

SYNOPSIS

Trinidad and Tobago was an agricultural based society for many years. Following World War II there was a drift slowly towards other industries such as commercial activities or manufacturing, primarily in the energy related industries.

In recent times, particularly in the period from 1973 to 1983, there was an acceleration of this movement. With industrialization, there were construction activities on a scale that was previously unknown.

This mammoth task for a small nation was approached in several ways from trying to cope with rudimentary methods to the spending of millions of dollars for the purchase of foreign expertise and systems with the hope of some 'transfer of technology'.

In this Project, an attempt will be made to look at the acquisition of technology primarily as it relates to the Construction Sector of Trinidad and Tobago in the period 1973 to 1983 commonly referred to as the 'boom years'.

As the Construction Sector covers a very wide area, for the purpose of analysis in this project, it is intended to look more closely into the general areas of technology acquisition which resulted from:-

CHAPTER ONE

- (1) Construction which occurred in the boom days particularly in the Energy Sector.
- (2) Construction of Mass Housing Projects.
- (3) Planned educational or training programmes.

1.0: BACKGROUND

Trinidad and Tobago are two islands of total area 5,128

It is the intention to review and evaluate the principal methods used. It will also consider the deterrents that were present and comment on how effectively Construction Technology was acquired in Trinidad and Tobago. In the broad general classification, Trinidad and Tobago

is considered as a developing country. Within the Caribbean

It must be noted that this report deals with the acquisition of construction technology in Trinidad and Tobago and other than basic statistics there is little published information on this subject. The many papers presented at international levels on the transfer of technology and appropriate technology have limited relevance in Trinidad and Tobago because of the different prevailing general environment. In the preparation of this report therefore, more emphasis was placed on observations and opinions than on previously published works. Reference to specific projects when made will be to identify its bearing on the acquisition of construction technology and not necessarily to provide information on the project itself. In any event most detailed project information is of a classified nature since many of the major projects undertaken in Trinidad and Tobago have been executed by Government. Because of these limitations, some aspects that may be normally expected of a report of this nature shall be unavailable.