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REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION IN GHANA

by

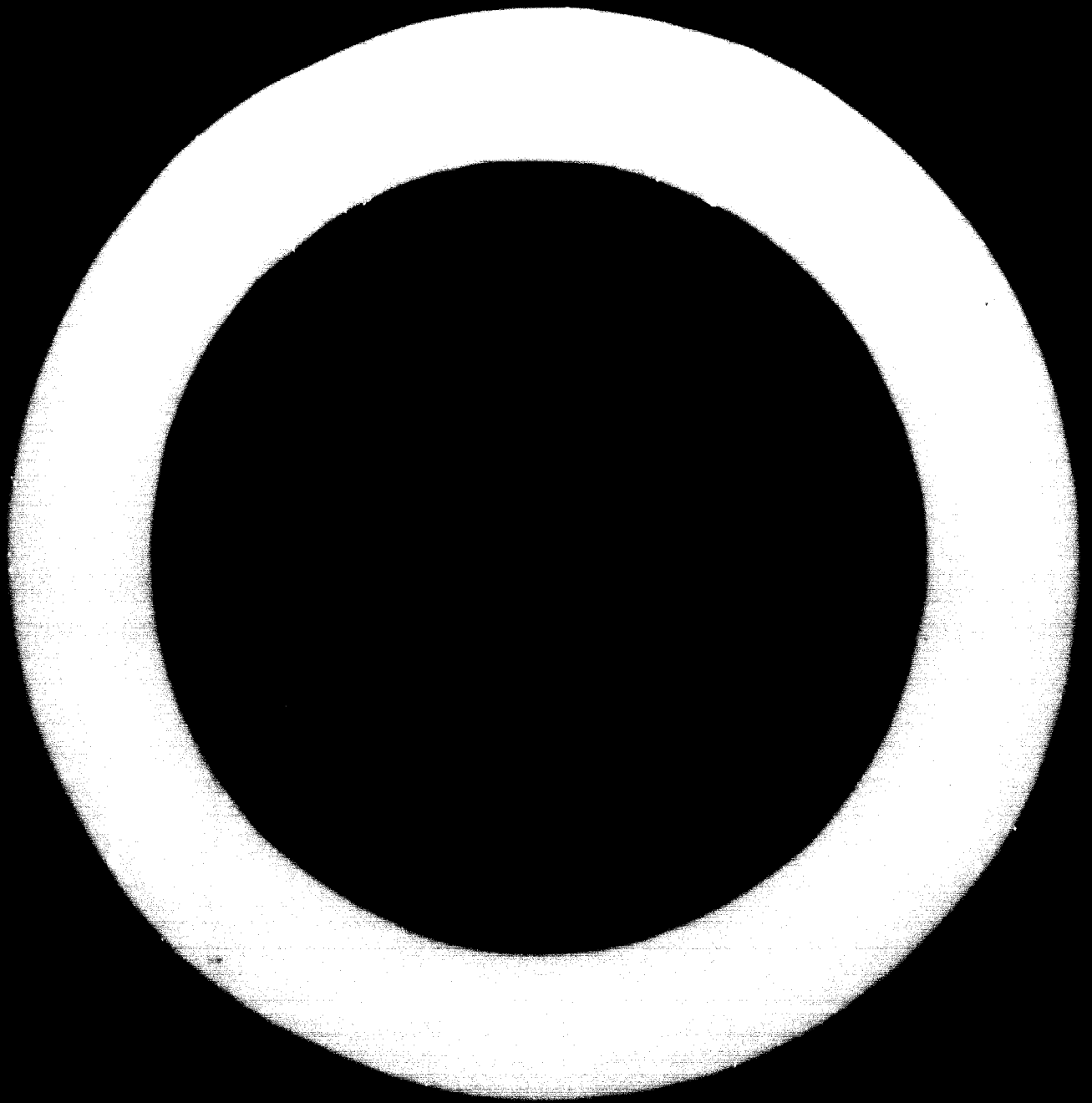
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1/ The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the secretariat of UNIDO.

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.



INTRODUCTION

There are various agencies providing industrial information on various aspects of industrial development in Ghana. However, there is no central body co-ordinating the activities of these agencies to facilitate the dissemination of industrial information available in the country. As a result one has to go to these sources to collect what information one requires. These sources comprise organizations like the Ministry of Industries, financial institutions such as the National Investment Bank and the Agricultural Development Bank, the Capital Investments Board, the Universities, research institutes, the Management and Productivity Centre, etc.

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES

The Ministry of Industries is the approving authority for any industry which is to be established in the country. To guide prospective industrialists to know the investment opportunities in the country, the Ministry has compiled a broad list of industries for which it would consider applications for establishment. Initially the list was drawn up as a result of an examination of statistical information compiled by the Central Bureau of Statistics on imports into the country. This list was made available to any prospective investor who called at the Ministry. In considering applications for permission to establish any industry, the Ministry takes into consideration, among the factors, existing production facilities, if any, engaged in similar production, their capacities and the potential market for the product in question. To facilitate the work of the Ministry in this direction, the Ministry has prepared a directory of existing industries and those approved for establishment. There is a follow-up carried out by officers in the Ministry to up-date the directory.

The directory is given to interested organizations as well as individuals who might wish to know what industries exist and those approved.

Another aspect of the Ministry's work is the preparation of sectoral studies in order to identify any imbalances in the industrial sector and also give an indication of areas for which new investment is still required. Copies

of these studies are distributed to other institutions like the National Investment Bank which is a financial institution providing financial assistance to local entrepreneurs to accelerate the industrial and agricultural growth of the country.

THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK

The National Investment Bank is considering applications for loans carries out detailed feasibility studies. This requires much industrial information which cannot be obtained from any one organization. Officers of the Bank have to go out to collect the required information from a variety of sources which are listed below:

- (1) Ministry of Industries
- (2) Central Bureau of Statistics
- (3) Existing Industrial enterprises
- (4) Research Institutes
- (5) Importers
- (6) Customs and Excise Department

As much information as one could collect is taken from these sources since information from any one of them may not be adequate or may appear not reliable or not specific to the requirements of the Bank.

However, the Bank is occasionally faced with the problem of lack of adequate technical expertise to carry out some feasibility studies. In such cases, enquiries may be sent out to various international agencies and institutions abroad. The response in some cases has been encouraging but in other cases the type of technical information required may not be forthcoming or if it comes it may not be after a long delay. Occasionally outside consultants are engaged on some projects and the Bank collects all available local information before such consultants arrive to assist in such studies.

Over the years, the Bank has built a library which has many reference books and periodicals dealing with various aspects of industries. This library is open to outside organizations or individuals who want information on certain industries in which they may be interested.

THE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS BOARD

There is also another institution, the Capital Investments Board, whose activities include investment promotion. The Board has also prepared a

publication which gives information on the economic infrastructure of the country, investment and industrial legislation, fiscal measures governing investments in the country, investment opportunities and other local information which might be of interest to the potential industrialist. This publication is widely distributed to local as well as prospective foreign investors. It also arranges contact between local and foreign entrepreneurs who may wish to promote joint ventures. To facilitate this, the Board presently has one office based in Europe.

Entrepreneurs requiring some tax concessions as a condition to establish any industry in the country or existing industries requiring concessions for one reason or the other have to apply to the Board for consideration. The procedure and the requirements of the Board are all laid down in the publication that the Board has prepared.

OTHER SOURCES OF INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

These consist of the research institutes, the Universities, private industrial organisations like the Manufacturers and Employers Associations and the Management and Productivity Centre. All these organisations conduct training workshops and seminars for people in the various sectors of the economy as a means of imparting technical skills to improve efficiency in production.





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