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**STANDARDIZATION AND QUALITY CONTROL THE KEY FACTORS  
TO ADVANCE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO TECHNICAL PROGRESS ✓**

**by**

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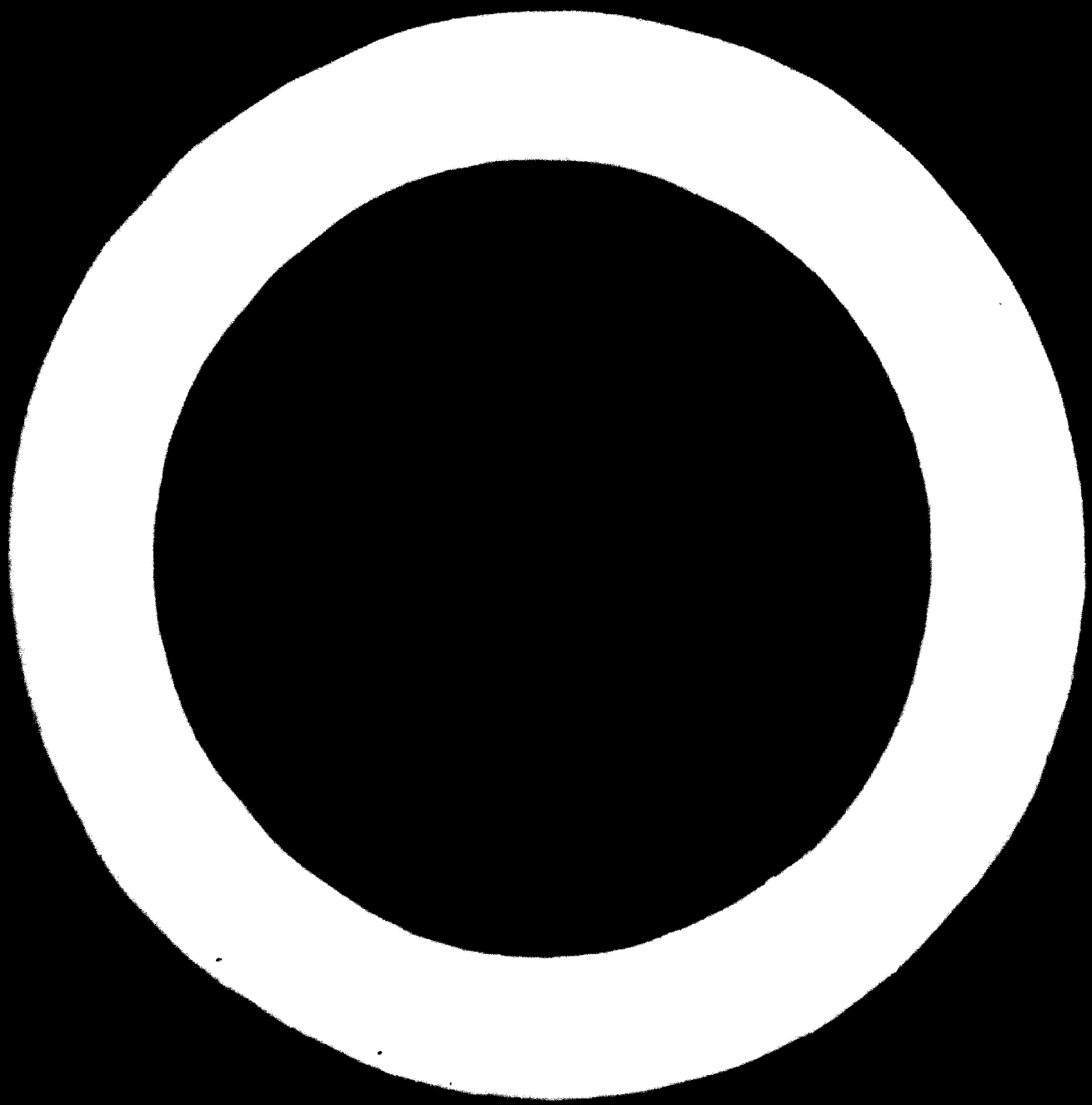
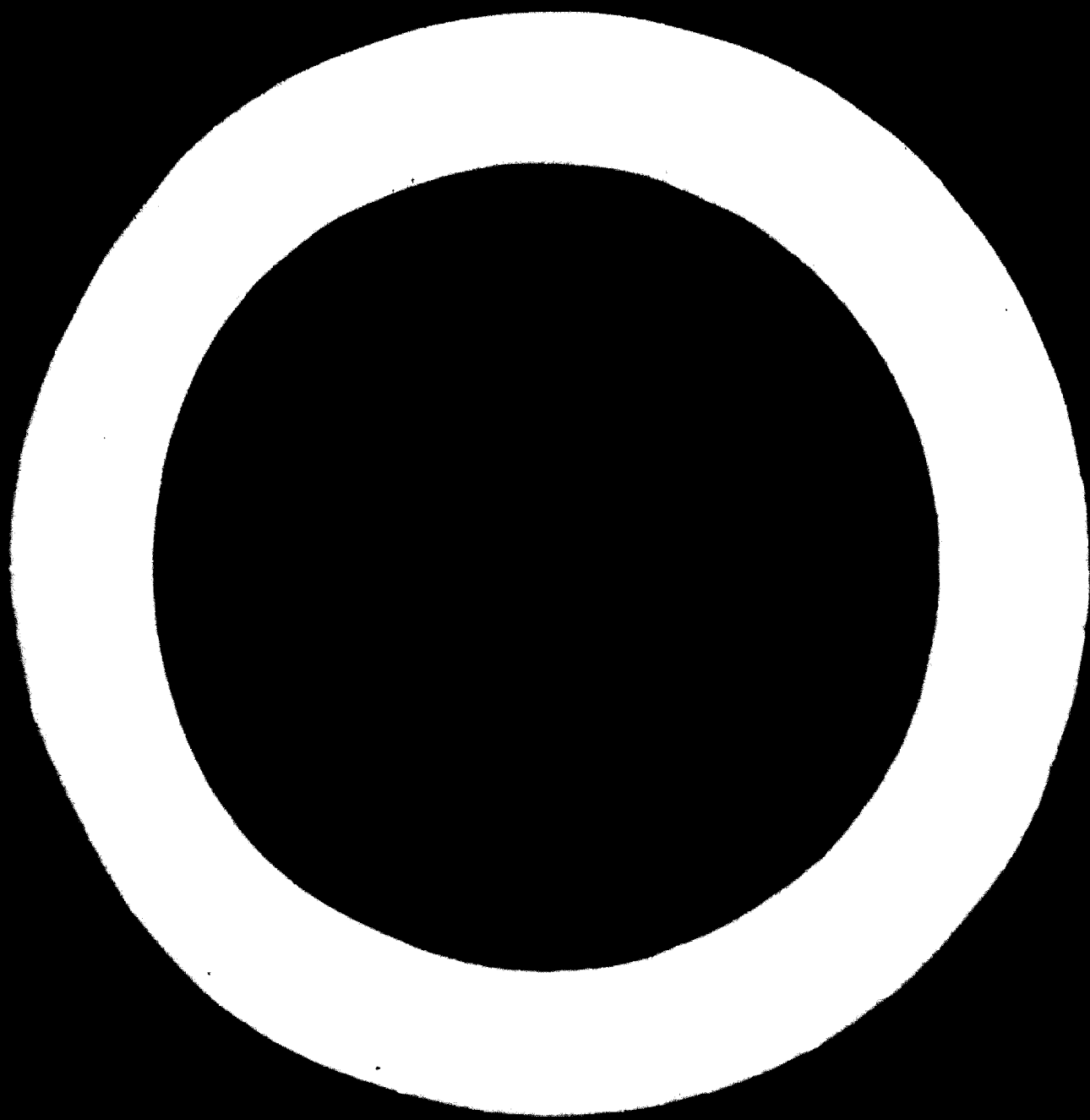


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I. THE ROLE OF STANDARDIZATION AND QUALITY CONTROL IN INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The present and future economic development is now the key problem for most of the countries which have broken free from their colonial yoke. The developing countries now devote special attention to their industrial development which aims at creating an advanced industry - the basis of economic independence.

The real opportunity for independent economic development has arisen and is translated into reality by peoples of the newly-independent states in rather a favourable historical epoch - the general and final crisis of the colonial system and the general upsurge of the national liberation movement of the oppressed peoples.

The young sovereign states have to surmount great difficulties on the road to their development, yet they have every opportunity to organize industrial and agricultural production along the most up-to-date lines. These countries are building their economies with due regard to the latest technical achievements and to the most modern and time-tested organizational forms, methods and means. These achievements allow them to gain some advantages in planning and effecting their industrialisation over the industrially-advanced countries which have traversed rather a complicated and problem-ridden path to achieve modern scientific and technical progress.

The modern state of industrial development is characterized by further advances in technological processes; large-scale introduction of complex mechanisation and automation; more complicated machinery and mechanisms; application of new materials with high physical and technical properties, and the specialisation and co-operation of production.

The optimal dimensions of industrial enterprises, which make production economically effective, have assumed gigantic proportions as a result of scientific and technical progress and the law of concentration of production. Thus, there is an objective necessity to build large-scale enterprises equipped with modern machinery which apply progressive methods of technology and organisation of production.

The problems of standardisation and higher quality control not only of ready-made products but also of raw materials, semi-finished

products, various materials and of set articles whose quality, in most cases, accounts for reliability and endurance of ready-made products, are now assuming special significance too.

The key trend in the struggle waged by the developing countries for their economic independence is to eliminate the aftermath of colonial rule, overcome the agrarian specialization of their economy, develop their productive forces and to create a multiform complex of national economy.

The rates of economic development of the newly-independent countries depends largely on the successful and speedy solution of many problems including:

1. Planned industrial development
2. Production specialization and co-operation
3. Expansion and diversification of export to provide the industrial programmes with foreign currency
4. Higher quality of manufactured products
5. Rational use of the national mineral resources
6. Rapid development of electric power engineering, transport communications and trade
7. Expansion of co-operation with the industrially advanced countries and large-scale application of their experience
8. National cadres' training
9. Organization of research work

The organized state efforts on standardization can largely contribute to the solution of these problems. It is a well-known fact that standardization organized on a national scale proves an effective technical tool in solving successfully the problems of steady industrial and economic development and in setting the unified requirements for the quality of products sold out in the markets at home and abroad. Standardization allows the exercise of regular control over the observance of the adopted technical requirements.

At the present stage of industrial and economic development, standardization is a means which allows, on the one hand, the acceleration of production and application of new machinery, ensuring optimal quality of products, and on the other hand, it provides some conditions for a mass-scale and highly effective production. By putting standards into effect the state in fact determines the required technical level in some of the branches and paves the way to further technical progress through selecting the best means, production methods and materials.

Standardization is a method for a large-scale and organized introduction in industry of scientific and technical experiments. It accelerates technical progress, making it common property and shortens



the way from scientific experiments and discoveries to the industrial mastery of new products or to new industrial methods. In order to avoid the problem-ridden path of standardization development in the industrially-advanced countries, many of the young sovereign states have decided after winning their independence, to make minimal use of the standards of their one time "parent" states and develop their own national standards which they regard as an effective impact on technical and economic progress.

The creation of industrial potential, organization of research experiments, reforms in the fields of state management, finance, education and a number of other factors combined have provided the basis for the emergence and further advancement of national standardization in the developing countries and greatly extended the prospects for its impact on various economic and technical spheres.

To fulfil their industrial programmes, the developing countries are supposed to provide for in their national plans of industrial development, the organization and further advancement of standardization to serve as a powerful booster to the continuous and harmonic growth of industry, trade, transport, etc.

The developing countries are seeking to create in the shortest span of time the foundations for their own national industry. To solve this problem easier it is necessary to make a rational use of standardization beginning from the initial stages of planning and implementation of development programmes.

India which makes successful use of the advantages and opportunities afforded by standardization with due regard to specific local conditions in national industrial development, may serve as a good example to this policy. Thus the native influence exerted by the state national service for standardization has greatly improved such industrial branches as metallurgical, engineering, construction materials and others.

The introduction of the national standards in India, intended for engineering steels, has reduced the application of imported alloyed metals such as nickel and molybdenum and substituted them for manganese and chrome extracted in India itself. This progress has made it possible to plan the construction in India of alloyed-steel manufacturing works. The elaboration of standards for alloyed and special steels has resulted in reducing the number of their types from 1,000 to 130.

The introduction of standards in designing steel, which provides for more optimal and effective forms and dimensions of sections, has made it possible to save 10 per cent of steel every year. The application of all standards for steel constructions alone is estimated by Indian economists to save 1,235 million rupees in the fourth five-year plan for national development (1966 - 1971).<sup>1/</sup>

As a result of research work and a thorough analysis of foreign standards, Indian specialists have worked out some national recommendations which advance the application of aluminium as a substitute for copper in electric conductors without impairing the quality of the output. The introduction of these recommendations has resulted in accelerating the national output of aluminium. Thus, elaboration of national standards helps to make better use of the country's raw materials.

The Indian economists estimated that the standardization of interchangeable units and parts can yield to the country a great economic effect. They also calculated that the standardization of interchangeable components in tractors and mechanical ploughs alone could save 200 million rupees a year.<sup>2/</sup>

We could cite here quite a few examples showing other developing countries who also apply standardization in the programmes for their industrial construction, but space does not permit. Apart from standardization, adequate organization of quality control over industrial and agricultural production is also of great significance for the further development of national industrial and economic progress. The rational organization of this system and its introduction on a large scale in to production can improve considerably the quality of products without incurring great capital investments on modern equipment and new technology. These advantages are of special importance for competition on a higher level, of goods sold by the developing countries on the world market, and for the further development of their foreign trade which is the major source for obtaining foreign currency used in their industrial programmes. It is therefore quite natural that the developing countries are compelled to focus their attention on a higher quality of their national products.

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<sup>1/</sup> Dr. A. H. Gosh's report made at DEVCONF, Moscow 1967, p.11

<sup>2/</sup> ISI Bulletin, February 1969, Vol. 21, No. 2 p.81

Elaboration and application of standards for export goods which are still in production; introduction of certifying marking; organization of state quality control over export goods; the introduction of standard testing methods and some other measures, enabled some of the developing countries to make appreciable progress in the development of their foreign trade. Thus, for instance, elaboration and introduction of standards meeting the present demands of the world market and introduction of control over the quality of products, enabled some countries such as India, Iran, United Arab Republic, Turkey, Sudan, Morocco, Lebanon and others, to have made appreciable progress in the export of cotton and woollen textiles, leather substitutes, electric ventilators, various plastic goods, tyres, refrigerators, sewing machines, air-conditioning installations, a wide range of agricultural produce, timber and other goods. Such high-grade goods are sold not only in the markets of Asia and Africa, but also in the USSR, Britain, F. R. G. and other industrially advanced countries.

These examples show that standardization and quality control occupy pride of place in the export policies of the developing countries and so pave the way to the markets of the industrially advanced countries and secure the influx of foreign currency.

## II. INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR THE ELABORATION AND INTRODUCTION OF STANDARDS AND THEIR ACCEPTABILITY TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Appreciable progress made by young sovereign states in the development of their national standardisation can be by no means viewed separately from the general development of world standardisation, their participation in international co-operation on standardisation and from the experience accumulated through this co-operation.

The programmes for industrial advancement of the developing countries cannot be fully realised without national standardisation, and the latter cannot develop successfully apart from the work on international standardization. International standardisation seems to provide equal access to the world market of all countries and it also grants them the opportunity to advance their export industries. The developing countries are now looking forward eagerly to advancing international standardisation. This fact can be explained by their desire to turn out products which could, regardless of importing countries, comply with various demands of foreign markets.

The International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) are now most active international organizations in standardization. They include the member countries which account for about 90 per cent of the world's volume of trade. The developing countries could, through active participation in these organizations, exert a favourable influence on further development of foreign trade contacts. However, these organizations do not make sufficient allowance for the specific features and interests of the overwhelming majority of the newly-independent countries which have set out to build their independent economy. This can be explained by the fact that ISO and IEC outline the problems, subjects and trends of their work, guided by the pressing needs of the countries who are industrially advanced and are responsible for running these organizations and their technical committees. The developing countries therefore, often regard international recommendations on standardization as unacceptable, particularly the recommendations on the qualitative characteristics of products and their testing methods. These recommendations take, as a rule, no heed to some specific features of production, operation and methods of quality control which are inherent in most of the developing countries due to some climatic factors, (temperature, humidity, higher solar radiation, atmospheric pressure, etc.); means and organization of production and national traditions and cultures. Therefore, they are not particularly applicable to the developing countries.

In addition, the ISO does not elaborate many recommendations on standardization for the traditional items exported by the developing countries. Actually the list of recommendations which can be used by the developing countries <sup>3/</sup> includes only 39 out of the 1,400 adopted by the ISO, which proves how limited the recommendations are for the needs of national services for standardization as far as practical application is concerned. To date only some of the international recommendations on standardization which include terminology, symbols and testing methods, may to a certain extent, stimulate interest among the developing countries.

The complicated, multi-stage and rather drawn-out procedure for the elaboration and adoption of international recommendations on standardization, proves - along with limited finances and a shortage of cadres - to be a serious obstacle preventing the developing countries from actively participating in international standardization and from making effective use of its experience.

The adoption of international recommendations on standardization is preceded, as a rule, by repeated discussions lasting many years, on a great number of draft proposals and recommendations. In view of the time factor being of great importance to their industrial and economic development, developing countries often have not the opportunity of taking advantage of the experience accumulated by international organizations for standardization.

To co-ordinate their aid programmes for the developing countries, ISO founded DEVPRO (Promotion of Standardization in the Developing Countries); a new body which includes representatives from the central secretariats of ISO, IEC, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and UNIDO. This body is called upon to elaborate recommendations and conclusions at the request of the countries who call for international assistance in standardization.

The session of DEVCO (Development Committee of the ISO Council) held in March 1969, emphasized that DEVPRO, would send to various countries experts on standardization, provide consultations on the organization of standardisation, supply various equipment, etc. It would also collect accounts of its work which might be of certain interest to the developing countries and could serve as a basis for the elaboration of international recommendations. DEVPRO will, undoubtedly, contribute to a fuller and more extensive use of the potential and advantages afforded by international standardisation to the developing countries.

The young sovereign states also have limited opportunities for using standards of the industrially-advanced countries as their protocol. This can be explained by the fact that national standards in each of the countries are developing in accordance with the attained technical and technological levels of production, concrete programmes for economic and social advancement, available local resources and with traditional methods and organisation of production. It is obvious therefore, that the developing countries cannot now make maximum use of standards elaborated by the industrially-advanced countries with all specific features inherent in their production. Yet, it cannot be an exception to the fact that standards elaborated now by the advanced countries serve, without question, as some valuable information which allows the developing countries to take advantage of many years experience in the creation and development of their national services for standardisation.

### III. ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR STANDARDIZATION AND QUALITY CONTROL; THEIR STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

The developing countries which have set out to build an independent national economy and make great progress in advancing industry and agriculture, and promote the living and cultural standards of their people, regard standardization as having potential for the fulfilment of their plans. Although governments in many developing countries claim that industrial policy is one of the main pillars in their economic activity, it should be noted that the forms, methods and results of this policy may vary considerably, as does the attitude of these countries to the problems of standardization and its industrial and economic application.

It is a well-known fact that the developing countries differ greatly in their industrial and economic advancement and in the development of their national standardization and metrology. Some have set up national organizations for standardization metrology and quality control others solve their problems through either ministries or industrial research experiments and trade transactions; while others have just set about studying their pressing problems in these fields of science. Each group therefore is faced with its own problems whose solution is now one of the top priorities in their economic and industrial development.

The countries who do not have as yet organized state efforts on standardization, are advised to set up a special body responsible for all actions taken in national standardization, metrology and quality control. The body may be either a governmental office or department, which could in the future be developed into a national organization for standardisation. The multi-purpose state institution, responsible for national standardisation, metrology, research experiments and industrial control, is another form of organization acceptable from the financial and staffing points of view. Such institutions are now successfully functioning in Iran, Singapore and some other countries. Depending on the general economic level and on the advancement of industry and agriculture, these institutions may serve as a basis for the establishment of highly-specialised organisations run either by ministries or by some other state bodies.

It is hardly possible to provide now a universal solution to the organization of national services for standardisation, metrology and quality control in the developing countries which do not have such institutions. Each country has its own specific problems which call for

an individual combination of certain efforts in standardization and lead to the creation of a model organisation which includes some institutions or other organizations. However, it is obvious that the creation of a national organization for standardization, its functions, rights and obligations, industrial and social contacts should be regulated by national state legislation. Regardless of their structure, national organizations for standardization in the developing countries should function to:

- elaborate and introduce national standards in industry and trade;
- control and test products and materials to assess their quantities and suitability;
- store national measuring and weighing standards and certify all working standards used in trade and industry ;
- elaborate and publicize the "Quality Stamp", distribute and control licences intended for their application;
- organize and co-ordinate product control systems before their dispatch and quality control of export goods ;
- train specialists in standardization, metrology, quality control, testing procedures and other similar lines;
- co-operate, maintain and develop contacts with other national and international organizations whose activity and tasks coincide with those of the national organization;
- provide consultations to Government, industrial and trade organizations on scientific and technical problems related to standardization, metrology and quality control;
- effect all other legal acts which would promote the solution of any of the above-mentioned problems.

#### IV. INTRODUCTION OF QUALITY CONTROL METHODS IN PRODUCTION

The developing countries have lately attached special significance to a large-scale introduction of quality control systems, and to marking the manufactured goods by national "quality stamps". These measures increase the states responsibility for the quality of products, allow it to establish a strict control over the observance of standard requirements and bind to effect the pre-shipping inspection of export goods. They prove to be most effective when they are provided for by state legislation. Some countries in Asia and the Middle East have now special legal acts providing for the introduction of quality control system in industry, agriculture and consumption.

These legal acts specify the rights and obligations of national organizations responsible for the elaboration and introduction of national standards which are mandatory for some kinds of products; commission them to certify various goods and products as complying with national standards; make it compulsory to effect state control over the quality of products and incur legal and financial responsibility for the output of defective products.

All these factors combined, stimulate recognition and trust among the importing countries of the products marked with the "Quality Stamp", produce a favourable effect on the realization of goods in foreign markets; protect the interests of national consumers; heighten the demand for the goods manufactured by national industry and so reduce the necessity of importing them. The certification of goods with the "Quality Stamp" is, without question, a good practice which is now successfully effected by many of the developing countries such as India, Iran, United Arab Republic, Turkey and others.

The maximum use of standards and quality control systems affords in the present economic situation some considerable benefits to manufacturers, consumers and to the economies of the country as a whole.

By determination and establishment in a compulsory order of the optimal grades and technical requirements for raw materials, units, parts, semi-finished and ready-made products; standardization creates, in the sphere of production, favourable conditions for :-

- further expansion of production scales
- specialized enterprises and separate shops
- introduction and a fuller use of up-to-date technological methods and high-capacity equipment
- higher quality of manufactured products
- minimal industrial losses and lower production costs
- simplification and rationalization of storage, packing, marking and transportation of products.

The wide application of national standards in the sphere of consumption creates ample conditions for reducing the number of grades of necessary materials and spare parts; provides firm guarantees of quality, reliability, safety, interchangeability of units and their parts; and simplifies the supply of necessary materials and equipment.

One of the chief advantages afforded by standardization in the initial stage of industrial development is the elimination of the unjustified types and kinds of products and the adjustment of various



ranges, characteristics, symbols and measuring units, etc.

National organizations for standardization, metrology and quality control in some of the developing countries are now making appreciable progress in advancing their industry and national economy. This refers first of all to the countries which have set out to build up their national organisations for standardization immediately after they have won their political independence.

Although industrialization and economic reconstruction in the developing countries brings fresh and complicated problems before their national standardization, they do not in fact, use to the full extent the advantages afforded them by standardization in general. The effective co-operation carried out in standardization and quality control of products on regional and international scales is now one of such important reserves to promote the industrial advancement of the developing countries.

V. CO-OPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION AND QUALITY CONTROL ON REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCALES

To accelerate the present-day rates of economic advancement, the developing countries have been devoting over the last few years, more and more of their attention to the problems of mutual economic co-operation. The necessity for further development of this co-operation is chiefly dictated by the fact that more than 70 per cent of the current foreign trade turnover in the developing countries accounts for the inter-regional trade turnover. In view of the fact that the present day productive forces and political conditions do not allow all-round economic integration to be put into effect, the developing countries have set out to pursue a half-way policy in order to establish such economic co-operation.

Economic co-operation among the developing countries, brought forth by the need to accelerate the creation of their independent economy and develop the productive forces by expanding the market and abolishing exploitation on the part of the imperialist monopolies, puts forward some objective tasks on the organization of close co-operation in the fields of standardisation and quality control of products which prevail in the mutual trade turnover.

Technical co-operation among the developing countries, in the field of standardization, finds sympathy and support on the part of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The recent conferences on industrial development, sponsored by the United Nations regional economic commissions, examined the role and significance of co-operation among the newly independent countries, in standardization at the present stage of their industrial development. With the help of, and under the aegis of these commissions, the United Nations has set up in recent years special regional organizations called upon to co-ordinate and render assistance to the countries in building and strengthening their national organizations for standardization. At present these include:

The Asian Standards Advisory Committee under the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) which unites sixteen countries of Asia and the Far East, including three industrially-advanced, namely, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

The Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology which unites seven countries from the League of Arab States - Jordan, Iraq, Syria, the United Arab Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon and Libya.

The aims and tasks of these organizations are dictated by the specific features of the regional countries. They take into account their economic conditions and seek to render an all-round assistance to the further advancement of standardization in the regional member countries. These regional organizations aim at :-

- elaborating and effecting some measures on advancing national organizations for standardization and on furthering the co-operation among regional countries;
- working out a regional technical policy in standardisation with the help of international organizations for standardisation and metrology;
- elaborating some measures on advancing and strengthening the co-operation with the United Nations and make effective use of UNIDO and UNESCO aid programmes.

Along with these efforts the regional organizations now attach great significance to the elaboration and co-ordination of the mutually agreed national standards in those spheres and for those goods which are never examined by ISO and IEC, but stimulate great interest among the member countries of these regional organizations in advancement of their mutual economic co-operation.

The Asian Standards Advisory Committee, for example, is now doing some work to co-ordinate national standards for a wide range of concrete products which are of vital significance to the further development of economic and trade contacts among the ECAFE member countries. These products include steel and steel constructions, natural rubber, timber, tea, rice, coco-oil, domestic appliances and elaboration of testing methods (standard atmosphere for tests and air-conditioning).

The regional organizations also devote great attention to the advancement of their co-operation in international organizations for standardisation. In this respect, the member countries of these organisations might take a certain interest in the solution of the following problems:

- the thorough analysis of the terms of reference of each Technical Committee, Sub-Committee and Working Group ;
- substantiation of rational scientific, technical and economic standpoints of view to be discussed at international conferences;
- assistance in the organization of new Technical Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups and their Secretariats;
- organization of joint representation in international organizations in order to co-ordinate recommendations for the sake of regional interests, etc.

The successful solution of all these problems with the assistance and support of international organizations and industrialized countries will promote the activity of the developing countries in international standardisation and contribute to a fuller and more effective use of these efforts in strengthening further their national economies.

Realizing the necessity for their participation in international organisations for standardization, some of the regional and national organisations for standardization acknowledge that it is expedient to take part in the activity of international organization for quality control. The Arab Organisation for Standardization and Metrology (Arab countries) for instance, and the Philippine Organization for Quality Control in a Small-Series Production, are now institutional members of the European Organization for Quality Control (EOQC). The EOQC status provides for all institutional members, the right to receive its documentation and periodicals and take part in the activity of its scientific and technical bodies.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In conclusion it should be emphasized that the progress and prospects of national standardization in some developing countries, depends on their government's policy for future economic development; the level of industrial potential, content, form and structure of foreign economic contacts ; and on the orientation of long-term political and economic programmes.

It is beyond doubt that in most of the developing countries, national standardization cannot originate and develop successfully in similar form and content, even when the political and economic policies of these countries have much in common. The specific economic, social, ethnic, climatic and geographical factors all combined are sure to leave their imprint on organizational forms, methods and contacts with industry and government organizations, thus crystallizing the place and role of standardization in national economic life. Yet irrespective of any differences, it is possible to single out those key problems whose well-timed and prompt solution will help to advance and heighten further the role and significance of standardization in implementing national programmes for technical development. These include :

- elaboration of national stage services for standardization, metrology and quality control at an early stage of national industrial development;
- changeover to metrication to accelerate the present rates of scientific and technical progress;
- maximum use of the experience accumulated in standardization by international organizations and industrialized countries;
- more active co-operation with international organizations for standardization, metrology and quality control.

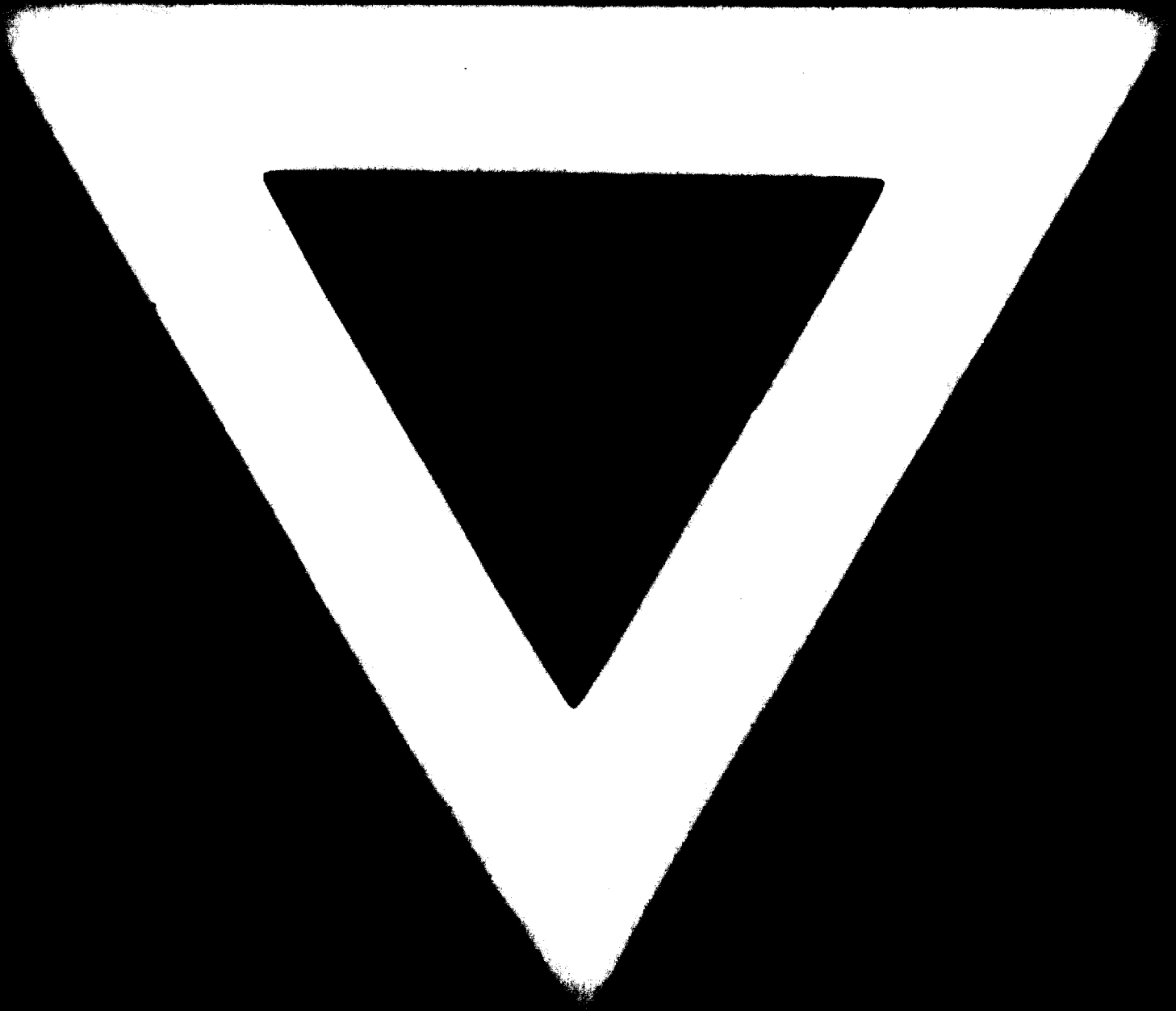
The United Nations and its organizations such as UNIDO and UNESCO, have expressed their concern over the shortcomings in the advancement of standardization in the developing countries and offering them at the same time considerable assistance in the solution of these problems.

The creation and strengthening of national services for standardization, metrology and quality control ; effective use of their experience for the development of industry, agriculture, home and foreign trade and other spheres of economic, technical and social activity prove at the present time to be rather complicated but quite solvable to most of the developing countries.

The nature of modern economic, scientific and technical contacts among nations makes it possible for us to conclude that the developing countries will not be left alone on the path to economic and industrial development. International organisations and industrialized countries render and will continue to render assistance to the developing countries to enable them to achieve their chief goal - the creation of an independent national economy.

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