

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

---

**International technical co-operation.** *ILO panorama, Geneva, 1966, No. 17.*

The International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training, established by the International Labour Organisation at Turin, became operational on 15 October 1965. On the morning of that day, the first contingent of trainees was welcomed at a simple and friendly ceremony held in the imposing setting of Pier Luigi Nervi's Palace of Labour, which houses the Centre.

The significance of the event was clear to all those who took part. For the launching of the Centre marks the beginning of a new phase in international technical co-operation. It also brings to successful issue the preparatory work that had gone forward since 31 May 1963, date of the unanimous adoption, by the ILO Governing Body, of a resolution calling for the establishment of the Centre.

Seen in the context of the work of the ILO on behalf of social progress and economic development, the Centre stands out as an advanced training institution designed to crown the ILO's world-wide programme of international co-operation in the field of vocational training.

The Turin Centre is essentially an international technical institution. The object of the Centre, in the words of its Statute, is "to provide advanced technical and vocational training at various levels for persons who are considered suitable for more advanced training than any they could obtain in their own countries or regions".

Established primarily for the benefit of the developing countries, the Centre is open to industrial and commercial workers, highly skilled personnel, foremen, technicians and executives as well as to managers of small-scale industries and of producers' co-operatives.

The Centre also aims to provide technical co-operation experts with training in methods of instruction. Its overall programme is, in fact, tuned to the need to develop the qualities of instructor and educator in each of the participants.

As a follow-up to preliminary studies covering objectives, structure and methods, the Special Study Group responsible for the organisation of the Centre undertook, beginning in December 1963 and in co-operation with the various departments and services of the ILO, a further survey, the purpose of which was to adapt the Centre as nearly as possible to changing needs, as expressed by the developing countries themselves.

This survey, based on an analysis of applications for fellowships and on an examination of reports from ILO officials and experts, led the Centre to provide, at the outset, courses of study devoted mainly to the advanced training of personnel engaged in maintenance and repair of machinery, work preparation and general management of undertakings.

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

It was also found necessary to lay somewhat more emphasis on courses and in-plant training involving mainly instruction and practice in vocational teaching methods suited to the requirements of the developing countries.

From the same studies, a second series of findings emerged :

In the first place, the notion of co-operation has increasingly superseded that of technical assistance. This means that organised exchanges of knowledge and experience, as frequent and as varied as possible, must take place between international experts and their counterparts in the developing countries.

Secondly, training methods in current use call for the active participation of the trainees themselves together with a parallel progressive effort in the direction of general culture and personal development.

Projects and programmes must, therefore, be developed with the assistance of a planning department composed of highly qualified personnel—technicians, teacher-training experts, sociologists and economists—who will undertake preliminary research, keep the current projects under review and follow the progress of the trainees after they leave Turin.

To sum up, it was considered essential to organise the Turin Centre, from the day it opened :

- on the one hand, as an institution equipped to give advanced training in the basic professions, both to groups of trainees and to individual students ;
- on the other hand, as a study and research centre equipped to train experts, co-ordinate their activities and hold seminars and meetings in the field of vocational and management training.

In its first phase of development the Centre will aim at an annual intake of 600 trainees. Months before the start of the first courses the number of applicants had far exceeded the 400 trainee places available in 1966.

Criteria for the selection of applicants have had to be determined and strictly applied. An applicant must have completed basic training in his own country and have acquired a certain amount of practical experience in his field, whether it be on the job in industry, in a training institute or in government service.

In selecting trainees, preference is given to those who on their return to their own countries will be in a position to pass on their new experience to others. Training conceived in this manner is intended to have a multiplying effect and to produce a deep and lasting influence on the economy of the trainees' home countries.