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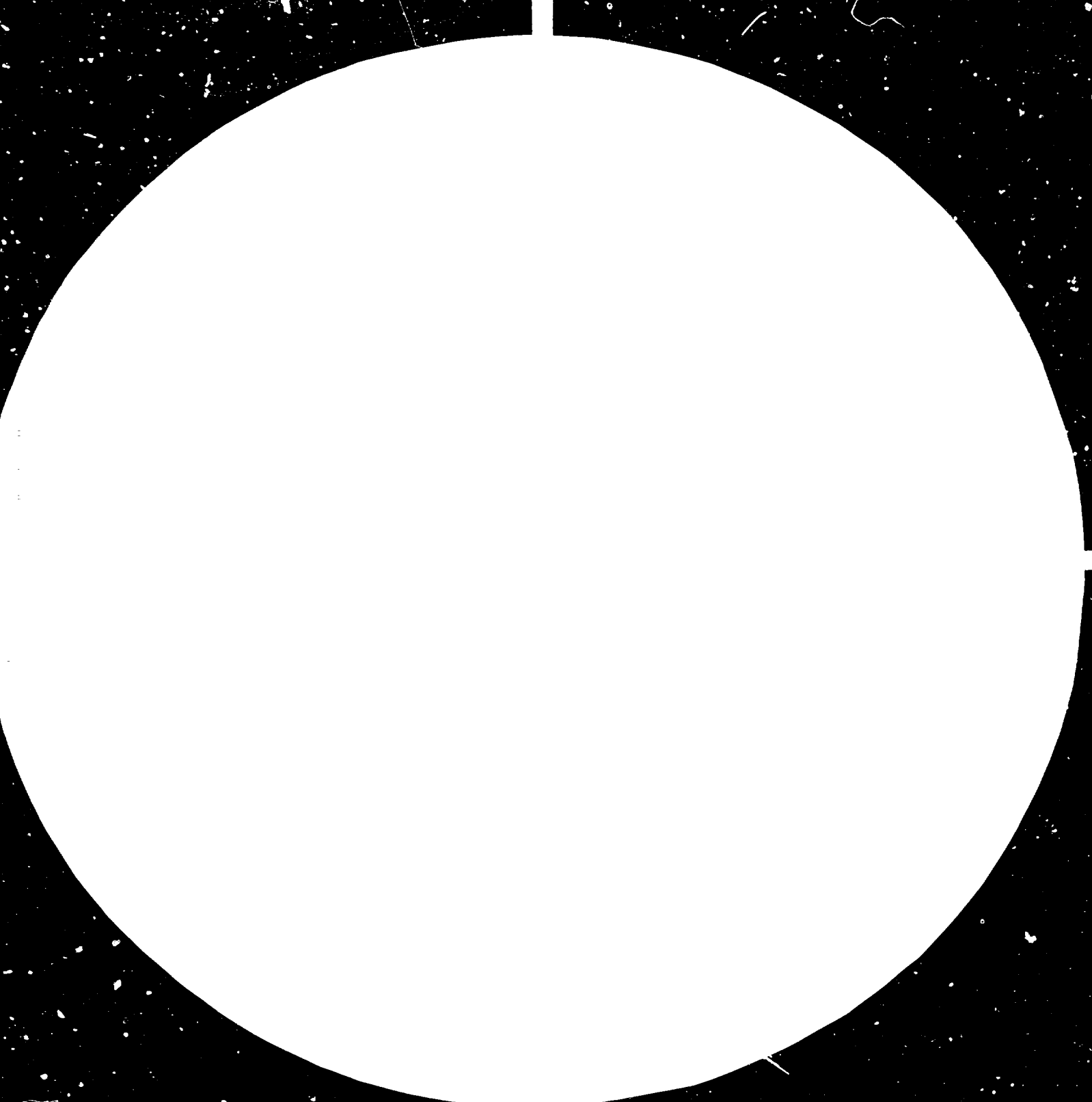
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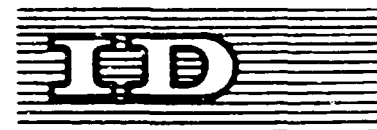
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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN UNIDO AND ISO IN PROMOTING CO-OPERATION AMONG STANDARDIZATION  
ORGANIZATIONS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND IN ASSISTING THESE ORGANIZATIONS\*

prepared by

International Organization for Standardization  
(ISO)\*\*

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\*\* Geneva, Switzerland.

## ISO AND UNIDO COOPERATE ON DEVELOPING STANDARDIZATION BODIES

Standardization in specific projects does not succeed just because of a strong conviction by a large number of people that it is needed. It succeeds because a sufficient number of informed people are willing and ready to find the resources to participate, and that an organization exists to coordinate their endeavour. An individual standard represents a complex network of needs, all of which will be expressed individually and with some force by the elements which represent them. The standardization process itself has to be organized professionally - that is why the membership of the International Organization for Standardization is made up of national standards organizations who, for the main part, are technically capable of appreciating the scientific, economic and humanitarian motives behind individual participation.

Standards bodies, therefore, have to learn their own trade before they can gain a strong foothold in the world of international standardization. What is more, apprenticeship is complicated by the fact that even the most experienced standards organizations - the very people to whom staff of developing countries are often sent for training - are themselves in a state of development and experimentation related to the growth of technology and changes in world trade practice. Add to this the undoubted fact that very few professional standardizers in, say, Britain, have first hand knowledge of the particular needs of their would-be professional colleagues in other parts of the world.

It is thus extremely important that any training or development process promoted by ISO have the support of an organization which has a specialized knowledge of fundamental development problems. A promise of this support has been found in UNIDO and in 1979 the Executive Director of UNIDO and the Secretary General of ISO signed an agreement of understanding which outlined certain guidelines that would govern co-operation between and coordination of their activities where these are mutually supportive.

Under this scheme it was decided to set up a Joint UNIDO/ISO Committee which would meet alternately in Vienna and Geneva to decide upon joint action based on the work programmes of both organizations. At this stage I would like to refer to the ISO DEVCO work programme (mentioned in my earlier paper) which was drawn up in 1980 for the period 1981/82.

The programme has six elements namely :

1. Identification and accomodation of needs
2. Preparation of guides
3. Training
4. Study tours of senior officers of NSBs
5. Participation in ISO/TC/SC meetings
6. Development of product standards

Implementation by ISO of the elements relating to training and the preparation of guides has begun in earnest as a result of which to date five regional training seminars have been run by ISO (I have only just returned from the latest one held in Sri Lanka), 2 in Africa, (Addis Ababa and Lusaka) one in South East Asia (Bangkok), one in the Caribbean (Barbados) and one in South Asia (Colombo). As far as this year is concerned 2 more are scheduled to be run by ISO in Latin America (Rio de Janeiro) and in the Arab Region (Amman).

One important feature of the seminars is the opportunity afforded for developing country members to exchange ideas and experiences and lay a foundation for cooperation.

The manuals mentioned above are on :

1. The establishment and management of a national standards body and
2. Guide to the operation of a certification scheme. ISO hopes to put into operation the machinery for preparing other manuals for the benefit of developing countries.

UNIDO has expressed keen interest in providing financial support for the programme elements which deal with :

- (i) Participation by ISO developing country members in ISO/TC/SC meetings and
- (ii) Study tours of senior officers of NSBs. At a meeting held in Vienna on 7 April between the Executive Director of UNIDO and the ISO President, the former gave his support to the proposal for UNIDO to sponsor the elements of the programme mentioned before. It is hoped that appropriate action will soon be forthcoming from UNIDO.

Coming back to the memorandum of understanding one further provision is that subject to relevant rules UNIDO is invited to attend sessions of the ISO General Assembly and relevant ISO Council committees, and to participate in the work and meetings if such meetings are of interest to them (UNIDO). In this connection UNIDO has been sending representatives to the ISO General Assembly as well as to the meetings of the Council Committee for developing countries affairs, DEVCO. Conversely ISO is invited to attend sessions of the UNIDO General Conference, Industrial Development Board sessions, and the UNIDO consultation meetings organized on sectorial or regional bases. In appropriate cases, meetings convened by one organization may call for the cooperation and participation of the other. It is in this spirit that ISO is represented at this particular workshop.

UNIDO and ISO keep each other informed about work of mutual interest and exchange routine publications.

UNIDO fellows i.e. selected UNIDO candidates from various countries who tour certain organizations in Europe, visit the ISO Central Secretariat for varying periods of time to familiarize themselves with the machinery that is behind the production of international standards.

In this respect more than 30 fellows so far have passed through the ISO Central Secretariat. They have come from various countries including Brazil, Philippines, Malaysia. The following UNIDO experts, among others, have called at the ISO Central secretariat for briefing and debriefing at the beginning and end respectively of their assignments in developing countries.

Mr. B. Winser, Mr. Krishnamachar, Mr. P.E. Jones, Dr. K.S. Stephens, Dr. A.B. Rao.

This in a nutshell outlines the cooperative action between ISO and UNIDO in assisting standards organizations in developing countries and promoting cooperation among them.





