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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY
IN MALAYSIA

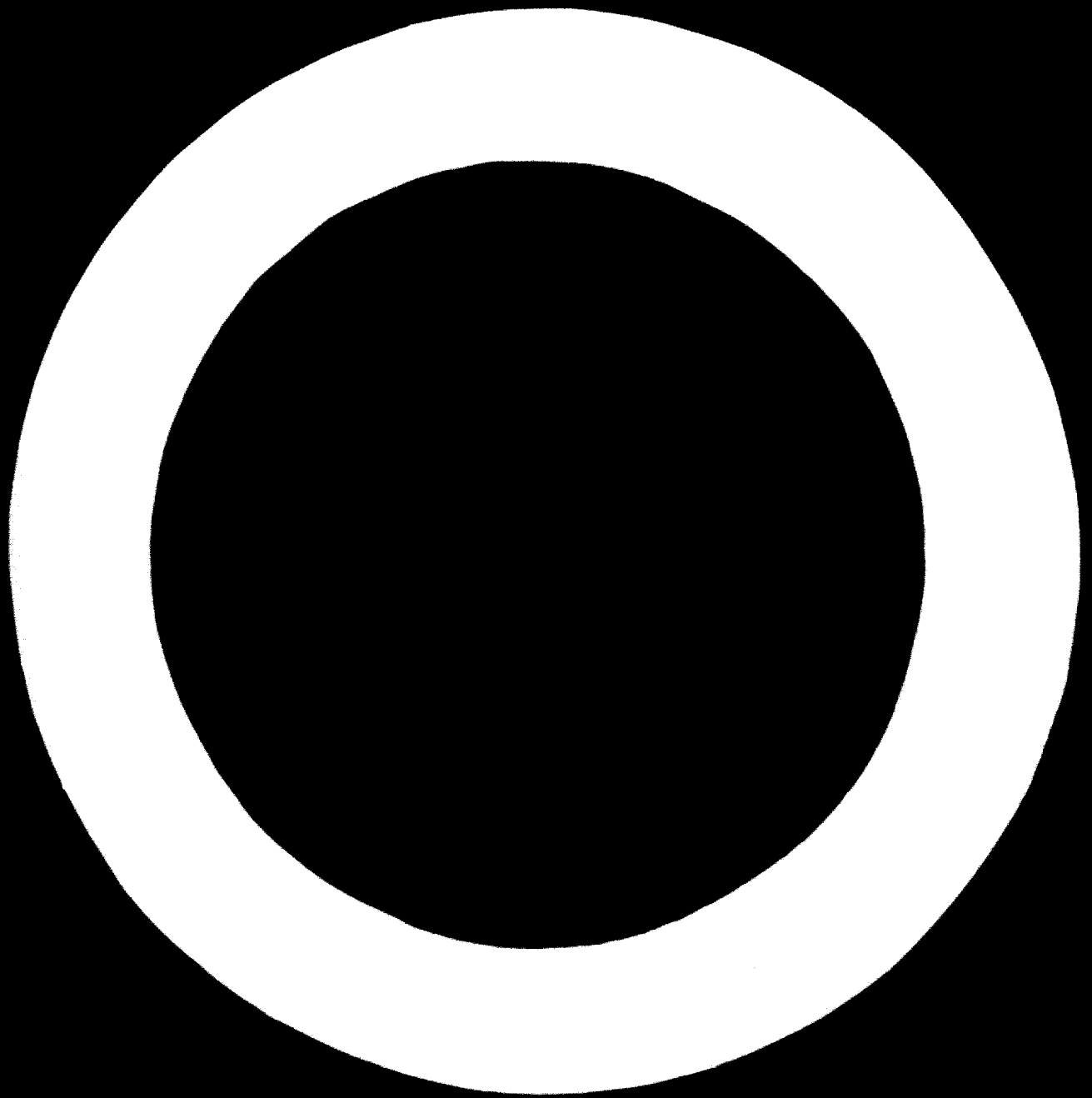
by

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We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PLASTIC PROCESSING INDUSTRY

1950-1959 IN BANGLADESH

Plastic Processing Industry got its start in Bangladesh only a few years back and did not show any phenomenal growth till to-day. A modest start was given by some entrepreneurs only 6/10 years back. Since then this section of industry in Bangladesh have shown only 2 to 5% growth rate, which remained insufficient to satisfy one quarter of the local market demand.

In Bangladesh the Plastic Processing Industry is mostly comprised with small and medium sized processing plants for thermo-setting and thermoplastics. At present there are about 10 medium size units equipped mostly with imported automatic equipments. There are also approximately 75 small sized units, using mostly locally fabricated machineries. There are also a good number of unrecognised very small Plastic Processing Industries which are usually located in side the residential and around the shopping centres. Prior to liberation of Bangladesh the Plastic Processing Machineries were imported under Bonus Voucher scheme for which these became very costly. Due to this cost factor, simple manual and mechanically operated equipments for smaller industries were mostly either locally fabricated or procured from Pakistan.

2. Raw Material.

The raw material, such as Plastic Granules are imported from abroad. Apart from the imported P.V.C. Granules a small

quantity are also manufactured locally from imported ingredients. A Chemical Industry in Dhaka are manufacturing UREA FORMALDEHYDE from locally produced Urea. They are also producing MEASURINE in the plant from imported raw materials.

3. Capacity & Processes

The existing annual total plastic processing capacity in Bangladesh is about 12,000 tons. Out of this about 80% is through extrusion and injection moulding and the remaining blow moulding, compression moulding etc.

The Plastic Processing Plants in Bangladesh are mostly concentrated in Dacca and Chittagong and they employ the following process :-

- 1) Extrusion
- 2) Injection Moulding
- 3) Blow Moulding
- 4) Compression Moulding
- 5) Thermoforming
- 6) Calendering
- 7) Foaming etc.

The main items now being produced in Bangladesh are simple consumer items like combs, Baskets, Soap cases, garden Hose Pipes, conduit pipes, P.V.C. extruded pipe for water and Sewer installations. Electrical Fittings and fixtures, Table wares, Radio Cabinets, Plastic containers etc.

4. Moulds & Dies.

Moulds and dies for automatic presses are now being imported from abroad at a very high cost. Simple type moulds are made locally. But lack of knowledge in proper design and materials in locally manufactured moulds the quality and quantity are not upto mark.

5. Technical Hand.

The Plastic Processing Industry in Bangladesh is now being faced with the shortage of skilled man-power. The skilled technicians now working in the industry are mostly illiterate and as such are not well equipped with proper knowledge and training to operate modern plastic processing equipments. They also lack the knowledge of the proper use of Plastic Materials and whatever they are doing now is by trial and error method.

6. Considering the low quality, productivity and the dearth of expertise in this particular area, the United Nations has promoted a special fund Project for the promotion of Fertilizer and Petro-Chemical Industries for our country with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) as it's executive agency.

The objective of the project towards training, demonstration, documentation and standardization in the field of Plastic Processing are as follows :-

- 1) To upgrade and train the personnel for Plastics Processing industry in respect of maintenance and operations of processing equipment, selection of proper synthetic resins and designing and making of moulds.

- 2) To demonstrate the modern techniques of Plastics Processing, Mould Designing and Making.
- 3) Disseminate the information on latest developments in Plastics Processing Technology, and uses of synthetic resins by arranging regular group discussions, demonstrations, seminars, publications, and film show.
- 4) To extend technical advisory services to the Plastic Processing and synthetic resins making industries.

It was also envisaged that each year 8 to 10 trainees from different plastic processing industries will be trained thoroughly in the operation and maintenance of various equipments that will be installed in the Centre. In the design section also, 6 to 8 trainees will be trained each year. It is expected that these trained personnel both in manufacturing and design sides will be so trained as to prepare them as trainers, who in fact will start giving training in their own areas, subsequently creating a multiplier effect.

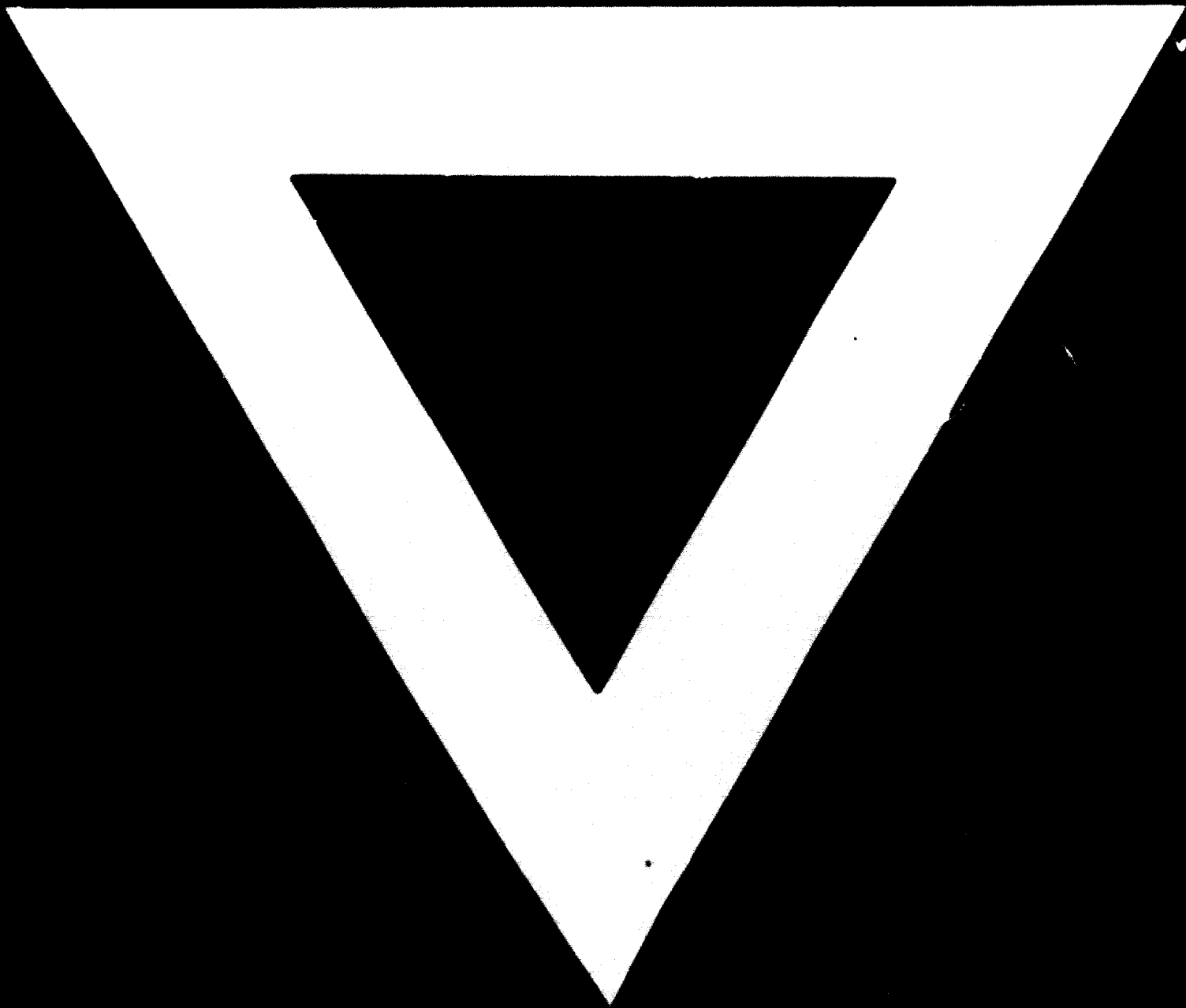
The training programme at the start will commence with foreign experts sent through UNIDO till locally trained experts can take over from them.

The Project was proposed to be accommodated within the premises of Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC) Dacca. To accelerate the commissioning of this Project, Mr. M.C. Verghese of UNIDO, as a one man mission have recently visited this Centre for evaluating and conducting the inventory of the plastic processing machineries already received by BITAC, Dacca, and also to propose for the additional equipments, materials and experts that may be required in the circumstances that developed

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in the field of Plastics Processing Industry in
Bangladesh.

This developing country of ours is looking forward
to UNIDO for assistance to our country not only in the
field of Plastics but to other sectors of industries so
that our economy may get an upward swing through rapid indus-
trial development and growth.



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