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for a sustainable future

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Expert Group Meeting on the Role and Promotion
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AFRO-ASIAN CENTRE FOR INFORMATION

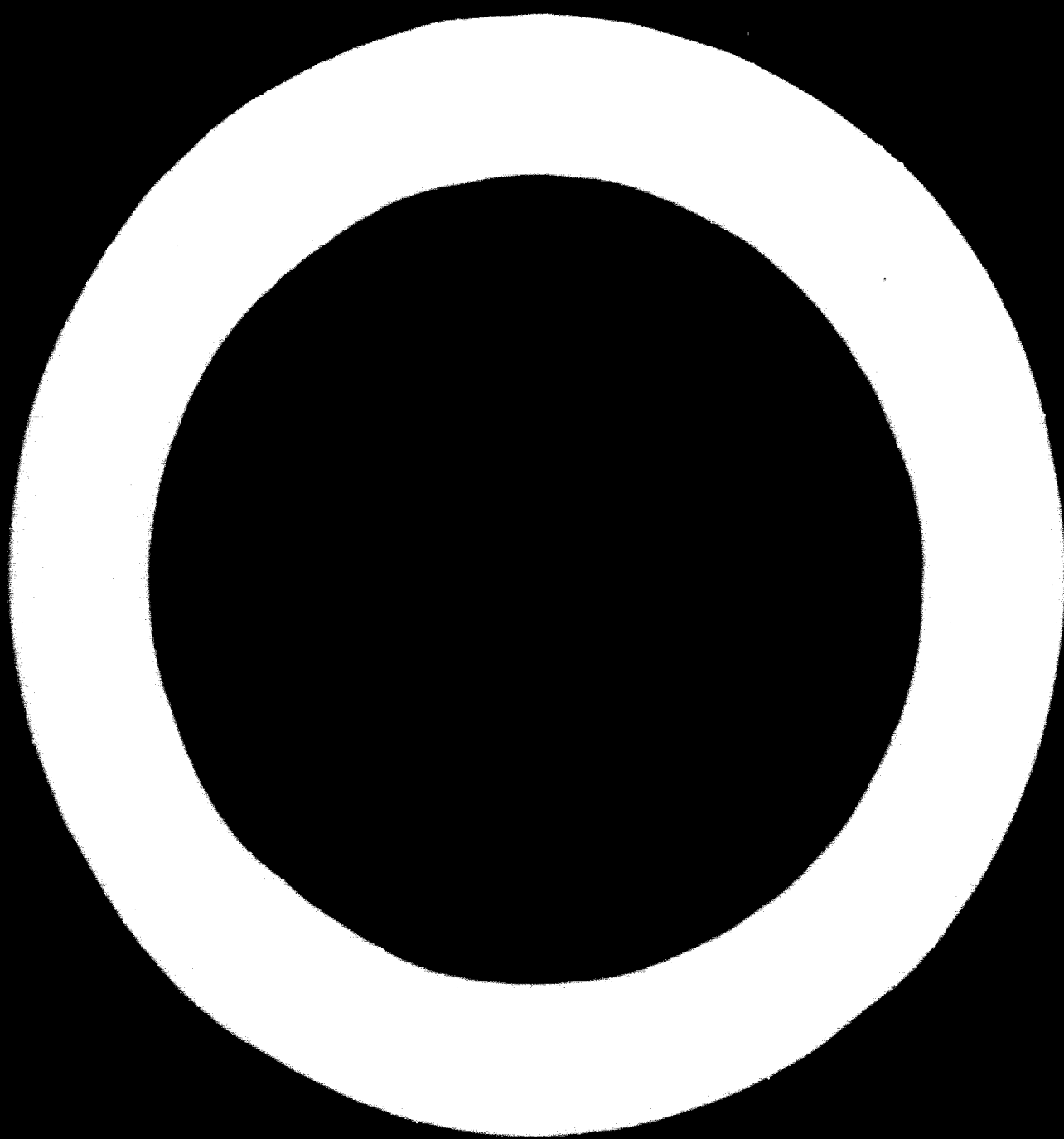
AND CONSULTANCY SERVICE

"A.C.I.C.S." ✓

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We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.



The First Afro-Asian Conference on the Development of Small Industries held in Cairo from 24-27 March 1958, recommended UNIBASEC to undertake, as a matter of high priority and with the participation of organisations taking part in the Conference and other organisations concerned with technical cooperation, the establishment of a centre for information and consultancy service. Accordingly, the Secretary-General commenced, immediately after the conclusion of the Conference, extensive consultation with principal participants and appropriate international organisations.

It is gratifying to note that the recommendation of the Conference has evoked widespread interest and enlisted considerable support. It was readily agreed that a scheme based on that recommendation would have many advantages to commend it. These advantages may be summarized as follows:-

- 1- Realisation of the value of an Afro-Asian initiative and enterprise.
- 2- Ensuring greater authenticity of data.
- 3- Facilities for checking and cross-checking.
- 4- Dissemination of information to wider circles in greater number of countries.
- 5- Securing rapidity of decision and action.
- 6- Carrying out the scheme on sound economic basis.

The Secretary-General is now in a position to present, in brief outline, the scheme which he proposes to submit to AFRASEC members, specially those who have participated in the Small Industries Conference, as well as to national and international organisations interested in technical cooperation.

Part I: Objectives

The objectives of the proposed centre are:-

1- To collect and disseminate authentic data and information obtained from original Afro-Asian sources and other sources on economic and social conditions in general and industrial structure and development in particular, with a view to assisting AFRASEC countries to:-

- a) conduct preliminary surveys and feasibility studies of projects to be undertaken at the level of country or sub-region,
- b) construct and equip plants,
- c) improve the efficiency of existing plants,
- d) make better use of available local resources and opportunities,

- a) promote regional and inter-regional collaboration, particularly in setting up joint enterprises,
- f) identify appropriate areas of extra-regional cooperation, and recommend the proper means of fostering such cooperation.

2- To provide consultancy and extension services through A'RASBO member organisations and collaborators in respect of the following:-

- a) evaluation of industrial data and information,
- b) assessment of business opportunities,
- c) supply of plant equipment and machinery,
- d) management consultancy,
- e) recruitment of technicians and experts,
- f) investment promotion,
- g) marketing.

3- To cooperate with international and national agencies and organisations with a view to:-

- a) avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts.
- b) facilitating checking and cross-checking of information.
- c) filling information gaps.
- d) ensuring regular information flow and up-to-date data.

- e) exchanging business and technological information.

Part II: Functions

As the primary function of the Centre will consist of collection, processing and dissemination of information and data concerning specific areas or fields of economic activities, the task involved will relate on the one hand, to problems and issues of a general character such as: (a) finance and credit techniques, (b) the use of secondhand machinery, (c) application of appropriate technology, (d) application of suitable methods of collective action, and, on the other, to specific issues of a sectoral pattern, as for example, the information and data relating to such industries as textiles, tobacco and cigarettes, food processing, shipping and insurance.

The other functions pertaining to the provision of consultancy and extension services will be examined and reported on by the technical conference referred to in the following section.

Part III: Procedural Arrangements

In agreement with the International Federation of Small and Medium Enterprises (F.I.P.M.I.), a 3-day technical conference is to be organised as soon as possible to enable the participants, who will be selected by the two Organisations (AFRASEC and F.I.P.M.I) to exchange views and experience and to recommend an action programme outlining the techniques and operational machinery. This will be followed by promotional meetings in selected countries to ensure proper deconcentration of activities and to promote regional action. It is envisaged that in the latter meetings, some experts and qualified technicians, principally from AFRASEC region, will participate in order to facilitate the adoption of appropriate techniques at the country and regional levels. This implies the selection and briefing of those experts (including one or two from developed countries).

Part IV: Structure

- 1- A board of trustees elected by principal contributors to an establishment capital fund.
- 2- A Central Office consisting of a director and two or three assistants.

- 3- Six regional officers.
- 4- Country correspondents.

Part V: Cost

It is vitally important to ensure that the proposed scheme, though non-profit making, must be self-financing. In the initial stage, however, it is necessary to raise an establishment capital fund, principally from Afro-Asian sources, but also supplemented by subscription contributions and technical assistance offered by non-Afro-Asian organisations interested in technical cooperation with AFRASEC countries. The establishment capital fund is estimated at \$200,000. It will be administered by a board of trustees elected by the principal contributors.

In addition to meeting the cost of setting up and maintaining the centre and branches for at least two years, the establishment fund will enable AFRASEC to undertake immediately the following measures:-

- 1- Organisation of a preparatory technical conference of 30 participants comprising representatives from half-a-dozen donor countries.
- 2- Training advisers from interested developing countries in donor countries for three months.

- 3- Organisation of small meetings at regional levels in six sub-regions.
- 4- Cost of experts including one from a donor country to ensure proper follow-up and application.
- 5- Salaries of four advisers from interested countries during one year.
- 6- Organisation of a follow-up conference after one year of operation.
- 7- Establishment and maintenance of the Centre for the first two years.



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