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THE STATUS OF INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION SERVICES  
IN SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES<sup>2/</sup>

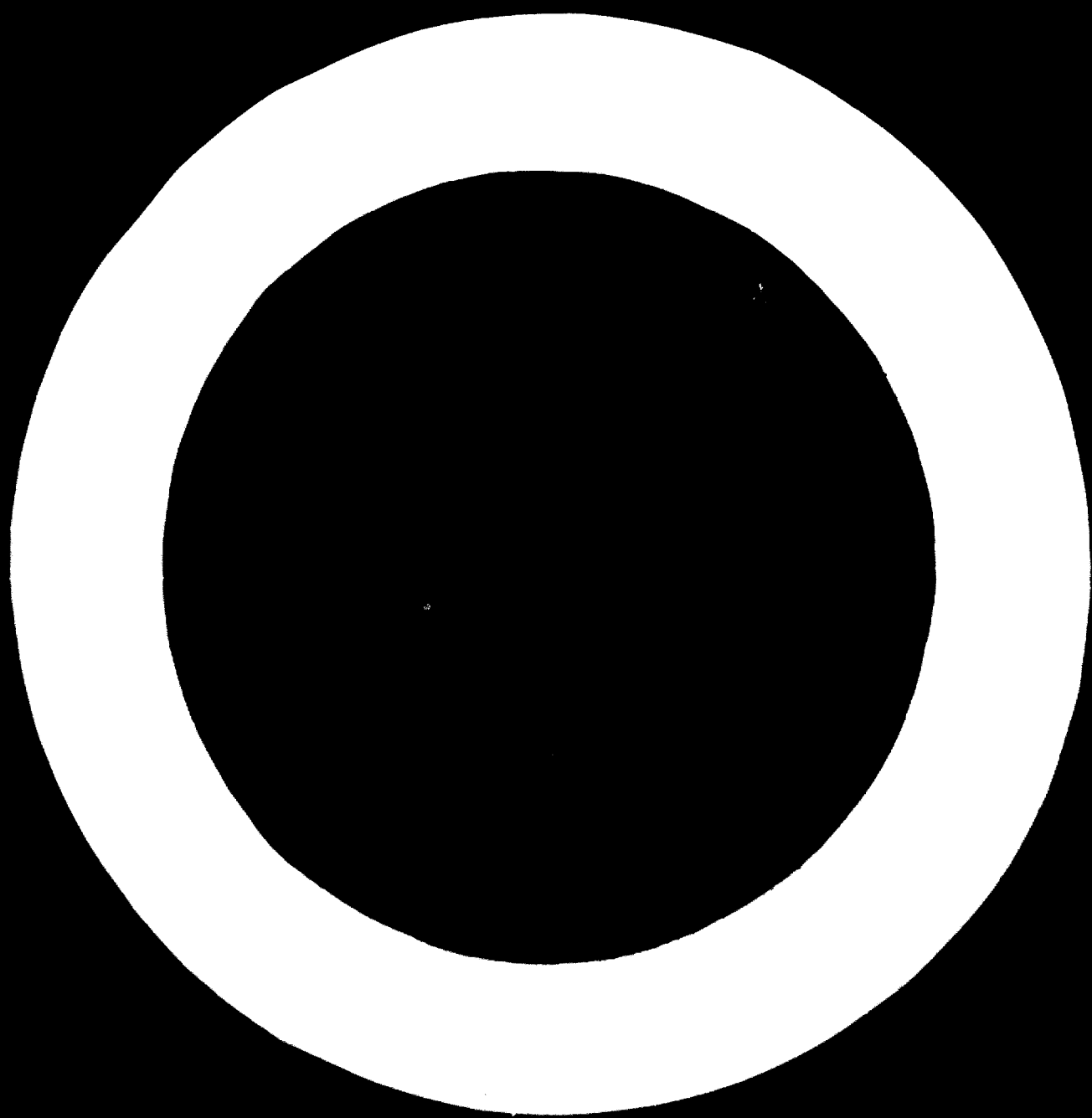
by

Economic Commission for Africa

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<sup>2/</sup> The views and opinions expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views 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.



1. In recognition of the vital role industrial information plays in the process of industrial development, African countries are increasingly directing their efforts to the setting-up of institutions and services to handle the collection and dissemination of information required in support of industrialization. However, the resources available for the purpose are limited. As a result different approaches have been used in different countries. Some have set-up sectoral research institutions in such areas as food, forestry, building materials, etc. Others have, often in addition to the above, set-up across-the-board types of institutions such as industrial development corporations or industrial development banks, technical agencies and the like. These have the potentials to provide a sound basis for developing an effective system of industrial information.

2. In Table 1 the types of services provided by existing institutions in African countries have been identified. It will be noted that in most African countries there exist scientific research organizations of one kind or another within or independent of established educational institutions. Nearly every country would also seem to have organizations providing bibliographic services. In the case of specialized organisations for co-ordination of industrial research, however, there are only a few countries which have set-up such institutions as bureaux for standardization and quality control. Even where national bodies do exist for these services co-operation among them would not appear to be extensive.

3. Some of the institutions that have been set-up are of recent date. They have yet to develop competence and accumulate experience. In other cases, the operations of the existing institutions are hampered by the limited financial resources available to them. There also seems to exist duplication of efforts among established institutions. Greater co-ordination of their activities is urgently needed to secure a more efficient utilization of available resources.

4. There are notable differences among sub-regions and countries in the kinds of institutions set up to deal with services related to industrial information. Table 2 has listed some such institutions in selected African countries and indicates the kinds of services they provide at present. It will be noted that among the North African countries, the Arab Republic of Egypt has developed an elaborate network of information centres. The first such centre was established in 1956 when the Ministry for Industry came into being - but greater impetus was given to developing information services when an expanded Ministry of Industry, Petroleum and Mineral Wealth was set up. Within the Ministry, the General Organization for Industrialization deals with all aspects of techno-economic studies of industrial projects and also supervises their implementation. Also within the same Ministry there exist the Administration for Industrial Information which maintains contacts with other international organizations to obtain all relevant documentation and publication and also provides information on existing and planned industrial projects. The Organization for Standard Specifications deals with questions of standardization within industry and also collects information from all sources on the subject of standardization.

TABLE 1: EXISTING RESEARCH AND INFORMATION ORGANIZATION IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Name of Country	Coordination bodies for Multi-sectoral science research	Industrial research	National scientific research bodies within educational establishments	Research organizations	National documentation centres for science and research	National standardization bodies	Bibliographical services
Algeria	x		x	x			x
Botswana			x	x			n/a
Burundi			x	x			x
Cameroun	x		x	x			x
CAR	x		x	x			n/a
Chad			x	x			n/a
Congo P.R.	x		x	x			x
Dahomey			x	x			x
Ethiopia	x		x	x			x
Gabon			x				n/a
Gambia			x				x
Guinea			x				x
Ghana	x		x	x			x
Ivory Coast			x	x			x
Kenya			x	x			n/a
Lesotho			x	x			x
Liberia			x	x			x
Libya			x	x			x
Madagascar	x		x	x			n/a
Malawi			x	x			n/a
Mali			x	x			x
Mauritania			x	x			x
Mauritius			x	x			x
Morocco			x	x			x
Niger	x		x	x			x
Nigeria	x	x	x	x			x
Rwanda			x	x			n/a
Senegal	x		x	x	x	x	n/a
Sierra Leone			x	x			x
Somalia			x	x			x
Sudan		x	x	x			n/a
Swaziland			x	x			x
Togo			x	x			x
Tunisia			x	x	x		x
Uganda	x		x	x	x	x	x
USSR	x	x	x	x	x		x
UR Tanzania	x		x	x	x		x
Upper Volta			x	x			n/a
Zaire	x		x	x			x
Zambia	x		x	x	x	x	x

Note: South Africa, Rhodesia, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique are not included.

- a/ The same body performs functions of overall science planning and multi-sectoral science research co-ordination
- b/ The same body performs functions of multi-sectoral science research co-ordination and co-ordination for industrial research
- c/ Under organization
- d/ The national library is expected to be established. The national University has its library
- e/ Maghreb countries has a centre for industrial Studies

- SOURCES:**
- 1) UNESCO World Directory of National Science Policy-Making Bodies
  - 2) UNESCO Working document for the Meeting of Experts on the National Planning of Documentation and Library Sciences in Africa
  - 3) Scientific Research in Africa, National Policies Research Institutions UNESCO/ECA
  - 4) Survey of the Scientific and Technological Potentials of African Countries, Field Science Office for Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, November 1969

TABLE 2: LIST OF INSTITUTIONS DEALING WITH INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND INFORMATION IN SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Country	Name of the institutions	Brief description of functions
1. Algeria	National Company for Industrial Studies and Development	Feasibility studies for various branches of industry
2. Arab Republic of Egypt	Central Organ for Mobilization and Statistics	Collection of industrial statistics and various aspects of industrial surveys
	National Institute for Information and Documentation	Information and documentation on science and industry
	Organization for Standards Specification of the Ministry of Industry, Petroleum and Mineral wealth	Information on industrial standards and standardization in industry
	Industrial Development Centre for Arab States	Feasibility studies, project evaluation and appraisal, investment promotion, market studies
3. Botswana	Botswana Development Corporation	Recently organized; has already started preparing feasibility studies
4. Ethiopia	Technical Agency	Feasibility studies for branches of industry, selected by the Government and providing assistance to private investors
	Chamber of Commerce	Studies in the field of small-scale industry and assistance to entrepreneurs
	Investment and Export Promotion Centre	Identification of feasible projects - assistance to potential investors
	Standards Institution	Standards and quality control
5. Ghana	Industrial Holding Corporation	Feasibility studies and evaluation of projects, financial assistance
6. Kenya	Industrial and Commerce Development Corporation	When established it was expected to work out feasibility studies for industrial sectors. But according to information available it mainly deals with the problems related to commerce
7. Lesotho	National Development Corporation	Recently organized - investment promotion oriented
8. Libya	Industrial Research Development Dept.	Feasibility studies - market surveys
	Industrial Organization Department	Industrial planning
9. Malawi	Malawi Development Corporation	Market studies and to a certain extent feasibility studies
10. Morocco	Société d'Etude	Studies mainly in the field of mining and processing
11. Nigeria	Federal Institute for Industrial Research	Research
	Research Division of Central Bank	Market studies, project evaluation
	Nigerian Industrial Development Bank	Feasibility studies for approved projects
12. Sudan	Industrial Research Institute	Industrial research and assistance to the established enterprises



Table 2: Continued

Country	Name of the Institution	Brief description of functions
13. Swaziland	Swaziland National Development Finance Corporation	Investment promotion
14. Uganda	Uganda Development Corporation	Investment promotion
	Project Division of Muljibhai Madhvanl & Co. Ltd.	Feasibility studies and market research
	Industrial Development Centre	Recently established with UNIDO assistance
15. United Republic of Tanzania	National Development Corporation	Feasibility studies, market analysis
	Industrial Studies and Development Centre	Industrial research and planning
16. Zaire	Centre de Recherches Industrielles en Afrique Central	Industrial research
17. East African Common Services Organization	East African Development Bank, Project preparation and promotion division	Investment promotion
18. Zambia	Industrial Development Corporation	Feasibility studies, market analysis, financial and technical assistance to industry
19. Maghreb	Centre for Industrial Studies for Maghreb countries	Industrial research

5. In addition, the Central Organ for Mobilization and Statistics, which possesses the largest number of computers in the Arab Republic of Egypt, collects and computerizes diversified industrial statistics, including those of existing industrial surveys. The National Planning Institute is responsible for the training of post graduate students specializing in industrial planning while the National Research Institute has the duty of carrying out scientific and industrial research. A sister organization, the National Institute for Information and Documentation, as the name implies, maintains a collection of bibliographic information and documents covering various facets of scientific and industrial development. Both of these institutes have their own libraries and documentation centres.
6. The five universities in the Arab Republic of Egypt have laboratory and library facilities to carry out research in applied science. Besides, the other specialized bodies like the El Tabbin Metallurgical Coking Industry and Refractories, the Textiles Industries Institute, the Small-scale Industry Institute and the four industrial research councils for heavy industry organizations all provide information in their respective spheres of activity.
7. Moreover, there are other national and regional organizations which contribute significantly to industrial research and information. Some of these are already in operation and others are being set up under the auspices of the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS). These include, among others, the Textile Industries in the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Iron and Steel Institute in Algeria, and the Petrochemical Institute to be set up in either Libya or Syria. IDCAS also trains personnel for industrial surveys, industrial economics, industrial information, project formulation, appraisal and evaluation.
8. Of the countries in the West African sub-region, Nigeria has well developed institutes for advanced scientific research and for collection of information. However, no single national organization appears to be responsible for industrial research and information. The National Library serves as a depository for books, documents, newspapers, newspaper clippings, etc. Within the government, industrial information is handled by various ministries which have their own technical libraries to provide relevant documentation and other material. Semi-governmental institutes, include the following: the Federal Institute of Industrial Research, the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research, the Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research, the Research Division of the Central Bank and the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank. The material collected by these institutes is useful for the preparation and evaluation of projects.
9. In most African countries, information required for industrial development and specifically for investment follow-up activities are provided by national development corporations, investment banks and chambers of commerce and industry. There are few examples of operations of investment promotion services, per se. These await to be developed to provide the services that would stimulate a greater flow of resources to industry. In the meanwhile countries stand to benefit from a better co-ordination of the activities of agencies already established. For example, information collected by a national chamber of

commerce in undertaking market surveys would be useful to national development corporations in preparing feasibility studies. Such a course would also avoid duplication of work.

10. There is also scope for deriving increased benefits through multinational co-operation that would promote maximum utilization of existing facilities. By these means the efficiency of the facilities could be improved and a more effective utilization of available resources could be ensured.





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