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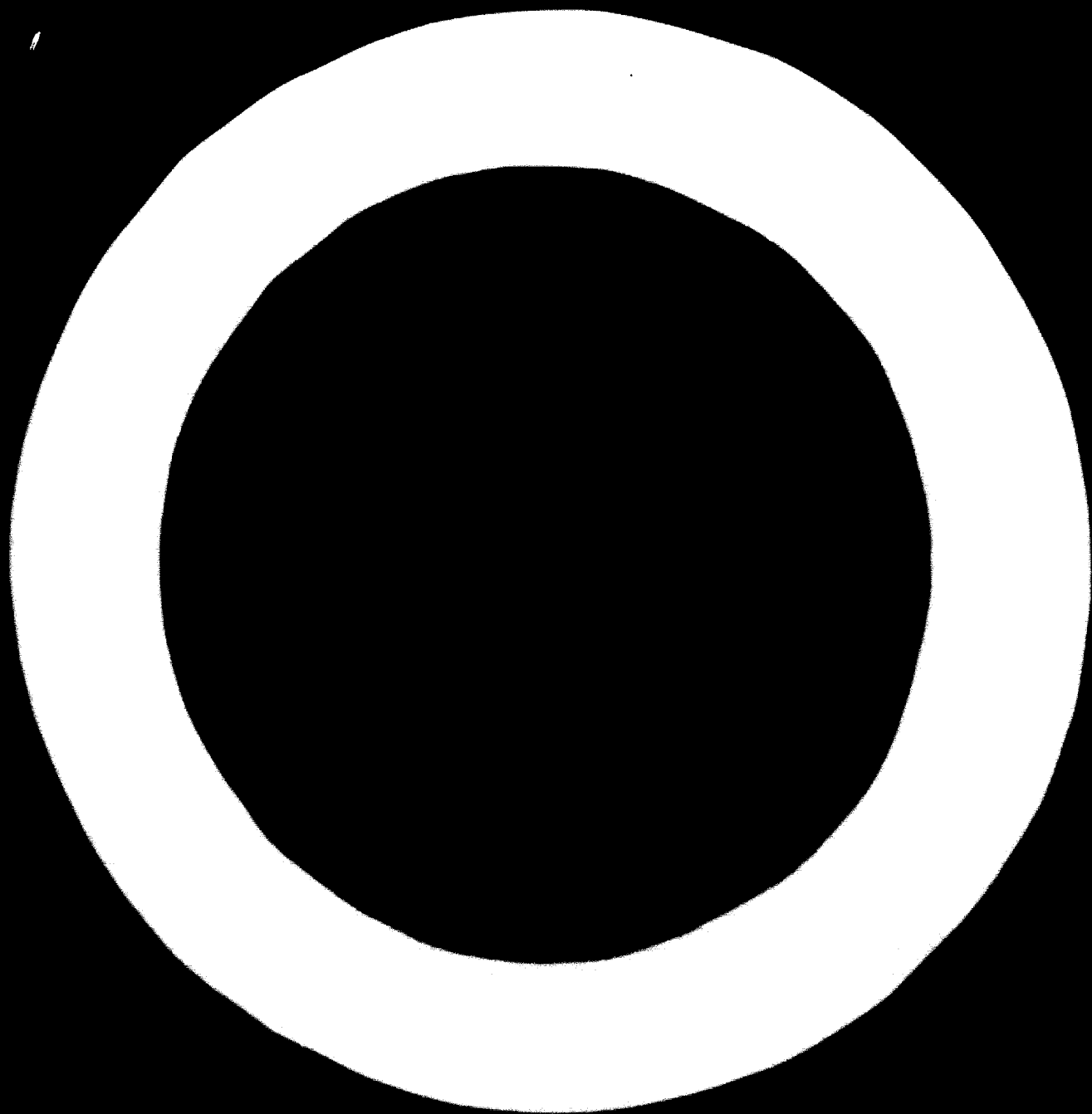
PHILIPPINES

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Organized in co-operation with the Iranian Government

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Country Papers: PHILIPPINES

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Philippines

During the past two and half decades, the Philippine economy has developed from an almost purely agricultural base to an agro-industrial one. Agricultural productivity has increased and progress has been made towards industrialization. The annual growth rate for the economy is 6.5 percent, which surpasses the target of 6.2 per cent set by the four-year (1966 - 70) economic development plan. To encourage free enterprise the Government passed the 1967 Philippines Investment Incentives Act, which aims to further industrial growth by encouraging the investment of domestic and foreign capital in development projects.

While there is no centralized industrial information service in the Philippines, information on various aspects of industry can be obtained from the following organizations.

Government Departments

1. Department of Commerce and Industry - which includes the following offices with information units capable of providing information in their particular fields: Bureau of Commerce; Securities and Exchange Commission; Sugar Quota Administration; Bureau of Fibre Inspection Service; Bureau of Standards; Philippines Patents Office; Co-operatives Administration Office; Bureau of Census and Statistics; National Cottage Industries Development Authority; Weather Bureau; Civil Aeronautics Board; and the Rice and Corn Board. The following information services are provided:

- publications on Philippine trade and industrial development and on foreign trade activities;

- dissemination of information collected by Philippine commercial attachés abroad;
- preparation, publication and dissemination of export oriented industrial project studies;
- assistance in the preparation of project studies for the private industry sector;
- question and answer service for the industrial sector;
- technical information through industrial extension services and training programmes, and practical assistance in the establishment and operation of small-scale industries.

2. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources -

which includes agencies conducting research into plants and crops, soils, animal husbandry, sugar, tobacco, fishing, forestry, mining, and the coconut industry.

Within the Department, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics co-ordinates all statistical activities.

The Food Research Board makes an annual survey of research on food and agriculture and publishes the results of significant research work.

3. Department of Labour - in which the Office of Manpower Survey performs studies of the labour market.

4. Department of Finance - which compiles economic data required by potential investors.

5. Industrial Programme Office of the Presidential Economic Staff - which prepares status reports on specific industries for distribution to interested parties in the industrial sector.

National Organizations

1. National Science Development Board - the following are the two main research agencies of the Board:

a) National Institute of Science and Technology, with research units in industry, agriculture, biology, testing and standards. Its Division of Documentation acts as a clearing-house for information in the natural sciences and maintains contact with foreign science information centres. Information work includes reference services; abstracting; ad hoc compilations of subject bibliographies in the form of annotated lists; reproduction of documents from the Institute's holdings; and minor translations. A number of scientific publications including "Philippine Abstracts", are produced.

b) The Philippines Atomic Energy Commission - with laboratories for nuclear research and training and R and D science and technology activities.

Additional research work is carried out under the supervision of the Board at the Philippine Textile Research Institute; The Philippine Coconut Research Institute; The Philippine Investor's Commission; and the Metals Industry Development Centre. Some research findings are published.

Publications on local and international scientific developments are issued by the Board, such as "Science Review" and "Inter-Science".

The Board sponsors the annual National Science and Technology Week at which papers on scientific research are read.

2. The National Research Council of the Philippines - which deals with non-governmental scientific organizations. It is a member of the International Council of Scientific Unions and of the Pacific Science Board. It is the official advisory body to the Government on scientific matters. In addition to its research and co-ordinating activities, it is charged with the collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information from local and foreign sources. It also sponsors congresses, conferences and symposia.

3. Agricultural Productivity Commission - whose agricultural extension work embraces the dissemination of information on agricultural services and the promotion of improved methods through publications and communication media.

4. National Economic Council - which provides economic data on industries for potential investors.

Other Organizations

1. Board of Investments - which provides material on investment promotion and publishes project studies on industries considered as investment possibilities.
2. Philippine Chamber of Industries - a private non-profit organization for the promotion of industrialization and the protection of the interests of manufacturing enterprises. Its activities in the field of industrial information include the followings

- Publications. "Industrial Philippines", a monthly journal on economic issues with regular status reports on industrial sectors; "Foreign Trade Bulletin"; and "PCI Weekly Bulletin", which is a summary of local and international economic business news.
- Legislative Reference Service, which issues information on pending and approved legislation affecting business.
- Management Bureau and Committee for the Development of Small and Medium Industries, which provide management advisory services and sponsor seminars.

3. The Regional Information Unit of the Asian Productivity Organization, located in Manila - which is to serve as an information clearing-house for the region. Plans are being implemented for the development of a technical reference library to furnish reproductions of reference and information material to member countries.
4. Central Bank of the Philippines - which has an independent economic research department.
5. The University of the Philippines - which has a large research budget for economic, scientific and social research.

Libraries

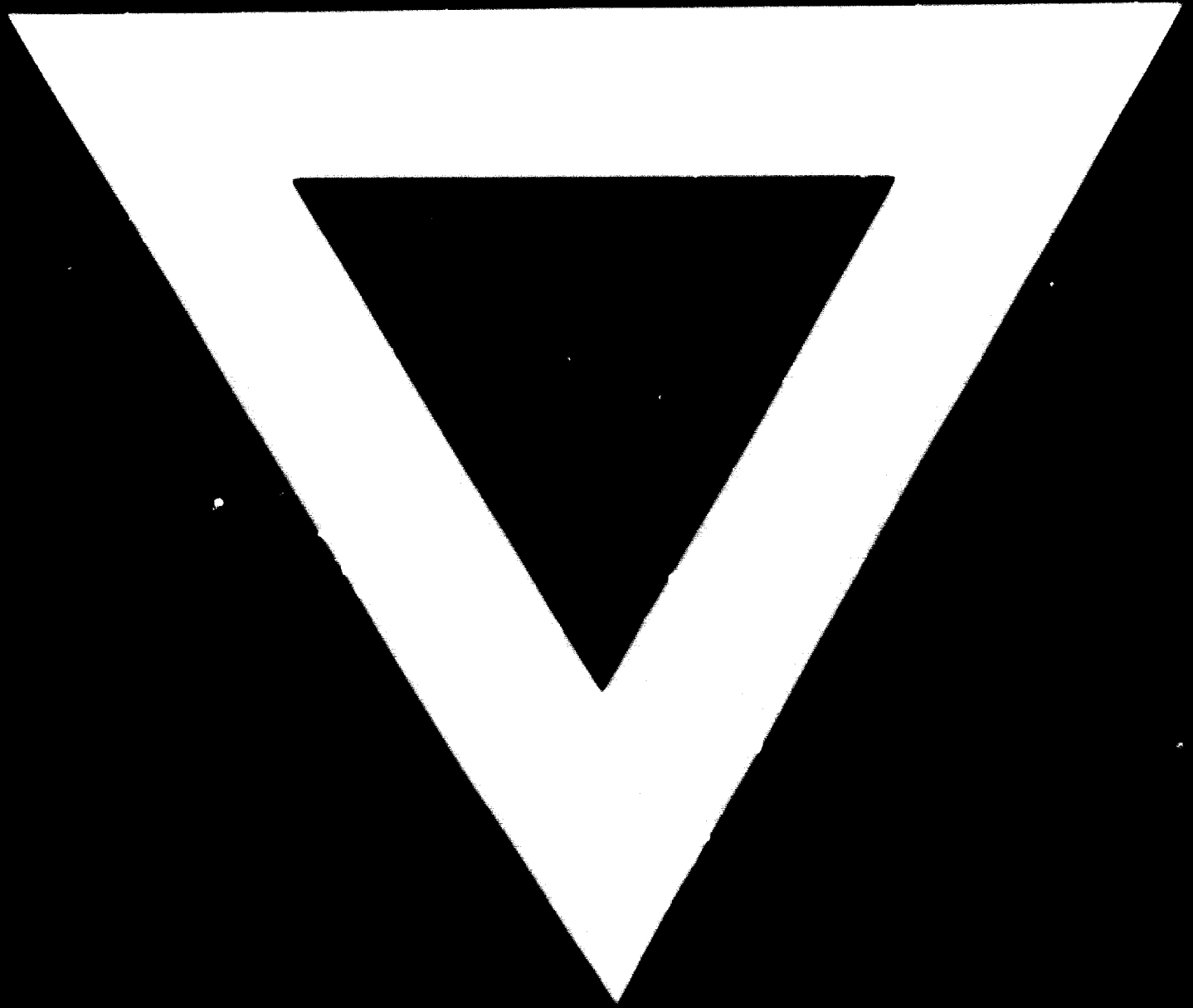
1. The National Library.

2. A number of government libraries in the Manila area.

Conclusion

Philippine national development has been hampered in recent years by lack of information on the country's resources and potential and by poor dissemination and application of scientific knowledge resulting from outdated communication practices. The country in general and key public officials and private industrialists in particular are only slowly realizing the significance of wider dissemination of scientific and technical information in the acceleration of economic development. The economy of the Philippines has not yet reached the stage that permits individual concerns to allocate sufficient funds to information services and to the establishment and maintenance of international scientific and technical links; these activities must therefore be supported by government subsidy. In addition to the requisite funds, the selection of the most appropriate techniques is essential for the improvement of existing industrial information services. The Government of the Philippines is interested in co-operating with UNIDO to secure the necessary expertise and other assistance towards this end.





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