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Intermediate Technology Development Group Ltd, 9 King Street, London WC2E 8HN U.K.

**The Intermediate Technology Development Group was formed in 1965 by the late Dr E. F. Schumacher. The Group gives technical advice to developing countries and to aid agencies; undertakes the development and testing of intermediate technologies. It also gives support to the growing number of appropriate technology centres in Latin America, Africa and Asia.**

## Intermediate Technology — An Alternative Approach to Development

Since 1965 there has been increasing awareness of the critical role that technology plays in economic development. There has also been a growing recognition that not enough is being done to make available or to develop techniques which are capital-saving, small-scale, labour-intensive and easily reproduced in developing countries. These technologies would make the best use of the skills and resources, particularly in the rural areas of the world. This is the Group's primary interest. But, in Britain too, ITDG is working to promote smaller scale, less environmentally harmful technologies which are more sparing of materials and energy and can create new opportunities for employment. In both the industrialised and the developing countries there is increasingly a common interest in using more appropriate technologies.

## The Group's aim

1. to identify gaps in the range of technologies available to developing countries;
2. to develop new technologies, when necessary, or to modify existing ones to make them more appropriate;
3. to test and demonstrate intermediate technologies and to publish and disseminate the results;
4. to assist developing countries both at a technical level and with policies to make the best use of their productive resources.

## The Panels — A Unique Resource

The Group's technical panels embrace a wide variety of expertise from industry, the professions and the academic world. Nearly 300 panel members provide voluntary advice and assistance to validate the Group's work in the following areas:

Agriculture
Building and Building Materials
Cementitious Materials
Co-operatives
Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
Deafness
Ferrocement
Forestry
Nutrition
Power
Printing
Transport
Water

ITDG also co-operates with the Tropical Products Institute in a Rural Food Technology Advisory Group. In matters of health, it works closely with the Appropriate Health Resources & Technology Action Group (AHRTAG).

## Action Centres within the Group

**Intermediate Technology Industrial Services (IT-IS)** has been set up to provide technical and financial assistance to meet the needs of developing countries for unfamiliar or new technologies, primarily in the small industry sector. Where appropriate, it will carry out market research, commission the development of machinery and publish technical information. It is based in Rugby.

**The Appropriate Technology – U.K. Unit (AT-UK)** provides a focus for the developing interest in the use of appropriate technology in Britain. It is particularly concerned with the establishment of a new form of organisation to foster small enterprises, the Local Enterprise Trust, in which there is now interest from more than 30 separate locations. It also undertakes work on choice of technology in British industry and produces a six-monthly newsletter, *AT-UK Exchange.*

**Intermediate Technology Publications Ltd** The Group's publications company publishes a quarterly journal, *Appropriate Technology,* which provides a forum for the exchange of practical ideas and information from all over the world. It also publishes a wide range of directories, manuals, designs, bibliographies and books dealing with intermediate technologies.

**Intermediate Technology Consultants Ltd** At the request of governments and other agencies, the Group's consultancy company has undertaken work in many parts of the world. This has included industrial policy, building using local resources, sugar production, farm implements, rain-water catchment, village technology (particuarly for women) and the establishment of appropriate technology centres.

**Development Techniques Ltd** exists to design, develop and produce specialised equipment for developing countries. One example is a range of machinery for paper pulp packaging.

**Technical enquiries** The Group operates a service for developing countries. Maximum technical information should be given with each enquiry.

## A Range of Pioneering Projects

The Group operates field projects in association with organisations in developing countries. It is currently involved in boat building in Southern Sudan, spinning and weaving and small-scale cement production in India, and testing new designs of windmills and water turbines in a number of countries. Full-time project officers are employed in Britain to answer technical enquiries, carry out technical development, compile publications and to undertake short-term assignments overseas.

**Agriculture and Water Unit** The Unit is based at the National College of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, which has many overseas students and a wide range of contacts with agricultural centres overseas. Particular interests of the Unit include rural workshops and low-cost irrigation and water storage systems.

**Building and Building Materials Unit** The Unit is very experienced in training personnel for construction management and building maintenance. The Unit workshop is just outside Birmingham, where existing and new building techniques are investigated. Current development work includes low-cost roofing, brick-making and fibre-reinforced cement.

**Power Unit** This Unit has a close relationship with Reading University, with which a joint Energy Centre is planned, to provide permanent facilities for testing and development of alternative energy devices. Windmill and turbine development are the main priorities at present.

**Transport Unit** The Project Officer is based in Oxford, where he works closely with the University's Department of Engineering Science. The Unit is involved not only with the design and construction of low-cost roads but also with low-cost vehicles, especially those using human or animal muscle power.

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**What reviewers say:**

**Journal of Appropriate Technology**

"Extremely good and informative publication, that has turned out to be one of our most important sources of reference."

— *Iglesea Evangelica Luterana en el Peru*

**Consultancy for Small Businesses** by Dr Malcolm Harper

"This book will be of great help to small businesses in our country and will be particularly useful to those who work for national or local governments, for a voluntary or official development assistance agency or for a bank, manufacturer or any other organisation which is concerned with improving the operations of small enterprises."

— *CMA Newsletter, India*

**Tools for Agriculture: A Buyer's Guide to Low-Cost Agricultural Implements** compiled by John Boyd

"Fascinating and very useful if you've ever wondered where to locate a hand-operated seeder, a horse-drawn harrow or a hand-operated cultivator."

— *Natural Life, U.S.A.*

**Hand Dug Wells and Their Construction** by S.B. Watt and W.E. Wood

"This handbook gives complete and intensely practical instruction in the location, construction and equipment of wells, using simple methods and readily available materials . . . For the person faced with the task of providing water supplies with limited resources of money and materials, this book will be invaluable."

— *The Institution of Water Engineers Journal, London*

**Gardening for Better Nutrition** compiled by Arnold Pacey

"This is an excellent publication which will be of immense value to nurses and midwives and other members of the health team working in developing countries. Arnold Pacey has so vividly demonstrated the team approach in health education to counter malnutrition and the important role of the village committees and community associations."

— *Miss M.A. Brayton, Commonwealth Nurses Federation, London*

**Co-operative Organisation: An Introduction** by B.K. Youngjohns

"Had I read (this booklet) before I went abroad to help develop co-operatives in the Third World, I would have been at least partially armed for the struggle."

— *Co-operative News, U.K.*