

TECHNONET ASIA

Asian Network for Industrial Technology Information and Extension

a project supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

ARCHIV GALL no. 1

The basis for the Project was laid in 1972 during a tour of five Asian countries by the Director and Associate Director, Information Sciences Division, IDRC Ottawa, and the Head of the Technical Information Service of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC/TIS), followed by a meeting in Singapore of the heads of seven organizations concerned with the development of small-scale industries in six countries which provided the background for the Project document subsequently approved in September of that year by the IDRC Board of Governors.

This IDRC support aims at developing the capacities of the TECHNONET "Participating Organizations" to provide technical information and extension services to small-scale industries in their countries by themselves in collaboration with one another, and also provides for NRC/TIS co-operation in supplying backup information services, training facilities and advice.

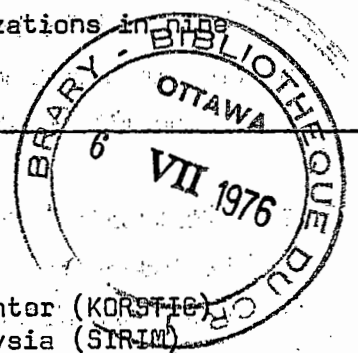
The original "network" of eight Participating Organizations in six countries held its first Meeting of Council (composed of the heads of each Organization) in October 1974 in Singapore, at which time terms of reference of the Council were established and agreement reached on the activities to be undertaken in the areas of common concern. The Project itself was also defined and this definition was further developed at the Council's second Meeting in November 1975 in Manila (see page -4-).

The Second TECHNONET Council Meeting was notable in that Council affirmed its intent to develop a self-supporting network of Participating Organizations and this is reflected in the definition referred to above.

TECHNONET is currently comprised of 11 Participating Organizations in nine countries (see below).

TECHNONET Participating Organizations

- Bangladesh - Bangladesh Small Industries Corporation (BSIG)
- Hong Kong - The Hong Kong Productivity Centre (HKPC)
- Indonesia - Departemen Perindustrian (DP)
- Korea - Korea Scientific and Technological Information Center (KORSTIC)
- Malaysia - Standards and Industrial Research Institute, Malaysia (SIRIM)
- Malaysia - Majlis Amanah Ra'ayat (MARA)
- Philippines - University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI)
- Philippines - Economic Development Foundation, Inc (EDF)
- Singapore - Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research (SISIR)
- Sri Lanka - Industrial Development Board (IDB)
- Thailand - Department of Industrial Promotion, Ministry of Industry (DIP)



022845

TECHNONET Centre, presently located in Singapore and headed by an Administrator, is the focal point of the network, providing continuous liaison and co-ordinating services and support for the collective and individual activities of the Participating Organizations. (Dr Leon V Chico, previously Director of the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI), accepted the post of Administrator effective 1 April 1976.)

A key need to develop a corps of 'industrial extension workers' has been felt from the first - those personnel probably but not necessarily technically trained, who would be able to define the technical and other needs of the small-scale entrepreneurs, assemble the relevant information himself or with the help of others to satisfy these needs and, if necessary, also assist the entrepreneur in applying the knowledge or information. Thus, to date, three industrial extension officers' training courses ("INDEXTRACs") have been held - the first two at The Small Industry Extension Training Institute (SIET), Hyderabad, India, in 1974 and 1975, and the last held early this year at UP ISSI. A supplementary training course was also held at NRC/TIS Ottawa in September/October 1975. A total of 48 extension personnel have attended these four courses.

RETROSPECTIVE
USE OF THE
ACRONYM.

Local training in industrial extension is felt to be equally important, if not more so, as international or regional training and it is expected that several of the Participating Organizations will shortly initiate local training courses for their extension personnel. Another approach to training under consideration is the holding of short-term 'special technical extension workshops' for personnel of, say, three or four Participating Organizations to develop the extension worker's ability in the methodology and technique of extension using a specific technical process of common interest as the medium or vehicle and thus at the same time serving as a 'technology up-date' and a practical exercise in technology transfer. The industrialists offering their plants as case study locales would also participate in the course.

The TECHNONET Training Committee, which has an 'ad hoc membership' held its first meeting in November 1975 with INDEXTRAC III (UP ISSI 1976) as its major consideration, and will continue to advise on and guide training activities.

In a further move to develop 'industrial extension' as an activity of significance in the industrial and economic development of the countries in Asia, TECHNONET sponsored the First Asian Industrial Extension Officers' Conference (FAIEOC) held in November 1975 at UP ISSI with 24 extension officers from eight Participating Organizations attending. The Conference formed the Asian Industrial Extension

Officers' Forum and the secretariat of the Forum is now developing a programme for consideration by TECHNUNET Council for the (professional) development of its members and which will be co-ordinated with TECHNUNET's Forward Programme referred to below.

In March 1974, the first issue of our quarterly "Newsletter" appeared and it also now serves as a medium of communication for the Forum.

As indicated at the outset, NRC/TIS provides backup with respect to the answering of technical enquiries and also provides its TECH BRIEF selections of some 3 000 articles per year, which are put on microfiches by IDRC, to the TECHNUNET Participating Organizations and which are used by their extension officers in answering industry enquiries and in their industrial 'current awareness services'. In the technical enquiry and answer area, TECHNUNET Centre assists the Participating Organizations by referring their enquiries to NRC/TIS where applicable, or to other centres of industrial information and expertise within and without the Asian region. TECHNUNET Centre is developing a network of what may be called 'referral sources' to which it (or the Participating Organizations direct) may turn for enquiry assistance. Of basic importance is the ascertainment by the individual Participating Organizations of the sources of information and expertise in their own countries able and willing to give enquiry assistance not only to them but to their network colleagues if requested.

Currently, TECHNUNET Centre is formulating a Forward Programme with reference to the individual Forward Programmes of the Participating Organizations which will form the basis for Phase II of the Project to be considered by the IDRC Board of Governors in September next. In accord with the intent to move towards self-reliance expressed by Council at its Second Meeting (1975) and IDRC policy, Phase II will see an evolution of the Project from its present position where the funds are administered by IDRC for a jointly-developed programme, to one where the Participating Organizations themselves will establish an independent body similar to their present Council which will formulate and administer its own policy, programme and budget.

The emphasis in Phase I has been support in the provision of technical information and extension with respect to commercially used industrial methods, techniques and processes applied to existing industries. It is expected that support in Phase II will be broader and thus more fully reflect the needs of the Participating Organizations in serving the small-scale industrial entrepreneur.



TECHNONET ASIA

(preamble to TECHNONET Council's terms of reference)

TECHNONET ASIA is a voluntary co-operative network of organizations in the various countries of the region, actively engaged in the development of industry - particularly smaller-scale industry - through the transfer of industrial (technical) information and the provision of extension services, formed for their common benefit and that of the countries they serve.

It is supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

While the Project is a voluntary 'co-operative' one in the sense that, while IDRC provides certain monetary, material and other support, the national organizations concerned with small industry development

"participating" in it will, on a mutually acceptable basis, arrange to -

- make available to one another industrial technical information on products and processes in their country that is readily obtainable;
- receive personnel from other "Participating Organizations" (for observation, training, discussion - as appropriate);
- make available its technical personnel for short-term assignments to visit other Participating Organizations for the same purposes;
- arrange visits of industrialists from Participating Organization countries to local industries, organizations and institutions; and individually;
- develop effective co-ordination and liaison with other local institutions concerned with the development of small- and medium-scale industry as well as with local sources of technical information, in order to facilitate such development and to assist other Participating Organizations, if requested and on an acceptable basis, in their development efforts.

WJGall
Deputy Administrator

15 April 1976

TECHNONET Centre
Tanglin P O Box 160
SINGAPORE 10
Republic of Singapore