

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

*University of Nigeria — Enugu Campus*

## **I. — BASIC OBJECTIVES**

A primary objective of the Economic Development Institute on inception was to train Nigerian University graduates in economic development work so as to provide a corps of highly trained workers who will occupy important posts in the ministries, in the business community, and in the Universities. A six month training programme in economic development was initiated in October, 1963. It was carried out through formal lecture courses, intensive use of seminars and some research.

However, the training programme was later discontinued following a decision by the E.D.I. Advisory Board in March, 1966, to revise the objective of the Institute in order to emphasize the research objectives more than its training objective. Since then, the basic objective of the Institute has been to contribute to the solution of economic, social and political problems, especially those affecting Nigeria :

1. by conducting and supporting research toward economic and social development ;
2. providing training and orientation for those engaged in the organization and execution of economic development programmes where this is basically compatible with the research activities of the Institute ;
3. providing facilities for scholars, government officers, post-graduate students and others engaged in economic development research or similar activities.

The objectives of the Institute therefore entail the continuing study of Nigerian economic growth and development problems at macro and micro levels. The Institute brings people together from different disciplines and academic departments, and from government, international agencies and the business community to facilitate a multi and interdisciplinary approach of study and evaluating economic and social development problems and situations with a view to influencing social and economic thought as well as policy through reasoned analysis and recommendations.

The objectives of the E.D.I. further entail the dissemination of research results to Nigerian governments, social scientists, entrepreneurs and the public through seminars, symposia, conferences, workshops and meetings sponsored by the E.D.I. or jointly with other departments in this and other Nigerian institutions of learning, public and private bodies, and through publications.

## II. — TRAINING AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

### A. *Specific Objectives*

The specific objectives of the Economic Development Institute can be summarized as follows :

1. conduct of advanced orientation courses in research planning techniques for strategic actors in the growth and development process ;
2. full-scale research for improving regional, sub-regional, national state or local planning and plan implementation ; research on growth and development problems ; research for improving public policies and management in private enterprises and in parastatals.
3. Extra-Mural activities, including :
  - a) preparation of searching papers involving investigations, expositions as well as suggestions toward the solution of growth and development problems in Nigeria ;
  - b) conduct of and attendance of seminars, symposia, conferences and workshops for political leaders, businessmen and women, civil servants, academicians, other specific professional groups, and general public.
  - c) short-term advanced training programmes conducted alone or in conjunction with other departments or bodies

### B. *Specific Policies*

With the establishment of the E.D.I., the following specific policies are adopted :

1. Research is to be policy-oriented and therefore to focus mainly on practical growth and development problems encountered :
  - a) by the Federal Government ;
  - b) by the State Governments ;
  - c) by the Local Authorities ;
  - d) by private enterprises and parastatals operating in
    - the farm economy ;
    - at industry, commodity, or services levels ;
    - at international, regional, sub-regional, national and local levels.
2. « Fundamental » or « basic » research which is also relevant to the solution of selected growth and development problems is to be encouraged.
3. Following from the foregoing, it becomes the policy of the E.D.I. to maintain coordinated and cooperative relationship with :

- a) relevant ministries and agencies of the Federal Government and those of the state governments and local authorities ;
- b) domestic and expatriate foundations and organisations genuinely interested in research and training in the fields of growth and development ;
- c) other academic institutions in Nigeria interested in research on growth and development ;
- d) business firms and organizations of businessmen/ women and professionals ;
- e) departments of the various Faculties and Units of the University of Nigeria. This coordination will involve :
  - the exchange, on mutual arrangement, of teaching materials and research results, and
  - participation of departmental representatives in developing and carrying out the programmes of the E.D.I. or mutually sponsored research projects. Such participation could be initiated by either party.

### III. — ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organizational plan for E.D.I. is as follows :

1. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria who shall approve the membership of persons who may be nominated to serve on the E.D.I. Advisory Board.
2. The Director of the E.D.I. who is
  - a) responsible directly to the Vice-Chancellor for the running of the Institute ;
  - b) responsible for initiating and executing the Institute's research and extra-mural programmes ;
  - c) responsible for originating recommendations to the University's authorities concerning the appointment, promotion and compensation of E.D.I. personnel. He is thus responsible to the University authorities for personnel management in the Institute ;
  - d) a member of the University Senate and the Development Committee of Senate ;
  - e) responsible for negotiating internal and external arrangements affecting the functions of the Institute. He originates recommendations requiring approval or action outside the E.D.I. and operates functional cooperative relationships between the Institute and
    - the academic departments of the University of Nigeria ;
    - Nigerian research and other agencies outside the University of Nigeria ;

- African, overseas and international research and other relevant bodies and agencies ;
  - the governments of Nigeria and their ministries and agencies ;
  - the parastatals and private enterprises ;
  - other publics.
- f) responsible for recommending members of the E.D.I. Advisory Board to the Vice-Chancellor approval and appointment ;
- g) responsible for other duties necessary for the fulfilment of the Institute's objectives.
3. The Director is assisted by a Deputy Director and an Institute Secretary in the day-to-day administration of the Institute.

In addition, there must be a core of academic, administrative, secretarial, statistical, technical, clerical, library and other supporting staff.

The E.D.I. Advisory Board is to perform the following functions :

To advise on

- i) Planing and execution of the Institute's research programmes and extra-mural activities.
- ii) Institute's Budget and Funding.
- iii) Staff Recruitment and Development.
- iv) Recommendation of the appointment of Associate Research Fellows.
- v) E.D.I.'s internal and external relationships.
- vi) Any other matters referred to it by the Vice-Chancellor or the Director of the E.D.I.

The Director of the E.D.I. is the Chairman of the Advisory Board while the Institute Secretary is the Secretary of the Board.

The members of the Advisory Board are usually appointed from the University of Nigeria's departments, especially from those whose work relate most to that of the Institute.

Non-representation on the E.D.I. Advisory Board at any time does *not* in any way, rule out the possibilities for collaboration work between the E.D.I. and any Department or Faculty in the University.

There is plan to expand membership of the Advisory Board to include persons from outside the University of Nigeria.

#### IV. — MEMBERSHIP OF CODESRIA

The E.D.I. is a full member of the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (C.O.D.E.S.R.I.A.) based in Dakar, Senegal

It also has cooperative functional relationship with many research institutes in the social sciences in and outside Nigeria.

## **V. — APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE E.D.I.**

The role of the Institute incorporates the practice whereby associate researchers are appointed who work with the E.D.I. as the occasion arises. These associate members of the Institute could be the staff of Universities, government ministries, parastatals, and private enterprises. The idea is to have a core of sufficiently qualified people interested in research within their areas of competence, who are placed on the Institute's staff list. These people are called upon to work on E.D.I. research projects in collaboration with E.D.I. research staff, as the need arises, or they are offered E.D.I. facilities and other possible assistance to undertake specific research of their choice. In special cases, the E.D.I. makes arrangements for research projects which are initiated by the associate staff members, and which fall within the areas of priority of the E.D.I. as well as carried out on the auspices and under the supervision of the E.D.I. to be funded within the context of E.D.I. internal research, provided that funds are available.

This system enables the Institute to be in a position to undertake research of larger magnitude, without all the required staff having to be E.D.I. permanent research staff. In addition, the fact that the Institute throws its facilities and patronage open to outsiders, invokes greater awareness of the relevant publics of the Institute and its preparedness to promote research, thereby making considerable contribution to our society.

## **VI. — E.D.I. CENTRE**

Before the Nigerian civil war, a large expansion programme was in the making. With the office accommodation available to the Institute at that time being considered totally inadequate, a proposal was made to the Ford Foundation in 1966 to build an Economic Development Centre at the Enugu Campus. This centre is to provide office space for 30 permanent researchers, 7 visiting research scholars, 10 other senior staff and about 45 junior staff members. The space requirement for the centre is estimated at 3065.8m<sup>2</sup> while the cost of building and equipping the centre is about naira 605,070. The E.D.I. Centre is planned to also house modern computing facilities. With this in view, we have been presenting a proposal for the construction of the E.D.I. Centre as a major item in our Capital Estimates since the 1973/74 financial year as well as in our Third National Development Plan.

The proposed plan for the centre is in the custody of the Institute, while copies have been made available to the Development Committee of the Senate of the University of Nigeria with supporting arguments.

## VII. — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE LIBRARY

The E.D.I. Library is a research library whose main objective is to aid and support the research activities of the Institute. To this end, the library acquires comprehensively specialized research reports and Nigerian government publications. Major works in the field of economic and social studies are very well covered while works in other fields of study are acquired on selective basis. The library collection now stands at more than 11,300 and more than 180 periodicals are currently received. It should be pointed out that the strength of the library collection lies more on research reports, academic journals and government documents than on textbooks.

The continued cooperation of many research institutes and international organisations from all over the world has helped the growth of the collection of research reports. Materials from organisations like the World Bank, Agency for International Development and the International Labour Organization are received regularly in the library. Research reports are acquired also through exchange agreements with other research institutes.

Since 1970, it has been the policy of the library to acquire all the major daily and weekly newspapers published in the country. These are filed and made available to readers. Selective indexing of news items which are of economic and social interest in these newspapers was begun about two years ago and is still continuing. Accession lists are now periodically compiled and distributed to the research staff of the Institute and the University of Nigeria, and the libraries of other institutions.

The E.D.I. library facilities are supplemented by those available at the Enugu Campus Library which has a total of about 20,000 volumes. This collection is particularly strong in such allied fields as law, Accountancy, Business Administration and Marketing.

Apart from the research staff of the E.D.I., the E.D.I. Library is open also to the senior staff of the Universities, senior public servants, and indeed to researchers from anywhere.

## VIII. — PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANCY

E.D.I. staff are consulted from time to time on various socio-economic matters by indigenous and foreign organisations, international organs or governments of Nigeria. Some of such time-consuming consultancy assignments entailed the writing up of specially commissioned reports, while others covered exhaustive matter-of-fact discussions, the assemblage of data, and the interpretation of social and economic phenomena with impact on the subject matters.