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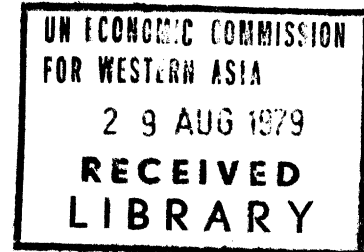
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INTRODUCTION

The progress in science and technology, which became a criteria of this century and centered in one area of the world, thus dividing it into two economic sectors (developing and developed) entails an adjustment of its course to the benefit of mankind without discrimination; this shows the great importance of the conference.

Since the principal aim of this conference is the attempt to reach a more adequate version in the installment of new basis for an international economic system, which guarantees to reduce the scientific and technological gap i.e. the economic one, the United Arab Emirates present to the conference an objective survey of its achievements carried out in the fields of science and technology and the obstacles which hindered the use of science and technology, and finally recommendations to be adopted by the conference.

Economic and social aspects of the United Arab Emirates

First: Economic aspects

The economy of the United Arab Emirates is not based on productive basis besides oil industry i.e. refining, liquid gas, water, building material and light food industries. Thus, since the economy of the country is mainly based on oil, any fluctuation in world prices affects directly the internal situation of the country.

The sector of industry is in need of co-operation and co-ordination specially in the absence of a national industrialization plan and the lack of industrial laws regulating industrial matter in the country, which in certain cases led to duplication of projects.

The agricultural sector has little prospect in view of the lack of natural fertile land and sweet-water resources, however, there are technical projects applied in this sector aiming at benefiting the most of these resources.

The fishery sector claims abundant resources, but the procedures used are rather obsolete and request development in accordance with science and technology. Commerce in the United Arab Emirates is centered in the Emirates of Dubai and Sharjah. Sea ports of the Emirates are being developed up to most modern procedures of shipping and discharging of goods. The huge consumption of electricity calls for a serious consideration of the application of other sources of energy such as solar energy. A network of main routes and highways linking the Emirates together, with a telecommunication network linking the Emirates as well as most of the globe are being established. The building of new and high standard international airports in most of the United Arab Emirates is on its way to completion, adding to this a vast housing, educational and health policies, are well under way too.

Second: Social aspects

The sudden escalation in population during the last two decades is due to the discovery and production of oil which culminated the population census of 1977 to read 865,000 persons. Studies show an escalation of population reaching 1.8 million in 1990. However, the United Arab Emirates has a light density of population which in turn is reflected in the scarcity of scientifically trained national cadres to execute projects.

Social traditions and customs tend to create barriers in the formation of skilled cadres i.e. refutation of organized and technical works.

The government of the United Arab Emirates plays a big role in modifying the tribal way of life into a rather modern one by creating social housing areas and by granting houses to nationals, free of charge.

The achievements in integrating science and technology

1. Preparation of technical and professional infrastructure

The University of the United Arab Emirates was established to help fulfill the needs of development plans and other projects, this is parallel to other different training centres dealing in the field of housing, building material, electrical and water supply projects and manpower needed.

Moreover, the United Arab Emirates is very keen to provide scholarships and fellowships for their staff and to participate in international as well as Arab conferences and symposiums to acquire experience.

2. Transfer of technology

The United Arab Emirates are keen to establish co-operation with most international as well as Arab organizations in the fields of research and projects through agreements and protocols, also the United Arab Emirates are interested in the assistance of experts in the various fields of the United Nations agencies particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

3. Agriculture sector

With the co-operation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) agricultural projects have been carried out such as water supply, desalination of sea water and soil investigation to help develop more fertile lands.

4. Fisheries

A regional fishery survey covering eight Gulf States with the aim to developing the fishing industry.

5. Housing sector

Governmental housing projects aim at the settlement of homesteaders and the introduction of modern ways of life. In the private sector, the housing policy aims at developing commercial investments by providing houses for expatriate manpower. Soil investigation, building materials testing laboratories are being established too.

6. Transport and telecommunications sector

A network of routes, bridges, and highways has been constructed in order to connect all Emirates together; airports and ports are being established and a telecommunications system is on its way too, all in order to connect the United Arab Emirates with the world at large.

Obstacles in the way of science and technology

The United Arab Emirates faces obstacles in the way of the transfer of science and technology as other developing countries do; these obstacles are namely:

1. Skilled and technical infrastructure

The usage of national resources such as oil occurred prior to the preparation of national manpower; this led to a total dependence on imported skill and manpower, represented in the flow of technicians and workers, adding to this, the low density of United Arab Emirates population which represents little chances for the preparation of local infrastructure.

2. Laws and regulations

The numerous departments that issue industrial permits, the lack of industrial laws that protect the local industry, and the lack of a proper framework with the power to determine the need of technical assistance or decide the industrialization plan, all these obstacles hinder the use of science and technology.

3. Other economic aspects

The scarcity in the local manpower,

The limited local market, the restricted agricultural soil and the dependence on world supply of goods, affect the internal economy of the country.

For all these reasons, the United Arab Emirates has:

- To diversify its economy to sources of income other than oil industry.
- To improve its development strategy with the emphasis on economic and social development such as planning of education, and skills to serve this end.
- To plan on the Gulf and Arab level and not on the local level alone.
- To stress on the private sector to execute development programmes.
- To stress on industrialization projects with little manpower and sophisticated technology.

- To modernize the agricultural sector and improve water resources.
- To use better its fishing resources by implementing technology.
- To establish national planning institutes in order to issue laws and regulations serving this purpose of development.

Conference resolutions

- The conference requests from the developed countries a bigger share in its economic assistance to the developing countries also in terms of technical and equipment assistance.
- Establishment of joint research and training institutions for a group of countries with the aim of reducing expenses and gathering skills.
- Co-ordination between developing countries in the purchase of equipment from the world market with the aim of reducing competitive prices.
- Developing a more objective relation between prices of oil and the prices of the exported goods.

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