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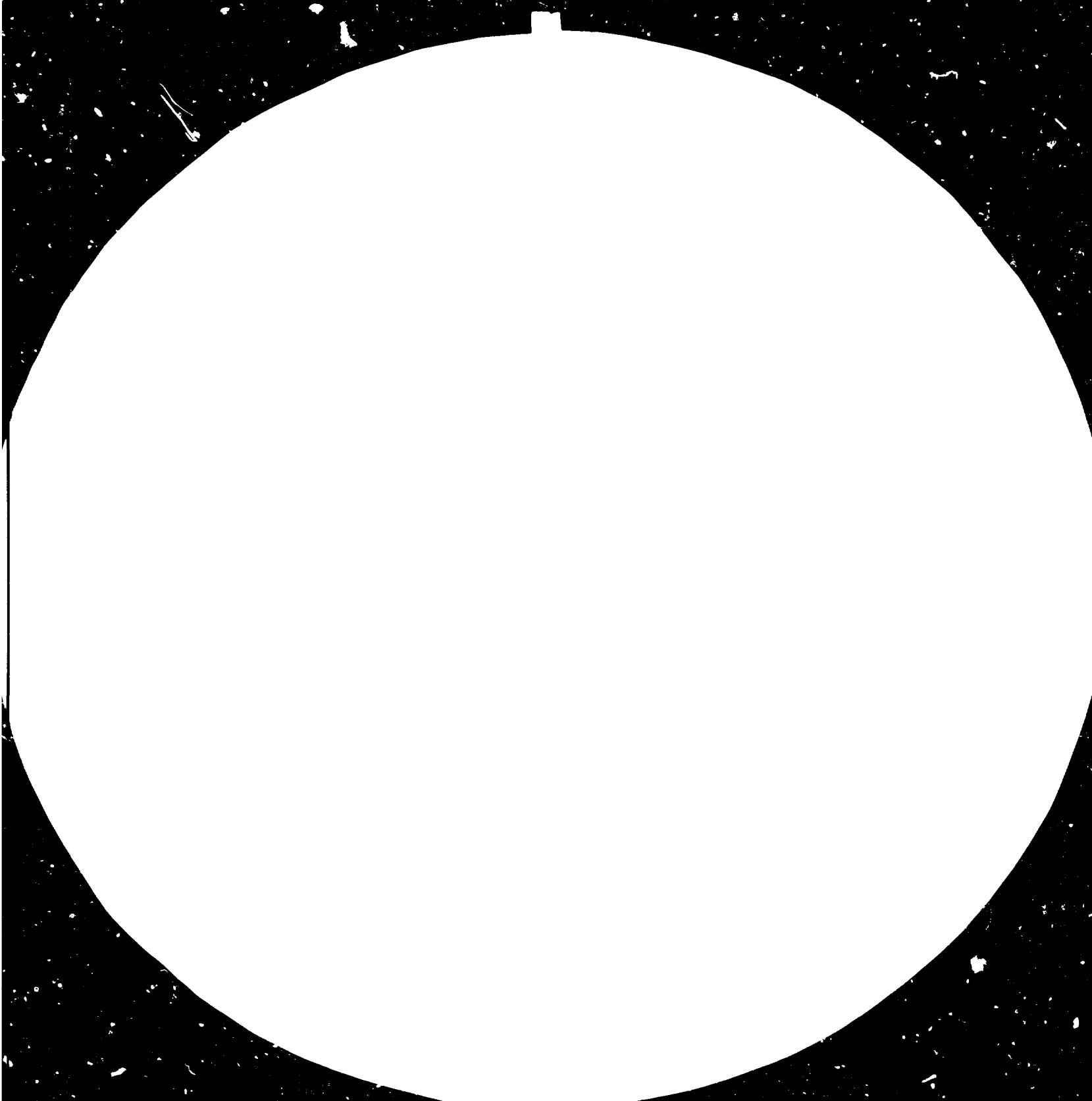
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MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART

Meeting of Selected Heads of
Technology Transfer Registries

Vienna, Austria, 6-8 July 1983

12643

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE

NEED AND OBJECTIVES OF AN ANNUAL

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

-7. JULI 1983

Contents

INTRODUCTION

The New Delhi Meeting of Heads of Technology Transfer Registries recommended that UNIDO should prepare an annual review on technology transfer trends. The present paper analyzes in detail the scope of such publication and gives a brief description of the desired outline of such review.

ANALYSIS OF THE NEEDS

There are a large number of publications, dealing with economic growth, the impact of fiscal, monetary and other developmental policies . Similarly, work is being carried on by a number of different bodies and results published, on technology transfer and technology development. It is felt, however, that there is a need for a publication which can integrate these various studies by additional data on technology flows and take a composite view of technology policy, technology transfer and economic development. Therefore, there is definite need for such a publication, provided it can satisfy the requirements of the potential readers.

Likely users and their needs

These target groups and these needs are briefly described below:

1. **The policy makers/decision-makers**

    (a) The members of government – ministers or equivalent.

    (b) The senior civil servants. This would span different departments of government varying from country to country, e.g. industry, planning, finance, science and technology, any other economic departments. To this may be added the heads of research laboratories or other national institutions concerned with technology development.

    (c) Regional and interregional bodies.

Perhaps this is the target group to which highest attention should be paid. In any system the major policy changes and policy directions come from above. They may take a lot of time in their formulation, especially in systems which require a lot of consultation and discussion, but ultimately they come from the top. This is true even in developed countries, much more so is it in developing countries where the leaderships are new and often do not have a well developed bureaucracy, and set of rules and procedures.

This group requires information:

(a) Which tells them what is happening in the rest of the world in technology (transfer, indigenous development, etc.). What is happening in other developing countries, similarly placed and more developed.

(b) What are or should be his own technology plans/requirements - how to meet them, from where and at what cost.

For this class it is necessary that there should be a UNIDO publication which gives a bird's eye view of world economic development, industrial position of different countries and of technology plans, technological development, technology imports, and the different institutions and systems involved in technology absorption and adaptation, and of development. It would then be necessary to establish the inter-connections between these indicators so that the policy-maker can get a strong sense of what is happening, backed with facts and figures and analysis.

2.   The implementation agencies in government

(a) The ministries of industry, finance, science and technology, etc.

(b) Those in the technology transfer registries.

(c) Technology evaluation wings of government.

(d) Research and design laboratories and technology adaptation and support centres.

They would require the material as for the first category to get
a sense of the whole and would especially be interested in the details
of the various chapters as for instance royalty rates, durations, etc.
What are licensors getting and what are licensees getting out of the
technology. What are the various models of and levels of sophistication
of the technology plans, relationship of technology payments to
industrial output, of foreign equity to technology inflow and adaptation, etc.
What are systems designed for evaluation. What are the technological advances,
where are technologies available from, etc.

For this group, the documentation would be most important as reference
material to give them the details of their own area of interest and also
to show them how it falls into the larger whole.

3.   The business community

    (1) The apex organizations at the national, sub-national, regional,
         inter-regional , etc. level.

    (2) The individual business executives and managers.

This first group is the weightier target group, because they are also
a part of the policy making group either by a formal place in the policy
making structure or by virtue of their pressure group strength and informal
contacts.

The second part of this group would require:

    (a) Understanding of the technological advances in the world.

    (b) Where would this technology be available from and through whom.

    (c) For purposes of setting up joint ventures with other developing
         countries to understand the technology transfer set up, the rules,
         regulations, laws and guidelines in that country.

4. The media

The media even broadly defined does not fall into any specific category which either decides or implements policy and decisions connected with technology. Yet it affects policy, scrutinizes implementation and suggests the future course of action. The readership is vast and spans all the other categories whether decision-makers or those only implementing or those who are the heart of it, the business enterprises.

They would need both the full reports and the summary as for the first group so that they can call out and serialize information of interest to their particular readership, and so that they have authoritative, ready reference material.

5. The academic community

For academic research and for furthering the cause of knowledge. For contributing to public thought on technology transfer issues.

SCOPE AND OUTLINE OF THE STUDY NEEDS OF USERS

1. Scope and outline of the publication

UNIDO has consistently been collecting and publishing some information on technology transfers, the organizations dealing with these transfers, and the rules and regulations within which they operate. Some information in this field is also available in the work of other UN and regional bodies. It is intended to develop this strength of UNIDO and,with technology transfer and technology development as the central focus, to set it it within the framework of national industrial and economic policies, and world economic development. It is therefore proposed that the Annual Review may be organized in its first issue as follows:

I. Trends in economic development

II. Operational strategies and policies towards technological development

III. Legal and institutional framework for transfer of technology

IV. Trends in technology flows

V. Analysis of interrelationship between technology transfer, technology development and economic development

The details of the outline of the proposed Review have been indicated separately.

2.   How the study will meet the users' needs

As can be seen from Table 1, the interests of potential readers are quite diversified,even if we take into account the most important group, i.e. government employees. The diversification occurs mainly in two aspects:

(a)   Different problems within the areas of technology transfer are considered as most essential by various groups of readers.

(b)   The readers are substantially diversified as for the level of aggregation of information required. Some will be interested in general trends, others in specific laws, instruments, policy measures and transactions.

ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

1.   Periodicity

It is suggested that the publication may be put out once every two years. It is obvious that in the first issue trends covering a longer period of time will have to be evaluated. The subsequent issues will concentrate on recent developments in development and transfer of technology. It is suggested that the next issues contain section B: special studies for discussing emerging issues and presenting results of empirical research on specific problems which are not related to the recent period.

2. Level and the distribution of the Annual Review

It is suggested that the Annual Review should maintain high professional and editorial level as a leading UNIDO annual publication in the field of technology transfer. The publication has to be widely disseminated, possibly as UN sales publication.

TABLE I

The potential readers of the Annual Review and their areas of interest

Area of interest / Users	I. Trends in economic development	II. Operational strategies and policies	III. Legal and institutional framework	IV. Trends in technology inflows	V. Analysis of interrelationships
1. Policy makers	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial
2. Governmental implementation agencies	Some	Substantial	Substantial	Some	Some
3. Business community	Some	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial	Some
4. Mass media	Some	Some	Some	Some	Some
5. Academic community	Some	Some	Some	Substantial	Substantial