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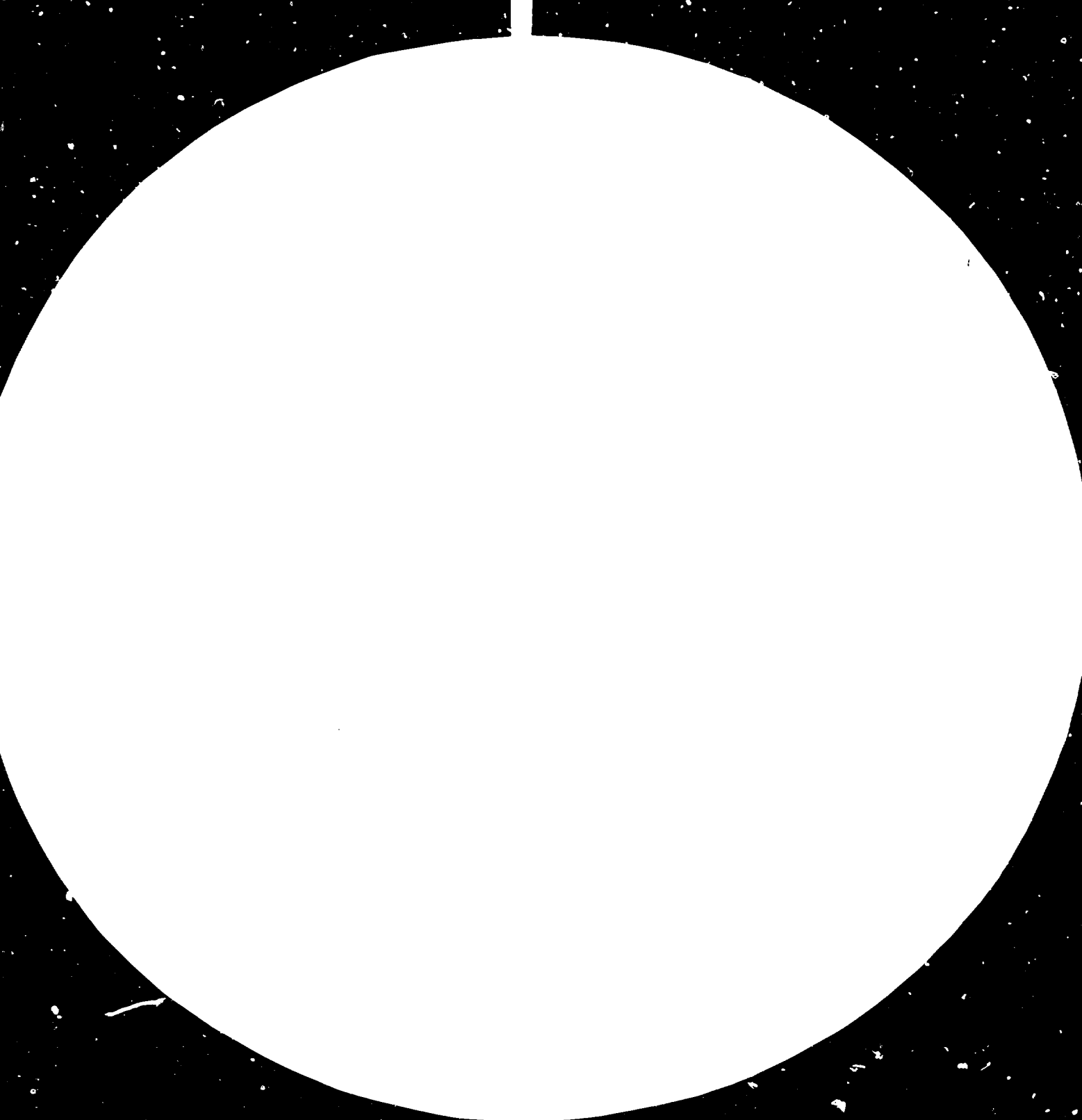
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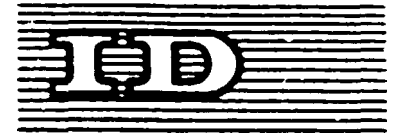


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Technical Course on Criteria for the  
Selection of Woodworking Machines

Milan, Italy, 5 - 21 May 1980

WOODWORKING INDUSTRIES IN AFGHANISTAN \*

by

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506520

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Woodworking as a craft has been prevalent in Afghanistan from very ancient times. This has grown among other occupations in a comparative manner either as a manual labour type (craft industry) or as a machinery oriented industry.

The woodworking industry has expanded in various parts of Afghanistan, both in urban and rural areas.

The small woodworking enterprises usually employ the conventional type of tools and equipment whereas the mechanized woodworking enterprises use modern woodworking machinery which is available on the international markets.

Most of the woodworking enterprises (which are small in scale) are privately owned while the larger scale enterprises are usually owned and run by the government (with the exception of Jahan Najari Industries which is privately owned).

Woodworking industries in Afghanistan supply the local needs in the field of furniture, carpentry and joinery on the one hand and produce the traditional wooden goods for export to other countries. It has grown from its primitive form to its mechanized status through the close co-operation of the private sectors of the economy with the interested governmental agencies and involved with the development of industries in Afghanistan. The development of this industry is based on the growing needs of people and the vast expansion and modernization of cities promoted by government authorities.

The limited trained personnel, technicians and specialized labour needed for the woodworking industry are either provided by the vocational and technical schools available in the country, or are trained through conventional apprenticeships. The latter are far more common.

The raw materials consumed in the woodworking industry come mostly from natural forests. These forests cover 13.000 square kilometers of the land. Some of the timber needed also comes from privately owned plantations. The species of timber used consist of fir, poplar, pine, teak, willow and mulberry trees which are sawn and then seasoned by either natural air drying (most common) or, in the case of some mills kiln, by seasoning. Primary processing is mainly done in factories owned by the government. Timber is not preserved by chemicals against insects and fungi. Some of the country's needs in wood and timber are imported from the Soviet Union on the basis of the trade agreements and contracts reached at governmental levels. Since wood is also used as a source of energy to heat the buildings during the winter season and for cooking, part of the supply does not reach the factory. The development of forests and plantations are considered by the Ministry of Agriculture to remedy the shortage created by the consumption of wood for heating purposes.

Statistics and details regarding the various woodworking enterprises and mills (including both privately and publicly owned ones) are briefly outlined in the Tables no. 1 and 2 given on the last two pages of this paper.

It is worth mentioning that most of the hand tools used by 60.000 craftsmen in the various branches of woodworking industries are locally made by the local craftsmen themselves. This means that their efficiency and productivity, due to poor quality hand tools is extremely low. On the basis of this fact it can be recommended that modern equipment including electrical tools have a good potential market in the Republic of Afghanistan, and interested foreign producers of modern woodworking equipment and tools can be encouraged to plan the export of such items to Afghanistan which will not be only beneficial to the modernization of woodworking industries in Afghanistan, but also play its role in the fields of international co-operation as far as technical and industrial development is concerned.

All of the woodworking machines and their spare parts as well as tools are available in Afghanistan through imports from foreign countries.

Such importers of tools and machinery are Italy, for example, Germany , and the USSR. There are no local factories manufacturing woodworking machines and their spare parts in Afghanistan.



TABLE NO. 1

Publicly Owned Woodworking Plants

Factory Details	Afghan Carpentry Enterprise	Kunar Carpentry Factory	Ministry of Education Carpentry Factory
Location	Kabul	Kunar	Kabul
Year of Establishment	1961	1968	1979
Process	Primary and Secondary	Primary and Secondary	Primary and Secondary
Product	Chipboard/Panel	Joinery, Furniture Panels	Joinery, Furniture
Cost of Project 1979	Af 90 million	Af 30 million	
No. of Employees	1,411	100	103
No. of Machines	152	18	14
Installed Power	600-700 HP	140 KW	68 KW
Exports	France, Germany Sweden, Switzerland	None	None
Extension Plan (Purchasing)	Glue mixer, Belt sander, Knot cutter, Joining, Veneering press, lathe, Metal cutter machines: as well as a complete particle board plant.	Saws, Planer, Drilling machine, Belt sander, welding equipment	None

NOTE: Ministry of Defence Carpentry factory, Afghan Construction Unit Carpentry Factory, Banai Carpentry and Itelmad Carpentry Factory are also the largest state owned carpentry factories, but no data on them is available.

TABLE NO. 2

Privately Owned Woodworking Plants

Factory Details	Jahan Carpentry	Samimi Carpentry	Najary Az-Neghi Fane
Location	Kabul	Kabul	Kabul
Year of Establishment	1973	1979	1979
Process	Primary and Secondary	Primary and Secondary	Primary and Secondary
Product	Furniture, Joinery Panels	Furniture	Furniture, Panels
Cost of Project 1979	Af 20 million	Af 3 million	Af 1 million
No. of Employees	200	31	30
No. of Machines	34	8	7
Installed Power	200-300 HP	80 KW	70 KW
Exports	France, Germany Sweden, Switzerland	-	-
Extension Plan (Purchasing)	Planer, Joiner, Coating Sharpening, Universal Cutting, machines and a drying plant	None	Planer, sand press and Joining machines

NOTE: Najary Fani, Aziz industry, Ghulam Rasul Carpentry are also large private factories; but data concerning them is not available.



