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FINAL REPORT

UNIDO SUPPORT TO

COMESA METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION
(COMESAMIA)

THROUGH PROJECT US/RAF/96/183

OCTOBER 2001

COMESAMIA

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Executive Summary

The UNIDO assistance to COMESAMIA through Project US/RAF/96/183 was to enable COMESAMIA to consolidate its activities of assisting metallurgical industries in the COMESA region. This was to be done through running COMESAMIA office, communications, publicity, publications and subscription. The assistance also enabled COMESAMIA to develop and conduct training workshops, mutual plant visits, etc.

As a result of this assistance, COMESAMIA has been able to:

- (1) Successfully run its office
- (2) Publish the Third COMESAMIA Journal and is in the process of preparing the Fourth Journal.
- (3) Made two trips to Kigali, Rwanda to organize a maintenance training workshop which will be held in December 2001.
- (4) Visited Iron and Steel Rolling Mills in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.
- (5) Assisted Muko Iron Ore Development Company (MIDECO) with shipment of 7 tons of Muko Iron Ore which were used in the Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) tests.
- (6) Arranged visits by Chinese Investors who were interested in the establishment of a DRI plant in Uganda.
- (7) Helped the Government of Uganda draw up Terms of Reference (TOR) for the development of the Iron Ore Industry in Uganda to be funded by African Development Bank.

(1) **Introduction**

COMESAMIA was established to champion the interests of stakeholders in the Metallurgical industries especially the Iron and Steel sector in the COMESA region. Since its establishment in 1998, the Association has been able to carry out considerable work such as membership recruitment, organization of workshops, plant visits, publication of journals, assisting in the testing of iron ores, coke in the COMESA region, arrangement of meeting between investors and giving policy guidelines to the development of the iron and steel industry to some governments in the COMESA region.

The success of the industries was due to the great support extended to us by UNIDO, through the COMESA Secretariat. COMESAMIA and its membership are very grateful to UNIDO and the COMESA Secretariat for this assistance and look forward to further mutual collaboration in the development of the metallurgical industries in the COMESA region.

The attendant report is the final report of the COMESAMIA activities carried out as a result of the UNIDO/COMESA assistance.

2.0 **COMESAMIA Activities**

The activities under which UNIDO assistance was provided commenced in 1998. These activities included the following:

2.1 **Membership Drive**

This activity, which is a continuous process, continued during the last 2 years. An additional 5 new members in Uganda were recruited. Membership drives were also carried out in other member countries using COMESAMIA directors in Egypt, Zambia Kenya and Rwanda. Preliminary contacts have been made with the Eritrean Metal Industries with the aim of starting an association there that will assist in membership recruitment.

2.2 **Publications**

During this period, COMESAMIA has published 3 technical journals and is now receiving material for the publication of the 4th Journal. It is hoped that this journal will contain the results of the laboratory tests of various iron ores and coals from the COMESA region for the production of Sponge Iron using Directly Reduced Iron ores. Once the pilot tests are completed, the results of the pilot tests will also be published.

2.3 Maintenance Manuals

COMESAMIA, working with the COMESA Secretariat, assisted the production of a comprehensive set of maintenance manuals. These maintenance manuals will be used extensively in the workshops and training programmes for stakeholders in the metallurgical industries in the COMESA region.

For sustainability, it is planned to sell these manuals to generate funds that will run COMESAMIA and enable it reproduce more manuals in future. These manuals will be put to use at a planned maintenance workshop to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in December 2001.

2.4 Workshops

Some workshops for stakeholders in iron and steel plants, metallurgical industries, metal and metal products were held. These included workshops in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mauritius.:

Another condition-based maintenance workshop is planned to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in December 2001/January 2002. So far 2 visits by COMESAMIA Secretariat have been made and arrangements with a host, Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management (KIST) have been finalized. A sensitization workshop for potential participants was held in July 2001 by COMESAMIA Secretariat. Adverts and other activities geared to enable the holding of the workshop are now being worked out.

Another workshop is planned for stakeholders in the metal industries in Kenya in the near future.

2.5 Laboratory and Pilot Plant Tests on Iron Ores in the COMESA Region.

COMESAMIA facilitated and provided technical assistance to Mideco in collecting 7 tons of Muko Iron Ore and enabled MIDECO ship the samples to Harare, Zimbabwe for DRI tests. Laboratory tests were also carried out on other iron ores from other COMESA countries, using coal from within the region.

Due to insufficient funding, pilot plant tests were not carried out. COMESAMIA has in the meantime been helping the government of Uganda draw up Terms of Reference to be used to access African Development Bank (ADB) funds to carry out detailed tests on Iron Ores in Uganda.

2.6 Visits to Iron and Steel Plants

Using COMESAMIA directors in COMESA countries, visits to various steel plants were made to Zambia, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Uganda. COMESA Secretariat organized a visit to a steel plant in Maluku in the Democratic Republic of Congo, who need technical assistance to rehabilitate their plant.

2.7 COMESAMIA Secretariat

The COMESAMIA office installed a telephone network (256-41-287029) and is now in the process of installing e-mail facilities to ease and expedite communications.

The COMESAMIA Secretariat is finalizing plans to design and install e-maintenance facilities to be accessed by all stakeholders in the metallurgical industry in COMESA and beyond. During the last COMESA Heads of State meeting in Cairo in May 2001, COMESAMIA Secretariat and COMESA Secretariat agreed to have the COMESAMIA websites integrated with the COMESA websites. An e-maintenance association is also being planned to be hosted by Mauritius.

COMESAMIA also organized the Annual General Meeting which was held in Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda on the 3rd of April 2001.