

BIB - 51405 ✓

Distr.
LIMITED

PAMM/AIHTTR/GC/II-S/2/80
January 1980

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
African Institute for Higher Technical
Training and Research
Governing Council, 2nd Session
Nairobi, 14-19 May 1980

POLICY ON STUDENTS' BOARDING, FEES AND NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION

A. National Distribution of Student Admissions

The most distinguishing public character of the Institute and eventually of its sub-regional branches, is its multinational outlook, reflected in its philosophy, objectives and goals, and in its resources and students' origins. This last element requires a pre-agreed understanding on the allocation of places to individual States, based on the following suggested criteria.

- (i) National needs in the fields of training available at the Institute, as indicated by the adjusted national statistical returns to periodical questionnaires on technical manpower requirements, and provided that such needs cannot be met by existing national institutions.
- (ii) Distribution weighting between disciplines according to the resources of the Institute.
- (iii) The need to determine all offers of admission by the end of August at the latest, and the flexibility to draw from a waiting list, in order of merit and speed of response, all offers not taken up by then.
- (iv) A minimum representation per country per disciplinary field, notwithstanding criterion (ii) above, but subject to criteria (i) and (iii) and to the availability of applicants with the minimum required qualifications and aptitude from the particular country as determined by the Academic Board.
- (v) A specified allocation of places (regarded as a ceiling should circumstances dictate such a step), say 15% to privately sponsored students.

B. Students' Boarding and Tuition Fees

Because of the multi-national character of the Institute and varying national educational systems, it is not possible to pattern its modus operandi after any one nation's. For example, whereas free education at all levels may exist in some states; it may be limited to certain levels or be as yet entirely non-existent in others. It would seem that in a multi-national institution like the AIHTTR where student places are likely to be expensive and very competitive, where all full-time students should be housed in hostels (in a good number of cases possibly with their families) and where a high standard of catering should be provided, some fees or fees supplement to the main funding of the Institute from member States contributions and other sources, should be charged. If this should be the case, it is suggested that, as is the universal practice, such fees be considerably subsidised from member States' contributions or from a special provision in the running budget of the Institute.

In the former case the subsidy from a member country can be determined by the usual machinery and criteria or by the total cost of training its students at the Institute each session. This latter procedure is more susceptible to short-term variations and to misunderstandings when for instance a student does not complete the assigned programme. It also requires an exercise in the minutiae of costing items of capital and recurrent expenditure per student. The full 1/ cost of boarding and tuition per student in tertiary education varies from about US\$4000 to US\$8000 per session in the best regional and United States institutions respectively. This is exclusive of medical, insurance, games and club fees. If as an estimate 50% is added to the former figure to allow for the overheads involved in technological programmes, and 25% for the other uncovered items, this gives a rough idea of the cost at the Institute as US\$7,000. It is recommended that students pay 50% of the precise costing when this is worked out with data from the Institute's operations, and that the balancing subsidy be provided by national contributions determined by the usual criteria. Such earnings from fees should enable the Institute to meet an increasing proportion of its operating current budget from its own internal sources and to reduce the burden of direct contributions by member States.

Nationals of African States which, for the time being, have not yet subscribed to membership of the Institute or have ceased to be members, would be obliged to pay full 100% cost of their training at the Institute, that is, the element of fees and other cost subsidy will not apply in their case.

1/ Technological training costs appreciably more than other fields.

The foregoing proposals are made entirely to minimise fees deterrents to students' use of the Institute's resources; they have nothing to do with the mechanism of providing and managing the resources. In fact in view of the notoriety of students' discontent and extreme forms of indiscipline, arising in about 90% of the cases from often niggling complaints on feeding and hostelling arrangements by the same administration as for the academic establishment, and the sizeable proportion of academic work time achievement, and even life and limb lost thereby by students and staff, it is strongly recommended that the alternative practice (usual in the more developed countries) of sub-contracting these duties (hostel accommodation and catering) to professional subsidiaries within or outside the Institute's framework, be adopted. The Institute proper would still have the duty of monitoring the performance of the said duties for conformity with all contractual terms.

The Council is invited to:

1. Endorse the basic guidelines and criteria elaborated above for the nationality distribution of students participating in the training programmes and courses that the Institute may offer.
2. Authorize the Institute to recoup up to 50% of the full costs of student training and research through charging tuition and examination fees.
3. Approve the Institute, operating through an appropriate Contract Committee, sub-contracting hostel accommodation and feeding for all categories of students to subsidiary business undertakings of the Institute while the Institute provides the dining halls, furniture and related facilities for accommodation and catering, and supervises the observance of contractual arrangements.