

REGULATION

From the Chamber of Geological Engineers, Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects:

**REGULATION ON THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE
CHAMBER OF GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERS UNION OF
CHAMBERS OF TURKISH ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS**

CHAPTER ONE**Purpose, Scope, Basis and Definitions****Purpose and scope**

ARTICLE 1 – (1) The purpose of this Regulation is regulate the minimum code of ethics and conduct that the members of this procession must comply with in order to improve the quality and reliability of professional works of geological engineers, to specify accepted/acceptable behaviors in geological engineering applications and to promote perfection, to raise the standards for the implementation of professional services, and to build a framework for their professional conducts and responsibilities in their practices to the society, nature, profession, peers, real or legal entities they serve, the Chamber of Geological Engineers and to themselves as individuals.

(2) This Regulation covers all geological engineers working for universities, state institutions and organizations and as freelancers in private sector and practice geological engineering.

Basis

ARTICLE 2 – (1) This Regulation has been issued based upon Article 2 of the Law on the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects dd. 27/01/1954 and Nr. 6235.

Definitions

ARTICLE 3 – (1) Hereinafter;

- a) Geoethics: shall mean the professional guidelines for Geological Engineering and the Code of Ethics for the Chamber of Geological Engineers, TMMOB;
- b) Chamber: shall mean the Chamber of Geological Engineers, TMMOB; and
- c) TMMOB: shall mean the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects.

CHAPTER TWO**Basic Code of Ethics for Geological Engineering–****Geoethics the basic code of ethics for Geological Engineering -
geoethics**

ARTICLE 4 – (1) Geoethics is a set of values that support proper conduct and practices that need to be followed by all members of the profession and at any place where individuals interact with the world system through any kind of actions in the context of the roles of geological engineers that impact their peers, the society and the entire planet and its basic code of ethics is defined as follows:

- a) To hold in high esteem the welfare, health and safety of the people in their professional activities, to utilize all kinds of approaches required by science and engineering at all levels and to respect the protection of public interests, habitat and environment;
- b) To show effort to ensure that natural resources and assets are utilized in a way to conserve environmental values today and in the future;
- c) To strive for the conservation of geological heritage sites such as geoparks, geosites and other natural assets as well as groundwater and surface water resources and wetlands under the scope of international conventions;

- d) To promote and support geological education in order to create a safe habitat;
- e) To act in accordance with the requirements of national and international standards in all professional products and activities; to remain realistic, objective and reliable throughout career and to verify the source of information and data used;
- f) To share knowledge as an invaluable activity at all levels; and to contribute to the development and dissemination of scientific methods;
- g) To adhere to scientific methods and to serve only in the domain of competence;
- h) To act unbiased during the examination of scientific and technical publications;
- i) To act as trustworthy proxies or trustees for individuals and organizations they work for; and to avoid any conflict of interest;
- j) To respect study fields of different professional disciplines;
- k) To be competent in their respective profession through regular education and lifelong learning;
- l) To make effort to elevate and improve the integrity, dignity and the merits of occupation;
- m) To protect professional reputation and to abstain from any unfair competition with other peers;
- n) To provide associate engineers with the opportunity of professional development; and
- o) To abide by the rules and principles established by the professional chamber.

CHAPTER THREE

Code of Ethics

The responsibilities of geological engineers towards society and nature

ARTICLE 5 – (1) Geological engineers practice their profession in accordance with the following set of responsibilities towards the society and nature:

- a) Geological engineers put benefit of society ahead and utilizes their professional knowledge, skills and experiences to improve safety, health and welfare of society.
- b) Geological engineers treat different cultures with respect without any discrimination of religion, language, race, belief, gender and geography in the conduct of their profession and treats everyone in the society equally, impartially and honestly.
- c) Geological engineers, fully aware of their responsibilities to the nature and future generations, consider their duty to protect habitat and to ensure that their professional activities are environmental-friendly as an integral part of their professional liabilities. During the prospection, production and offering of natural resources and assets, they conduct scientific researches that do not pose a threat to the welfare, health and safety of people and issue and undersign realistic reports.
- d) Geological engineers protect the geo-diversity and geological heritage in planning and implementing the plans for the response to habitat while conserving the formations and facts that have occurred due to natural processes.
- e) Geological engineers, if and when any ordered job may pose serious danger to the society and nature in their opinion and their professional concerns and notices are ignored by any real and legal persons they serve, deny unconditionally to follow their instructions and cooperate with the Chamber of Geological Engineers and relevant units in order to take necessary actions.

f) Geological engineers share realistic and reliable information supported with scientific data in their verbal and written public statements with regard to technical matters, free of any commercial and personal concerns.

g) Geological engineers take any measures necessary to protect and ensure the health and safety of workers at workplaces and inform workers with this respect.

The responsibilities of geological engineers towards their profession and peers

ARTICLE 6 – (1) Geological engineers act in line with the following procedures in their professional activities and relations with peers:

a) They adhere strictly to the professional dignity and code of ethics to improve the privilege, importance, merits and prestige of the profession of geology in duly performing their duties. They also act with the awareness that disobeying such esteems would not only damage their own prestige but also their profession.

b) With the awareness that they are responsible from the impression of their profession in the public eye, they do not get involved in any acts or behaviors that may possibly tarnish the prestige of their profession or that may leave a wrong impression on the society and mislead the public.

c) They maintain their professional activities with utmost care to their professional prestige in a way to gain the trust of the society and all their peers.

d) They treat all their peers with respect. They do not underestimate or discredit their peers to thrust themselves to the forefront. They do not start any unfair competition with their peers. They abstain from any making intentionally insulting behaviors and unfair comment that may either directly or indirectly damage the chamber and their peers or the professional products and operations of their peers.

e) They build their professional achievements upon their own works. They do not take credit for others' professional works and they provide reference to their citations used in their researches and respect moral and economic rights (copyrights) of their peers to the products.

f) They abstain from any torts, misrepresentations, wrongful claims and dispraises that may put their peers or their Chambers at a disadvantage.

g) They serve solely in the domains they have specifically studied or are qualified for and they encourage interdisciplinary cooperation.

h) They assign their professional duties, authorities and responsibilities only in obligatory cases and solely to competent peers.

i) They conduct their works within the framework of their professional duties, authorities and responsibilities that have been conferred upon them and they solely use the titles and roles that they have been officially entitled to.

j) They do not aid to or get involved in any activities of those who violate the code of ethics and they advise such individuals and cooperate with their Chambers with this regard.

k) Geological engineers under public service may not conduct any professional works on behalf of or act as spokesman for private persons and organizations. While performing their duties on behalf of public as an inspector or a supervisor, they may not bid on public tenders and derive any profits therefrom.

l) They may not obtain or offer any political aid or support in any way during public procurement.

m) Geological engineers holding academic titles and career abstain from all kinds of acts and actions that may exaggerate their position and do not allow any cases that may misrepresent their own academic and professional reputability and do not undersign any reports that may lead to any misleading.

n) They create opportunities to enable the professional development of engineers under their responsibility and they pass the torch to their lower-level peers after gaining necessary knowledge and experience.

o) They protect the professional and personal rights of their peers and do not allow the violation of their or other geological engineers' professional and personal rights and do immediately report to their Chambers in case they fail to prevent such. If they employ other engineers, they pay satisfactory fees by their roles and competence.

p) If they make a mistake and such mistake has to be proved and removed, they have to rectify and accept such mistakes.

q) Unless permitted by relevant individuals, they do not use any equipment, laboratory or office vehicles of their organization for any private purposes.

The responsibilities of geological engineers towards natural and legal entities they serve

ARTICLE 7 – (1) Geological engineers act in accordance with the following procedures in their relations with the individuals they work with:

a) They act as reliable agents for the person they serve for in professional subjects and they do not seek to earn unlawful profits.

b) They fulfill all kinds of professional services in accordance with all obligations stipulated in either verbal or written agreements and within the scope of mutual trust. They serve through the use of professional skills and experiences in a way to avoid jeopardizing the safety and health of society and environment.

c) They do not solicit or offer, either directly or indirectly, any kind of gifts, money, service or proposition that may affect their business relations. They do not make political donations in order to develop business relations.

d) While making an effort to ensure that their works help enriching their experiences, they do not disclose to third parties or use for personal interests any commercial or technological secrets of natural and legal persons, unless it poses a certain danger to the society and nature, without permission. Except as required by the code of ethics or legislations, they do not share any confidential professional information and data acquired with any third parties.

e) They declare all their knowledge about any potential damages or cost increases that their employers may incur in the future and they inform their employers if, in their opinion, they think that a project may fail to succeed at expected levels.

f) They avoid all kinds of negligence that may pose risk or cause financial and intangible damages to their employers during their practice.

g) They do not alter or deny the facts or accepted technical or scientific data that may be in favor of their employers or may manipulate public opinion.

h) They do not make or publish any recommendations that are not supported with real and objective possibilities and they do not pretend to possess any professional information that they actually do not possess just to prevent their employers from working with other peers.

i) They resort to or recommend resort to other peers if it will improve the quality of their service or bring better results for their employers.

The Responsibilities towards the Chamber

ARTICLE 8 – (1) Geological Engineers are responsible from behaving as follows to the Chamber of Geological Engineers:

a) Geological engineers support and try to improve the Chamber of Geological Engineers.

b) Geological engineers comply with all laws, regulations and legislations with regard to their professional domains in force as well as the decisions of the Chamber as regards the practice of their profession and pay due diligence in fulfilling their organizational and administrative responsibilities.

c) If geological engineers are directed in a way to violate public benefit by their employers in conducting their professional roles, they inform any such demands and pressure to their Chamber.

d) Geological engineers report the subject, location and general scope of all kinds of professional products including surveys, projects, maps and reports in a specific format to the Chamber in order to protect their copyrights and to record with their own registers.

e) They do their best to actively participate in the activities performed by the Chamber and help contribute to sharing information and developing the profession.

f) In case they produce any defective services, they do accept that they are responsible towards their Chambers in accordance with the principle of transparency and accountability.

The responsibilities of geological engineers towards themselves as individuals

ARTICLE 9 – (1) Geological Engineers fulfill the following responsibilities as individuals:

a) They take as their duties to realize the code of conduct to elevate the reputation of their profession and peers.

b) They perpetuate their professional development based upon the principle of continuous improvement of their knowledge and abilities and lifelong learning.

c) They are dedicated to offering the best practice service within the scope of their professional domain.

d) They prioritize organized efforts for professional, social, cultural and economic developments.

e) They pay regard to honest and objective criticism by their peers in their professional activities and they do not abstain from self-criticizing, if necessary.

f) They try to understand the people they work with and to adapt to multi-disciplinary work environments.

CHAPTER FOUR
Miscellaneous and Final
Provisions

Sanctions

ARTICLE 10 – (1) In cases where any of the acts violating the rules stipulated herein is considered as a disciplinary action, proceedings shall be initiated pursuant to the Disciplinary Procedures of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects published on the Official Journal dd. 10/7/2002 and nr. 24811.

Effectiveness

ARTICLE 11 – (1) This Regulation shall become effective on the date when it is published.

Execution

ARTICLE 12 – (1) This Regulation is executed by the Board of the Chamber of Geological Engineers, Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects.