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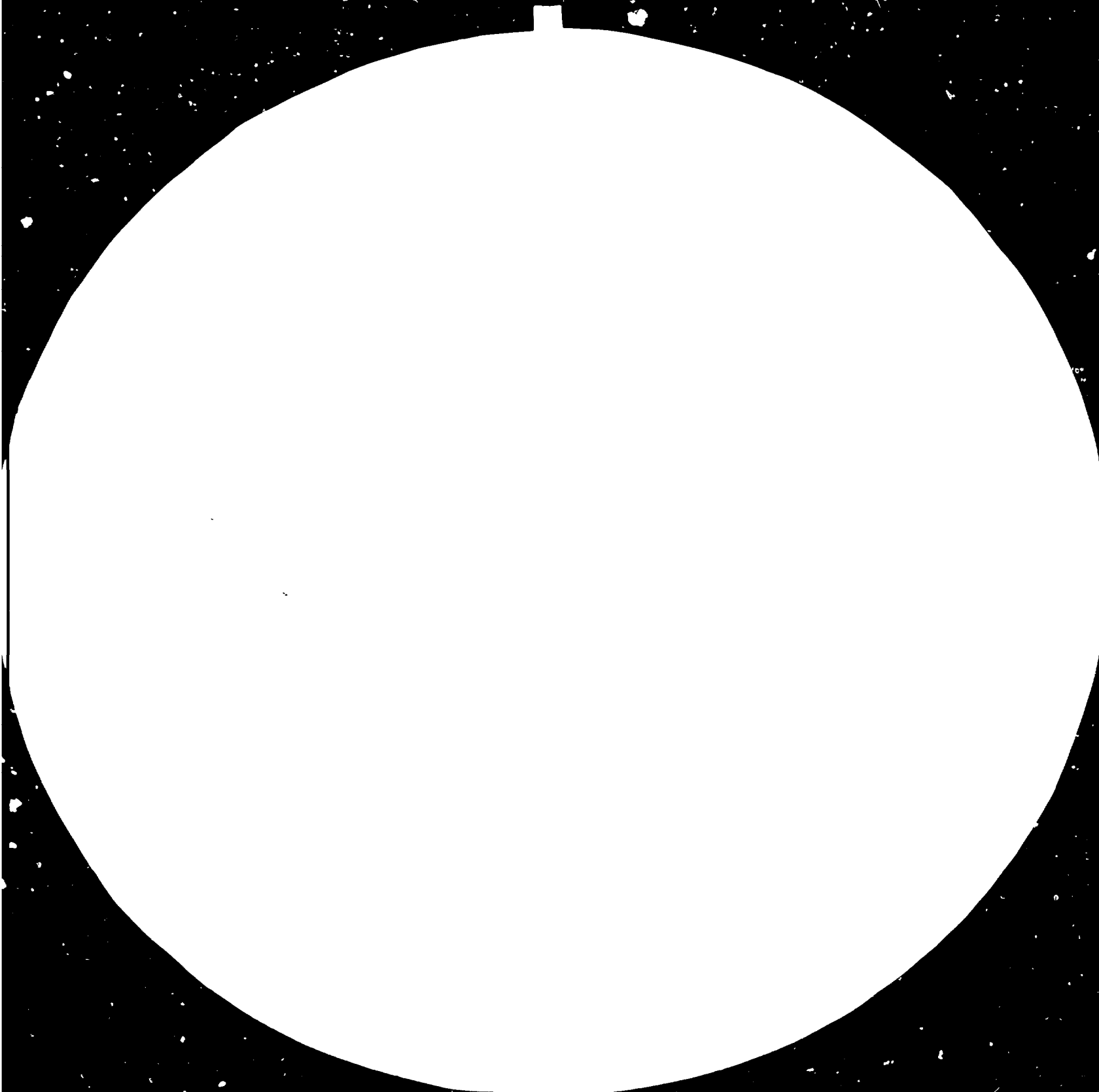
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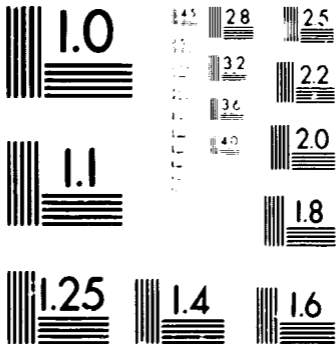
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Integration of Women in the
Industrial Planning and
Development Process

Bangkok, Thailand, 5 - 12 July 1984

ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES*

prepared by
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The importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC) has been recognized in a series of Resolutions and Declarations of the United Nations General Assembly and other international organizations. ECDC/TCDC is essential for the establishment of the New International Economic Order and necessary for the attainment of national and collective self-reliance of the developing countries and their effective participation in international economic relations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

UNIDO has been one of the pioneer UN agencies in promoting and implementing ECDC/TCDC. Even long before the UN Buenos Aires Conference on TCDC, UNIDO had initiated activities to encourage economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in the industrial sector.

Its special interest in this field began with a proposal submitted by the Government of Senegal to the first session of the Permanent Committee of the Industrial Development Board in December 1972, calling for an exchange of small and medium-scale industries. In response to the support expressed for this proposal, UNIDO, in consultation with the member states, suggested the establishment of a concrete programme of operation activities for the purpose of promoting technical co-operation among developing countries, by the exchange of adapted technology, information and development assistance formulae in the field of industry, including small and medium-scale industries, industrial programming, industrial financing, etc.

There are four principal spheres of possible co-operation in the industrial field:

- Industrial development policies, strategies and planning;

- Industrial manufacturing unit and its elements such as finance; technology; engineering and design consulting; capital goods and equipment and human resources.
- Institutional infrastructure for industry:
 - Research and development
 - Engineering and design consulting
 - Vocational training and academic institutions.
- Physical infrastructure for industry.

Of course, it should be underlined that co-operation should be based on conditions of equality and mutual benefit.

Most developing countries have an explicit or implicit economic and social planning apparatus in which industrial planning forms an important, in some cases the most important, component.

There are certain features of industrialization policies that appear to be common to most developing countries and that may be categorized as follows:

- The development of agro-related industries, either agro-processing or producers of inputs for agriculture;
- The full utilization and development of domestic resources, reflecting the principle of self-reliance and comparative advantage criteria with regard to the development of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, as well as human resources;
- The production of mass consumption or "basic" goods to satisfy the needs and raise the living standards of the poorest segments of the population;

- The development of the capital goods industry, in view of its vital importance for the process of vertical integration, higher value added and employment;
- Greater emphasis on export promotion policies.

It is difficult to prescribe particular policies for TCDC that are of general applicability to all developing countries, since a developing country's industrial strategy and policies could be expected to vary according to the chosen style of development, the level of industrialization already achieved, geographical size and location etc., and policy responses to dynamic changes in the international economic situation.

Nevertheless, it is possible to consider certain orientations that such policies should take based on the guiding principles of solidarity, mutual benefits, diversity of forms and the achievement of concrete results. At a global level, policies should therefore be oriented towards:

- Strengthening the negotiating capacities of developing countries to obtain fair and equitable conditions from the developed countries in the transfer of technology and managerial know-how, finance, energy and capital and intermediate products for industrialization;
- Sharing information and facilitating the flow of human, scientific, technological, energy and financial resources between the developing countries;
- Increasing direct foreign investment between the developing countries, particularly for the benefit of the least developed countries.

At a bilateral, regional and interregional level, such policies should be oriented towards:

- Co-ordinating and harmonizing national industrialization plans and promoting regional industrial sectoral planning and programming;
- Establishing multinational industrial enterprises in key priority areas and based on the utilization of local raw materials;
- Promoting joint ventures between industrial enterprises, both public and private, of developing countries;
- Ensuring special treatment for countries in the initial stages of industrialization in the sharing of costs and benefits related to particular projects for TCDC;
- Developing financial co-operation for project development and industrial investment.

At the same time, a series of more specific objectives that should be addressed by policies to promote TCDC should be established. Such policies of developing countries should aim at:

- Multiplying initiatives for TCDC. This needs information on opportunities for TCDC operations, a study of potential supply and demand and mechanisms for bringing together the likely participants in such operations;
- Making available financial support and incentives for projects for TCDC to the interested parties;
- Setting up projects involving TCDC that have positive features that will produce benefits to the countries concerned;
- Working out concrete proposals, which may include co-operation between public and private enterprises, co-operation between institutions that support industrialization and co-operation aimed at developing comprehensive industrial systems;
- Establishing technical co-operation networks among two or more developing countries;

- Setting up networks of national manufacturing associations and chambers of commerce and industry to help in project identification and to promote contacts among entrepreneurs concerned.

The UNIDO programme for TCDC has five mutually supporting components:

- Organization of "solidarity" meetings, aimed at benefiting the least developed countries, and "round table" ministerial meetings;
- Promotion and development of joint programmes for specific industrial sectors;
- Follow-up of recommendations of the System of Consultations for TCDC and organization of regional Consultations;
- Exchange of experience and information on development, adaptation and transfer to technology;
- Support measures to the Caracas Programme of Action of the Group of 77, including substantive assistance in the organization of follow-up meetings.

The UNIDO programme is primarily intended:

- To promote the spirit of solidarity and to increase the awareness of the necessity and possibility of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries;
- To encourage the developing countries to adopt policies and regulations favourable to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in order to obtain maximum benefit from them;
- To promote special programmes for TCDC between regions, e.g., the Asian region and African countries;
- To promote co-operation in specific industrial sectors, as well as specific projects, in order to strengthen the indigenous capabilities of the developing countries;

- To promote mechanisms for Asia within the framework of the existing structure of the region.

The Asian countries, being at varying degrees of development like many other Latin American and African countries - with weak economic structures vulnerable to the deteriorating international economic environment - would be better off if they were increasingly inclined towards seeking a more autonomous means or greater self-reliant pattern of development, and when national self-reliance proves to be too unrealistic a policy to pursue, then self-reliance on a subregional basis would seem to be the logical and acceptable alternative. Hence, the efforts among groups of developing countries at regional economic co-operation, which were also strongly endorsed by many development economists as a form of South-South co-operation.

It is well-known that the domestic markets of the Asian states are too small to permit the efficient operation of a whole range of manufacturing industries. Smaller economies could, of course, concentrate on a limited number of carefully selected manufactured products in order to realize sufficient economies of scale. Thus, regional co-operation among them could well lead to closer economic independence with larger industrial centres outside the region.

In the short run, regional co-operation offers the opportunity for some of the developing countries to pool their domestic markets and therefore operates as a convenient arrangement for the extension of the import-substitution process.

Within the framework of the TCDC programme, various activities aimed at integration of women in industrial development have been organized. In 1980, a study tour for three women from Turkey at the decision-making level was undertaken to Yugoslavia, where views were exchanged on practical measures to improve the technological skills of women, the establishment of extension services to educate women and improve their situation within their socio-economic environment. At the end of 1981, in co-operation with the Government of Bulgaria, UNIDO organized a seminar on the role of women in the development of industrial branches traditionally employing female labour. The seminar provided a forum for the exchange of information and views on the subject matter among representatives of 23 developing countries. Recommendations were made for the improvement of the status of women in this particular sector and their effective participation in the economic and social development of their respective countries.

UNIDO is in favour of assisting the participating countries in organizing study tours within the framework of the TCDC programme, in order to exchange views on practical measures to improve the capabilities of women in the industrial planning and development process. For this purpose, for example, some institutions in the neighbouring countries of the Asian region, could be centres where some activities mentioned above could be organized. Many other countries are willing to implement study tours within the framework of this programme, bearing in mind that the programme of technical co-operation among developing countries involves the following financial implications for the parties concerned:

- UNIDO will cover the cost of international travel and some so-called pocket money;
- The host Government will be expected to bear the local expenses, and the Government sending the experts will be expected to pay the regular salaries of the experts during their visit.

Of course, there are plenty of possibilities for such study tours which could be explored, in countries which are advanced in the field of female labour employment, such as India, China, etc. The floor is open for your suggestions, proposals and discussion.

