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DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

TF/GLO/88/907

REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

Technical report: Teaching a course on the use of CDS/ISIS and advising  
on establishing computerized databases\*

Prepared for the Government of the Republic of Seychelles  
by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Based on the work of Gabor Stiegrad, computer expert

Backstopping Officer: Juraj Pavlik,  
Institutional Infrastructure Branch

\* This document has not been edited.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Currency

The Rupee has the official value of 0.2 US\$, which means that 1 US\$ is equivalent to 5.00 Rupees.

### Acronyms and short terms

- CDS/ISIS - short name of a widely used textual database management software developed by Unesco. The actual version of CDS/ISIS used during the mission is the 2.3 version of the mini-micro variant
- INTIB - Industrial and Technological Information Bank (of UNIDO)
- TSSD - Technological Support Services Division (of the Department of Industries).

**ABSTRACT**

**Personal author : Gabor Stiegrad**  
**Corporate author : UNIDO**  
**Title of project : Establishment of an Industrial Scientific and  
Technical Documentation Centre**  
**Number of project: TF/GLO/88/907**  
**Title of report : Teaching a course on the use of CDS/ISIS and  
advising on establishing computerized databases**

The objective of the mission was to install the latest and correct version of the mini-micro CDS/ISIS, to teach an extensive course on the use of the software for the personnel of TSSD covering the most commonly used functions (e.g.: data entry, search) as well as the techniques for defining and setting up new databases, to provide practical sessions for the personnel and, finally, to advise the personnel on establishing computerized databases with CDS/ISIS. The objectives were attained and some recommendations were made to further prepare for the next phase of the project advised by Erik I. Vajda, the industrial information adviser assigned by UNIDO.

## INTRODUCTION

This report is based on the activities of the computer expert who accomplished a mission to the Republic of Seychelles from 28 October 1990 to 17 November 1990. The job description of the computer expert is in Annex 1.

During the first part of a split mission of the industrial information adviser it was recommended that the personnel of TSSD should have a thorough training on the use of CDS/ISIS in order to be able to carry out the main objective of the project: to set up a documentation centre which would create and use computerized databases. On the recommendation of the industrial information adviser and with the agreement of UNIDO and the Republic of Seychelles, it was decided to re-allocate the available funds and send a computer expert to the field rather than have a limited number of people from TSSD sent abroad to take part in CDS/ISIS courses. This solution proved to be better because more people from the TSSD could attend the course, some experts from different organizations could also participate (see the List of participants in Annex 2.) and the computer expert could give specific training and advise based on the very needs of TSSD.

The original objectives were attained, only a small correction was made to the prearranged plan (see I.A.). The results of the mission are reflected in the detailed report and some recommendations are also included.

## I. ACTIVITIES

This chapter is organized by the planned activities as they are described in the job description of the computer expert (see Annex 1.).

### A. Teaching a training course for the personnel

Upon arrival of the computer expert the original plan was discussed, finalized and partially revised. It was decided that because of the lack of professional computer programmers at TSSD and also because of the nature of the problems to be solved it would be more advantageous for the personnel if the programming tool of CDS/ISIS was dropped from the schedule of the course and the allocated time would be spent on partly for more practical sessions and partly for setting up a concrete database. Thus the course was organized into two consecutive parts:

Part A: basic functions of CDS/ISIS, data entry, retrieval. It was recommended for everyone who would use the software in his/her daily work. On the recommendation of TSSD, this part of the course was attended by two experts from other libraries which also planned to use CDS/ISIS.

Part B: advanced functions of CDS/ISIS, with a special emphasize on the formatting language and on the techniques of defining databases. This part was attended only by those who actually would be involved in these activities.

TSSD had had a version of CDS/ISIS but due to some technical problems this version was not working properly. Therefore the latest (2.3) and a well tested by the computer expert version was installed on all the computers of TSSD.

Technical conditions for the course were quickly set up so teaching could start on the second day on the field. It was decided

that the course should be a full-day one. Both parts lasted for 4 working days which left enough time for practical sessions.

Upon the request of the Seychelles Polytechnic Institute and with the understanding of TSSD the computer expert installed CDS/ISIS on the computer of the library of the Institute.

As a result of the course the personnel of TSSD was trained to use CDS/ISIS and also to define a database.

#### B. Advising in designing computerized databases

The last 4 working days of the mission were devoted to this topic. First the general questions of planning databases were discussed, after that the specific questions and needs for CDS/ISIS were elaborated. A sample database for the purpose of library catalogue was then designed, implemented in CDS/ISIS and tested with some records.

TSSD had installed UNIDO's INTIB database but due to some technical problems (e.g.: conflicting directory names) the database could not be used with the normal CDS/ISIS. The problem was solved with the help of the computer expert.

As a result of this part of the mission the personnel of TSSD not only got a training in designing computerized databases but also had a first-hand experience in realizing the construction of a sample database from the setting of the objectives to the testing.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1) For preparing to carry out the second part of the project, the experts of TSSD should practice and experiment with CDS/ISIS and the sample database. To: experts at TSSD.

2) Based on the recommendations of the industrial information adviser and on the third part of the course a revised list of pilot



databases should be compiled and the necessary preparatory and organizational work should be started. To: Director and experts of TSSD.

3) One person should primarily be assigned to coordinate and partly carry out the organizational and computer-related activities concerning CDS/ISIS. To: Director of TSSD.



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

JOB DESCRIPTION

TF/GLO/88/907/11-02/J12101

Post title: Computer Expert  
Duration: 0.7 months  
Date required: September, 1990  
Duty station: Victoria, Seychelles.

Purpose of project: To establish an Industrial Scientific and Technological Documentation Centre.

- Duties:
1. Train national personnel in usage and application of computer programmes for the storage and retrieval of information CDS/ISIS and ISIS/PASCAL.
  2. Advise in designing and developing computerized information services and data bases.

The expert will be expected to prepare a technical report, setting out the findings of his mission and his recommendations to the Government on further action which might be taken.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**of the CDS/ISIS training course held at TSSD**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>OCCUPATION</b>
T. Cooposamy	TSSD	electrical engineer
U. Naya	TSSD	senior research officer
V. Payet	TSSD	computer assistant
A. Quatre	TSSD	librarian
J. Cedras	Culture Division, Ministry of Information, Culture & Sports	librarian
D. Gardner	Seychelles Polytechnic Institute	librarian