



## **UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES**

THE INTEGRATED AND ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ARCHITECTS

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# **GUIDELINES ON UAP CHAPTER TWINNING PROGRAM**

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### **I. RATIONALE**

The United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), the only integrated and accredited professional organization of architects (IAPOA) by the Professional Regulation Commission has grown at a very fast pace during the past decade. Currently, the organization has 127 chapters with 12 of them located outside the country. The age of globalization has made collaboration and networking as the door towards better opportunities and stronger competitive edge for practicing Filipino Architects both in the home country and overseas.

Among the priority thrusts set forth by the ten year long range plan of the organization is collaborative practice and networking. Among the strategies of the current administration in attaining a wider field of networking for its 9000 member base is to encourage chapters to collaborate and partner in implementing the organization's plans and programs in order to provide a venue for the members to meet potential business and professional partners.

The National Board of Directors in its Regular Meeting held last 21 August 2010 held at UAP National Headquarters passed and approved Resolution No. 3-08, institutionalizing the Chapter Twinning Program.

### **II. DEFINITION**

Twinning is a strategy for strengthening small chapters through the "Big Brother, Small Brother" relationship between established chapters and struggling or new chapters.

Twin chapters are two chapters from different UAP chapters that have established strong ties and have agreed to team up to complete a special program. This may be in the form of a national project, professional enhancement projects, sharing of experiences, service projects, a friendship exchange or a cultural exchange. Chapters under this relationship are encouraged to undertake a joint program or project in fostering camaraderie and strengthening chapter networking and collaboration towards a synergistic national thrust.

### **III. OBJECTIVES OF TWINNING**

The key objectives of the UAP twinning program are

- To emphasize the national and international reach of UAP service and friendship.
- To establish a long-term relationship with other chapters that will lead to ongoing and effective projects mutually beneficial to the two chapters.
- To enhance the understanding of regional and international culture and each chapter's characteristics.
- To bolster confidence of small and struggling chapters in the organization.
- To further inter chapter understanding and foster goodwill.

- To open new doors and opportunities for networking and collaboration among practicing Filipino Architects.
- To promote professional development exchanges among chapters and members.

#### **IV. DETERMINING CHAPTER COMPATIBILITY**

Finding a suitable twin chapter should be a chapter effort. The concerns and opinions of every chapter member must be taken into account if the match is to be successful. In the search for a twin chapter, chapters should be able to identify their interests, strengths and weaknesses.

When selecting a twin chapter, big chapters may want to consider small chapters that would be compatible in terms of interests, challenges, and vision. Other considerations could be in terms of expertise sharing and cultural exchanges.

After determining the type of chapter that would be an appropriate match, look for a chapter that meets your established criteria. You may contact your District Directors, Area Vice Presidents, to see if they are in contact with anyone suitable for your particular needs. Or you may attend UAP National Conventions, Area Assemblies, and District Activities to meet potential twin chapters.

#### **V. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- Twinning chapters may come from the same district or from two different districts / areas / countries;
- Programs and/or projects must involve maximum participation of both UAP Twin Chapter members;
- Chapters must secure a board resolution from their respective chapter board for the approval of the twinning program.
- Chapters must execute a Memorandum of Agreement outlining the goal of the program, the responsibilities of both Chapters in carrying out the twinning program, and the duration of the twinning program.
- Duration of twinning shall be for one year only and can be renewed by the new set of chapter board officers by both chapters through a board resolution.
- Chapters must report their Twin Chapter relationship to the UAP National Board thru the District Director by submitting the signed Memorandum of Agreement.

#### **VI. BUILDING THE PROGRAM**

Careful planning and clear communication is essential to establishing a strong relationship. Like any other worthwhile project, twinning takes time and effort. The key is to ensure that both chapters should have a clear understanding of its role and responsibilities in the partnership.

Some ideas for developing a strong relationship include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Establish an email network (e.g. yahogroups, facebook groups) for all chapter members to use
- Undertake a UAP National project or social service project together
- Participate in a friendship or cultural, or professional exchange
- Plan and hold an inter-chapter projects planning activity
- Exchange project ideas or chapter program ideas
- Hold a video conference or web-based chapter meeting
- Host your twin chapter's members in your city

The Chapters may use their imagination and creativity to come up with innovative ideas for building the twin chapter relationship.