

Code of Ethics

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Code of Ethics

Overarching Principle

The research team will conduct itself honestly and professionally during the design and creation of the product(s); and will act in a dignified, respectful, and tolerant manner whilst implementing the product(s) in the field.

Law

Canon

The research team shall know and obey all laws and regulations of both the target countries and the United States throughout the research, design, and implementation process.

Pressure

To complete the project within the given time period.

Risk

To break the laws of either the target countries or the United States in order to achieve the given deadlines, and thus lead to an implementation failure.

Risk

To pay bribes to various officials in order to complete the project within the given timeframe, thus breaking both local and US laws.

Measure

Legal action is taken against any members of the research team, thus indicating that unethical actions have taken place.

Contract

Canon

The research team will ensure that it will fulfill all contracts that it makes, whether it is with local groups, sponsors, or officials, and regardless of the nature of the contract (verbal or written).

Pressure

To overcommit in order to satisfy as many groups as possible, such as sponsors, local organizations (in target countries) and residents of target countries.

Risk

To fail to complete contracts made with regards to products and/or solutions designed by the research team

Risk

To force solutions and/or products onto the target communities.

Measure

The products are built in accordance to the specifications provided in any contracts made.

Professional Codes

Canon

The Energy, Water and Shelter research team shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the community, perform services only in areas of their competence, issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner, avoid deceptive acts, and conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully in the community. This is modeled after the code of conduct set forth by the National Society of Professional Engineers. (The NSPE code of ethics may be found at: <http://www.nspe.org/Ethics/CodeofEthics/index.html>)

Pressure

To complete the project within a given timeframe, and without certain necessary materials.

Risk

Using substitute materials that work temporarily, but are unsafe for long-term use.

Pressure

Pressure from peers, time constraints, and resource constraints causes an immediate and urgent need to dispose of hazardous materials.

Measure

Notification by on-site contacts of injuries or ill-health incurred due to the use of the products or solutions provided by the research team.

Industry

Canon

The team will ensure that all projects will be thoroughly tested and will adhere to the strictest guidelines possible before being implemented.

Pressure

The inability to finish on time and/or on budget which could result in negative opinion and/or expulsion from the company.

Risk

Testing could be rushed or completely falsified to meet time restrictions.

Risk

A faulty solution could be implemented because it takes less time to construct or to stay within the budget restrictions.

Measure

If on-site contacts notify the research team that ill-health was caused by use of the product, it would be indicative of the fact that the proper channels of trial and testing were not adhered to.

Community

Canon

The research team will hold paramount the entire target communitys (that is, the community of the area where solutions are being implemented) health and environment; and will be respectful of said community's cultural, religious, and social customs.

Pressure

To complete the project within a given timeframe, regardless, or in ignorance of local customs, traditions, and social values.

Pressure

To use generalized or inaccurate information due to language differences and limited time.

Risk

Implement solution(s) without proper education of the intended users and their respective cultural values; this could may lead to user endangerment or project failure as the users may decide to disuse the solution(s) provided.

Measure

Unethical behavior will be indicated by public discussion of the team and it's behavior; notification thereof would be provided by on-site contacts.

Personal Relations

Canon

The research team shall respect the individual rights and wishes of target population and those around them to produce honest work.

Pressure

To enter community where members do not agree with the practice of certain solutions.

Risk

To try to enforce solutions against their desire to provide a solution at all costs.

Pressure

The need to use confidential information to accomplish project goals.

Measure

Compliance of the canon will be indicated by having further communication with the community members that reflect their feelings on the work

Moral Values

Canon

The research team is duty bound to respect the locals culture, traditions, personal morality, values and beliefs.

Pressure

Differences in morality exist with regards to personal values, beliefs, and views on 'right and wrong.'

Risk

To get into an argument because of the inability to resist the urge to impose our own values upon the others beliefs, morality and traditions.

Risk

To sacrifice our own beliefs in order to realize the big picture and to avoid confrontation.

Measure

The locals do not invite us back or do not want to keep in touch or vice versa.
