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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Inaugural Meeting of the Executive Board
of the African Regional Centre for
Engineering Design and Manufacturing
Cotonou, Benin, 6 April 1979

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CENTRE FOR THE PERIOD
1979-1981

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The mission on the establishment of the Centre drew special attention to the importance of consultation and liaison with relevant institutions in member States to ensure that right from the beginning, the Centre was engaged in activities of high priority to the member States.

The team also recommended that during the first two years of the build-up of the Centre, the Centre should organize a programme of visits by the Executive Director and the departmental directors to organizations and institutions in the different member States to establish good communications on a personal basis with their counterparts, officials and experts in order to determine the areas of most urgent needs and priorities.

However, during the Ad hoc intergovernmental experts meeting on the Regional Centre for Industrial Design and Manufacturing, inter alia, emphasized the following activities:

- a) training activities both long-term and short-term of the different categories of staff
- b) creation of national and subregional centres for engineering design and manufacturing
- c) equipment standardization: it was recommended that the Centre should work in close collaboration with the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) to enable standards and specifications for various types of widely used machinery and equipment to be developed at an early date
- d) introducing process design as part of the work programme

The fifth meeting of the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa in its deliberations stressed the needs for:

- a) training equipment
- b) production of machine tools and electrical equipment
- c) agricultural and transport equipment
- d) creation of an information unit

A synthesis of work programme elements as put forward by the mission report and inputs from both meetings of intergovernmental experts and Follow-up Committee can be summarized as follows:

- i) visits to member States to undertake surveys of existing institutions, organizations and firms with design and/or manufacturing interests and to establish personal contacts and liaison arrangements with such institutions, as well as with the organs of governments covering such interests,

- (ii) organization of training in the field of engineering design
- (iii) assistance to member States in the establishment of national and subregional centres for engineering design and manufacturing
- (iv) selection of categories of machines and equipment for adaptation, design and development in the areas of concentration provided for at the Centre, namely agricultural machinery, vehicles and transportation equipment
- (v) develop concepts for the workshops, equipment and facilities vital for design operations
- (vi) selection of equipment
- (vii) development of training programmes and courses for design engineers and for design draughtsman, including courses to be offered at national level
- (viii) type studies for regional equipment standards
- (ix) assist workshops at national level to develop spare parts production

The intergovernmental experts meeting on Engineering Design agreed that these proposals of work programme elements should be spelt out in greater detail by the Executive Director during the early years of construction of the Centre. Accordingly, the detailed work programme in the substantive areas for 1980/81 will be submitted to the Council through the Executive Board late in 1979 or as soon as possible after the Executive Director has assumed duty.

WORK PLAN OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRE

Year 1: April 1979 - March 1981

April 1979: Meeting of Plenipotentiaries

Meeting of the Council of the Centre
(Ratification of the Constitution)
(Choice of host country)

May 1979: Search for candidates for the post of Executive Director
" " Search for candidates for Directors and Assistant Directors
June 1979: Completion of Host Country Agreement
July 1979: Acquisition of temporary offices and residence for Executive
Director in Host Country
August 1979: Interview and appointment of Executive Director
(Assumption of duty about November 1979)
October-Dec. 1979 Interview and appointment of Directors and Assistant Directors
January 1980: Design of administrative procedures, Rules and Regulations
" " Selection of site in Host country (with participation of Executive
Director)
February 1980: Recruitment of some engineers and support staff
" " Topographic survey including soil survey of site

Year 2: April 1980 - March 1981

April 1980: Continue recruitment of engineers and draughtsmen and technologists

Feb-May 1980: Planning of Utilization of the Site

- (a) Office buildings
- (b) Housing estate for selected key staff
- (c) Factory buildings
- (d) Internal road system
- (e) Water supply system
- (f) Power supply system
- (g) Sewage system including drainage
- (h) Storage structures

June 1980: Design of office buildings (starting with main office block)
" " Design of residential housing (1 villa for Executive Director and
block of 12 apartments)
" " Design of factory buildings
" " Design of workshop lay outs
" " Selection of heavy materials handling

September 1980:	Place orders for office furniture and equipment
" "	Invite tenders for site clearance and levelling
" "	Invite tenders for construction of office buildings
" "	Invite tenders for residential housing
" "	Invite tenders for factory buildings
" "	Invite tenders for water supply, sewerage and drainage systems
" "	Invite tenders for power supply
" "	Place orders for workshop machinery and equipment
November 1980:	Adjudication of tenders and letting of construction contracts
March 1981:	Occupation of office blocks