

ABSTRACT

Declining productivity is a major problem confronting the Construction Industry in Trinidad and Tobago today. The industry has been unable so far to fully utilize modern technology to cope with increasing design complexity and tighter budgetary and time constraints in an effort to raise the level of cost effectiveness in construction. In addition, owners, consultants and contractors have not given sufficient attention to quality assurance and quality control in local construction.

The foregoing study is an analysis of management and management related problems currently existing in the local Construction Industry. The industry in which the Government is the largest spender (Three (3) Billion TT between 1973 and 1982) is one of the most critically important areas of economic activity. It is an indicator of economic progress and perhaps more importantly, a major stimulant of economic development. To this end, the study identifies poor economic management as a major constraint to stability in the Construction Industry, using as its terms of reference the status of the industry as at 1972 (just before the oil boom), 1973 to 1982 (oil boom years), and a policy agenda for Trinidad and Tobago - 1982 to 1990.

The project, emphasising on cost effectiveness, then identifies and discusses some of the major short comings of management and expertise within the industry and covers the following subject areas:-

1. Shortcomings of Management on local Construction.
2. Modern Management Systems - Suiting Local Construction
3. The Motivation of Construction Workers in Trinidad and Tobago.

After each discussion, recommendations are presented. It is recognized that implementation of some of the more significant recommendations of this study may take considerable time and effort to achieve. However, they are made in the belief that they are needed for the long-term health of the industry.

HOW THE STUDY WAS MADE

2.2 The Construction Industry and the Revision of the

The study is based on the author's research and years of experience dealing with contractors, both local and foreign in all aspects of construction. The author is a senior officer of Amoco Trinidad Oil Company in the Government Relations/Economics Evaluation/Contracts Group and his experience particularly in interviewing, evaluating and auditing adds practicality and depth to this study. In addition, he is a former Auditor of Neal and Massy Holdings Limited - the largest conglomerate within Caricom - and thus was exposed to many causes and effects of shortcomings of management, as well as a wide variety of modern management systems. Moreover, the author is an ex-lecturer at the Ciprani Labour College and University of the West Indies (Extra Mural Department) thus coming in contact with a widely cross sectioned work force including construction.

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