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COUNTRY PAPER 1/

HONG KONG

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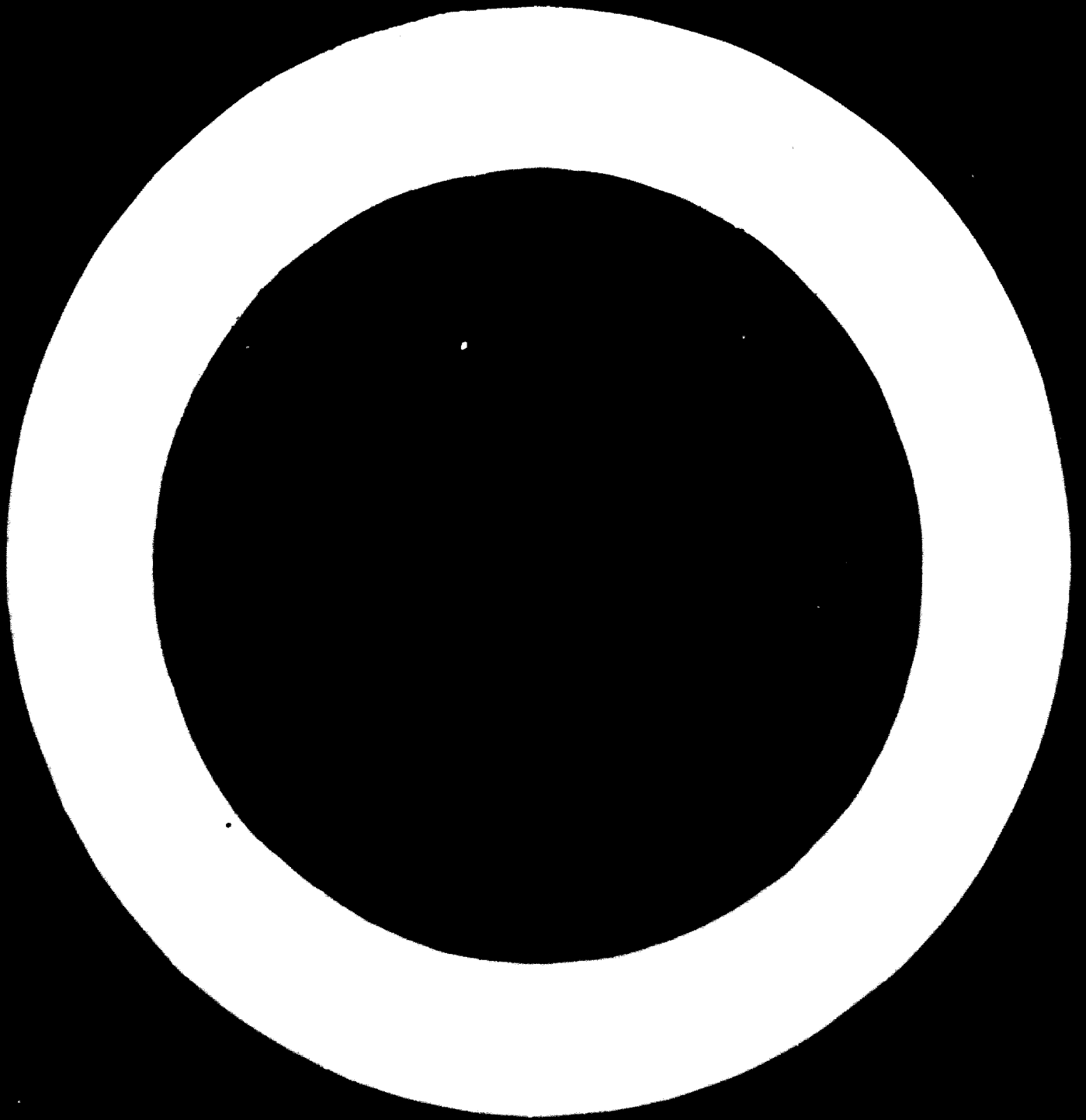
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Organised in co-operation with the Iranian Government

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Hong Kong

Wit in a period of twenty years, Hong Kong has been transformed from an entrepot economy to one based on industrial exports. This rapid industrialization has brought with it the need for information on current industrial procedures and new technology and processes.

The following bodies and organizations in Hong Kong contribute to the collection and dissemination of industrial information.

Government Departments

There are a number of Government departments concerned in one way or another with industrial information, particularly the Commerce and Industry Department and the Labour Department.

Industrial Organizations

1. **The Hong Kong Productivity Centre.** The Hong Kong Productivity Council was established by government statute in 1967 to provide industry with the institutional means of improving productivity. The Council is a national advisory and policy making body which controls, by means of an Executive Committee, the operations of the autonomous Productivity Centre.

The Centre's activities include:

- To consult with, co-ordinate and assist the activities of persons or organisations, either in Hong Kong or elsewhere, engaged in the study, development or dissemination of programmes, methods or techniques designed to increase productivity in industry;
- To stimulate interest in productivity;
- To collect and disseminate information relating to productivity;
- To encourage, by any means, the study of productivity and the training of persons in any matters relating to increased productivity;
- To provide consultancy services and technical assistance for persons or organizations engaged in industry.

The Centre's information services are mainly in the fields of management techniques and technology and include the following:

- Publications. A monthly bilingual bulletin is produced which has a circulation of over 8,000 and contains studies and commentaries on the latest productivity techniques, regional news, articles by local commercial and industrial experts, and news about the current and future activities of the Centre. Technical reports on study missions on modern industrial techniques, organized in conjunction with the Asian Productivity Organization are issued and widely distributed by the Centre.
- Audio Visual Service. The Centre's collection of films and film strips on management and productivity techniques have mostly been dubbed into Cantonese. Its mobile film unit visits local industries on request.
- Translation. The Centre has embarked upon a long-range programme for the systematic collection, translation and dissemination of terminology for selected industrial activities.
- Machinery Data Bank. Data on heavy and light equipment is maintained to enable the Centre to inform industry of the latest developments and to advise on the availability and relative merits and performance of various types of equipment. The data bank includes catalogues and technical specifications on both local and imported machinery and equipment.
- Technical Reference Library. Particular attention is given to the collection of literature on technology and publications on modern management techniques. The library is intended to supplement the holdings of other libraries in Hong Kong, and efforts are therefore made to avoid duplication of material easily available from other sources. The services provided by the library include a loan service, a photocopying service and a reference service. The library also

published up-to-date catalogues, and undertakes literature searches.

- Seminars and training programmes. These are organized to cover many areas of productivity techniques and technology.
- Technical assistance. This is provided mainly for the small scale industries. The development of new products and manufacturing processes, the selection of new materials and machinery and the design of simple machines and equipment fall into this category of assistance.
- Management consultancy. The available services cover a wide field, but may be conveniently listed under four heads: general management, production management, financial management and personnel management.

2. The Federation of Hong Kong Industries. This semi-official body was established by special ordinance of the Hong Kong Government. The services offered to industry by the Federation include, but are not limited to, storage, handling, retrieval and dissemination of industrial information. The following are included among its information services:

- Publications. "The Federation News" which is a bilingual monthly publication provides information on industrial standards and technology. Useful trade and industrial information is from time to time published by the Federation in the form of directories and bulletins. Plans to expand this service are being considered whereby the regular publication of technical bulletins would be undertaken.
- Translations. These are undertaken for the benefit of the Chinese-speaking industrial community.
- Trade and Tariffs Information Service. An up-to-date registry of manufacturers and their products is kept by the Federation as well as current information on tariffs. Trade and industrial information on Hong Kong is also provided to prospective importers.
- Product Testing. The Federation's laboratories test a wide range of products and the resulting technical information is passed on to industry.

- Reference Libraries. Since the Federation became a member of the International Organization for Standardisation, the Industrial Standards Library has been established to provide Hong Kong manufacturers with information on the standards required by importing countries and on those recommended by international standards organizations.

- Training Courses and Seminars. Courses on various subjects are conducted by local and overseas experts.

- Technical Consultancy. This service is provided by the technical staff of the Federation.

3. The Hong Kong Management Association - which is sponsored by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, maintains a library with material on management subjects and a wide range of current periodicals. Training courses and seminars are conducted regularly by local and overseas experts. The Association published

"The Hong Kong Manager" which reports on modern trends in scientific management.

4. The Trade Development Council.

5. The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

6. Chinese Manufacturers' Association.

Universities

1. University of Hong Kong.

2. Chinese University of Hong Kong.

3. Hong Kong Technical College.

Conclusion

The information services of Hong Kong maintain contact with each other and also with international organizations. The Federation of Hong Kong Industries is a member of the International Organization for Standardisation bodies. The Productivity Centre is a member of the International Federation of Documentation (FID). The Management Association is the Hong Kong affiliate of the International Council for Scientific Management and International Co-operation. The

information services also work in liaison with the Asia Foundation, the APO, ECAFE, ECA, ILO, OECD, UNDP, and UNIDO. There is, however, scope for further international and regional co-operation, as information centres cannot work in isolation but must be linked with other networks of information. Such co-operation can be realised through meetings and seminars. The UNIDO workshop is a good beginning towards advancement in this field.





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