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East African Working Party
on Industrial Programming Data
Nairobi, Kenya, 24 - 29 November 1969

AGENDA AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ✓

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I. MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. The first meeting of the East African Working Party on Industrial Programming Data is to be convened in Nairobi from 24 - 29 November 1969 for the general purpose of examining in some detail the supply and demand aspects of what is referred to here as industrial programming data (defined below in paragraphs 7 - 10) in countries in the East African sub-region, with a view to initiating appropriate remedial actions where such appear to be justified.
2. Specifically, the Working Party will begin its inquiry by (i) carrying out a thorough-going critical review of existing systems and sources of industrial programming data, as well as (ii) examining the specific data requirements of the existing industrial planning and project programming procedures of several of the participating organizations. The purpose of these reviews is first to specify what is available, and secondly, to determine what precisely are the desired characteristics, from the vantage of the user, of such data.
3. It is foreseen that the above general review may indeed point to the necessity for specific remedial action, either in terms of modifications required in the existing systems or of the structuring of altogether new programmes in this domain. To this end, the Working Party may, without prejudice to yet other alternatives, give its attention to several specific proposals in this domain which are currently being prepared in the form of background documents for the meeting.
4. Moreover, since it may well be that several of the programmes to be discussed will require the use of computer facilities, the members of the Working Party will be provided with brief background reports on the "state of the arts" in computers

and computer uses in several of the participating countries.

5. Finally, it is intended that the Working Party will give careful consideration to the multi-national, as well as the national aspects of the problems involved in improving the quality, quantity, and availability of the data required for industrial programming purposes. To this end, considerable emphasis will be laid on projects aimed at building and broadening a common data base for the improved coordination of multi-national industrial development efforts in the East African region.

II. GENERAL BACKGROUND

6. The organization of the East African Working Party represents an important first step in giving concrete expression to the general findings of the first International Working Party on Industrial Programming Data which met in Vienna in 1963. The Aide-Memoire for that original meeting noted: "It is hoped that this first session, which is primarily designed to operate at the inter-regional level, will be effective to the subsequent establishment of regional or sub-regional working sessions. The general findings and recommendations of the first session can then be translated into action programmes at the regional or sub-regional levels." One finding of the earlier meeting was a general agreement as to the desirability of extending the Working Party approach to multi-national regional groupings, including particularly the East African sub-region.

7. The results of the 1963 meeting have been summarized in the recently-published UNIDO Report on the First Session of the International Working Party on Industrial Programming Data (ID/MG.23/7). This document - along with the Aide-Memoire prepared for the meeting (ID/MG.23/1) - provides an introduction to the background, the vocabulary, and the issues of industrial programming data.

A. What is Industrial Programming Data?

8. Industrial programming is a complex, multi-faceted field which encompasses a wide variety of activity sub-sets, including among other things: preliminary general evaluations of industrial development potentials, the identification of specific industrial investment opportunities, the preparation of pre-feasibility, technical requirements, feasibility, locational and other pre-investment studies; the determination of a wide variety of targets, priorities and policy measures on sectoral, regional, and overall levels; etc.

9. Once it is realized just how broad is the spectrum of undertakings implied by the term 'industrial programming', then it becomes clear that this is a distinctly heterogeneous activity which is, in a very specific context, a synthesis of at least three more familiar disciplines - namely, economics, statistics and engineering.

10. In view of the very diversity of the activities which it is intended to support, it is clear that the term "industrial programming data" should be defined in similar breadth. Thus, it includes both the general informational requirements for, say, ministerial discussions of resource allocation at one extreme, and the specific data requirements for, say, the location of a productive facility at the other.

11. On the supply side, this synthesis takes an equally wide variety of forms, such that in practice industrial programming data includes not only that information generated characteristically by regular industry census and surveys but also a wide range of techno-economic data connected with the operational aspects of industrial development projects, programmes and plans.

B. Existing sources of programming data

12. In most developing countries where experience with industrial development is relatively recent, the existing base for (and data on) the industrial sector is relatively small, and as yet incapable of supplying the sort of time-series and cross-sectional data required for guiding decisions about the future. Therefore, it is important to make every effort (i) to improve indigenous data systems both within and outside normal statistical programmes, and at the same time (ii) to provide reliable reference programming data drawn from experience gained in other countries. The East African Working Party will address itself to both of these aspects of the programming data problem.

13. It was noted by the participants of the first session of the International Working Party that the national statistical programmes, as guided by the UN Statistical Commission, reflect and provide the broadest and, in many ways, the most essential information for general economic and industrial planning purposes. At the same time, however, it must be recognized that in many developing countries the existing (and even the projected) statistical systems are far from being adequate. Although improvements are taking place, they generally involve a slow and costly course of action. Accordingly, it was recognized that there is a real need for supplementary data systems, designed to yield relatively fast results for the programming needs of the immediate future.

14. It is clear that industry statistics in the conventional sense of the term are but only part of the data requirements for industrial programming purposes. Part of this gap is filled by the many ad hoc industrial surveys, pre-investment studies, and establishment-level case studies which are undertaken by a wide variety of different organizations for their own purposes.

15. It is important to note that, additionally, a number of other primary sources of data which are potentially useful for industrial programming purposes are available in the form of investment licences, import permits, export subsidy records, utility company bills, loan applications and other records on administrative operations.

16. Little co-ordination seems to exist among these many data-collecting efforts. Even the most limited of them can be expensive operations. Provision is seldom made for utilizing the information collected in order to develop a coherent stock of reference programming data for more general use. Accordingly, the prevalent pattern is one of data being generated, used once, and then - all too often - consigned to oblivion. Also, there are numerous indications that industrial enquiries of a more or less similar scope are repeatedly undertaken on different occasions by different types of organizations.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE WORKING PARTY

17. The Working Party has been structured quite broadly, so as to include representatives of a substantial cross-section of technical competence and institutional authority, particularly in as much as it is to attempt to draw up and implement specific remedial programmes which may cut across existing technical and institutional lines.

18. Thus the Working Party includes both representatives who are actively concerned on the one hand with (i) the operational aspects of industrial planning and project programming, and those who, on the other hand, are charged with (ii) the statistical systems and related data-generating activities which provide the data base for the above.

19. Attention should also be paid to the fact that the East African Working Party has been purposefully designed to operate as an on-going task force that will not only bring together on one occasion the senior technical staff of a variety of industrial development institutions, but also will take an active role in the design, implementation and follow-up of project proposals that are to arise as a result of the meeting.

20. The Working Party will draw on the resources of a Country, an International, and a Consultative component structured as follows:

(a) International component

- (i) East African Community
 - Common Market and Economic Affairs Secretary
 - Statistics Division
 - Industrial Studies Division
- (ii) East African Development Bank
 - Economics Division
 - Investment Division
- (iii) Economic Commission for Africa
 - Industry and Housing Division
- (iv) United Nations Industrial Development Organization
 - Industrial Policies and Programming Division

(b) Country component

- (i) East African Community: Member countries
 - Kenya
 - Tanzania
 - Uganda

Each of the three countries will be represented by a senior representative of the national statistical office (especially concerned with industry statistics), of the Ministry of

Commerce and Industry, and of the Ministry of Economic Development and Planning.

Moreover, invitations have been extended to the heads of the various national computer centres, as well as to the National Development Organizations. From Tanzania, active participation is expected also from:

- Industrial Studies and Development Centre.

(11) **East African Community: Applicant countries**

- Burundi
- Ethiopia
- Rwanda
- Somalia
- Swaziland
- Zambia

Invitations have also been extended to relevant governmental and semi-governmental institutions in those countries which have applied for membership in the East African Community.

(c) **Consultant component**

The Working Party will also include a Consultant Component, consisting of individual experts and organizations skilled in the fields of industrial planning, data processing, and system analysis.

21. Invitations will also be extended to a limited group of observer organizations, among which will be:

- The East African Regional Office of the World Bank, Nairobi
- The Regional Office of the Ford Foundation, Nairobi
- Local Representatives of major bilateral aid programmes

- The Economic Research Bureau, Dar es Salaam
- The Institute of Development Studies, Dar es Salaam
- The Institute for Social Research, Dar es Salaam
- A representative of some other sub-regional grouping, in anticipation of a subsequent Working Party in that area.

IV. PRE-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

22. In preparation for the proposed meeting, a number of pre-session activities are being carried out by various members of the Working Party. These include

- (i) a report entitled the Register of Businesses which is being prepared by a consultant as a first alternative showing how a certain data bank technique can be developed to improve the assembly and retrieval of information on business establishments and planned investment projects. This report has been prepared with particular reference to the supply side of the programming data problem.
- (ii) a report, the Industry Plan-Data System (tentative title), wherein an alternative programme is tentatively laid out indicating the outlines of a development methodology for a system to improve the availability, etc. of indigenous data for industrial programming purposes. This system concentrates more on the demand side of the data issue, and
- (iii) reports on existing computer facilities, software, uses, problems, and plans for several of the East African countries, as background materials for discussions on programmes which may require the use of such facilities, and
- (iv) a pre-session mission, which was sent out to each of the principal organisations to be represented at

the Working Party meeting. The mission was charged with the task of

- a. the identification and briefing of potential participants,
- b. finalizing the proposed agenda, and
- c. specifying the contents of the background documents which are to be prepared by each of the participants prior to the convening of the meeting

V. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

23. The East African Working Party will open its meeting at ten o'clock on the morning of 24 November in the Main Hall of the East African Community Regional Headquarters on Ngong Road in Nairobi, and will spend one week in considering the issues outlined below. Saturday the 29th will be held as a reserve day which can be used, should the participants so agree. In-so-far-as possible, the time allotted to the proposed meeting will be utilized mainly for deliberations focused on specific project proposals, rather than for a general conceptual clarification of the problem area.

24. Since, however, the participants in the Working Party come from a rather wide variety of development institutions, and represent an even greater spectrum of professional backgrounds and interests, they will first have to be brought on to a common footing with regard to the operational aspects of the agenda. On the one hand, the statisticians, whose daily concern is the operation and improvement of industrial registers, censuses, and other statistical survey procedures, ought to be acquainted with the problems and needs against which their outputs are utilized. On the other hand, the representatives of

the several institutions, offices, units or working teams participating in various phases of the planning-implementation process must be made aware of the problems likely to be encountered by any program designed to upgrade the available data base for their operational requirements. The process is, thus, very much one of mutual education of planners and statisticians, as well as of the representative of the national and multi-national units.

25. The agenda given below has been structured to allow for: (i) the proper introduction of the concept of Industrial Programming Data, with a brief explanation of other on-going efforts in this field; (ii) the systematic evaluation of existing sources of industrial programming data in East Africa; (iii) a careful review of the data requirements of industrial planning and project implementation at various levels of operation and finally (iv) the consideration of several specific projects which show promise of providing useful additions to the stock of data useful for industrial programming and planning activities in the region, as well as (v) a brief summary of computer availabilities and uses in several East African countries.

26. Nota Bene It is strongly recommended that each participant prepare, prior to his attendance at the meeting, a technical review and supporting documentation as to the main facts, trends, and desiderata, concerning those aspects of the agenda particularly relevant for his own activities. Also he is urged to examine and submit information on any relevant project proposals that have been either already initiated or being prepared for eventual implementation in his country and/or organization. Such positive participation by all participants will play a critical role in guaranteeing the success of the Working Party.

A G E N D A

(A) General introduction - Industrial Programming Data

- Definitions
- Review of on-going projects, including
 - The Stages of Project Preparation 1/
 - Profiles of Manufacturing Establishments 1/
 - Profiles of Pre-investment Industrial Project Studies 1/
- Brief review of difficulties encountered in carrying out Profiles case studies of industrial establishments in East Africa. (To be prepared by IndCentre, Dar es Salaam and the Industrial Programming Section of UNIDO.)

(B) Sources of indigenous industrial programming data

(i) Data on existing enterprises.

- Information collected directly from enterprises under regular statistical programmes. (To be prepared by participants, representing National Statistical Offices);
- Information available from other sources (licensing offices, tax offices, financing agencies, employment agencies, insurance and utilities companies, etc.);
- Forms in which the above information is currently processed and made available for each particular use;
- Any special processing for uses connected with in-

1/ Special UNIDO projects in progress.

ustrial planning and related governmental activities;
etc.

(ii) Data on projected enterprises (intentional statistics):

- Available sources (project studies, promotion offices, investment licensing offices, financing agencies, etc.);
- Procedures in industrial planning offices for taking stock of, evaluating, integrating and following up on investment projects at various stages of preparation;
- Any systematic linkage to information on existing enterprises, etc.

(C) Specification and uses of industrial programming data (To be prepared by participants representing industrial/planning ministries and national development corporations)

- (i) Regional and national industrial planning at the overall and sectoral levels;
- (ii) Industrial programming at the project level, at each of several specified stages of project, preparation, evaluation, implementation, and follow-up;
- (iii) General review of desiderata for programming data from the user's viewpoint.

(D) Other related data issues

- (i) Review of availability of complimentary data from sources other than the domestic industrial sector per se, such as:
 - Prices;
 - Manpower;
 - Trade;
 - Natural resources;
 - Investment expenditures;
 - Income and consumption, etc.

- (ii) Industrial classification systems in use
 - Coding for identification of enterprises (and projects, if any);
 - Activity (industry group) classification;
 - Commodity classification/trade classification;
 - Equipment, labour and other classification schemes.

(iii) Uses and availabilities of computer facilities in selected East African countries.

(E) Scope for improved data gathering and processing on the national and multi-national levels

(i) Specified needs for improved (a) reference programming data and (b) indigenous data systems;

(ii) Specific proposals envisaged.

(iii) Scope for inter-country co-ordination.

(F) Specific project proposals

(i) Industry file systems

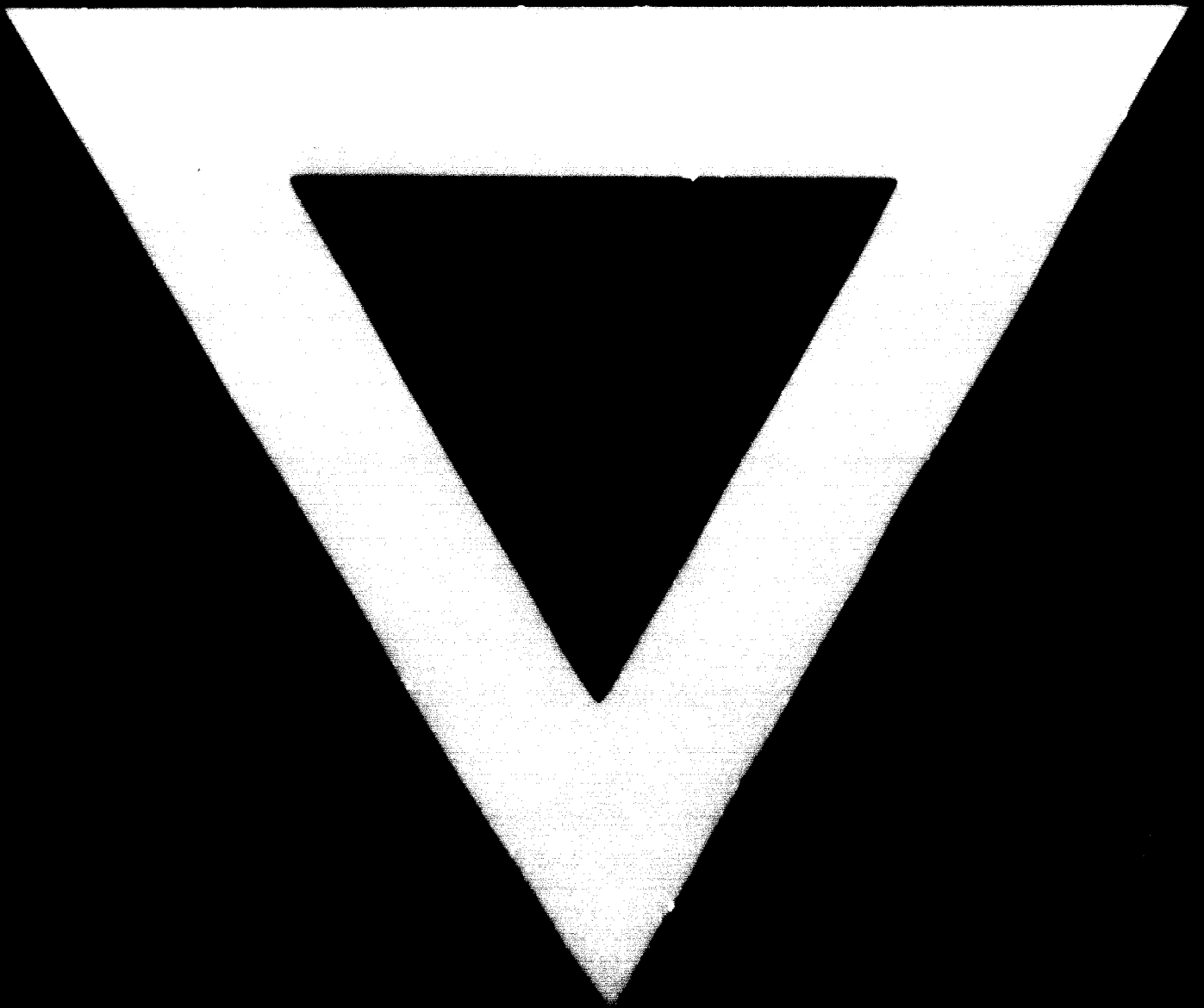
(a) Register of Businesses variant,

(b) Plan-Data System proposal.

Both of these proposals will be examined first as potential planning tools at the national level and then with respect to their multi-national potential.

(ii) Other proposals.





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