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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
African Institute for Higher Technical  
Training and Research  
Extraordinary Meeting of the  
Governing Council  
Addis Ababa, 15-16 June 198-

FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
(28-29 August 1980)

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC BOARD

The first Academic Board Meeting was scheduled for Friday August 22 to Tuesday August 26. Owing to difficulties encountered with communications and the absences, as we later learnt, of some of the members from their home bases, only two delegates had arrived by Sunday August 24, namely Dr. Mwalula from Zambia and M. Cyprien Ngandjui from the Cameroons. When this number did not increase by Monday, it was decided to postpone this first meeting to October 6-8 and use the intervening month to ensure contact with all members.

In the time that remained, the two members held with the Director-General informal discussions on the matters to be placed before the meeting. They expressed their pleasure with the programmes planned for the Institute, one of them adding, in suggesting some minor changes to the topics in metallurgy and foundry techniques, that the courses are very detailed indeed. They also completely endorsed the placement of Agricultural Engineering and Food Technology as the top priority field, but thought minerals and natural Energy Resources should also come in the Phase I development. They reviewed and commented in detail on the Rules of Procedure of the Academic Board (see amended version attached); and finally the Cameroons delegate emphasized the need for the Institute, among its other duties, to help to strengthen international programmes for the production of industrial manpower.

ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING OF 6TH TO 8TH OCTOBER 1980

Present:

Prof. M.O. Chijioke	Director-General (AIHTTR)	Chairman
Prof. A.B. Toure	Delegate from Mali	Member
Dr. J.B. Mwalula	Delegate from Zambia	Member

Absent:

Members from Zaire, Cameroon, Algeria, Sierra Leone, Morocco and Kenya.

By Sunday 5 October 1980, only two delegates had arrived from abroad, and on Monday, 6 October 1980 it was decided to delay the scheduled opening for the main business of the meeting till 2:30 p.m. in the expectation of more arrivals. The Chairman in briefly welcoming the attending delegates in the morning had apologized for the Institute's very sparse resources at the moment, but expressed both his surprise that attendance was not much higher in view of the quite early despatches of invitations and tickets, and his hope that it would improve during that Board Session. He then directed attention to the order of priority of the Agenda items for the purposes of deliberations; this and the times of meetings (generally 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.) were agreed.

At the resumption of meeting at 2:30 p.m. the two base documents, the Philosophy, Planning and Structure of the Institute, Document PAIN/AIHTTR/GC/11-S/9/80 and the Course Structure and Commencement Programmes, Doc PAIN/AIHTTR/11-S/12/80, were in turn briefly introduced by the Chairman who then invited comments. It was agreed that the documents were excellent in their design to meet the stated objectives, but technically too "heavy" for any important flaws to be detectable at this stage rather than after they will have been practically implemented and tested. In particular the Course Structures of the take-off programmes are very detailed and well prepared apart from minor discrepancies such as the totalling up of contact hours. The following detailed corrections were then made:

In the French translation of Doc 11-S/9/80

Page 1 line 8: after "rattrapper," add "dans la mesure du possible"  
 " 2 " 4: change "desert" to "grand manque"  
 " 7 " 1: change "physique" to "fondamentales"; and in English text, change "physical" to "Basic",

in order to bring out here the disciplinary relationship of the Centre's programmes as clearly as for other Centres. P.8, lines 31-33 give the undesirable impression of blurring the hierarchical structure of the administration. Change the designation in the English text from "Manager" to "Director" and in the French text from "Directeur General" to "Gérant"; also it is the Chairman of the management Council (or Board) of the Industrial Centre, not its Director, who reports through the Director-General to Council.

Penultimate section: Something appears seriously out of place with the proposed remunerations for Institute staff. To start with "family allowances" of \$240 for a spouse and \$150 per child, per annum are ridiculously low. More seriously, although the salaries are supposed to be 80% of the corresponding UN rates they are in fact 80% of the corresponding UN "Single Rates" for both "Single" and "Dependency" categories of the Institute. Since most senior staff of the Institute will be in the latter category and UN dependency rates are generally about 15% higher than single rates, the true proportion of the proposed Institute salaries is only 70%.

Doc 11-S/12/80: Two main observations were made:

(i) A danger to the practical attachment plans is the inordinate secretiveness with information in industrial houses, especially when controlled by transnationals. Attached trainees are then not allowed access to the kind of facts, training and visits that would prove maximally useful. This situation underlines the vitalness of an intramural Industrial Production Centre for practical experience, but also calls for direct national government intervention with industrial managements.

(ii) The course structure sets out deliberately for specialization in technical skills, firstly to ensure a seeding of industry in the region with this essential and basic resource of a technological revolution; and secondly because such specializations are not traditional fields of concentration in national institutions the role of which the Institute is designed to complement, not duplicate.

The following elaborations/amendations were then agreed. Section III (a) add "A/Level Science" in the English Text, and "Baccalaureat en Science" in the French. Section V(b) "graduates" here should be understood to include all honours graduates. Taking this document with Doc 80/3 on Admission Qualifications, in the last sentence under Qualification 0D, add "Technique" after "Baccalaureat."

In the commencing programmes in electromechanical engineering some titles under "Metallurgical Processes" were modified to emphasise that Foundry Techniques are a sub-set of such processes; and contact-hour totals are generally to be checked for accuracy.

Document 11-S/2/80: Policy on Students' Boarding, Fees and National Distribution. Rephrase A(i) as "national needs for training in the Institute, as indicated by the adjusted national statistical returns to periodical questionnaires on technical manpower requirements."

A(iii): Change "August" to "November" and make this item (iv) Insert a new (iii) distribution weighting according to the size of member States' basic contributions. The "Basic Contributions" as in the ECA Document PAMM/AIHTTR/11-S/10/80 are determined by the OAU indices and are distinguished from "Proportionate Contributions" which depend on the number of national trainees and the Institute's fees.

A(v): In informing States of their quotas the 15% mandatory reserve for 'Private' students should also be communicated.

Section (D) was taken with Document AB/80/2 on Tuition, Fees and other charges. The three principles were agreed that: fees should be subsidised fairly considerably (compare national institutions): this subsidy should be as high as 70% so that trainees pay only 30% of global costs per trainee, but trainees from non-member countries should pay the full 100% of global costs.

Document AB 80/4 - Certification Arrangements for Awards of the Institute; the following amendments were made: In the French text, paragraph 3, (iv): "Séries" should read "niveaux"; (vi) "branche" should read "matière" and the Diplomas Classifications should be, in order, 'Distinction', 'Mention (très bien)', 'Mention (bien)', 'Passable', 'Echec' and 'Refusé'. The English Text 'Worthless' might read better as 'Reject'. In (vii) the old and new scores of a Repeat candidate should be combined for his final score which should then determine without modification his classification as usual.

Document 80/7: Rules of Procedure of the Academic Board: the French version of this should be titled "Règlements Intérieur" Rule 1(c) for "siège" use "site" in the French, Rule 9: change title to "minutes" in the English, and so seriatim. Rule 9(a): for "copies" use "des exemplaires". and 9(b) for "supplement" use "addendum" in the French. 8(c): change "vote" in the original English to "name". The whole document was then revised in some detail including the deletion of Rules 8(b) (3) and 8(d) - (e), to arrive at the revised version attached.

Paper AB/80/5: Interim Conditions of Service for All Officials (taken with its Annex IV: "Senior Staff Allowances and Benefits")

Paragraph 1: should be headed 'Preamble, and in French "Préambule". In the French text change "d'application" to "mises en vigueur".

Paragraph 3 (ii): delete "and the General Manager" because he is now covered by the term "Director". In the French text change "par devers" to "devant".

Paragraph 4(D): add to the last part of sub-paragraph (i): "for the professional categories": "pour le groupe titulaire".  
In the French text of: B(iii): correct all cotations to "notation/s".  
C(ii): change "appeler de" to "interjecter un appel contre"; C(iii): change "temps plein" to "plein temps", and insert at the end of that sentence "que celle du premier contrat".

Paragraph 5: change "reprises au (iii)" to "conformément au" para (iii) du present article": and insert in the English "in accordance to paragraph (iii) of this article." In the French text of (vi) change "prejudice" to "que cette suspension influence le resultat de l'enquête.  
In the English text of (viii) spell out "A & P" as "Appointments and Promotions."

Paragraph 6: Re-write the last sentence to read:

"Quand et si le besoin se fait ressentir le Conseil d'Administration determinera des sommes pour des soins de santé ou pour d'autres buts licites en faveur du personnel": "Amounts determined if and when the need arises by the Governing Council for a Staff Medical Scheme or for other lawful purposes of staff welfare".

Paragraph 8: A(i): Add at the end "unless specifically allowed by the Director-General": "sauf avec permission spéciale du Directeur General". In the English text change "A regular official" to "An official". In the French change "reporté" to "différé", and passim.

B(i) (b): Rewrite as "Le long congé ne sera accordé que pour un terme de service supérieur à 2 ans": "Long leave may be granted only for services exceeding 2 years".

Paragraph 9: (v) In French text change "enve-ite" to "effectivement"  
(vi.a) Add "excess" after 20 kg. in the English text and in the French "excedent de bagages" after 20 kg.

Document AB/80/6: The title should read: "Structure de l'année académique":  
"Structure of Academic Year.

In the context of this it was agreed that the two ordinary meetings of the Academic Board in each year should be held in January 1-10 and in May 10-20. This would give the Academic Board a chance to receive the Director General's Report on Final Examinations which are a major responsibility of the Board, vide its Constitution. For this purpose the following additions should be made to Document AB 80/4 on Certification Arrangements: insert a new (v) "There shall be a Board of Examiners consisting of all examiners, internal and external"; "Il y aura un Jury composé des examinateurs de l'Institut et ceux venant de l'extérieur"; renumber the sequel and add a new (ix). "Les résultats finaux pourraient être publics après leur présentation au Conseil Académique. Cependant quand cela n'est pas possible d'avoir la réunion prévue pour cette présentation, le Jury présidé par le Président du Conseil Académique pourrait publier les résultats": "Final results may be published after presentation to the Academic Board. However when it is not possible for the Academic Board to meet on the appointed date for this presentation, the Board of Examiners under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Academic Board may publish the results."

Paper AB 80/1: The French Text should be titled: "Rapport sur l'évolution de l'institut." Finally in presenting this progress report on the Institute the Chairman emphasized (i) the delay which the commencement programme has already suffered owing to a slower response in terms of the signing of the constitution of the Institute and the sending-in of contributions by member States, than was anticipated; (ii) the slowness in the maturation of preparatory activities in consequence; (iii) his hope that the Kenyan Government will make fully available, as it is endeavouring to do, all the facilities foreseen in the Host Government agreement and indicated on pp 4-6 of the Progress Report; and (iv) the essentiality of member States now acting in time to demonstrate their strong support of the Institute; this will open the way for the release of the considerable assistance promised by bilateral and non-government organizations. The Board members present noted the report and promised to contribute as much as lies in their power to informing their relevant Ministries, and others when possible, on the issues raised therein. It was observed also that from time to time similar opportunities for informing the francophones at conferences should arise as for the anglophones at the Colombo Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers.

After considering and agreeing these summary records of the entire proceedings, the meeting adjourned at 5.00 p.m.