Council may decide to allow the candidate to appear for all or parts of the Professional Review Interview and Examination, based on the Report of the Panel of Examiners. The Council may decide to appoint the same Panel or a new Panel of Examiners for the unsuccessful candidate/s. These candidates will also be notified of the decision of the Council with regard to their candidacy.

Successful Candidates will, on payment of the prescribed fee, be entitled to use the title Chartered Environmental Professional and the post nominal CEnvP.

The candidates whose applications have been rejected at any stage of the process, or have been unsuccessful at the Professional Review Interview and/or Examinations, may appeal in writing to the President or Secretary, IEPSL, giving all relevant information.

#### **5. Professional Competences**

Chartered Environmental Professionals are expected to be environmental practitioners at the forefront of their profession, who can instil confidence in other professionals, government and governmental bodies and other professional bodies and the public, about their knowledge and competence in environmental protection, management and sustainability in their field or profession. Chartered Environmental Professionals are expected to demonstrate Legal credibility, enabling expert witness participation at a defined standard, and instil confidence among Regulatory bodies enabling them in specifying the CEnvP designation in Acts of Parliament and regulations. While all Environmental Professionals are dealing with elements of sustainable development and environmental protection and management in the execution of their duties, the diversity of core professions of the environmental

professionals is reflected in the competences acquired by them through training and experiences in their respective disciplines. Thus their Professional Competences needs to be assessed in such a manner that recognises equality of excellence across a wide range of environment disciplines.

**The Key Competences that Candidates for the Charter will be assessed on are their abilities to:**

- A. Use their knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainable development.
- B. Analyse and evaluate problems from an environmental perspective and develop practical sustainable solutions
- C. Demonstrate leadership in sustainable management of the environment.
- D. Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills.
- E. Demonstrate a personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession and the environment.

The candidates are required to demonstrate the acquisition of the above five competences in their CV and Reports submitted with their application for the Charter, and at the Professional Review Interview and Examination. Some examples of how the above competences can be demonstrated are:

- A. Being able to explain the fundamentals sustainable development principles and the contribution to Sustainable development through their understanding and application of knowledge, particularly on environmental protection and management principles, in the practice of their profession
  - Understanding the need for conservation of natural resources, biodiversity sustainable consumption and production practices, need for creating sustainable communities and the triple bottom line (Economics, environment and society)
  - Understanding and relating their experiences of global environmental issues and their impacts at the local level.
  - Awareness of and application of the relevant environmental legislations and regulatory framework, international treaties, protocols and conventions related to environmental management and sustainable development
- B. Being able to analyse and evaluate problems from an environmental perspective and develop sustainable solutions, and guide investments towards sustainable development
  - Anticipate and predict future environmental consequences (Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment)
- C. Being the Champion for the establishment of Resource Management Circles, Sustainability Committees and other groups within the organizations to promote sustainability and environmental conservation/protection
  - Encouraging others to understand the local and global environmental concerns
- D. Conducting training and awareness programs / CPD for others in the organisation or outsiders on environmental and social issues, sustainable practices, environmental management etc
  - Produce technical papers, news paper articles, guidelines, books and other materials to communicate environmental information to others

- Exchange information and consultations on environmental matters
- E. Ensuring that individuals and organizations are accountable for and understand their responsibilities for environmental damage and improvement
- Practice of stakeholder consultations, environmental and social impact assessments in the conduct of affairs
  - Risk Assessments and Risk Management
  - Professional ethics, integrity and credibility in the professional practice.

### **Continuing Professional Development**

It is important that the Chartered Environmental Professionals should continue to develop their professional abilities throughout their career. They must enhance their professional competence, update their knowledge in their respective discipline with new and emerging developments, and be aware of the current policies and anticipate future requirements in the local and global scenarios. Thus, Chartered Environmental Professionals shall consider Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as an essential part of their Professional activities, and are encouraged to consider their CPD with reference to the five Key Competences and subsets described in Section 5 above.

CPD has been described as:-

“The systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skill, and the development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional and technical duties throughout the individual’s working life”.

Recognizing the importance of CPD, the IEPSL introduced a mandatory requirement of 15 hours of relevant CPD in each year, the records of which shall be submitted by each Chartered Environmental Professional to the secretariat at the time of renewal of subscription for the Charter. Even though these records may not be checked or reviewed on a regular basis, the Council reserves the right to check them and take action against any Chartered Environmental Professionals who do not abide by this mandatory CPD requirement without notice, if the necessity arises.

### **Code of Ethics**

Since all Chartered Environmental Professionals are members of the IEPSL, they are bound by the Code of Ethics of IEPSL.