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REPORT ON
THE INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE
OF THE
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR ARAB STATES

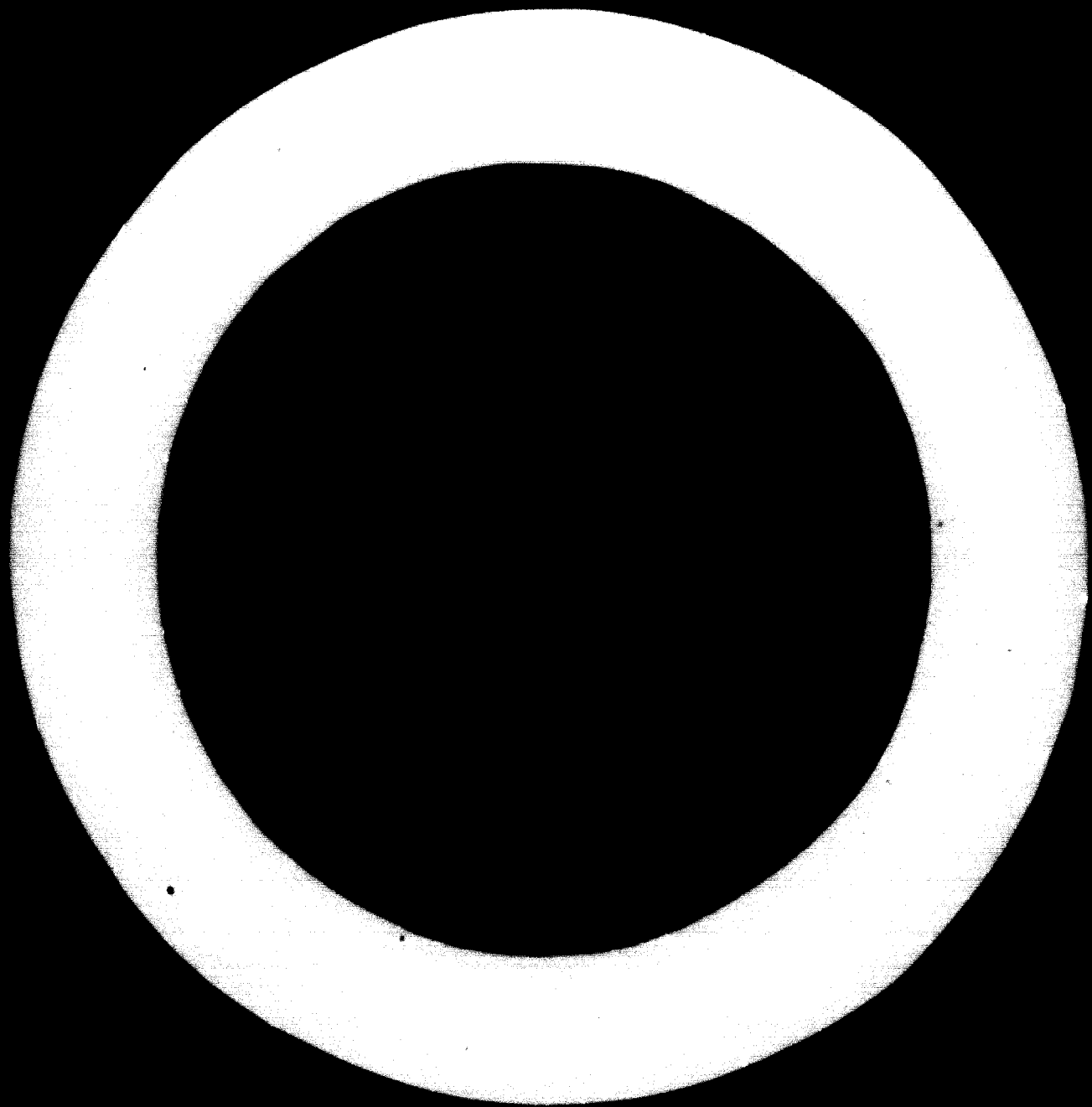
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1/ The views and opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the secretariat of UNIDO.

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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.



The Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS) is an inter-governmental agency affiliated to the Arab League. Membership includes fourteen Arab countries as well as five Arabian Gulf States.

The Centre aims at supporting industrial development in member States and provides services which are beyond the scope of national institutions. It is also an instrument of co-operation and co-ordination between the member countries in the same field and shall assist in creating grounds for joint or group production, marketing and/or investment.

IDCAS consists of six departments

- Technology and Industrial design department
- Economic Studies departments
- Productivity and Manpower department
- Technical cooperation department
- Documentation and Scientific Computation department
- General Administration and Control Services department

In order to ensure an adequate transfer of experience in this field of activity, IDCAS deemed it pertinent that an Industrial Information and Documentation Centre in the field of economic development in general and industrial development in particular be initiated. The Industrial Information and Documentation Centre has as its objectives furnishing governments, general institutions, researchers and production units with the documentation and documentary references they may need in confronting development or production of other problems and with advisory services which can ensure optimum utilization of the available documentary references or publishing them. It, also, issues general Bibliographies, Annotated Bibliographies, an Abstract Journal, Acquisition Lists, Industrial Development Magazine in Arabic and French including Articles, Reports, Technical and Economic Abstracts, which are widely distributed and utilized in and outside the Arab world.

The Industrial Information and Documentation Centre (IIDC) is a department consisting of the following units:

- 1) Library Unit
- 2) Documentation Unit
- 3) Industrial Information Unit
- 4) Publication Unit
- 5) Specialized Industrial Information Centres Unit
- 6) Computer Services Unit

The IIDC is involved in collecting information and studies covering:

- Economic Planning
- Project evaluation and implementation
- Statistical studies and data
- Managerial and Labour studies
- Finance, Marketing and Costing
- Manpower Planning, Training, Technical Industrial and Professional education
- Industrial Labour and Financial Legislations
- Industrial Property and Royalties
- Industrial Organization
- Wages, incentives and performance evaluation
- Control of Materials, Production and Quality
- Specifications, classifications, metrology and standards
- Industrial Technology in all fields except those of the specialized information centres (mentioned after)

Their specialized tasks involve information activity in the following areas:

- expert selection and referral services
- consultation in regard to machinery and equipment and industrial processes
- marketing orientation whether for raw materials or products

The Centre has, also, established a network of specialized Industrial Information and Documentation Centres each in a specific industry, according to request submitted by the Arab countries. Their degree depended on their most developed industry.

The Centres are situated as follows:

- Textile Information and Documentation Centre in Egypt
- Food Processing Industries Information and Documentation Centre in Sudan
- Iron and Steel Information and Documentation Centre in Algeria
- Small-scale Industries Information and Documentation Centre in Egypt
- Engineering Industries Information and Documentation Centre in Iraq
- Building Material Industries Information and Documentation Centre in Jordan
- Productivity and Training Research Information and Documentation Centre in Libya
- Petrochemical Industries Information and Documentation Centre in Syria
- Fertilisers Industry Information and Documentation Centre in Lebanon

In accomplishing its tasks, the Industrial Information and Documentation Centre utilizes the services offered by the following Organizations:

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- International Labour Office (ILO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- U.N. Economic and Social Council
- Other Specialized Information and Documentation Centres throughout the world, e.g. Turkdoc, Pnaudoc, Technical Information Service Canada, etc.

Their role will be to help us in collecting, information, its organization, analysis, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination, in order to help our users (research workers, planners, executives, industrialists, scholars, and others) and to save their time, efforts and money.

Thus, these Centres will be a means of accumulation of knowledge, to the exchange of the results of scientific, technical and human experiences irrespective of race or country. By doing so, duplication can be avoided.

It has been taken into consideration, that the information explosion has created vast resources. The Developing Countries have, lately, come to realise that there is an over increasing need of scientific research where this information can be useful and effective.

After thorough studies, it was decided that the system to be used should, eventually, be computer based. Our Centre has already started a storage and retrieval system in both languages Arabic and English, as the traditional methods of storing and retrieving of documents means either losing a considerable amount of information, or taking on a very large staff. Around 5000 English documents and 2000 Arabic ones have already been analysed and stored. We use the services of the "Scientific Computation Centre" Cairo University.

We have passed the experimental stage and the Computer Programmes appear to be adequate for present needs.

The IDCAS network expects to become a part of the World Industrial Information and Documentation System. With this in mind, there are close contacts with UNIDO, OECD and FID.

We have recently bought reprography equipment (with the financial help of UNIDO) for our Centre as well as for the Specialised Centres, mentioned above, for \$160,000.

An Enquiry Service has been established on a small-scale pending completion of its data gathering, development of rosters of consultants, and of information sources and subsequent promotion of the service. It has received and is answering a limited number of enquiries mainly sent by OECD and UNIDO.

It has been decided that our Question and Answer service for the first year, at least would be free of charge.

Our Centre is mainly specialized in Industrial development of the Arab World. However, Foreign Documentation and Information will be used in its development. To assist in this we have established a network of correspondents from most Arab Countries as the fields and area-covered is so vast. A meeting of correspondents was held at the Centre in October 1971.

A circular has been sent to all Arab countries with full details of our Centre regarding the operation and the service given, encouraging them to forward questions within their sphere of interest to the Information and Documentation Centre, as well as assessing, on the spot, the service given allowing for the final destination of the documentary material required. Also the Arab Countries were engaged in the publicity with a view to extending our service's audience.

Furthermore, the idea of documentary exchanges between our Centre and similar ones has proved to be a very welcomed idea, which represents a better use of the experiments being made throughout the world in Industrial Economic and Social Development.

Our Centre's first aim is to try, always, to improve our services rendered to users, by fully understanding their documentation needs. As it is clear that these needs differ from one country to the other according to Industries, economy, etc. There is hope that it would not be very long before we can establish an SDI Service, each user according to his field of specialization and needs.

The first step to fulfil our documentation and Industrial Information Centre's job, was the establishment of a Descriptor List. Firstly, the UNIDO List was used. Then, with its additions we built an IDCAS List consisting of 4,400 descriptors. There is also the Macrothesaurus, which is a Descriptor List prepared by nine international organizations, e.g. UNIDO, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, OPED, etc., including terminology covering their special needs. This list consists of nearly 5000 descriptors and will be in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. The Industrial Information and Documentation Centre (IDCAS) will be in charge of producing the Arabic version and transmitting it for storage in the form of Transliterated Terms.

These descriptors are used to describe the contents of information material such as documents, economic not arrive as quick as it should.

The problem of other Information and Documentation Centres thinking we are competing with them while we think that every Centre can help the other. i.e. the non existing cooperation with other national centres.





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