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203050



Distr.
LIMITED

ID/WG.77/CP.5
15 November 1971

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Seminar on Industrial Information
(for the ECAFE and ECA regions)

Tehran, Iran, 14 - 25 September 1970

COUNTRY PAPER 1/

INDIA

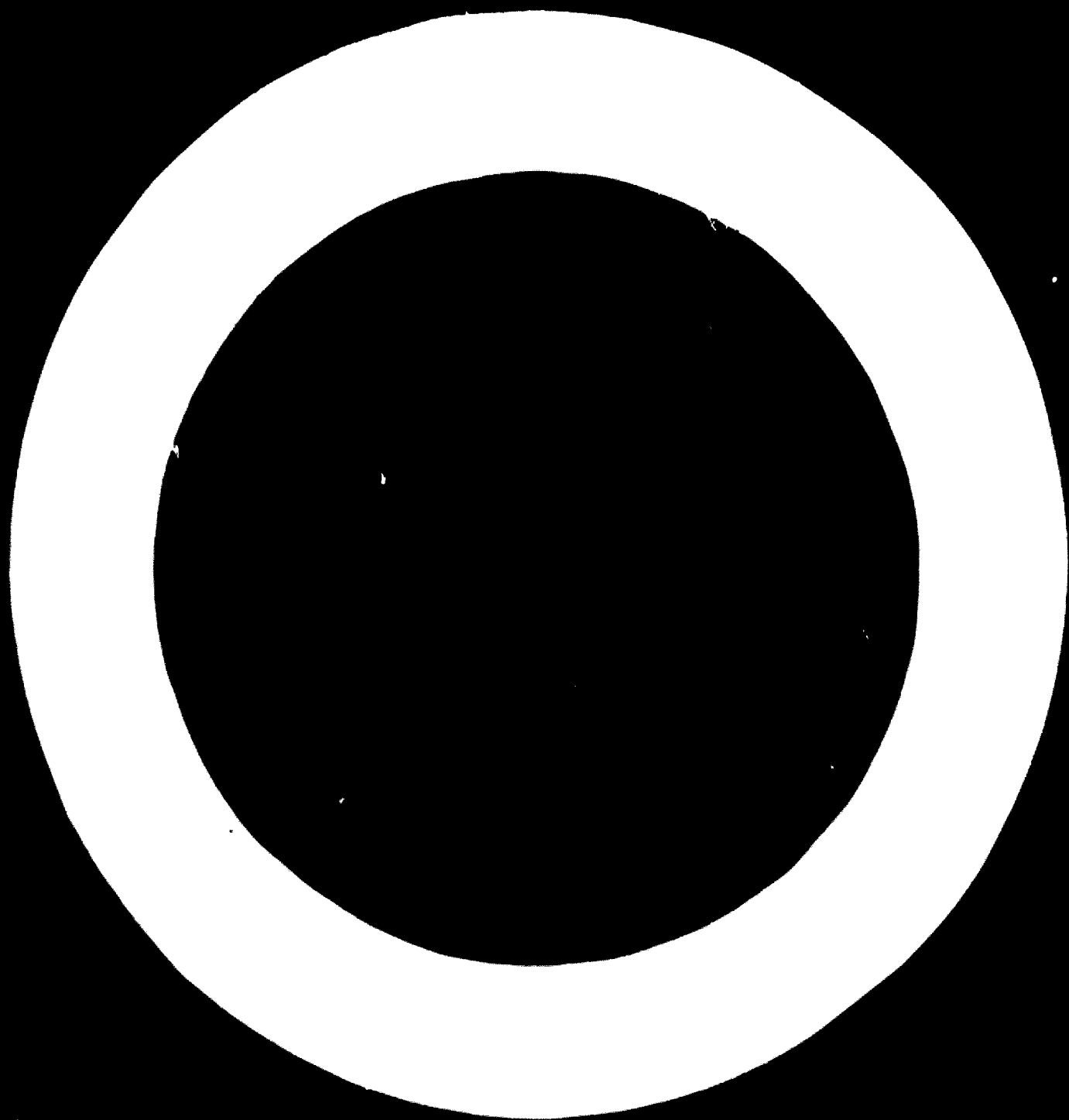
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Organised in co-operation with the Iranian Government

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id.72-176

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J. N. Verma

Office of the Development Commissioner

While large enterprises can afford to maintain an internal information unit to provide the industrial information necessary to their advancement and efficient operation, the small-scale concern must depend on government or semi-government extension agencies. Since small-scale industry plays an important role in India's economy, industrial information services for this sector are correspondingly important. The following bodies are in a position to supply industrial information of various types to Indian industry.

National Organizations

1. Small-scale Industries Development Organization - which was established in 1954 to provide advisory and consultancy services for the development of small-scale industries in India. Field agencies of the Organization, the Small Industries Service Institutes, are located in the various regions of the country. Its Industrial Information Service systematically collects information and data on small-scale industries and technical information. Requests for information on technical, managerial and marketing problems and on the latest techniques of production are processed. The following types of information are supplied:

- Field studies and surveys, techno-economic surveys, in-plant studies on individual concerns, and model schemes for new enterprises;
- Standards set by the Indian Standards Institution;
- Advice on types and availability of machinery;
- Raw materials and their availability;
- Technical know-how;
- Patented processes developed by the National Laboratories.

The Industrial Information Service also provides advice and guidance to small-scale industries in establishing co-operation with large-scale enterprises and in securing foreign collaboration. It publishes technical bulletins, reports, industry prospect sheets, and data from ad hoc inquiries. In addition to the internally produced material, it maintains a collection of publications on general and technical subjects. For reference purposes, it has codified and classified the information it holds.

2. Small Industry Technical Documentation and Communications Centre - which is being planned as a research wing of the Small Industries Extension and Training Institute to meet the need for information on current research work and technology. Specific services are to include:

- Continuous and comprehensive collection of technical literature;
- Selection, classification and indexing of data;
- Selective dissemination of information;
- Reproduction services;
- Preparation of a list of available consultants;
- Liaison work with national laboratories, large industries, etc., in the collection of research results;
- Obtaining technical information from abroad.

3. Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) - which was established in 1952 with the technical assistance of UNESCO by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Its services cover all fields of the natural sciences and technology and include:

- Provision of answers to specific inquiries;
- Publication of the monthly bulletin "Indian Abstracts";
- Preparation of bibliographies and literature searches on an

ad hoc basis and on request;

- Reproduction of required material from Indian and foreign sources;
- Translation of articles on request. (The British Commonwealth Scientific Organization is notified of translations so prepared and announces them to members.)
- Maintenance of a Union Catalogue of scientific periodicals in Indian libraries;
- Collection of all scientific periodicals of potential use to the country;
- Collection of published and unpublished scientific works from India;
- Circulation to other countries of information on Indian scientific work;
- Organisation of seminars on aspects and procedures of industrial information and documentation;
- Library. In addition to the present library at the Centre, plans are under way for the establishment of a National Science Library.

4. Information and Consultancy Services Bureau for the Afro-Asian Centre - which was set up in the Office of the Development Commissioner for Small-scale Industries in pursuance of the recommendations of the First Afro-Asian Conference on Small-scale Industry in Cairo.

5. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.
6. National Indian Development Corporation.
7. Planning Commission.
8. Directorate-General of Technical Development.
9. Industrial Finance Corporation.

10. State Bank of India.
11. Central Statistical Organization.

Research Organizations

1. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
2. Indian Institute of Science.
3. National Council of Applied Economic Research.
4. Government Research Offices.
5. Documentation Research and Training Centre.

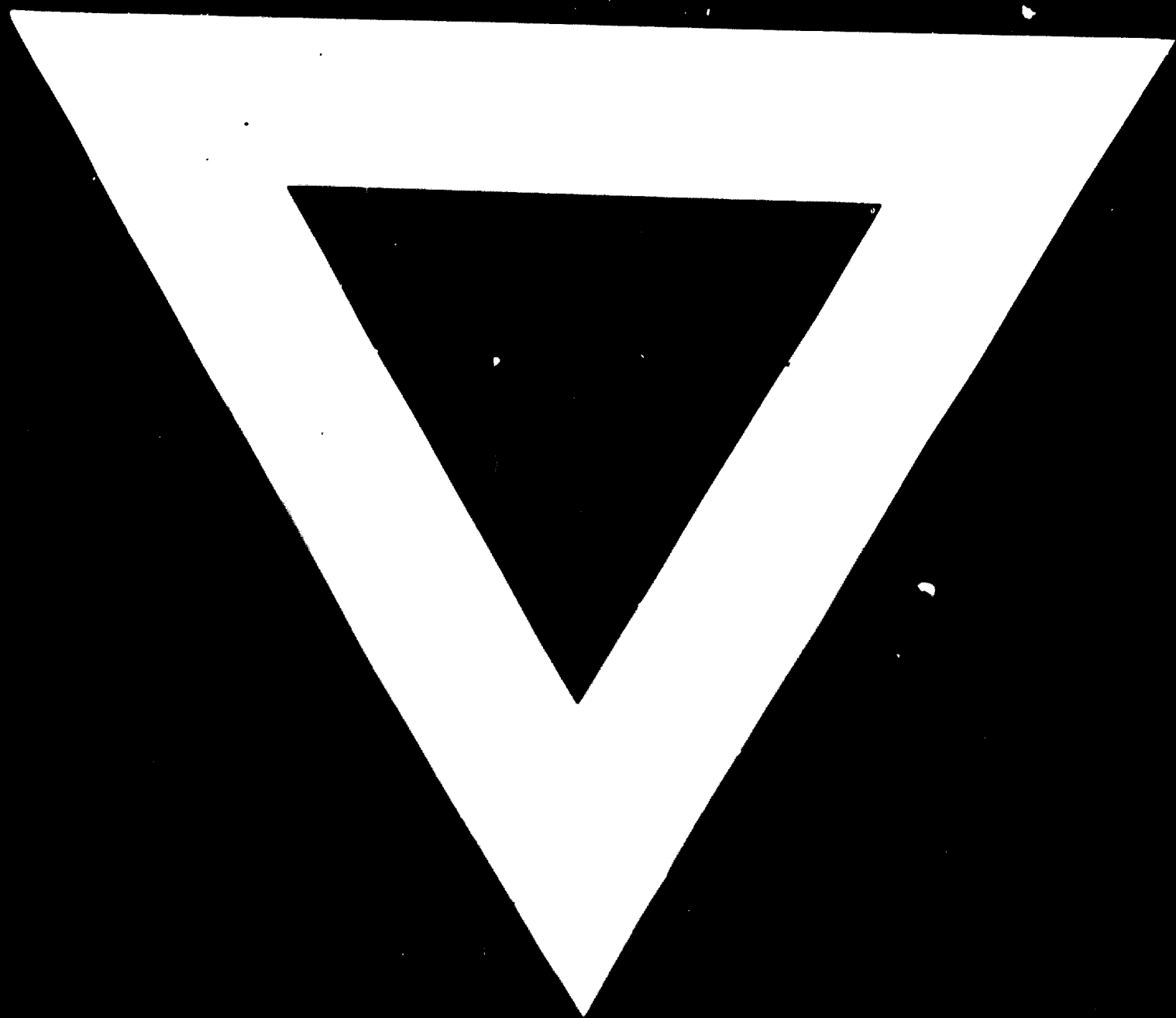
Industrial Associations

1. Indian Institute of Packaging - which was established as a society in 1966 by the packaging and allied industries in India with the participation of the Ministry of Commerce. It is a non-profit organization engaged in the dissemination of information, research, and in the provision of training and advisory services in the packaging field.
2. All-India Plastic Manufacturers' Federation.
3. Indian Electrical Manufacturers' Association.
4. Pharmaceutical Federation of India.
5. Chemical Plant Manufacturers' Association of India.

Conclusion

As the operations of information services cannot be optimally effected within the limits of a single country, it is recommended that a regional Afro-Asian Information Service for industries be organized with unit offices in member countries so that information resources can be pooled and disseminated to the respective governmental and non-governmental extension agencies charged with the implementation of industrial development programmes.

UNDP assistance has been offered to India in the establishment of a foreign trade information centre to provide current overseas market information to exporters, trade, industry and foreign importers.



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