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UGANDA

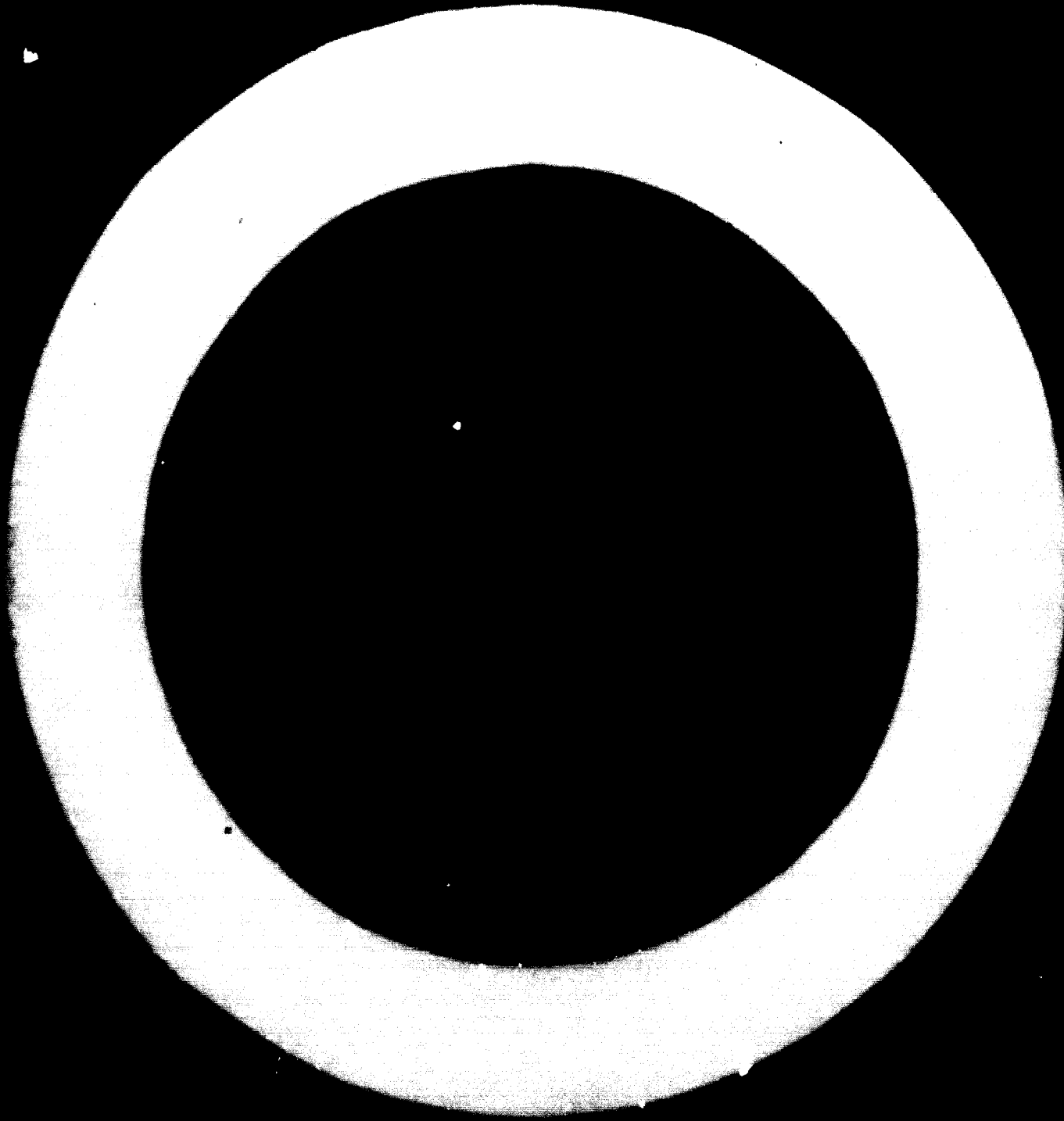
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Organized in co-operation with the Iranian Government

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Country Paper: Uganda

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Uganda, which has a population of nine and a half million, covers an area of 75,000 square miles, of which approximately 20 per cent is made up of water and swamps. The country has extensive natural resources, primarily mineral deposits which are, however, only exploited to a very limited extent owing to insufficient geological surveys and to the lack of capital.

At present, Uganda is still in the early stages of industrial development, and has recognized the importance of securing a flow of current scientific, technological, economic and business management information to the growing and newly established industries. No systematic industrial information service has yet been established but there are a number of information centres serving individual government and private enterprises or groups of companies. These include the following.

Government Ministries

1. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry - under which there are two centres dealing with industrial information:

(a) The Industrial Development Centre. This Centre, which was set up with the assistance of UNIDO and is staffed by international experts and Ugandan counterparts, aims to provide Uganda with guidance and assistance in the establishment of new industries in order to promote the industrial development of the country. The organization of the Centre is still in progress, and its functions will include the preparation of market surveys, feasibility studies and viability reports. An industrial information centre is also planned;

(b) The Management Training and Advisory Centre. The main objective of this Centre, which was established with the assistance of the UNDP and the ILO, is to provide training and advice for Ugandan enterprises in all facets of industry and to assist them in organisational and operational matters with a view to increasing efficiency and productivity. The Centre is complementary to the Industrial Development Centre inasmuch as it produces personnel capable of acting on the information supplied by the latter.

2. Ministry of Planning and Economic Development - which operates a Statistics Division for the provision of data on Uganda's planning and economic development.

Foreign Missions and Consulates

Almost all foreign diplomatic missions in Uganda have commercial sections which maintain limited collections of technical information in the form of directories, export guides, catalogues, trade literature, technical brochures, handbooks, reference books, journals, periodicals, annuals, guides to manufacturers, and so on.

Industrial Organizations

1. The Uganda Development Corporation - which was established in 1959. Its operations were initially directed towards agriculture but later extended to include light and medium-scale industry. It works closely with private industrial organizations, such as the National Council and the Trade Group. It has its own Industrial Development Division which is engaged in the collection, dissemination and digestion of relevant industrial information. Market research and feasibility studies are carried out by staff members with the assistance of foreign experts. The information service is designed to meet the needs of the Corporation itself and is little used by individual companies and other organizations.

Plans are under way for the establishment of a market information unit.

2. The Development Finance Company of Uganda.
3. The Products Marketing Board - this long-established Board operates an information system for the marketing of agricultural products.
4. The Import Export Corporation - which has been recently established and plans to operate a statistics division for market research.

Private concerns

1. The Madhvani Group - which is one of the most progressive concerns in Africa and has industrial and commercial enterprises in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and India. The enterprises in the Group cover a wide range of products and services and represent various stages in industrial development. The Projects Division of the Group is responsible for project planning, marketing, research and feasibility studies. Scientific, technological and economic information is collected on new techniques, current research and industrial production and development for distribution to the appropriate enterprises. A library of handbooks, reference books, periodicals, manuals, directories, catalogues, trade and export guides, reports, etc. is maintained.
2. The Bata Group.

Institutions

1. The Uganda Technical College - under the sponsorship of UNESCO the College has set up a collection of technical journals, books, catalogues, brochures, etc. and is working towards the establishment of technical co-operation with local industries.
2. The Makerere University College - an applied statistics and economics section is planned within the College's Management Training Division.


Regional Organizations

In addition to the information services operated within the country, Uganda is also served by the following regional organizations:

1. The East African Industrial Research Organization - which deals with industrial research and information.
2. The East African Common Services Organization - which handles information on Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Conclusion

For the most part, the industrial information services of Uganda consist of small units located throughout the country, which were established in an attempt to meet the individual requirements of an industry, a group of industries, or a government department. Uganda's developing economy has made it difficult to finance the type of centralized systematic industrial information service necessary to serve adequately the country's information needs. Such a service, established on a national or on a regional basis would, however, make a notable contribution to Uganda's industrial development.





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