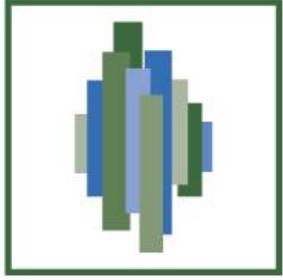


The importance of professional standards

A/Professor Kathy Michell

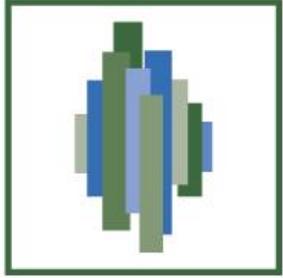
Department of Construction Economics and Management, UCT



Importance of Standards

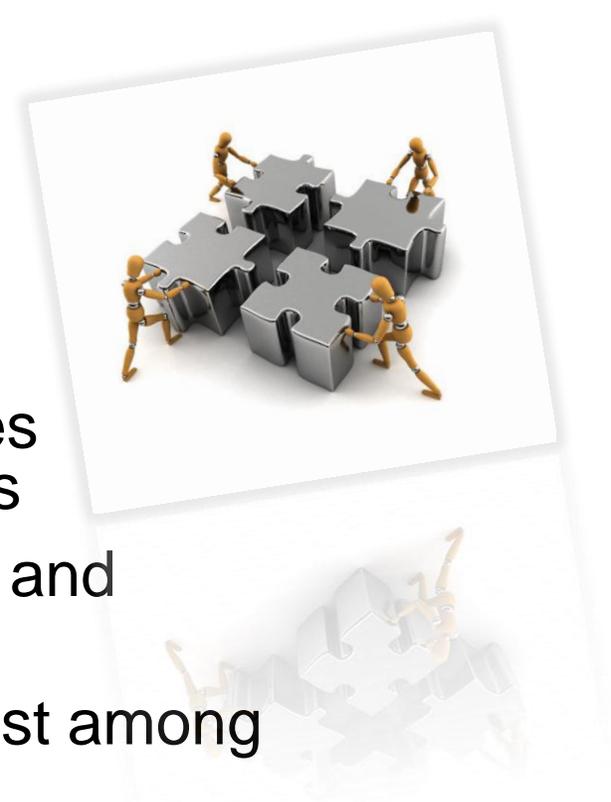
-
- Provide the basis for mutual understanding
 - Facilitate communication & measurement
 - The market is no longer the most efficient means of co-ordination
 - Economic theory – transaction cost theory, agency theory and convention theory





Role in the economy

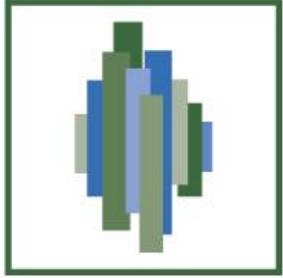
- By improving information transfers, standardization constitutes an original coordination mechanism for business relationships
- It assists in coordinating contractual relations with customers and shareholders.
- Standards reinforce the coordination process - encourage trust among economic agents.
- In a nutshell:
 - Business interaction
 - Legislative enabler for commercial transactions
 - Innovative products to market
 - Interoperability between new and existing products, services and processes





Why are they important?

- Integral part of professionalism
- Underpins the status, regard and esteem conferred upon them by society
- Their work is regarded as vital to society



Being a profession....

Occupation, practice, or vocation requiring mastery of a complex set of knowledge and skills through formal education and/or practical experience.

- All professions entail:
 - Technical, specialised and highly skilled work
 - A cognitive base
 - High standards of professional and intellectual excellence

For the sustainability of FM as a profession = standards are an integral part of its growth and stature



Thank you

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