ABOUT ISTC

Introduction

The idea to establish the Industrial Skills Training Centres across the Nation was conceived in 1978. Following years of periodic appraisal of the efforts of various formal and non-formal Vocational Institutions in the country, the Industrial Training Fund in a bid to introduce into the National economy, an effective and systematic Vocational Training System commissioned a study of in-plant and Apprentice training in Nigeria.

The report of this study showed that the standards attained in existing Vocational Training Institutions were as varied as the number of bodies and organizations that ran the various vocational training centres.

The report also confirmed that vocational training in the formal vocational training institutions was more or less improvised and geared more towards theory than practice. Almost all the vocational training institutions suffer from lack of funds, qualified and experienced instructors and equipment.

Vocational Training as implemented outside the formal and non-formal Training Centres was observed to be two restricted to the immediate needs of the employers offering such training programme.

As a result of these findings and in a bid to introduce a modern and systematic vocational training system which is broad-based in nature, the Fund in 1981 took a policy decision to go into direct training of craftsmen and technicians by establishing industry-oriented vocational training institutions which we now call Industrial Skills Training Centre` (ISTC). The then VTC, Ikeja was the first of the Fund's non-formal industry-oriented Vocational Training Centre. The programme was of three-year duration and commenced regular classes on the 3rd of May 1983, with 45 trainees in three occupational Areas of 15 trainees each. The three occupational area were :

- Auto/Agricultural Machinery Maintenance & Repair
- Electrical Installation Works and Maintenance
- Mechanical Engineering Craft Practice

Objectives:

The Industrial Training Fund as a Human Resource Development Organisation has its core mandate to be that of training to improve the performance of the industrial work force in the economy by training for skills acquisition and improvement of work processes. The Centre's objectives are therefore to:

i) Train and develop high level skilled manpower in the occupational areas that exists in the Centre
ii) Liaise with the industries to upgrade the skills of their work force for improved productivity.
iii) Undertake studies to establish the skill requirements of industries and develop job specifications for purposes of skills training

iv) Empower the youth through skills acquisition programme aimed at job creation and enterpreneurship development
v) Design and implement booster courses based on industry's perceived needs
vi) Certify and issue trainees with ITF competency certificate at the successful completion of the programme.

New Programmes and Proposal
In view of the fast technological development in every facet of industrial activity, the Management of the Fund is now re-equipping the Centre with the most modern tools and equipment to align it with the pace of industrial skills needed for today's workforce.

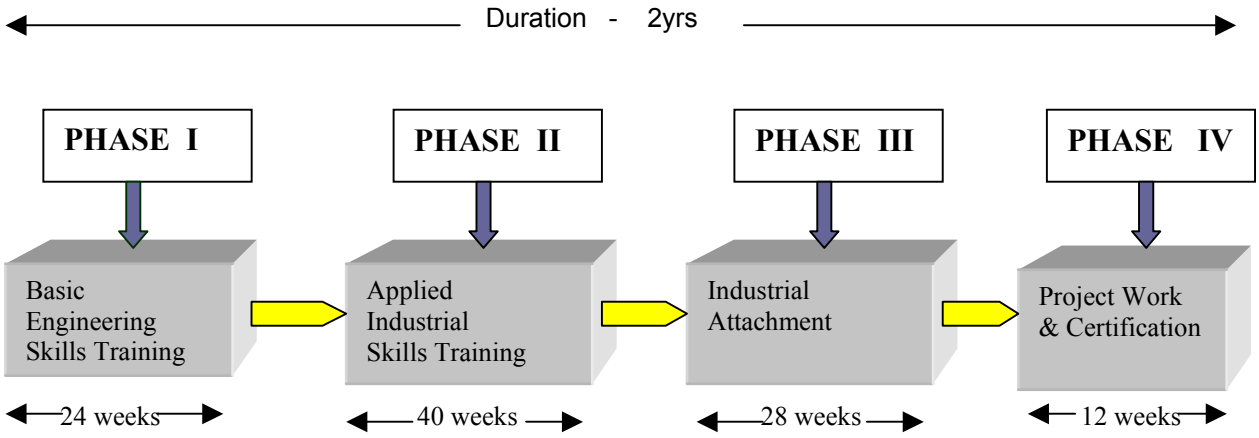
The occupational areas in the Centre have therefore been expanded to include:

- Communication and Information Technology
- Tool and Die Making
- Welding and Fabrication
- Refrigeration and Airconditioning

A steady demand exists in the industry for these trades and to be successful in these fields, trainees must have a desire and ability to utilize many hand skills to industry-accepted standards.

New Structure of ISTC Vocational Training Programme

The Programme Structure - (Proposed)
The Centre is now proposing a two-year vocational training programme centred on skills acquisition and structured in four phases as below:

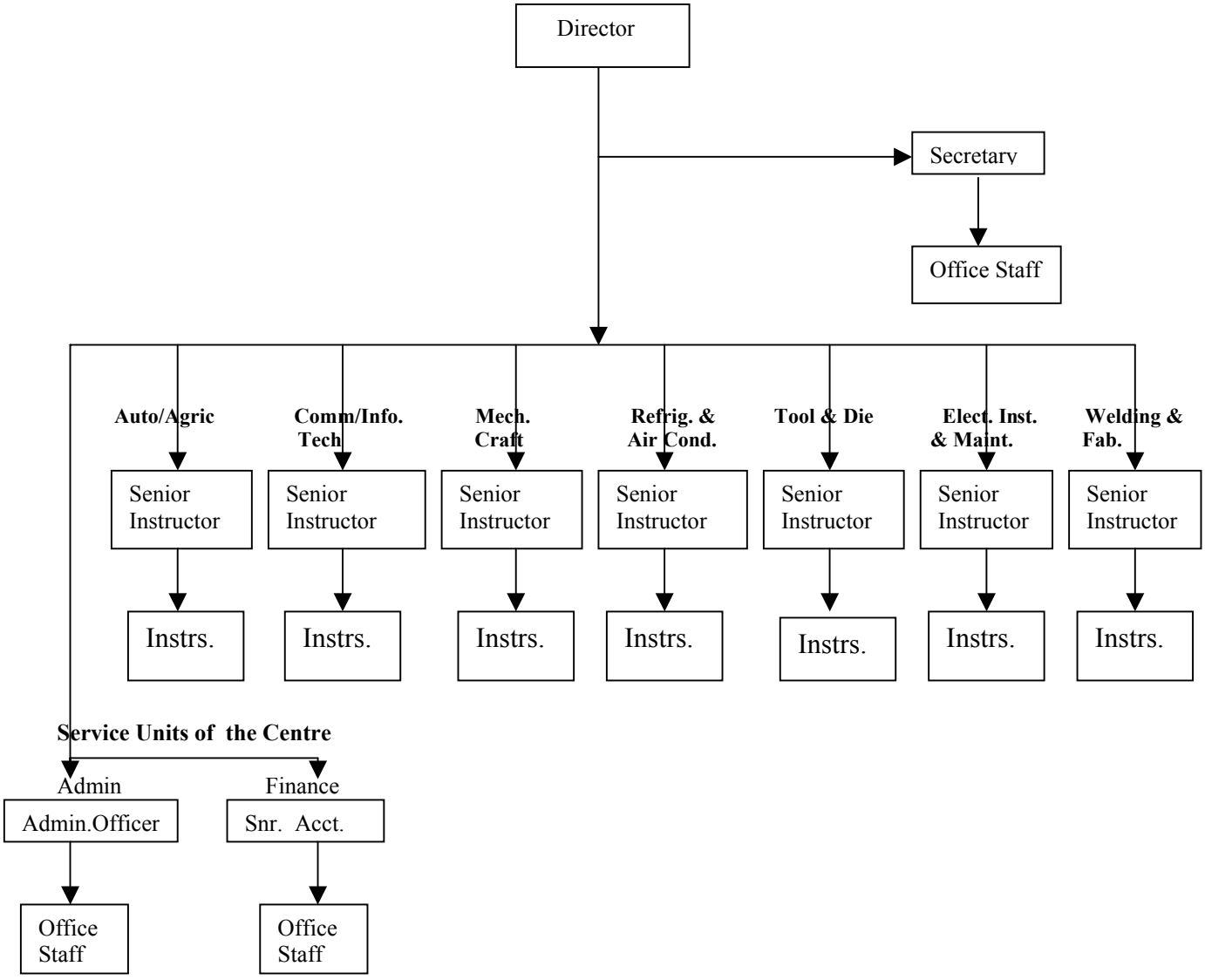


The reduction of excessive vacations and running the Centre in an industrial-like manner. will enable the Centre to complete any of the programmes in two years. For any of these trades in the Centre, opportunities for advancement are favorable either by employment or by establishing a business enterprise.

Organisational Structure - (Proposed)

The proposed Centre structure which depicts all the trade areas in the Centre is shown below:

Proposed Staffing Plan - ISTC Ikeja



Auto/Agricultural Equipment Maintenance Repair

This programme provides an opportunity for trainees to work with variety of Auto/Agric equipment. Trainees will explore new developments In the auto industry such that on completion of the 2-year programme, they would have acquired sound practical and theoretical skills adequate to secure them employment.

Below is shop flow illustration by the instructor to the trainees.

Using a manual pump to test an engine nozzle

Using computerized engine analyzer to establish the performance of a petrol engine.

Electrical Installation and Maintenance Programme

The programme on electrical installation and maintenance is of two years duration aimed at developing the skills of trainers in industrial electrical installations and provide sound knowledge of electrical equipment maintenance.

a

b

The photograph above shows an instructor demonstrating to trainees in the electrical workshop (a) the process control concepts and technique for the control of industrial process variables, eg. Pressure flowrate etc. (b) Demonstration on electro-mechanical control techniques.

Mechanical Engineering Craft Practice Programme

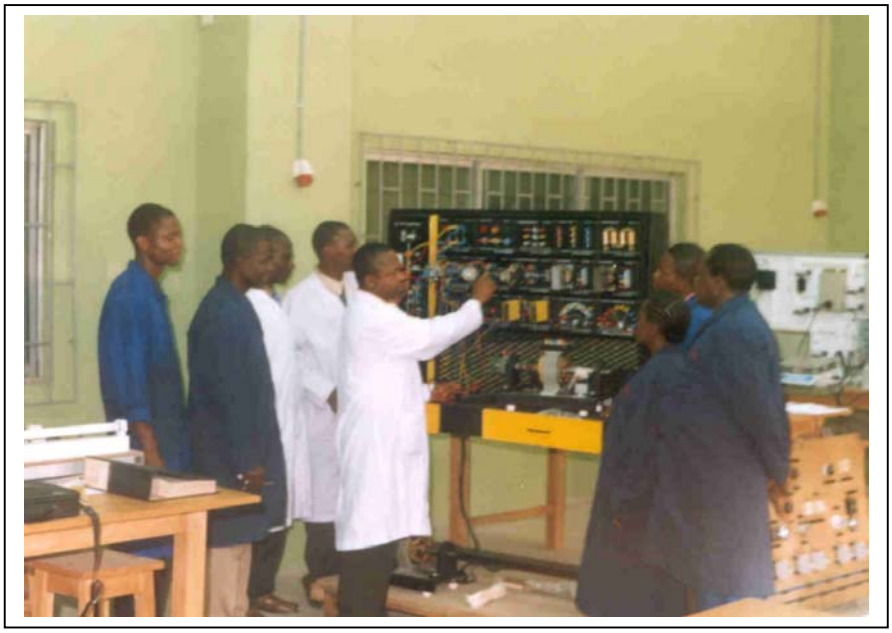
This programme trains the trainees to operate engine lathe, drill presses, milling machines, grinders and special purpose machines to shape metal workpieces to specification. The programme lasts for two years and offers trainees additional opportunity to become competent in various machine operations and set ups. Work is done with blueprints, specifications and machine tool problem solving.

An instructor is seen demonstrating to the trainee how to set up a workpiece on a milling machine with the use of a dial indicator.

Communication and Information Technology Programme

The programme on Communication and Information Technology offers trainees the skill to adopt and secure employment in high technology organisations that has to do with communication and information equipment. Todays industrial processes require verse knowledge in programming and computation. The two-year programme will therefore address the needs of the industries in this direction.

(a)



(b)

Above at (a) and (b), the instructors are clarifying some points to the trainees on Communication and Information Technology equipment.

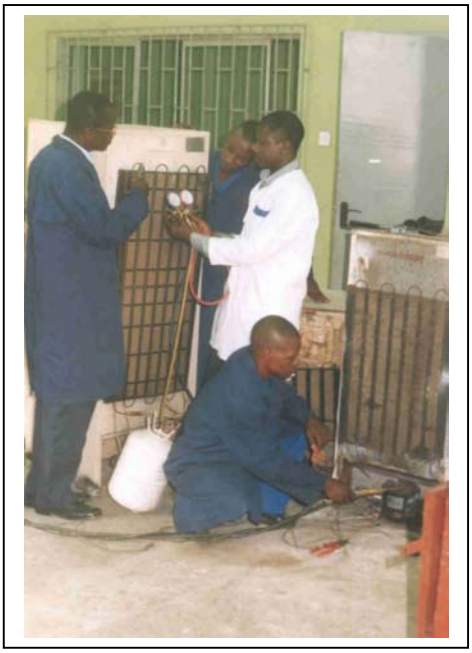
Tool and Die Programme
This programme is designed to enable trainees to be able to produce moulds and die for purposes of replication of engineering components. The intricate machining process involved in this programme enables trainees to acquire very high skills in machining and problem solving techniques. This programme is expected to be in full swing within the next 24 months.

Welding and Fabrication Programme
Vocational programme in Welding & Fabrication offers 2 years training in the areas of oxy-acetylene welding, arc welding, Tig (Tungsten Inert Gas), Mig (Metalic Inert Gas) and welding in the flat, vertical and overhead positions. Weld exercises selected for this course include the common types of weld joints used in industry.
Welding fabrication provide knowledge of blueprint reading, interpretation of shop sketches, bench layout and Fabrications in light and heavy gauge materials.

Above is an instructor demonstrating to trainees on how to strike and achieve a good weld on a work piece

Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Programme
The industrial application of refrigeration & air-conditioning is growing by the day. The programme which lasts for two years enables trainees to acquire the skills necessary to maintain and keep process plants running to specification. The domestic refrigeration and air conditioning is also covered in the programme.

The use of refrigeration and air-condition trainers facilitate the understanding of the principles and application of refrigeration and air-conditioning system.



Above is an instructor demonstrating to trainees on how to refill gas in a domestic refrigerator in refrigeration and Air Conditioning Workshop

The Centre's programmes are offered in partnership with employers of labour whose roles are to absorb the trainees during industrial attachment and coach them through practical exercises based on their training job specifications.

The contribution made by industries in the skill training efforts of the Centre is remarkable, and invaluable.

Industrial Skills Trainina Centre

Contact Us

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Our Role: Meeting the challenges of the changing nature of work and future skills requirements.