



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

OCCASION

This publication has been made available to the public on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

DISCLAIMER

This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or its economic system or degree of development. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” and “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO.

FAIR USE POLICY

Any part of this publication may be quoted and referenced for educational and research purposes without additional permission from UNIDO. However, those who make use of quoting and referencing this publication are requested to follow the Fair Use Policy of giving due credit to UNIDO.

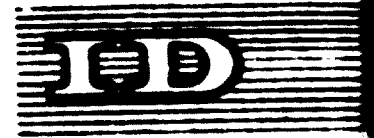
CONTACT

Please contact publications@unido.org for further information concerning UNIDO publications.

For more information about UNIDO, please visit us at www.unido.org



D04483



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

INDUST.
LIMITED

ID/WG.119.CR.6
25 November 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seminar on Industrial Information
(for English Speaking African Countries)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-15 November 1972

COUNTRY REPORT FROM NIGERIA

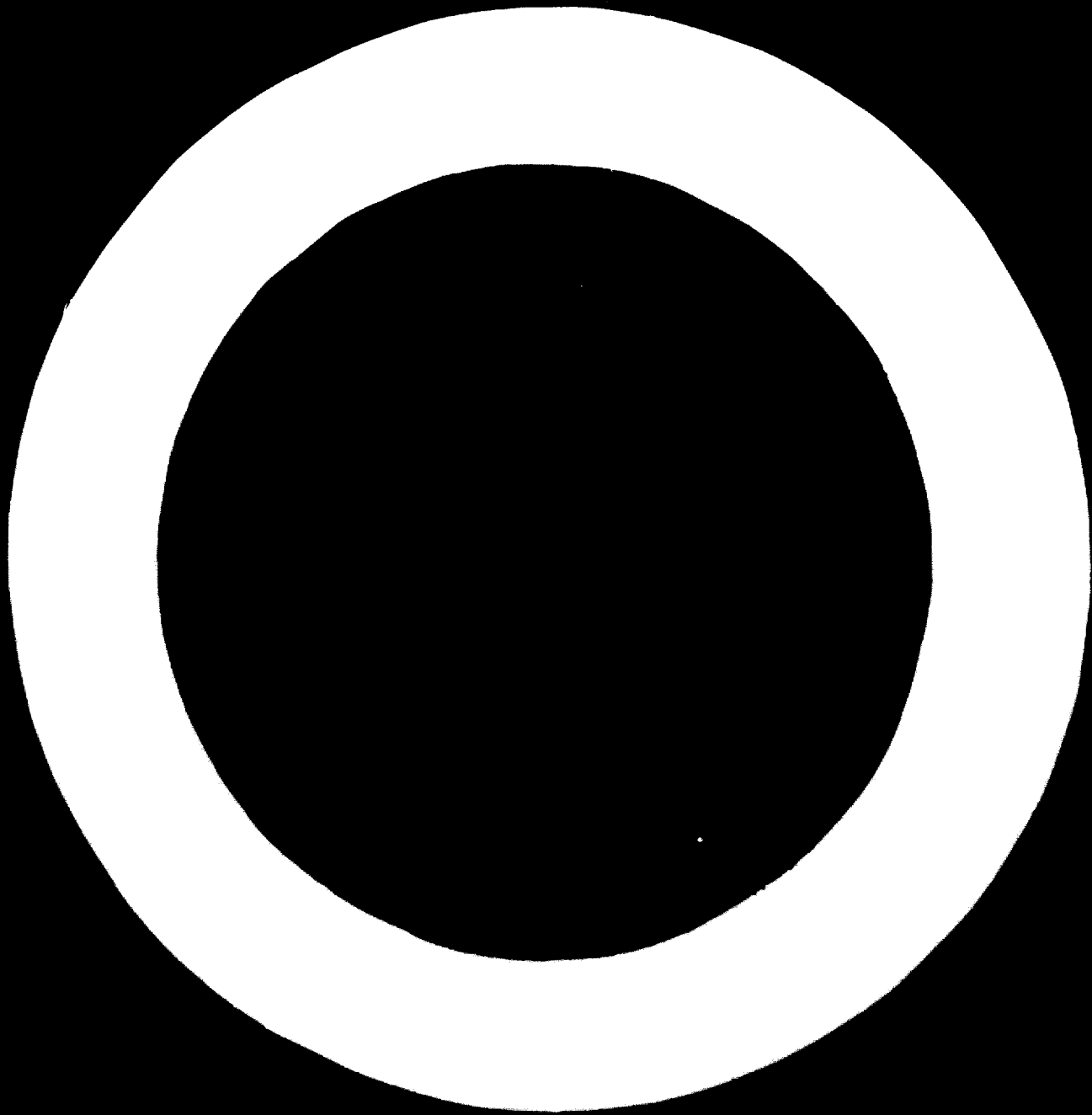
by

Dr. I.A. Akrinele
Federal Institute of Industrial Research
Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria

✓ The views and opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the secretariat of UNIDO.

id. 73-319

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.



Nigeria's involvement with the procurement, production and use of industrial information can be assessed from the performance of the industrial sector in national economic development in recent years. Out of a gross national product of about £1,600 M per annum, industry which includes mining now accounts for about 60 per cent, up from about 25/30 per cent some two decades ago. The annual growth rate in this sector has sometimes gone up to about 25 per cent and this phenomenal performance could only have been possible through the effective use of industrial information.

However when an analysis of the character and pattern of the development of industries in the country is carried out, certain weaknesses arising from imbalances between and among project capacities, poor inter-industry linkages, inappropriate technologies and under utilization of national resources are revealed; and these can in turn be attributed to the deficiencies in the industrial information service. Further, strong promotional activities for, and evaluation of industrial activities in Nigeria are hampered by an inadequate information feedback system.

Current industrial information sources may be categorized as follows:

- 1) Investment promotion covering incentives, licensing, industry directory and general government industrial policy published by the Investment Centre of the Federal Ministry of Industries.
- 2) Business and trade reports published in national newspapers, private sector periodicals and Development Corporation Bulletins
- 3) Infrastructural data including resources surveys, import and export trade statistics and input-output analysis of industries published by the Federal Office of Statistics - a department of the Federal Ministry of Economics Development.
- 4) Scientific and technological information is issued by various technical departments of government, universities and research institutes.
- 5) Economic and financial reviews published by the Central Bank of Nigeria and other development commercial banks.

- 6) Industrial standards compiled and published by the Nigerian Standards Organization
- 7) Technical Journals for industry published by the National Library of Nigeria.

PROBLEMS OF USAGE

In spite of the vast amount of industrial information literature circulating in the country, many problems seem to exist with the effective uptake and utilization of these information materials. The most important and vital of these problems involves the selection, collation and retrieval of specific information required for specific projects. This problem arises largely from the inadequate development of the informational institutions which are specialised on industrialization problems. Although there is a national library, university libraries, general public libraries and specialised libraries scattered all over the country, none of these institutions will tackle the whole spectrum of information sources required for a comprehensive preparation of an industrial project. Limitations are set by inadequate documentation of relevant literature, by the diffusion of necessary information in wide ranging literature materials, lack of in-depth description of process technology and procedures due to trade and patent restrictions and unavailability of qualified or trained staff in the field of industrial information service.

Another type of problem met in usage is the low uptake of industrial information by unsophisticated entrepreneurs and businessmen. In this case, the information source may be either too technical in language or not sufficiently adapted to local environmental situation. Towards this end, the Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi, has initiated the publication of a technical bulletin for Industry which aims at adapting industrial information to local requirements in terms of investment projects and suitable technology for industry.

Finally, there is the organisational problem. There is at present no control or specialised institution that can co-ordinate the various sources of industrial information. Such an institution will have to be supported by a good documentation data. Because the existing institutions providing industrial information are not wholly concerned with this subject, there is usual difficulty in obtaining adequate financial resources to develop the

technological and manpower infrastructure needed to cope with the level of information servicing demanded by industry. Some of the types of information most lacking in Nigeria with regard to industrial planning today are:-

- i) information on relevant technology adaptable to local conditions (i.e. production alternatives, size of operation, comparative cost and labour intensity)
- ii) information on identification of sources of scientific literature concerning industrial expansion
- iii) information on identification of potential sources of finance for new industrial investment
- iv) information on sources of statistical data for the evaluation of industrial projects, as well as practices regarding project formulation or evaluation
- v) information with respect to the formulation and evaluation of a comprehensive sectoral plan for industrial development.

PROJECTED ACTION BY PIIR, OSHODI

This institute which is financed by the Federal Government of Nigeria and at present run as a department of the Federal Ministry of Industries has as its major function, the acceleration of the industrial development of Nigeria through research on raw materials, technology and industrial promotion and information. The institute has as a first step, initiated a programme to organize available information relevant to industrial development. This programme consists of the following components:

- 1) collection of all literature available on Nigeria's industrial sector
- 2) disaggregation of all the collected literature according to
 - a) Industry per se;
 - b) Indicators for potential industrial investments;
 - c) Trade and related industrial relationships
 - d) General economic indicators relevant to industrial development
- 3) disaggregation of all information regarding "industry per se" according to type of industry

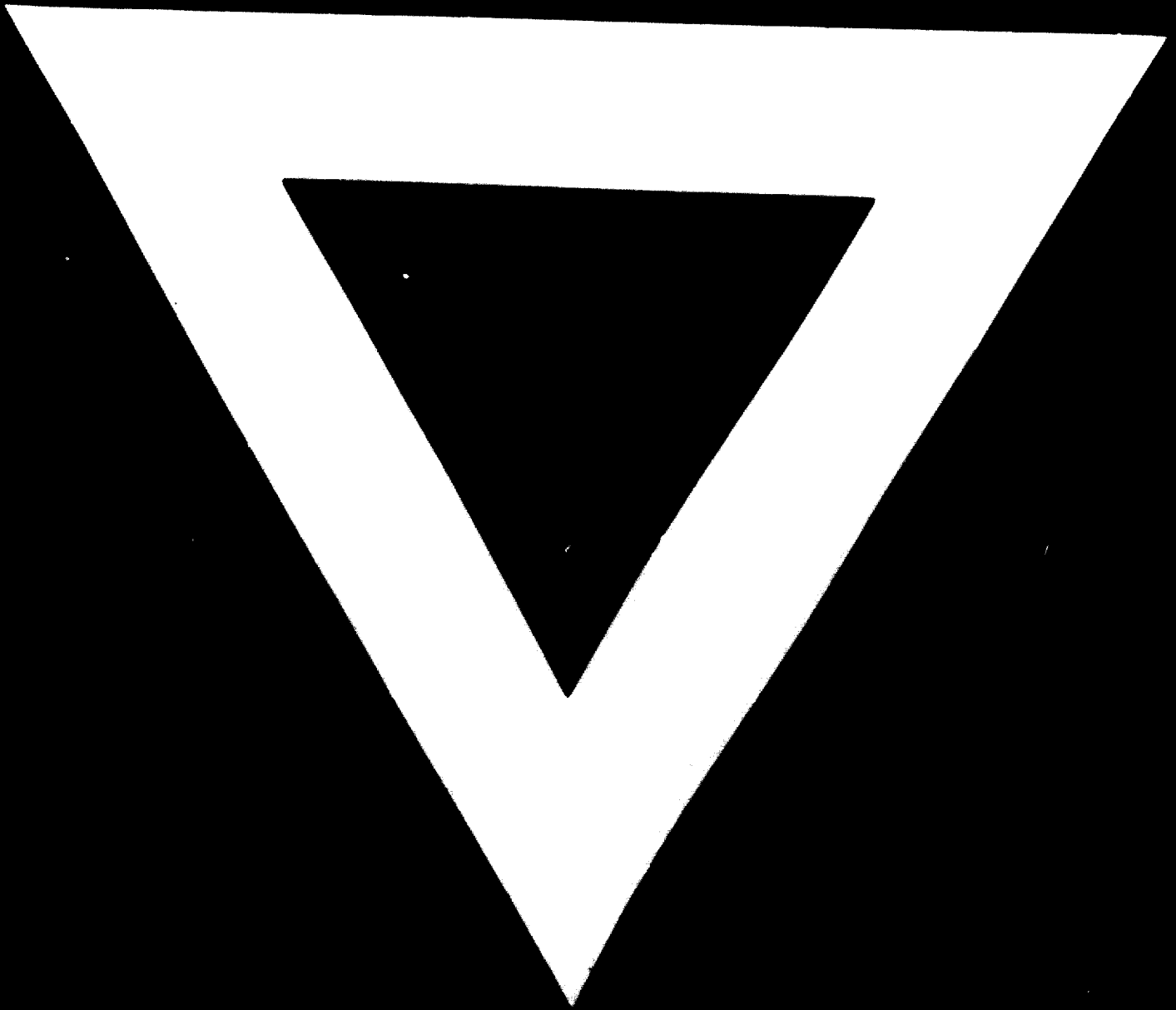
- 4) the preparation of a comprehensive manual containing pertinent information for potential entrepreneurs. This manual is to include information regarding government policies and regulations, appropriate potential sources of finance, labour regulations, transportation and communication facilities, availability of skilled and unskilled labour as well as of technical and management consulting services. Where necessary, a differentiation according to type of industry will be introduced in view of relevant particulars such as government regulations regarding taxation, depreciation etc.
- 5) the publication of a Technical Information Bulletin for industry. This bulletin which is being published quarterly contains summarized information regarding specific investment proposals developed by the FIIR.

PROJECTED ACTION BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

The National Library of Nigeria, which is the legal depository for all publications published in Nigeria would continue to maintain among the other collections in the stock of the library books, pamphlets, reports, research papers and journals to assist the retrieval of industrial information in Nigeria. The library is aware of the importance of industrial information to the development and progress of industries and the business sectors in Nigeria. In view of this fact, the library has been able to convince the Chambers of Commerce in Lagos to set up a library for the business community in Lagos. This is done in the hope that similar organizations will set up their own information centres. It is in the future plans of the library to arrange visits to some big industrial enterprises with the aim of convincing them of the importance of industrial information. Lastly, the library of recent contributed to the FID project of technical journals for industries in various countries in the world. The library as a participant in this project published "Technical journals for industries in Nigeria".

DELEGATES

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Dr. I.A. Akinrole | Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi, Lagos |
| Mrs. S.O. Abimbola | National Library of Nigeria, Lagos |



5 . 8 . 74