

**MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
*Chiang Mai (Thailand): 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004*

**AGENDA ITEM 01:           OFFICIAL OPENING**

The formal joint opening ceremony of 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly was held at Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiang Mai (Thailand) on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2004. The meeting was hosted by the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT). His Excellency Chaturon Chaisang, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the key-note address. Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President; Mr. Mu Li, President, ICA – Asia and Pacific; and Mr. Wirat lam-Ua-Yuth, Chairman of CLT delivered the opening remarks during the ceremony. Mr. Suwat Tantipat, Governor of Chiang Mai, welcomed the delegates. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA – Asia and Pacific proposed a vote of thanks. More than 900 persons attended the joint opening ceremony. The theme of the Forum was **“Re-Engineering Cooperatives in the Globalised Economy”**.

After conclusion of ICA Regional Cooperative Forum, the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiang Mai (Thailand) on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004. 158 participants from China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and ACCU attended the meeting. In addition, special invitees from Bhutan, Canada, Spain, ICMIF and ICA also attended the meeting. The list of participants of the meeting is attached (Annexure-1).

Mr. Mu Li, President, ICA – Asia and Pacific and Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly opened the meeting and welcomed all members and invitees. Mr. Mu Li said “I am very happy that most of the member organizations’ representatives could come to Chiang Mai to attend the meeting. This meeting assumes an added significance as it would deliberate on important issues for building consensus among cooperators of Asia regarding common action to face challenges of globalization”. After his brief remarks, he requested Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA, to formally inaugurate the meeting.

Mr. Ivano Barberini said “I would like to congratulate the organizers for the excellent arrangements made for the Cooperative Forum and the Regional Assembly. We have had some excellent initiatives in these days, with very good speakers who have come up with analysis and results coupled with useful and stimulating ideas. All regions are confronting with one common issue, i.e. globalization. However, it is important to analyse the implications of globalization in the local context. In view of this, knowledge needs to be transformed into action at local, regional and global level so as to generate a process of developmental re-enforcement. Having due regard for regional diversities, the common issue before all of us is how to fight poverty. Africa is facing graver situation. We should show our cooperative solidarity to help the poor region in their endeavour to remove poverty. Next week we will have a Board Meeting in Nairobi to express our solidarity with Africa. The main theme will be global campaign against poverty in synergy with UN organizations to enhance visibility of cooperatives in socio-economic development of the poor”. Wishing a happy New Year to all participants, the President inaugurated the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 02:           APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair asked the members whether they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda, which was circulated at the meeting, was unanimously approved.

At this point Mr. Mu Li requested Dr. Yehudah Paz, Chairman of International Relations, Central Union of Cooperative Societies, Israel and Member of the ICA Board and Standing Committee to chair the rest of the Session.

Dr. Yehudah Paz thanked the members for electing him as Chair to conduct the rest of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 03: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING HELD IN CEBU ON 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2003**

The minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Assembly held in Cebu (Philippines) on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/amendments had been received. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the minutes with the following correction:

The designation of Dr. Mohd. Ali Bin Hj Baharum should be Deputy President of ANGKASA instead of Vice President.

**AGENDA ITEM 04: PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA-AP STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Since last Regional Assembly, three meetings of the Standing Committee were held. Confirmed minutes of these meetings were circulated at the meeting. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes had already been completed. The delegates of the Regional Assembly endorsed the minutes of the Standing Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM 05: PROGRESS REPORT FROM REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ICA-AP**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee made a power point presentation on the important activities carried out by ICA-AP after the last Regional Assembly meeting in Cebu. He said that we have tried to spread out the activities in most of the countries served by ICA-AP. He presented the financial projection for 2004 and informed the meeting that there would be a surplus of CHF 21,975 in ICA-AP and CHF 3,178 at Singapore Business Office.

Some members suggested that reports of this nature should be sent in advance for a meaningful meeting. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that in future he would send his report in advance to the member organizations.

The members thanked Mr. Shil Kwan Lee for the extensive and exhaustive reports. The report on Activities and the Financial Report as presented by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee were approved by the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 06: APPROVAL OF WORK PROGRAM/BUDGET OF ICA-AP FOR 2005**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the ICA-AP Work Plan and Budget for 2005 which was earlier approved by the Standing Committee. He said that there would be a surplus of CHF 13,480 at ICA-AP in 2005.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee thanked the development partners and member organizations for their financial support.

Mr. B. Subrahmanyam from India informed the meeting that RCBA has decided to hold a Conference on "Role of Cooperatives in Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation" in 2005 and wanted ICA-AP to collaborate with it. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that it was a good idea and he would hold discussions with the concerned persons and the dates and venue mentioned in the work Plan are only tentative.

Regarding Youth Seminar follow-up, Mr. Lee informed the meeting that they decided to set up a Youth Committee and it was under discussion stage.

Regarding rehabilitation of cooperatives in Afghanistan, Mr. Lee said that some preliminary action has been taken. He said that ICA-AP invited a delegation including the Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Agriculture in Afghanistan for the Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi in February and held discussions with them. But unfortunately, there was no response from them after that.

Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore said that at least one HRD activity may be included in the 2005 Work Plan.

The Work Plan/Budget for 2005 was approved by the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 07:                    AMULTI-ANNUAL BUDGET OF ICA - ASIA AND  
PACIFIC FOR 2005-2007**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the Multi-Annual Budget of ICA-AP for 2005-2007. He said that ICA collected approximately CHF 600,000 from our region every year and we got back only CHF 145,000 (23%). 77% was kept with the head office. Hence re-distribution of membership subscription has been kept at the same level for all the three years.

Madam Rahaiah Baهران said that the Women's Committee has decided to collect information on the situation of women in the region in collaboration with UNIFEM. She also said that ICA Domus Trust has agreed to release some funds for this activity in 2005.

Mr. Subrahmanyam from India congratulated the ICA-AP for the Multi-Annual Budget with a sense of appreciation.

The Multi-Annual Budget for 2005-2007 as presented by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee was approved by the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 08:                    APPROVAL OF PRIORITIES OF ICA-AP FOR 2005-08**

The Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the Regional Assembly had approved the existing ICA-AP Priorities for 2000-2004; and priorities for 2005-2008 need to be decided before the end of the current year. He then presented the ICA-AP Priorities for 2005-2008 which was approved by the Standing Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November:

- a. *Propagation of Cooperative Values and Principles*
- b. *Cooperative Legislation and Policy Reforms*
- c. *Strengthening of Cooperative Governance and Management Capabilities*

- d. *Active Participation in Poverty Alleviation*
- e. *Promotion of International Cooperative Trade*
- f. *Gender Mainstreaming and Involvement of Youth*
- g. *Improvement of Education, Information and Technology in Cooperatives.*

The Priorities of ICA-AP for 2005-2008 as presented by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee were approved by the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 09: APPROVAL OF NEW RULES OF ICA – ASIA AND PACIFIC**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the New Rules of ICA – Asia and Pacific based on the Rules approved by ICA General Assembly on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2003. He said that the Standing Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 at Chiang Mai proposed the following changes:

**Article-1: Mission Statement** should read as: ***The International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (known as International Cooperative Alliance – Asia and Pacific) shall strive to promote and strengthen the Cooperative Movement in the region.***

**Article-3 (page-2) Para-5** should read as: *Member organizations from the region shall have the right to send non-voting Observers **from their own organizations** to the Regional Assembly upon payment of registration fee.*

**Para-6** should read as: *Non-members of ICA such as international organizations, parastatal organizations and other institutions concerned with the promotion of cooperatives can be invited to the RA as Observers upon payment of registration fee **unless the existing members from the same country oppose.***

**Article-3 (page-2) Para-h** should read as: *The term of office of President, Vice Presidents and Members of the Standing Committee shall be **FOUR** years. In case any elected person ceases to represent or is withdrawn by his/her sponsoring member organization, the sponsoring organization may **nominate a replacement and the decision on the replacement rests with the Standing Committee.***

**Article-4 (page-3) Para-4** should read as: *A quorum of the Standing Committee shall be constituted when more than half of its members are present. Acceptance of a resolution shall be on a **two-third** majority of all Committee members present and voting. Each member of the Committee is entitled to one vote.*

With the above changes, the new rules of ICA – Asia and Pacific were unanimously approved by the Regional Assembly. A copy of the Rules is attached.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 : CONSIDERATION OF TERM OF SC MEMBERS AND RECOMMENDATION OF A NAME TO ICA GA TO BE THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ICA**

The Chairman (Dr. Yehudah Paz) informed the meeting that the term of present ICA President – Asia and Pacific (Mr. Mu Li) would be over in 2005. Since there would be no RA in 2005 we have to approve the name at this meeting. He further said that the Standing Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 in Chiang Mai has decided to re-nominate Mr. Mu Li for another term with the approval of the RA.

Mr. Mu Li's name was unanimously approved by the RA to be the President of ICA – Asia and Pacific and also the Chairperson of the RA.

Mr. Mu Li thanked the members for the faith reposed in him and said that he would continue to serve the region very effectively. He further said that our region was one of the most dynamic and cohesive Movement in the global ICA.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that according to the existing ICA Regional Assembly Rules, the term of office of Standing Committee is from Regional Assembly to Regional Assembly. In view of this, the term of present Standing Committee expires on the date of coming 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Regional Assembly on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004. However, based on the Rules approved by ICA General Assembly held in Oslo on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2003, new Rules have been formulated. According to new Rules the term of office of Standing Committee is **4 years** so as to bring it at par with the term of Board Members of ICA global. The present Standing Committee was elected by the Regional Assembly in Cebu in February 2003.

He also said that the Standing Committee at its meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November in Chiang Mai had unanimously decided to recommend to the Regional Assembly to extend the term of current members for a further period of 4 years.

Mr. Subrahmanyam from India said that the members of the SC were elected in Cebu for two years only. Subsequently the rule has been changed for four years. Therefore, legally their term cannot be extended. But they can be re-elected by the RA.

After discussions, the RA unanimously re-elected the following members to the SC for another four years.

|                          |         |             |   |                  |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------|---|------------------|
| • Mr. Mu Li              | ACFSMC  | China       | - | Chairperson      |
| • Ms. Junko Ito          | JCCU    | Japan       | - | Vice Chairperson |
| • Prof Ungku A.Aziz      | ANGKASA | Malaysia    | - | Vice Chairperson |
| • Dr. Yehudah Paz        | CUCS    | Israel      | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Chung Dae-Kun      | NACF    | Korea       | - | Member           |
| • Dr. S.S. Sisodia       | NCUI    | India       | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Seah Kian Peng     | SNCF    | Singapore   | - | Member           |
| • Ms. Evelyn B. Bautista | NATCCO  | Philippines | - | Member           |
| • Mr. D.P. Baskota       | NCFN    | Nepal       | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Sumarna Abdurahman | DEKOPIN | Indonesia   | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka | NCC     | Sri Lanka   | - | Member           |

## **AGENDA ITEM 11:           REPORTS FROM ICA-AP SPECIALISED   COMMITTEES**

**Women's Committee:** The ICA Regional Women's Committee was constituted in 1998 and the meeting of the Committee is being held regularly in conjunction with the Regional Women's Forum. The Committee has got 17 members from 13 countries. The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November in Chiang Mai. Eight members from six countries attended the meeting. Ms. Rahaiah Baهران (Malaysia) and Ms. Junko Ito (Japan) were re-elected unanimously for the next term. However, Ms. Goh Ming Huey (Singapore) was elected as Vice Chairperson in place of Ms. Preema Shanti Sooriyarachchi.

The Committee reviewed the progress of the gender integration and women's development programs and felt the need of evaluation of the achievements since its inception. The members presented country reports and informed the Committee about the gender integration and women empowerment programs of their cooperatives. The committee also discussed and finalized the work plan for 2005.

**Consumer Committee:** The 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation was held at Chiang Mai on 30<sup>th</sup> November. 28 participants from eight countries – India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the meeting. Mr. T. Fujioka, Chairperson of the Committee, welcomed the participants and thanked the host CLT for providing valuable support to organize this meeting.

In addition to routine Agenda, two special reports were presented at the meeting - (a) Current Issues and Challenges of Consumer Cooperative Movement of Thailand, and (b) Re-engineering Plan of the Consumer Cooperatives in Thailand. Reports of critical studies conducted by ICA – AP with financial support from JCCU were also presented by two Consultants from India and the Philippines. It was followed by the presentation of an Action Plan to strengthen consumer cooperatives in Asia. The critical studies and action plans were earlier deliberated at national workshops organized in four countries.

Mr. T. Fujioka, Executive Director, JCCU, was unanimously re-elected as Chairperson of the Committee. Mr. Poh Leong Sim from Singapore and Professor Ali Hassan from Malaysia were elected as Vice Chairpersons of the Committee.

**Consumer Sub-committee on University/College Coops:** The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Consumer Sub-committee on University/College Cooperatives was held at Chiang Mai on 29<sup>th</sup> November. 28 participants from Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, India, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand attended the meeting. The meeting elected Mr. Manabu Tanaka from Japan as Chairperson, while Professor Mohd. Ali Hassan from Malaysia was re-elected as Vice Chairperson.

There was also a workshop of the leaders of university/campus cooperatives in the afternoon of 29<sup>th</sup> November which reflected on the outcome of the Regional Youth Seminar in Malaysia, the setting up of a Regional Youth Committee, organizing a Pro-term Youth Committee and holding its meetings. It was expected that the Regional Youth Committee will be formalized during 2006 Regional Assembly.

**Regional Cooperative Banking Association:** The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RCBA was held at Chiang Mai on 30<sup>th</sup> November. 14 participants from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Canada and ACCU attended the meeting. In the absence of Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairperson, the meeting was chaired by Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, founder Chairperson of RCBA.

In addition to routine Agenda, a proposal to organize a regional seminar on "Role of cooperative Banking Sector in Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation" was discussed. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan from India was unanimously elected as Chairperson of RCBA for the next term. It was decided not to fill-up the post of Vice Chairperson for the time being. Members appreciated the services rendered by the outgoing Chairperson, Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya to strengthen the cooperative banking and credit sector in Asia.

**HRD Committee:** The 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held in Chiang Mai on 30<sup>th</sup> November. 18 members from seven countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and one international organization - ACCU - attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chairman of the Committee. He welcomed the presence of the members and thanked them for their presentations at the meeting. The following three presentations were made at the meeting:

1. Presentation on "Corporate Social Responsibility – Its Significance and Impact on Cooperatives" by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chief Executive of SNCF.
2. Presentation on "Global/Asian Coop – HRD Networking Center at VMNICM, Pune (India)" by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI. This project is in collaboration with Global ICA HRD Committee and funded by NCUI.
3. Presentation on "Global Cooperative Learning Center" by Dr. Yehudah Paz, Chairman, International Relations, CUCS, Israel. This project is in partnership with British Colombia Institute of Cooperative Studies and ILO Coop Branch.

Country Reports on HRD activities were presented by members from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The meeting decided that in future country reports should be replaced with "Presentation of Initiatives on HRD".

The meeting unanimously re-elected Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively for another term. Mr. Leow Peng Kui and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad thanked the members for reposing their faith on them.

Three seminars on HRD Best Practices were held in Malaysia, India and Sri Lanka in 2002-03. The meeting decided to continue the seminars on HRD Best Practices in the coming years. The meeting also decided to recommend to ICA-AP that at least one HRD activity should be held every year. Some members indicated their willingness to host such programs. The Committee also noted the need for increased cooperation amongst HRD institutions in the region and the acceptance of training standards across national boundaries.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:                   REPORT OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> COOPERATIVE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW DELHI FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> TO 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2004**

Mr. B.D. Sharma presented a report on the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministers' conference. The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference was convened by ICA-AP in New Delhi (India) from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2004. The Conference was hosted by the Government of India and the Cooperative Movement of India. It was inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of India. A total of 172 delegates including 11 cooperative ministers, government officials, cooperative leaders and chief executives of 19 countries of Asia-Pacific region and nine international organizations participated at the Conference. The theme of the Conference was "Enabling Supportive Cooperative Legislation and Policy for Sustainable Growth of Cooperatives".

The Conference, in line with its past tradition adopted a Joint Declaration known as "**New Delhi Declaration**". The Declaration was signed by ministers and other representatives on behalf of their respective governments and cooperative movements.

The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference have been circulated to the governments and member organizations of ICA in Asia-Pacific region for taking appropriate action to implement the Recommendations.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:            *REPORT AND NEW ISSUES ARISING FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> ICA REGIONAL COOPERATIVE FORUM***

The ICA - AP successfully conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum in collaboration with the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) at Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiang Mai (Thailand) on 1-2 December 2004. More than 250 delegates from Australia, Bhutan, Canada, Cambodia, China, Finland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom and Vietnam attended the Forum.

The theme of the Forum was “RE-ENGINEERING COOPERATIVES IN THE GLOBALISED ECONOMY” with the following six sub-themes:

- Cooperative Values vis-à-vis Competition;
- Fair Globalisation through Cooperatives;
- Restructuring Cooperatives;
- Governance of Cooperatives;
- Sectoral Concerns; and
- Social Cohesion through Cooperatives.

Dr. Iain MacPherson, Director, British Columbia Institute of Cooperative Studies at the University of Victoria, Canada summarised the Forum proceedings along with Dr. Robby Tulus, former ICA Regional Director.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:            *REPORT OF 4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM***

The ICA – AP has been organizing Regional Women's Fora since 1998 in collaboration with ICA Regional Women's Committee. The three earlier fora – the first in Seoul, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Singapore, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Cebu – were great successes. The 4<sup>th</sup> ICA Regional Women's Forum was held at Chiang Mai on 30<sup>th</sup> November with the participation of 80 men and women from nine countries – India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore and Switzerland. The theme of the Forum was “Women in Re-engineering of Cooperatives in the Globalised Economy”.

Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA, addressed the Forum as Chief Guest. In reference to preparing women to face the challenges of globalization, he said that we should acknowledge the “power of intelligence” as fundamental resources and the need to manage the diversity through appropriate policies, strategies and behaviour. There were active discussions on the ways and means of empowering women and also for larger participation in decision-making positions in cooperatives. The key-note speech was delivered by Ms. Lucita Lazo, Regional Coordinator of UNIFEM. Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee chaired the Forum. It was decided to hold the next Forum in Colombo in conjunction with the Regional Assembly during 2006.



**AGENDA ITEM 15:           REPORT OF 3<sup>RD</sup> ASIAN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Cooperative Research Conference was held at Chiang Mai on 30<sup>th</sup> November. It was attended by 81 researchers and experts working in academic institutions and field related cooperatives in the region. The Conference was inaugurated by Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President, who stressed on the need for values, culture and professionalism to sustain cooperative growth in a competitive word economy. 21 papers were presented on the three themes kept for discussion at the Conference – (a) Widening the areas and scope of cooperative action; (b) Cooperative governance and globalization; and (c) Role and dynamics of women’s cooperatives. Out of 21 papers, 10 were presented by awardees of the fellowship given by the Consumer Cooperative Research Institute of Japan. The emphasis during the current Conference was on empirical research to identify problems and development indicators. This emphasis was aptly justified by several presentations. It was possible to put the cooperatives on the path of progress, if need-oriented policies are formulated after identifying the disadvantages. Researchers engaged in on-going research as well as those who did case studies on the basis of conference themes demonstrated the effectiveness of research to identify critical areas and to facilitate action-oriented development programs. It was decided that the next Conference would be held in Colombo in conjunction with the Regional Assembly during 2006.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:           CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Shin Kwan Lee informed the meeting that Sri Lanka would be celebrating 100 years of establishment of the Cooperative Movement in 2006. Hence, they wanted to host the next Regional Assembly and Cooperative Forum in Sri Lanka in 2006. The meeting accepted the offer of National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka and decided to host the next Regional Assembly and Coop Forum in Sri Lanka in 2006. The date and venue would be decided in consultation with the secretariat. The Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) would be hosting the Regional Assembly and the Coop Forum in 2008. The meeting thanked both Sri Lanka and Vietnam for agreeing to host ICA events in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

**AGENDA ITEM 17:           CLOSING SESSION**

Dr. Yehudah Paz said that this RA meeting was both important and interesting because there was deep important reaffirmation of cooperative lessons, values and their translation into successful business enterprises.

The meeting thanked the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) for making excellent arrangements for the meeting in Chiang Mai.

The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and his able staff for carrying out the ICA-AP’s work with success. The meeting also thanked Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President and Ms. Maria-Elena Chavez, Deputy Director General for coming and spending their valuable time with us.

The Chairperson thanked the members for coming and attending the meeting. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**SHIL KWAN LEE**  
Regional Director

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| Country | S.No. | Name of participant    | Designation and Name of Organization   |
|---------|-------|------------------------|--|
| BHUTAN  | 1     | Mr. Kunzang Norbu      | Cooperative Advisor, SNV Bhutan, Thimphu.  |
| CANADA  | 2     | Dr. Ian MacPherson     | Director, British Columbia Institute for Cooperative Studies, University of Victoria.          |
|         | 3     | Dr. Robby Tulus        | #1102-1480 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 5H2.                                   |
| CHINA   | 4     | Mr. Mu Li              | President, Board of Supervisors, All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Coops, Beijing.  |
|         | 5     | Mr. Rong Jun           | Director, International Cooperation Department, ACFSMC, Beijing.                               |
|         | 6     | Ms. Tian Lihua         | Program Officer, International Cooperation Department, ACFSMC, Beijing.                        |
| INDIA   | 7     | Dr. S.S. Sisodia       | President, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi.                              |
|         | 8     | Mr. Bhagwati Prasad    | Chief Executive, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi.                        |
|         | 9     | Mr. S.K. Jakhar        | Chairman, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.                   |
|         | 10    | Mr. K. Srinivasa Gowda | Director, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.                   |
|         | 11    | Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan  | Director, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.                   |
|         | 12    | Mr. Ajit Kumar Singh   | Director, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.                   |
|         | 13    | Mr. Sheesh Pal Singh   | Director, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.                   |
|         | 14    | Mr. Mostafa Sardar     | Director, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.                   |
|         | 15    | Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh | Director, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.                   |
|         | 16    | Mr. Raj Kumar Tripathi | Director, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.                   |
|         | 17    | Mr. V.H. Radadiya      | Director, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.                   |
|         | 18    | Dr. G.N. Saxena        | Sr. General Manager (CS & AM), Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO), New Delhi. |
|         | 19    | Mr. A.K. Bhatnagar     | Manager (Administration), Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.   |
|         | 20    | Mr. S.N. Kathuria      | Manager (Board), Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), New Delhi.            |

| Country   | S.No. | Name of participant           | Designation and Name of Organization   |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------------|--|
|           | 21    | Mr. Y.S.P. Thorat             | Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), Mumbai.           |
|           | 22    | Mr. M.V. Madane               | Chairman, Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation, Pune.                                       |
|           | 23    | Ms. Veena Nabar               | Director, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation Limited, New Delhi.                         |
|           | 24    | Mr. Ramesh Chandra Ramhut     | Director, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation Limited, New Delhi.                         |
|           | 25    | Mr. B. Subrahmanyam           | Managing Director, National Federation of State Coop Banks (NAFSCOB), Mumbai.                    |
|           | 26    | Mr. K.N. Rajanna              | President, Karnataka State Cooperative Apex Bank Limited, Bangalore.                             |
|           | 27    | Dr. Bijender Singh            | President, Delhi State Cooperative Bank Limited, New Delhi.                                      |
|           | 28    | Mr. Alok Ranjan               | Managing Director, National Agricultural Coop Marketing Federation of India Ltd., New Delhi.     |
|           | 29    | Mr. R.S. Joon                 | Director, National Agricultural Coop Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi.           |
|           | 30    | Mr. K. Sivadasan Nair         | Chairman, National Coop Agriculture and Rural Development Bank's Federation Ltd., Mumbai.        |
|           | 31    | Mr. K.K. Ravindran            | Managing Director, National Coop Agriculture and Rural Development Bank's Federation, Mumbai.    |
|           | 32    | Mr. Chandra Pal Singh         | Chairman, Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), New Delhi.                              |
|           | 33    | Mr. Vaghjibhai R. Patel       | Director, Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), New Delhi.                              |
|           | 34    | Mr. Harraj Singh Sidhu        | Director, Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), New Delhi.                              |
|           | 35    | Mr. S.S. Jamgod               | Director, Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), New Delhi.                              |
|           | 36    | Mr. S.C. Kukreja              | CM (Board), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), New Delhi.                            |
|           | 37    | Ms. Sushila Kaul              | Research Professor, Pusa Institute of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.                          |
| INDONESIA | 38    | Mr. Sumarna F. Abdurrahman    | Chairman for Foreign Affairs, Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN), Jakarta.                       |
|           | 39    | Ms. Nani Zakaria              | Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN), Jakarta.   |
| IRAN      | 40    | Mr. Mohd Karim B. Firouzabadi | Managing Director, Central Union of Rural Agricultural Coops of Iran (CURACI), Tehran.           |
|           | 41    | Mr. Mohd Reza Geramipour      | Dy. Managing Director, Central Union of Rural Agricultural Coops of Iran (CURACI), Tehran.       |
|           | 42    | Mr. Gholam Reza Amiridavandi  | Member of Board of Director, Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran (CORC), Tehran. |
| ISRAEL    | 43    | Mr. Micha Brenner             | Chairman, Central Union of Cooperative Societies (CUCS), Tel Aviv.                               |
|           | 44    | Dr. Yehudah Paz               | Chairman of International Relations, Central Union of Cooperative Societies (CUCS), Tel Aviv.    |

| Country | S.No.              | Name of participant  | Designation and Name of Organization  |
|---------|--------------------|--|---|
| JAPAN   | 45                 | Mr. Toshifumi Yamashita  | Vice President, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), Tokyo.                            |
|         | 46                 | Mr. Takeyoshi Fujjoka  | Executive Director, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), Tokyo.                        |
|         | 47                 | Ms. Akiko Yamauchi   | Manager of International Department, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), Tokyo.       |
|         | 48                 | Mr. Kazunari Suzuki  | Staff of International Department, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), Tokyo.         |
|         | 49                 | Mr. Yoshimitsu Nakamura  | Staff of International Department, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), Tokyo.         |
|         | 50                 | Mr. Tsubasa Nakamura   | Staff, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), Tokyo.                                     |
|         | 51                 | Mr. Toshifumi Kuriki   | Manager of Int'l Relations, National Federation of University Coop Associations (NFUCA), Tokyo. |
|         | 52                 | Mr. Toru Nakaji  | Staff, International Relations, National Federation of University Coop Associations, Tokyo.     |
|         | 53                 | Mr. Chikara Sato   | Chief, International Affairs of General Affairs Section, JA-ZENCHU, Tokyo.                      |
|         | 54                 | Ms. Ayako Nakata   | Staff, International Affairs of General Affairs Section, JA-ZENCHU, Tokyo.                      |
|         | 55                 | Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi  | Managing Director, Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia, Tokyo.    |
|         | 56                 | Mr. Yukio Abe  | Manager (Training Department), IDACA, Tokyo.  |
|         | 57                 | Mr. Kunio Umemoto  | Managing Director, ZENROSAL, Tokyo.   |
|         | 58                 | Mr. Satoshi Takano   | Assistant Manager, Management Planning Department, ZENROSAL, Tokyo.                             |
|         | 59                 | Mr. Yasushi Yamasato   | Manager of International Affairs Division, ZENKYOREN, Tokyo.                                    |
|         | 60                 | Mr. Shigetaka Watanabe   | Assistant Manager of International Affairs Division, ZENKYOREN, Tokyo.                          |
| 61      | Mr. Masazumi Kanno | President, Japan Workers' Cooperative Union, Tokyo.                                    |   |
| 62      | Mr. Ryosuke Kawai  | Researcher, Japan Workers' Cooperative Union, Tokyo.                                   |   |
| 63      | Mr. Isao Fujiwara  | Joint General Manager, The Norinchukin Bank, Tokyo.                                    |   |
| 64      | Mr. Masaki Sato    | General Manager, National Federation of Fisheries Coop Association (ZENGYOREN), Tokyo. |   |
| KOREA   | 65                 | Mr. Sang-jin Na  | General Manager, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF), Seoul.                    |
|         | 66                 | Mr. Kwan-Hee Lee   | Manager, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF), Seoul.                            |
|         | 67                 | Mr. Yong-Sang Yoo  | Chairman and President, Korean Federation of Community Credit Coops (KFCCC), Seoul.             |
|         | 68                 | Mr. Kang Jeong Seob  | Vice President, Korean Federation of Community Credit Coops (KFCCC), Seoul.                     |
|         | 69                 | Mr. Do Jong Lee  | Vice President, Korean Federation of Community Credit Coops (KFCCC), Seoul.                     |
|         | 70                 | Mr. Kevin Y. Heo   | Interpreter, National Credit Union Federation of Korea (NACUFOK), Seoul.                        |

| Country  | S.No.                          | Name of participant   | Designation and Name of Organization   |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| MALAYSIA | 71                             | Dr. Mohd Ali Hj Baharum   | Deputy President, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.        |
|          | 72                             | Ms. Rahaiah Baهران  | Vice President, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.          |
|          | 73                             | Prof Hj Mohd. Ali Hasan   | Vice President, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.          |
|          | 74                             | Mr. Aliasak Hj Ambia  | Acting Vice President, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya    |
|          | 75                             | Mr. Boniface Anak Edwin Maung   | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 76                             | Mr. Bahar Siran   | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 77                             | Mr. Munir Badrul Jamil  | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 78                             | Mr. Zulkifli Yusoff   | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 79                             | Mr. Hasan Hj Omar   | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 80                             | Mr. Mat Husin Yunus   | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 81                             | Mr. Mohd Salleh Lela  | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 82                             | Mr. Abdul Aziz Hj Abdullah  | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 83                             | Mr. Radzi Jaafar  | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 84                             | Mr. Mutadho Bahri   | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 85                             | Mr. Mohd Jais Hassan  | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 86                             | Mr. Ismail Nordin   | Board Member, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya.            |
|          | 87                             | Ms. Sharine Khoo  | Int'l Relations Officer, National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya. |
|          | 88                             | Mr. Basharuiddin Bin Saidin   | Unit Principal (Coops), Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Deveopment, Putrajaya.          |
|          | 89                             | Mr. Mohd Yusof bin Khalid   | Assistant Secretary (Coop), Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Deveopment, Putrajaya.      |
|          | 90                             | Mr. Idris bin Ismail  | Deputy Director, Cooperative College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.                       |
|          | 91                             | Ms. Raja Maimon bt Raja Yusof   | Lecturer, Cooperative College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.                              |
|          | 92                             | Ms. Jamilah bt Din  | Lecturer, Cooperative College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.                              |
|          | 93                             | Ms. Nurizah bt Noordin  | Lecturer, Cooperative College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.                              |
|          | 94                             | Dr. Mohd Sahar Yahya  | Board Member, University of Malaya Cooperative Bookshop Limited, Kuala Lumpur.                   |
|          | 95                             | Dr. Mohd. Zambri Zainuddin  | Hon. Secretary, University of Malaya Cooperative Bookshop Limited, Kuala Lumpur.                 |
|          | 96                             | Dr. Mohd. Jamil Maah  | Treasurer, University of Malaya Cooperative Bookshop Limited, Kuala Lumpur.                      |
|          | 97                             | Mr. Zahari bin Abdul Aziz   | Director, Department of Cooperative Deveopment, Kuala Lumpur.                                    |
| 98       | Mr. Abas bin Abu Bakar         | Assistant Director, Department of Cooperative Deveopment, Kuala Lumpur. |  |
| 99       | Ms. Norhayati bt Ahmad Zainuri | Assistant Director, Department of Cooperative Deveopment, Kuala Lumpur. |  |

| Country     | S.No. | Name of participant            | Designation and Name of Organization  |
|-------------|-------|--------------------------------|---|
|             | 100   | Mr. M. Nasir Ramli             | Chairman, Koperasi New Straits Times Press (M) Berhad, Kuala Lumpur.              |
|             | 101   | Mr. Salehudin Shah Shabudin    | Assistant Secretary, Koperasi New Straits Times Press (M) Berhad, Kuala Lumpur.   |
|             | 102   | Mr. Abdul Rashid b Awang       | Board of Director, Konsortium Koperasi Terengganu Berhad, Terengganu.             |
|             | 103   | Mr. Roslan bin Awang           | Board of Director, Konsortium Koperasi Terengganu Berhad, Terengganu.             |
|             | 104   | Mr. Mohd b. Abdul Rahman       | Deputy Director, Cooperative Consultant Council of Terengganu State.              |
|             | 105   | Mr. Sheikh Harun Sheikh Ismail | Board of Director, Cooperative Consultant Council of Terengganu State.            |
|             | 106   | Mr. Alias bin Yahya            | Board of Director, Cooperative Consultant Council of Terengganu State.            |
|             | 107   | Mr. Wan Mat Amin b Wan Duad    | Board of Director, Cooperative Consultant Council of Terengganu State.            |
|             | 108   | Datuk B. Sahadevan             | Chief Executive, National Land Finance Cooperative Society Limited, Kuala Lumpur. |
|             | 109   | Dato C. Krishnan               | Director, National Land Finance Cooperative Society Limited, Kuala Lumpur.        |
|             | 110   | Mr. T. Balakrishnan            | Director, National Land Finance Cooperative Society Limited, Kuala Lumpur.        |
|             | 111   | Mr. Kili Rathnaraj             | General Manager, National Land Finance Cooperative Society Limited, Kuala Lumpur. |
|             | 112   | Mr. Kamal Nasir B. Mohd Yusoff | Board of Director, Koperasi Kakitangan Petronas Berhad, Kuala Lumpur.             |
|             | 113   | Mr. Zaidan bin Abd. Hadi       | Board of Director, Koperasi Kakitangan Petronas Berhad, Kuala Lumpur.             |
|             | 114   | Mr. Ramli bin Mohamad          | Board of Director, Koperasi Kakitangan Petronas Berhad, Kuala Lumpur.             |
|             | 115   | Mr. Zamri bin Ismail           | Board of Director, Koperasi Kakitangan Petronas Berhad, Kuala Lumpur.             |
|             | 116   | Mr. Ahmad Tajudin H. Suhaili   | Chairman, Koperasi Koperkasa Berhad, Kuching, Sarawak.                            |
|             | 117   | Mr. Mohamad Hatta Bujang       | Vice Chairman, Koperasi Koperkasa Berhad, Kuching, Sarawak.                       |
|             | 118   | Mr. Alif Bacha Madarshah       | Secretary, Koperasi Koperkasa Berhad, Kuching, Sarawak.                           |
|             | 119   | Mr. Sumber bin Hj. Dollah      | General Manager, Koperasi Koperkasa Berhad, Kuching, Sarawak.                     |
|             | 120   | Mr. Mohd Aniff bin Araff       | Director/Treasurer, Koperasi Perdanajaya Malaysia Berhad, Selangor Darul Ehsan.   |
| NEPAL       | 121   | Mr. D.P. Baskota               | Executive Chairman, National Cooperative Federation of Nepal Limited, Kathmandu.  |
| PHILIPPINES | 122   | Ms. Evelyn B. Bautista         | Chairperson, National Confederation of Cooperatives Inc. (NATCCO), Quezon City.   |
|             | 123   | Mr. Leo G. Parma               | Founder and Chief Executive Officer, ASIAPRO Cooperative, Pasig City.             |

| Country   | S.No.            | Name of participant                               | Designation and Name of Organization  |
|-----------|------------------|---|---|
| SINGAPORE | 124              | Mr. Seah Kian Peng                                | Chairman, Singapore National Cooperative Federation Limited (SNCF), Singapore.                |
|           | 125              | Mr. Chan Tee Seng                                 | 2nd Deputy Chairman, Singapore National Cooperative Federation Limited (SNCF), Singapore.     |
|           | 126              | Ms. Goh Ming Huay                                 | Exco Member, Singapore National Cooperative Federation Limited (SNCF), Singapore.             |
|           | 127              | Mr. Zulkifli Mohammad                             | Exco Member, Singapore National Cooperative Federation Limited (SNCF), Singapore.             |
|           | 128              | Mr. Leow Peng Kui                                 | Chief Executive, Singapore National Cooperative Federation Limited (SNCF), Singapore.         |
|           | 129              | Mr. Quah Siew Ming                                | Senior Manager, Singapore National Cooperative Federation Limited (SNCF), Singapore.          |
|           | 130              | Mr. Jasni Bin Jamil                               | Manager, Singapore National Cooperative Federation Limited (SNCF), Singapore.                 |
|           | 131              | Mr. Tan Chuan Juan                                | Director, AUPE Cooperative Society Limited, Singapore.  |
|           | 132              | Mr. Lee Siew Chuan                                | Director, AUPE Cooperative Society Limited, Singapore.  |
|           | 133              | Ms. Seah Geok Lian                                | Manager, AUPE Cooperative Society Limited, Singapore.   |
| 134       | Mr. Teo Say Hong | Business Development Manager, Surbana, Singapore. |   |
| SPAIN     | 135              | Mr. Ruben Villa Benayas                           | President, Union de Cooperativas Madrilenas Trabajo Asociado, Madrid.                         |
| SRI LANKA | 136              | Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka                            | President, National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NCC), Colombo.                          |
|           | 137              | Mr. Udaya R. Seneviratne                          | Director General, National Institute of Cooperative Development, Polgolla.                    |
|           | 138              | Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana                              | General Manager, Sri Lanka Consumer Cooperative Societies Federation Limited, Colombo.        |
| THAILAND  | 139              | Mr. Wit Praturuckchai                             | Executive Director, Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), Bangkok.                            |
| VIETNAM   | 140              | Mr. Nguyen Xuan Hien                              | Vice President, Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA), Hanoi.                                    |
|           | 141              | Mr. Vu Van Dzung                                  | Director, International Relations Department, Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA), Hanoi.      |
|           | 142              | Ms. Tran Thu Hang                                 | Expert of International Relations Department, Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA), Hanoi.      |
| ACCU      | 143              | Dr. Augustine K. Lim                              | President, Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU), Bangkok.               |
|           | 144              | Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi                         | Chief Executive Officer, Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU), Bangkok. |
| ICMIF     | 145              | Ms. Faye Lageu                                    | Vice President, Intelligence Unit, ICMIF, Manchester.   |
|           | 146              | Mr. Kazuo Shioiri                                 | Vice President, ICMIF, Altrincham, Manchester.  |

| Country | S.No. | Name of participant           | Designation and Name of Organization                                       |
|---------|-------|-------------------------------|--|
| ICA     | 147   | Mr. Ivano Barberini           | President, International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), Geneva.               |
|         | 148   | Ms. Maria Elena Chavez Hertig | Deputy Director General, International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), Geneva. |
| ICA-AP  | 149   | Mr. Shil Kwan Lee             | Regional Director, ICA - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), New Delhi.             |
|         | 150   | Mr. Rajiv Mehta               | Director, ICA - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), New Delhi.                      |
|         | 151   | Mr. B.D. Sharma               | Consultant, ICA Domus Trust, New Delhi.                                    |
|         | 152   | Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan         | Planning Officer, ICA - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), New Delhi.              |
|         | 153   | Mr. K. Kukreja                | Finance Officer, ICA - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), New Delhi.               |
|         | 154   | Mr. P. Nair                   | Communication Officer, ICA - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), New Delhi.         |
|         | 155   | Mr. A.K. Taneja               | Program Officer, ICA - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), New Delhi.               |
|         | 156   | Ms. Savitri Singh             | Gender Advisor, ICA - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), New Delhi.                |
| ICA-SBO | 157   | Mr. Jiro Ito                  | Director (Special Programs), ICA-AP Business Office, Singapore.            |
|         | 158   | Mr. Sung-Chul Kim             | Director (Special Programs), ICA-AP Business Office, Singapore.            |

28th Dec. 2004



# **RULES OF ICA-ASIA AND PACIFIC**

*(Based on the Rules approved by ICA General Assembly on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2003)*

## **Article 1: Mission Statement**

The International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (also known as International Cooperative Alliance - Asia and Pacific) shall strive to promote and strengthen the Cooperative Movement in the region.

## **Article 2: Objects**

The International Cooperative Alliance in Asia-Pacific, in compliance with Article 2 of the ICA Rules, shall have the following objects:

1. To promote the Cooperative Movement in Asia-Pacific region;
2. To promote and protect Cooperative Values and Principles;
3. To facilitate the development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations between its member organisations;
4. To promote sustainable human development and to further the economic and social progress of people, thereby contributing to peace and security in Asia-Pacific region; and
5. To promote equality between men and women in all decision-making and activities within the Cooperative Movement.

ICA-Asia and Pacific shall not affiliate itself to any political or religious organisation and shall maintain independence in all its activities.

## **Article 3: Regional Assembly**

1. Under Article 16 of the ICA Rules, there shall be a Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific region, consisting of representatives appointed by the ICA member organisations in the region.
2. The Regional Assembly shall, as a rule, take place every second year, alternating with ICA General Assembly, if not decided otherwise by it.
3. The total number of voting representatives from any country shall not exceed the maximum number of member organisations from any country in the region.
4. Member organisations in the region shall be entitled to additional votes based on multiple of ICA Geneva membership subscription or as otherwise approved by the Regional Assembly.

5. Member organisations from the region shall have the right to send non-voting Observers from their own organizations to the Regional Assembly upon payment of registration fee.
6. Non-members of ICA such as international organizations, parastatal organizations and other institutions concerned with the promotion of cooperatives can be invited to the Regional Assembly as Observers upon payment of registration fee unless the existing members from the same country oppose.
7. The functions of the Regional Assembly shall be:
  - a. Draw up their own business procedures and representation rules, subject to approval by the ICA General Assembly;
  - b. Establish the priorities for the ICA-AP work programme in the region;
  - c. Implement the decisions of the ICA General Assembly in the region;
  - d. Submit reports, proposals, and resolutions for the consideration of the General Assembly;
  - e. Elect a person as President of the region who shall also serve as global **ICA Vice-President**, subject to ratification by the General Assembly. The President of the region shall, as a rule, be the **Chairperson** of the **Regional Assembly** and the **Standing Committee**. The person to be eligible for election as President of the region must have served on one or more ICA governing bodies for at least two years;
  - f. Elect two Vice Presidents, one of whom shall preferably be a woman. The two Vice Presidents shall be the Vice Chairpersons of the Regional Assembly and the Standing Committee;
  - g. Elect a maximum of eight Members to the Standing Committee, in addition to President and two Vice Presidents, from among the candidates proposed by member organisations in the Region;
  - h. The term of office of President, Vice Presidents and Members of the Standing Committee shall be **FOUR** years. In case any elected person ceases to represent or is withdrawn by his/her sponsoring member organization, the sponsoring organization may nominate a replacement and the decision on the replacement rests with the Standing Committee; and
  - i. Establish Regional Specialized Committees and Thematic Committees and approve their Constitutions.

#### **Article 4: Standing Committee**

1. Under Article 20 of the ICA Rules, there shall be a Standing Committee (Regional Elected Body) consisting of a President, two Vice Presidents and eight Members elected by the Regional Assembly. No more than one person from one member country can be elected to the Standing Committee.

2. The Asia-Pacific members of the ICA Board, who are not members of the Standing Committee, shall have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee.
3. No person shall be entitled to serve on the Standing Committee whose organisation has ceased affiliation with the ICA.
4. A quorum of the Standing Committee shall be constituted when more than half of its members are present. Acceptance of a resolution shall be on a two-third majority of all Committee members present and voting. Each member of the Committee is entitled to one vote.
5. The Regional Director of ICA-AP shall be the Secretary of the Standing Committee.
6. The functions of the Standing Committee shall be:
  - a. To work within the policy guidelines and decisions laid down by the Regional Assembly;
  - b. To manage the affairs of ICA at regional level between the meetings of the Regional Assembly;
  - c. To prepare the Agenda and organise the meeting of the Regional Assembly;
  - d. To reinforce member organisations' active participation in ICA activities in the region;
  - e. To promote sustainable cooperative development in the region;
  - f. To strengthen and expand Sectoral Organizations and Thematic Committees in the region and ensure their cooperation with their global equivalent;
  - g. To enhance the image of ICA and the Cooperative Movement in the region;
  - h. To provide recommendations on membership applications from its region to the ICA Board; and
  - i. To ensure regional finance and budgeting is strictly monitored and within the general guidelines of ICA;
  - j. To approve and monitor the annual budget and work plan prepared by the Regional Director before submitting to the Director-General and ICA Board for final approval.

### **Article 5: Meetings**

1. The Regional Assembly shall be convened by the Standing Committee. The ordinary Regional Assembly takes place every second year, alternating with the ICA General Assembly. The time and venue of the next Regional Assembly shall normally be decided by the previous Regional Assembly or by the decision of the Standing Committee.

2. If necessary, the Standing Committee may convene a special Regional Assembly either on its own decision or at the request of at least **one-third** of the ICA member organisations in the Region.
3. The Standing Committee meeting shall be convened by the President of the region at least once in a year.
4. The Regional Director shall be responsible for preparation and circulation of meeting documentation, and for practical arrangements of the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee.
5. The official language of the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee shall be English. Delegates using other than English shall arrange their own interpreters.

### **Article 6: Finance**

1. The delegates or their sponsoring organisations shall be responsible for covering the expenses of their participation at the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee.
2. Participation in the Regional Assembly and other related meetings will be subject to payment of Registration Fee as prescribed by the Standing Committee.
3. In line with ICA tradition, Regional Assembly shall be hosted by the member organisations in the region who may take care of logistic and other related costs as mutually agreed upon.
4. The budget and financial resources for implementing the work plan of ICA-Asia and Pacific shall be derived from the following sources:
  - a. Re-distribution of membership subscription to the region;
  - b. Funds provided through agreements with development agencies including governmental organisations;
  - c. Special contributions; and
  - d. Income from other sources as agreed by the Regional Assembly on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

### **Article 7: Others**

1. These Rules and any subsequent amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Assembly.
2. For all other matters, which are not covered by these Rules, ICA Rules (September 2003) shall apply.

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7<sup>th</sup> December 2004

**Sixth Meeting  
of the  
ICA Regional Assembly for  
Asia & the Pacific**

**Chiang Mai (Thailand): December 3, 2004**

**AGENDA NOTES**



**International Co-operative Alliance - Asia & Pacific**  
New Delhi, India.

**Sixth Meeting  
of the  
ICA Regional Assembly for Asia  
& the Pacific**

**Chiang Mai (Thailand): December 3, 2004**

**AGENDA NOTES**



**International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific**

**9, Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector-13,  
New Delhi -110 066. India.**

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**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific  
Chiang Mai (Thailand): 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004 {09:00 ~ 16:00 hours}**

**AGENDA NOTES**

**AGENDA ITEM 01: OFFICIAL OPENING**

Following joint opening ceremony of 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and Regional Assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of ICA Regional Assembly will be officially opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> December by Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA. Mr. Mu Li, President of ICA Asia and Pacific and Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly will chair.

**AGENDA ITEM 02: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Delegates would be requested to accord formal approval of Agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 03: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup>  
MEETING HELD IN CEBU ON 21<sup>ST</sup> FEB. 2003**

Minutes as enclosed at Annexure-1 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/amendments have been received. Minutes may be approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 04: PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA AP STANDING  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL  
ASSEMBLY**

Since last Regional Assembly, three meetings of the Standing Committee were held. Confirmed minutes of the two meetings are enclosed at Annexure-2. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes has already been completed. Hon'ble delegates of the Regional Assembly may kindly peruse.

**AGENDA ITEM 05: PROGRESS REPORT FROM REGIONAL  
DIRECTOR, ICA AP**

Progress Report will be presented before the Regional Assembly by the Regional Director, ICA Asia and Pacific.

**AGENDA ITEM 06: APPROVAL OF WORK PROGRAM/BUDGET OF  
ICA-AP FOR 2005**

The Work Program/Budget for 2005 as approved by the Standing Committee is enclosed at Annexure-3. Regional Assembly may kindly approve.

**AGENDA ITEM 07:           MULTI-ANNUAL BUDGET OF ICA ASIA AND  
PACIFIC FOR 2005-2007**

The multi-annual budget of ICA Asia and Pacific for 2005-2007 is enclosed at Annexure-4. Regional Assembly may kindly approve.

**AGENDA ITEM 08:           APPROVAL OF PRIORITIES OF ICA ASIA AND  
PACIFIC FOR 2005-2008**

The Priorities of ICA Asia and Pacific for 2005-2008 as approved by the Standing Committee are enclosed at Annexure-5. Regional Assembly may kindly approve.

**AGENDA ITEM 09:           APPROVAL OF NEW RULES OF ICA AP**

The new Rules of ICA Asia and Pacific as approved by the Standing Committee are enclosed at Annexure-6. Regional Assembly may kindly approve.

**AGENDA ITEM 10:          REPORTS FROM ICA-AP SPECIALISED  
COMMITTEES**

Chairpersons of the following Specialised Committees will present their report at the time of Regional Assembly:

- (a) Women's Committee
- (b) Consumer Committee
- (c) Agricultural Committee
- (d) Regional Cooperative Banking Association
- (e) HRD Committee
- (f) Report on Youth Activities

**AGENDA ITEM 11:          REPORT OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> COOPERATIVE MINISTERS'  
CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW DELHI FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> TO  
5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2004**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference was convened by ICA-AP in New Delhi (India) from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2004. The Conference was hosted by the Government of India and the Cooperative Movement of India. It was inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of India. A total of 172 delegates including 11 cooperative ministers, government officials, cooperative leaders and chief executives of 19 countries of Asia-Pacific region and nine international organizations participated at the Conference. The theme of the Conference was "Enabling Supportive Cooperative Legislation and Policy for Sustainable Growth of Cooperatives".

The Conference, in line with its past tradition adopted a Joint Declaration known as "New Delhi Declaration". The Declaration was signed by ministers and other representatives on behalf of their respective governments and cooperative movements.



The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference have been circulated to the governments and member organizations of ICA in Asia-Pacific region for taking appropriate action to implement the Recommendations.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:            REPORT AND NEW ISSUES ARISING FROM 3<sup>RD</sup>  
ICA REGIONAL COOPERATIVE FORUM**

Delegates are aware that 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum hosted by the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) has been planned on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. All the member organizations have been informed. We expect nearly 200 participants in this Cooperative Forum, besides local participants.

The theme of the Forum is "RE-ENGINEERING COOPERATIVES IN THE GLOBALISED ECONOMY" and Sub-themes are the following:

- (a) Cooperative Values vis-à-vis Competition;
- (b) Fair Globalization through Cooperatives;
- (c) Restructuring Cooperatives;
- (d) Governance of Cooperatives;
- (e) Sectoral Concerns; and
- (f) Social Cohesion through Cooperatives.

Detailed report and issues arising from the Forum will be placed before the Regional Assembly on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:            REPORT OF 4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM**

The report will be placed before the Regional Assembly by the Chairperson of the Women's Forum.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:            REPORT OF 3<sup>RD</sup> ASIAN COOPERATIVE  
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

The report will be placed before the Regional Assembly by the Chairperson of the ICA Research Conference.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:            CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT  
MEETING.**

The next meeting may be convened in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2006. The Standing Committee may be authorized to fix up the date.

As regards venue, delegates/prospective host member organizations may give their proposal at the time of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:            CLOSING SESSION**

ANNEXURE - 1

**MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ICA REGIONAL  
ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
Cebu (Philippines) : 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003**

**AGENDA ITEM 01 : OFFICIAL OPENING**

The formal joint opening ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly was held at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu (Philippines) on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003. His Excellency Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., Vice President of the Philippines, delivered the keynote address. Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo also sent a message which was read by Hon'ble Secretary Efren Moncupa, Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority. Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President and Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President delivered the opening remarks during the ceremony. Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Chairperson of NATTCO welcomed the delegates.

After conclusion of ICA Regional Cooperative Forum, the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu (Philippines) on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003. 160 participants from China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and ACCU attended the meeting. In addition, special invitees from Brunei, Canada, Germany, AARDO, CICOPA, ILO and ICA also attended the meeting. The list of participants of the meeting is annexed (Annex-1).

Mr. Mu Li, Vice President of ICA and Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly opened the meeting and welcomed all members and invitees. Mr. Mu Li said "I am very happy that most of the member organizations' representatives could come to Cebu to attend the meeting. He said that this was the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Assembly meeting in the new millennium to deliberate on important issues and make decisions on role of ICA in Asia-Pacific in strengthening cooperatives to face emerging challenges. He requested Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA, to officially inaugurate this meeting".

Mr. Ivano Barberini said "I would like to congratulate the organizers for the excellent arrangements made for the Cooperative Forum and the Regional Assembly. We have had some excellent initiatives in these days, with very good speakers who have come up with analysis and results and useful and stimulating ideas. This has been seen in the presence and attention given by participants and the work carried out by each of them. For me, this is also a sign of the dynamism of cooperators in the Asia-Pacific region, a wide and important area of the world, destined to leave a deep imprint on the history of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to overcome the challenges inherent in globalization. Challenges will involve social, economic, political and cultural aspects".

Commenting on the theme of the Regional Cooperative Forum, the ICA President remarked "Looking at the next 10 years does not mean trying to see the future in a crystal ball. We live in uncertain times of rapid changes and, in many cases, they are uncontrollable. It would be very risky to decide on choices based on long-term forecasts of the future. The future, it has been said, is not predictable, it happens. I think this is the right approach. This is the meaning of the research and discussions that have arisen from this theme. Building the future is a much more difficult task than trying to forecast it. It requires a combination of know-how, intelligence and passion, social visibility and the best economic performances".

Mr. Ian Macdonald Director General of ICA also addressed the opening ceremony. He said "The Regional Assembly is the higher democratic forum of ROAP, and as it only meets once

every two years, it is an eagerly awaited event. The fact that it exists at all is testament to the hard work of its Board and staff, but also to the vision of those who regionalized the ICA some 10 years ago. This was not some expedient whim, but an exercise in member participation and democracy – a fundamental principle of the Cooperative Movement. The ICA was immediately transported from being a somewhat distant global organization in Europe to cooperators in the four main continents of the world”.

He further said “Ten years on I think most would agree it has been a success. I would prove that by pointing to the number of request for even greater devolution – always a good sign. We are not of course complacent and improvements can always be made, but I think, however, that what is needed is a closer examination of our values and how we implement them”.

At this point Mr. Mu Li invited Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Chairperson of NATCCO and Member of the Standing Committee to chair the rest of the Session.

Mr. Alonzo thanked the members for electing him as Chair to conduct the rest of the meeting.

#### ***AGENDA ITEM 02: APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

The Chair asked the members whether they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda, which was circulated at the meeting, was unanimously approved.

#### ***AGENDA ITEM 03 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING HELD IN SINGAPORE ON 29<sup>TH</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000.***

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Assembly held in Singapore on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/amendments had been received. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the minutes without any corrections.

#### ***AGENDA ITEM 04 : PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA ROAP STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY.***

Since last Regional Assembly, five meetings of the Standing Committee were held. Confirmed minutes of these meetings were circulated at the meeting. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes had already been completed. The delegates of the Regional Assembly endorsed the minutes of the Standing Committee.

#### ***AGENDA ITEM 05 : ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF ICA ROAP STANDING COMMITTEE.***

According to ICA Regional Assembly Rules (Article 3 (g), ICA Regional Assembly shall elect maximum of eight members in addition to Chairperson and two Vice Chairpersons. Since Chairperson of ICA Regional Assembly is Vice President of ICA from Asia-Pacific region, the

5<sup>th</sup> meeting of ICA Regional Assembly would elect two Vice Chairpersons and eight members of Standing Committee.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the SC at its recent meeting had agreed to propose the names of the following 11 persons for approval by the Regional Assembly:

- |                           |         |             |   |                  |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------|---|------------------|
| • Mr. Mu Li               | ACFSMC  | China       | - | Chairperson      |
| • Ms. Junko Ito           | JCCU    | Japan       | - | Vice Chairperson |
| • Prof Ungku A.Aziz       | ANGKASA | Malaysia    | - | Vice Chairperson |
| • Dr. Yehudah Paz         | CUCS    | Israel      | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Chung Dae-Kun       | NACF    | Korea       | - | Member           |
| • Dr. S.S. Sisodia        | NCUI    | India       | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Seah Kian Peng      | SNCF    | Singapore   | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo    | NATCCO  | Philippines | - | Member           |
| • Mr. D.P. Baskota        | NCFN    | Nepal       | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Sutrisno Iwantono   | DEKOPIN | Indonesia   | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe | NCC     | Sri Lanka   | - | Member           |

Mr. K.K. Ravindran from India raised the issue whether the Regional Assembly could elect members who were not present in the meeting.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران from Malaysia said that nominations from Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Israel had been received. Malaysia had nominated Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz to the Standing Committee and got the endorsement from other member organizations in Malaysia. The ICA ROAP Rules are silent about election of members who were not present in the meeting.

Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya from Sri Lanka explained the unavoidable situation that rendered Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe unable to be present in the meeting.

Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore said that the important issue was not the absence of member, but submission of proper nomination to ICA ROAP.

The Regional Assembly approved the above names as proposed by the Standing Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM 06 :            PROGRESS REPORT FROM REGIONAL  
   DIRECTOR, ICA ROAP.**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee made a power point presentation on the important activities carried out by ICA ROAP after the last Regional Assembly meeting in Singapore. He said that we have tried to spread out the activities in most of the countries served by ROAP. He presented the financial report for 2002 and informed the meeting that there was a surplus of US\$ 31,816 in ROAP and US\$ 2,070 at Singapore Business Office.

Some members wanted to know the criteria for selecting the activities for reporting, as they had organized a number of activities in collaboration with ICA ROAP in their countries. However, these were not mentioned in the report. It would be appropriate to include all activities carried out by ICA ROAP in the report.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that his report covered only very important activities. But all activities undertaken by ICA ROAP find mention in the Annual Report of ICA ROAP.

**AGENDA ITEM 07 : APPROVAL OF WORK PROGRAM/BUDGET OF ICA ROAP FOR 2003.**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the ICA ROAP Work Plan and Budget for 2003 which was earlier approved by the Standing Committee. He said that there would be a surplus of US\$ 28,212 at ROAP in 2003.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee thanked the development partners and member organizations for their financial support.

Mr. B. Subrahmanyam from India emphasized the need for as much as comprehensive consultations with the cooperative leaders in the mainstream to obtain their views on the issues for which ICA ROAP had initiated critical studies from time to time. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that this would be kept in view while undertaking the 3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Study on Cooperative Legislation and Policy.

Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India wanted to know the rationale of keeping the Singapore Business Office. Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore informed the meeting that this matter was reviewed by the Task Force appointed by the Standing Committee in 2000. The findings and budget for Singapore Business Office was also approved. He also said that ICA must look forward due to diversity of our region.

**AGENDA ITEM 08 : REPORTS FROM ICA ROAP SPECIALISED COMMITTEES.**

**Women's Committee:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Women's Committee was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, Chairperson of the Committee, chaired the meeting. The meeting had almost full attendance. Twelve members along with two Vice Chairpersons of the Committee attended the meeting. Election of the office bearers of the Committee was held. The members unanimously re-elected Ms. Rahaiah Baهران as Chairperson of the Committee. Ms. Preemashanti Sooriyarachchi of NCC, Sri Lanka and Ms. Junko Ito of JCCU, Japan were re-elected as Vice-Chairpersons for the next term of the Committee.

Ms. Savitri Singh, Secretary of the Committee presented a report of the activities. Important issues such as low membership of the Committee, establishment of national women's fora in member countries, financial position of the Committee, trainers' training programs for leadership development of women were discussed at length. The meeting called upon the members to make efforts to increase the membership of the Committee and collaborate with the member organizations for organizing national women's fora and women leadership development programs.

**Consumer Committee:** The 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 22 delegates from Japan, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated at the meeting. Mr. T. Fujioka, Chairperson of the Committee, welcomed the participants and thanked the host NATCCO for providing valuable support to organize this meeting. He also

thanked Mr. Edgar Comeros, CEO of VICTO for agreeing to present a special report on cooperatives in the Philippines and arranging a study visit for the participants. Mr. Fujioka informed the meeting that Asian economy had been developing steadily. Hence consumer buying power would also increase and competition with private market will intensify. He invited the participants to discuss in more details as to how to cope with the competitive situation. Mr. Dudz Samson, Co-CEO of NATCCO Network – Visayas (VICTO) presented the report on consumer coops in the Philippines. The Union of Consumer Coop Societies, Kuwait, was accepted as a member of the Consumer Committee.

**Agricultural Committee:** The 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 11 members from India, Indonesia, Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the meeting. Dr. Sutrisno Iwantono, Vice President of DEKOPIN was elected as Chairperson, while Mr. Wirat Iam-Ua-Yut, Chairman of CLT was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Committee. Both the elections were unanimous. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Agricultural Advisor at ICA Geneva presented a paper on the “*Impact of WTO Negotiations on Agricultural Cooperatives*”. The meeting felt that there was a need for a comprehensive farmers’ education programme to sensitise them about the implications of the WTO negotiations and requested agricultural coops and their federations to chalk out suitable strategy in this regard.

Mr. B.D. Sharma, Secretary of the Committee, presented a report on the critical studies on agricultural coops conducted in Bangladesh, India, Laos, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam, as an AGRITERRA funded project. The Committee appreciated AGRITERRA for their support. The meeting authorized the Chairperson to decide on the venue and date of the next meeting:

**Regional Cooperative Banking Association:** The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RCBA was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 16 delegates from India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand participated at the meeting. In the absence of Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairperson, the meeting was chaired by Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, former Chairperson of RCBA.

The meeting was inaugurated by the President of ICBA. In his opening speech, he emphasized the importance of Coop Financial System for dynamic growth of cooperative economy. He said that the following important issues will decide the future growth of coop banks in the world, including Asia: (a) what kind of values coop banking system should adopt; (b) how the coops respond to needs of modern society; (c) prevalence of poverty despite globalization; (d) how do the coops market themselves; (e) banking laws; and (f) quality of product. It was decided that RCBA and ICBA should collaborate to conduct joint activities in Asia-Pacific region.

**HRD Committee:** The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 19<sup>th</sup> February. 22 members from six countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and ACCU attended the meeting. The meeting unanimously elected Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chief Executive of SNCF as Chairperson and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, CEO of NCUI as Vice Chairperson. The meeting recorded its thanks and sincere appreciation for the significant contributions made by Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz and Dr. Yehudah Paz to the Committee. Brief country reports on HRD activities were presented by members from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Development Director of ICA Geneva made a presentation on the “*Global Virtual Coop Learning Centre*”. Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, General Manager of ACCU made a presentation on “*Action Research on Institutional Development*”. The meeting appreciated the support and hospitality provided by NATCCO.

**AGENDA ITEM 09 :       REPORT OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> COOPERATIVE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HELD IN NEPAL FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002.**

Mr. B.D. Sharma presented a report on the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministers' conference. The 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference was convened by ICA ROAP in Kathmandu (Nepal) from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2002. The Conference was hosted by His Majesty's Government and Cooperative Movement of Nepal. It was attended by cooperative ministers, government officials, cooperative leaders and chief executives of 17 countries of Asia-Pacific region and eight international organizations. The theme of the Conference was "Establishing relevant Legislation and Policy for Cooperatives in the new Millennium".

The Conference, in line with past tradition, adopted a Joint Declaration known as "Kathmandu Declaration". The Declaration calls upon the governments to formulate and implement public policy and other sectoral policies that support development of member-based cooperatives. The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference have been circulated to the governments and member organizations of ICA in Asia-Pacific region for taking appropriate action to implement the Recommendations.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 :       REPORT AND NEW ISSUES ARISING FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> ICA REGIONAL COOPERATIVE FORUM.**

The ICA ROAP successfully conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum in collaboration with NATCCO at Waterfront Hotel on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2003. More than 650 delegates (including 350 Filipinos) from Brunei, Canada, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and five international organizations (ACCU, AARDO, CICOA, ILO and ICA) attended the Forum.

The formal joint opening ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly was held at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu (Philippines) on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003. His Excellency Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., Vice President of the Philippines, delivered the keynote address. Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sent a message which was read by Hon'ble Secretary Efren Moncupa, Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority. Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President and Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President delivered the opening remarks during the ceremony. Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Chairperson of NATTCO welcomed the delegates.

The theme of the Forum was "COOPERATIVES: PAST 10 YEARS AND 10 YEARS AHEAD" with the following four sub-themes:

- (a) Asian Values as Reinforcing Element to Strengthen Cooperative Values;
- (b) Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific – An Introspective View;
- (c) Globalisation – Its Impact on Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific; and
- (d) Facing the Future.

Mr. Hans H. Muenkner from Germany made a summary of the presentations at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum on 20<sup>th</sup> February.



## **AGENDA ITEM 11 : REPORT OF 3<sup>RD</sup> REGIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Regional Women's Forum was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February wherein 85 delegates participated. The objectives of the Forum were to determine whether Asian values enhance the participation of women in cooperatives; and to identify mechanisms to overcome factors that limit women's participation in cooperatives. Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President; speakers; participants and observers and gave the opening remarks.

In his inaugural address Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA observed that the role of women in cooperatives continued to be limited specially at managerial and leadership levels. He emphasized the need for a women-friendly legal system, particularly in the context of the impact of globalization on women, and concluded that coops offer an important opportunity to confirm the rights and needs of women more than any other types of enterprise.

Hon'ble Corazon Juliano Soliman, Secretary, Department of Social Development, Philippines, delivered the key-note speech. Ms. Remmy Rikken, Operations Director of CAPWIP presented a well researched paper on the theme. Ms. Rameshwary Ramachandra of DEW Credit Coops in Singapore made a presentation based on her experience in an UP Project in North Korea. Participants from India, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Japan and Thailand also presented country papers. Group discussions were held for the participants to provide an opportunity to interact with each other, on a sub-theme chosen, "*Asian values as facilitator or obstacle for women's participation in coops*".

**Call for action:** Based on the findings of the presentations and discussions at the Forum, the Forum called on men and women cooperators and cooperative organizations in Asia and the Pacific at all levels for the following action:

*"Develop and design more programs towards leadership development and empowerment of women in cooperatives, like daycare for children and elderly, reproductive health and medical services, business information and know-how for women entrepreneurs, and education for member on leadership, gender concerns in coops, etc".*

At the concluding session, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director, emphasized ICA's commitment for the cause of women.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12 : REPORT OF 2<sup>ND</sup> ASIAN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Cooperative Research Conference was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18-19 February. Almost 80 researchers and coop leaders from Brunei, Canada, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, AARDO, ACCU and the ILO participated at the deliberations.

Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the Global Research Committee presided over, while Mr. M.V. Madane, Chair of the Asia-Pacific Research Group coordinated the Conference. Mr. Iain Macdonald, ICA Director General presented a paper and Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President also participated.

The main theme of the Conference was current problem vexing the cooperatives the world over, viz. Globalisation of the economy and how cooperatives could cope with the situation

to the satisfaction of stakeholders. Another equally important theme of the Conference was Gender Integration. Many speakers, especially from Malaysia, presented very elaborate papers on gender integration in coops.

This Asia-Pacific Research Group hoped to organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Conference during the next Regional Assembly in Thailand.

**AGENDA ITEM 13 : PRESENTATION OF NEW ILO RECOMMENDATION ON COOPERATIVES (ILO RECOMMENDATION NO. 193).**

Mr. Huseyin Polat, Program Coordinator, INDISCO, Senior Cooperative Development Specialist of ILO Geneva made a presentation of new ILO Recommendation on Cooperatives (ILO Recommendation # 193). The Regional Assembly expressed its appreciation of ILO and ICA collaboration in bringing out ILO Recommendation # 193 on Promotion of Cooperatives. The Regional Assembly hoped that the Recommendation, which includes ICA Cooperative Identity Statement, would provide very useful guidelines for cooperative development in the new millennium.

**AGENDA ITEM 14 : CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) offered to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly and related meetings in Thailand by end of 2004 or early 2005. The date and venue would be decided in consultation with the secretariat. The meeting unanimously accepted the invitation and thanked CLT for their kind offer.

**AGENDA ITEM 15 : OTHER MATTERS**

A resolution on IDACA was presented at the meeting which was earlier approved by the Standing Committee. The Regional Assembly unanimously approved the following Resolution:

We, the participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly, are aware that the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) has been playing an important role in the sphere of human resource development for agricultural cooperatives in Asia-Pacific region with a significant support of Japanese Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries-MAFF). In this context, the ICA ROAP has been jointly implementing a project on Agricultural Cooperative Management Training for the last 17 years and a Rural Women Leaders Training Course for the last 12 years. We are happy to note that IDACA has completed its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its dedicated services to agricultural cooperatives. On this occasion, the following Resolution is placed for adoption by the Regional Assembly:

**“Recognising** the significant role of IDACA in the field of human resource development for agricultural cooperatives by training 4,500 managerial personnel and cooperative leaders for the last 4 decades with the substantial financial support of Japanese Government and JAZENCHU (Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives) of Japan;

**Appreciating** a very long collaboration between ICA ROAP and IDACA to catalyse the process of human resource development in agricultural cooperatives of Asia-Pacific region;

**Further appreciating** the large financial support of Japanese Government to enable IDACA and ICA ROAP to undertake the management training for agricultural cooperatives and rural women leaders training course to strengthen agricultural cooperatives to enhance farmers income, women empowerment, standard of living of people and poverty alleviation in the spirit of self-help and mutual help;

The Regional Assembly earnestly calls upon the Japanese Government to continue its support to IDACA and ICA ROAP to enable them jointly moving forward effectively to build up strong agricultural cooperatives of Asia-Pacific region.”

Mr. B. Subrahmanyam from India raised a question at the meeting. He said his organization had been remitting funds to attend ICA GA and RA. Every eligible member has a right to attend the meetings without any fee. So ICA should not charge any registration fee for attending GA and RA meetings. He also said that this was a serious issue and should be considered favourably.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said at the moment we follow ICA rules.

Mr. Iain Macdonald said that ICA is an enormous organization with huge expenses. The host also takes care of considerable expenses. It is not only for the RA but for all the events conducted in Cebu. We fully understand the question, but it is a case of costs and expenses.

Mr. Subrahmanyam replied that ICA was looking at the financial angle only. To strengthen ICA funds other avenues should be explored.

Mr. K.K. Ravindran from India suggested that the dates of meeting of Specialized Committees and related events should be so synchronized that there is no time gap between the two. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed that in future while preparing the schedule of various events ICA ROAP would ensure their synchronization.

The Chairperson thanked the members for coming and attending the meeting. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**SHIL KWAN LEE**  
Regional Director

**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly**  
Cebu : 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003

**List of Participants**

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| CHINA | 01 | <p><b>Mr. Mu Li</b><br/>Vice President<br/>All China Federation of Supply &amp; Marketing Coops.<br/>(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street<br/>Beijing-100801, China.</p>   |
|       | 02 | <p><b>Mr. Yu Ning</b><br/>Director, International Cooperation Department<br/>(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street<br/>Beijing-100801, China.</p>   |
|       | 03 | <p><b>Mr. Jin Wen Cun</b><br/>Division Chief, International Cooperation Department<br/>(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street<br/>Beijing-100801, China.</p>   |
|       | 04 | <p><b>Mr. Zhang Wangshu</b><br/>Dy. Division Chief, International Cooperation Department<br/>(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street<br/>Beijing-100801, China.</p>   |
|       | 05 | <p><b>Mr. Wen Chun Hui</b><br/>Interpreter, International Cooperation Department<br/>(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street<br/>Beijing-100801, China.</p>   |
| INDIA | 06 | <p><b>Dr. S.S. Sisodia</b><br/>President<br/>National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)<br/>3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg,<br/>New Delhi-110016, India.</p>  |
|       | 07 | <p><b>Mr. Bhagwati Prasad</b><br/>Chief Executive, NCUI<br/>3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg,<br/>New Delhi-110016, India.</p>  |
|       | 08 | <p><b>Mr. T.D. Janardhan Rao</b><br/>Chairman<br/>National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural<br/>Development Banks' Federation Ltd. (NAFCARD)<br/>"Takshshila" (2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Floors)<br/>Madhavdas Pasta Road, Near Chitra Cinema,<br/>Dadar (East), Mumbai-400014, India.</p> |
|       | 09 | <p><b>Mr. K.K. Ravindran</b><br/>Executive Director<br/>NAFCARD, "Takshshila" (2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Floors)<br/>Madhavdas Pasta Road, Near Chitra Cinema,<br/>Dadar (East), Mumbai-400014, India.</p>  |

- 10 **Mr. B. Subrahmanyam**  
 Managing Director  
 National Federation of State Coop Banks (NAFSCOB)  
 J.K. Chamber, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Plot No. 76, Sector 17, Vashi,  
 Navi Mumbai-400703, India.
- 11 **Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan**  
 Former President, NCUI  
 84, Residency Road  
 Bangalore-560025, India.
- 12 **Mr. M.V. Madane**  
 Chairman  
 Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation  
 No.2, 'Partha', 84/1/1 Erandwane  
 Prabhat Road, Lane 12, Pune-411004, India.
- 13 **Mr B.S. Shekhawat**  
 General Manager  
 National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development  
 Bandra-Kurla Complex  
 Mumbai-400051, India.
- 14 **Mr. Mahesh Kambli**  
 Additional General Manager  
 Apna Bazar Coop, 106-A, Govindji Keni Road, Naigaum  
 Mumbai-400014, India.
- 15 **Mr. Baliram S. Mane**  
 Hon. Secretary  
 Apna Bazar Coop, 106-A, Govindji Keni Road, Naigaum  
 Mumbai-400014, India.
- 16 **Mr. Pradip Goswami**  
 President, Assam State Coop Union &  
 Member of Governing Council of NCUI  
 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg  
 New Delhi-110016, India.
- 17 **Mrs. Arti Bisaria**  
 Member, NCUI Committee for Empowerment of Women  
 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg  
 New Delhi-110016, India.
- INDONESIA
- 18 **Mr. Lukmansyah Haiyinegara**  
 Chairman for Investment Facilitation  
 Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN)  
 Grha Induk – KUD Lt.2, Jl. Warung Buncit Raya 18-20  
 Jakarta-12510, Indonesia.
- 19 **Mr. Sutrisno Iwantono**  
 Chairman for Foreign Relations, DEKOPIN  
 Grha Induk – KUD Lt.2, Jl. Warung Buncit Raya 18-20  
 Jakarta-12510, Indonesia.

- 20 **Dr. Ibnoe Soedjono**  
Chairman  
Institute for Indonesian Coop Development Studies  
(LSP 21), P.O. Box 3460,  
Jl. Gunung Sahari 111/7, Lantai  
Jakarta-10610, Indonesia.
- IRAN
- 21 **Mr. Mohammad Karimbiki Firuzabadi**  
Managing Director  
Central Union of Rural Agricultural Coops of Iran  
(CURACI), 78, North Felestin Avenue  
**Tehran-15948**, Iran.
- 22 **Mr. Mohammad Reza Geramipour**  
Deputy Managing Director  
CURACI, 78, North Felestin Avenue  
**Tehran-15948**, Iran.
- JAPAN
- 23 **Mr. Kazuo Tsukada**  
Executive Director  
Central Union of Agricultural Coops (JA-ZENCHU)  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 24 **Mr. Naoki Higuchi**  
Manager, General Affairs Section  
JA-ZENCHU, 8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 25 **Ms. Ayako Nakata**  
General Affairs Section, JA-ZENCHU  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 26 **Ms. Sachiko Tanaka**  
Interpreter, JA-ZENCHU  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 27 **Ms. Yoriko Maeda**  
Interpreter, JA-ZENCHU  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 28 **Ms. Kumiko Shirae**  
Interpreter, JA-ZENCHU  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 29 **Mr. Shegenori Takemoto**  
President  
Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU)  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo150-8913, Japan.

- 30 **Ms. Junko Ito**  
Board Member, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 31 **Mr. Takeyoshi Fujioka**  
Executive Director, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 32 **Mr. Akira Kurimoto**  
Director, International Department, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 33 **Ms. Akiko Yamauchi**  
Acting Manager, International Department, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 34 **Mr. Boku Nakano**  
International Department, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 35 **Mr. Masazumi Kanno**  
President  
Japan Workers' Cooperative Union (JIGYODAN)  
2-33-10, Minamiotsuka, Toshima-ku,  
Tokyo 170-0005, Japan.
- 36 **Ms. Mami Gemba**  
JIGYODAN, International Relations  
2-33-10, Minamiotsuka, Toshima-ku,  
Tokyo 170-0005, Japan.
- 37 **Mr. Kunihiro Ohori**  
Managing Director  
National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance  
Cooperatives (ZENROSAI)  
2-12-10, Yoyogi Shibuya-ku,  
Tokyo 151-8571, Japan.
- 38 **Mr. Satoshi Takano**  
Manager, Research and International Section  
ZENROSAI, 2-12-10, Yoyogi Shibuya-ku,  
Tokyo 151-8571, Japan.
- 39 **Mr. Hiroshi Kato**  
Section Chief, Research and International Section  
ZENROSAI, 2-12-10, Yoyogi Shibuya-ku,  
Tokyo 151-8571, Japan.

- 40 **Mr. Kiyotaka Ohno**  
Executive Director  
National Federation of University Coop Associations  
(NAFUCA), 3-30-22, Wada, Suginemi-ku  
Tokyo 166-8532, Japan.
- 41 **Mr. Toshifumi Kuriki**  
Manager, International Relations  
NAFUCA, 3-30-22, Wada, Suginemi-ku  
Tokyo 166-8532, Japan.
- 42 **Ms. Kazuko Okada**  
Vice President  
National Association of Women's Group of ZENGYOREN  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Coop Building, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 101-8503, Japan.
- 43 **Ms. Eiko Matsuo**  
Vice President  
National Association of Women's Group of ZENGYOREN  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Coop Building, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 101-8503, Japan.
- 44 **Mr. Koichi Oshima**  
Staff of Fishery Policy Department  
National Federation of Fisheries Coop Associations  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Coop Building, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 101-8503, Japan.
- 45 **Mr. Hisashi Kawane**  
Manager of International Affairs Division  
National Mutual Insurance Fedn of Agril Coops (ZENKYOREN)  
7-9, Hirakawa-cho, 2-Chome, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 102-8630, Japan.
- 46 **Ms. Hiroko Kowada**  
Assistant Manager of International Affairs Division  
ZENKYOREN, 7-9, Hirakawa-cho, 2-Chome, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 102-8630, Japan.
- KOREA
- 47 **Mr. Gong-Sik Chung**  
Vice President  
National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF)  
75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.
- 48 **Mr. Keun-Won Lyu**  
Dy. General Manager, International Cooperation Office  
NACF, 75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.
- 49 **Mr. Duck-Wha Oh**  
NACF, 75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.



- 50 **Mr. Jong-Chan Lee**  
NACF, 75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.
- 51 **Mr. Si-Hyung Jo**  
NACF, 75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.
- 52 **Mr. Suk-Hong Cha**  
President  
National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives (NFFC)  
11-6 Shincheon-dong, Songpa-ku,  
Seoul 138-730, Republic of Korea.
- 53 **Mr. Poong-Kyoo Park**  
Team Manager, NFFC  
11-6 Shincheon-dong, Songpa-ku,  
Seoul 138-730, Republic of Korea.
- 54 **Mr. Kwang-Bum Park**  
Interpreter, NFFC  
11-6 Shincheon-dong, Songpa-ku,  
Seoul 138-730, Republic of Korea.
- 55 **Mr. Yun Jong Lee**  
President  
National Forestry Coops Federation  
111-5, Samjeon-Dong, Songpha-ku  
Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- 56 **Mr. Seung Ho Lee**  
Assistant Manager, National Forestry Coops Federation  
111-5, Samjeon-Dong, Songpha-ku  
Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- KUWAIT
- 57 **Mr. Talak Saqer M. Al-Heim**  
Chairman  
Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies  
P.O. Box 1836, Sanaa Street,  
Safat-13019, Kuwait.
- 58 **Mr. Hisham Saleh Al-Sharikh**  
Head of Public Relation & Information  
Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies  
P.O. Box 1836, Sanaa Street,  
Safat-13019, Kuwait.
- 59 **Mr. Mohamad Ali Al-Kandari**  
Deputy Coop Minister  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour  
P.O. Box 563, Safat-13006, Kuwait.
- 60 **Ms. Nawal Abdulrahman Al-Gayeb**  
Head of Arab Affairs Section  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour  
P.O. Box 563, Safat-13006, Kuwait.

- 61 **Mr. Saad A.J.F. Al-Jasmi**  
Office Head  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour  
P.O. Box 563, Safat-13006, Kuwait.
- MALAYSIA
- 62 **Hajah Rahaiah Baheran**  
Vice President  
National Coop Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA)  
Wisma Ungku A. Aziz  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 63 **Dr. Mohd. Ali Bin Hj. Baharum**  
Vice President, ANGKASA  
Wisma Ungku A. Aziz,  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 64 **Mr. Munir Bin Badrul Jamil**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 65 **Haji Zulkifli Bin Yusof**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 66 **Haji Hasan Bin Haji Omar**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 67 **Haji Abu Mansor Bin Hj. Mohd. Yusof**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 68 **Haji Mohd. Salleh Bin Leia**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 69 **Haji Radzi Bin Jaafar**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 70 **Mr. Mutadho Bin Bahri**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

- 71 **Haji Wan Ali Bin Tuanku Madhi**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 72 **Haji Mohd. Jais Bin Hassan**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 73 **Mr. Ismail Bin Nordin**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 74 **Mr. Mohd Zamri Hj. Yaacob**  
Executive Secretary, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
- 75 **Mr. Zulkarnain Bin Noordin**  
Vice Chairman  
Penang Government Servant Coop Society  
No.25, Lebuah Bishop  
Penang-10200, Malaysia.
- 76 **Mr. Hassan Bin Mohd. Zain**  
Secretary, Penang Government Servant Coop Society  
No.25, Lebuah Bishop  
Penang-10200, Malaysia.
- 77 **Mr. Abu Bin Othman**  
Committee Member, Penang Govt. Servant Coop Society  
No.25, Lebuah Bishop  
Penang-10200, Malaysia.
- 78 **Mr. Azmi Bin Md. Taib**  
Treasurer, Penang Government Servant Coop Society  
No.25, Lebuah Bishop  
Penang-10200, Malaysia.
- 79 **Mr. Mohd. Amin Ghazali**  
Chairman, Koperasi Mgu Sdn Bhd  
Aras 3, Wisma Mgu, Jalan Pintu Pong  
Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia.
- 80 **Encik Mohd Nordin Bin Abd. Hamid**  
Chairman, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 81 **Tuan Haji Haron Bin Kayat**  
Vice Chairman, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.

- 82     **Tuan Haji Razali Bin Mohd Daud**  
 Director, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
 Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
 Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 83     **Encik Abdul Rahman Bin Md. Zain**  
 Director, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
 Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
 Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 84     **Encik Tahir @ Shariff Bin Ibrahim**  
 Director, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
 Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
 Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 85     **Encik Mokhtar Bin Abdullah**  
 Secretary, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
 Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
 Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 86     **Ms Rokiah Bte. Abd. Manan**  
 Bendahari, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
 Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
 Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 87     **Mr. Sabardin Bin Ahmad**  
 Koperasi Unikeb Berhad, Wisma Unikeb  
 Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
 43600-Bangli, Selangor, Malaysia.
- 88     **Dr. Mohd. Jamil Bin Maah**  
 Treasurer  
 University of Malaya Coop Bookshop Limited  
 P.O. Box 1127, Jalan Pantai Baru  
 59700 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 89     **Mr. Hussain Bin Nik Mohamed**  
 Board Member  
 University of Malaya Coop Bookshop Limited  
 P.O. Box 1127, Jalan Pantai Baru  
 59700 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 90     **Mr. Saroni Judi**  
 Lecturer  
 University Pertanian Malaysia  
 Fakulti Ekonomi Dan Pengurusan  
 43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor Darul Ehsan  
 Malaysia.
- 91     **Ms. Hayati Bt. Md. Salleh**  
 Head of Training Centre  
 Cooperative College of Malaysia  
 103, Jalan Templer  
 46700 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

- 92 **Ms. Raja Maimon Bt. Raja Yusof**  
Head of Training Centre  
Cooperative College of Malaysia  
103, Jalan Templer  
46700 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 93 **Ms. Indar Kaur**  
Head of Training Centre  
Cooperative College of Malaysia  
103, Jalan Templer, 46700 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- NEPAL 94 **Mr. Deepak Prakash Baskota**  
Chairman  
National Cooperative Federation of Nepal Ltd.  
G.P.O. Box 11859, Bijuli Bazar,  
Kathmandu-10, Nepal.
- PHILIPPINES 95 **Mr. Manuel Alonzo**  
President  
National Confederation of Coops Inc. (NATCCO)  
227 J.P. Rizal Street, Project-4  
Quezon City-1109, Philippines.
- 96 **Mr. Guillermo P. Cua**  
Chief Executive Officer, NATCCO  
227 J.P. Rizal Street, Project-4  
Quezon City-1109, Philippines.
- SINGAPORE 97 **Mr. Seah Kian Peng**  
Chairman  
Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF)  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 98 **Mr. Thomas Thomas**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 99 **Mr. Leow Peng Kui**  
Chief Executive, SNCF  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 100 **Mr. Lee Lup Poon**  
Manager, SNCF  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 101 **Ms. Lim Wah Cheng Karen**  
Manager, SNCF  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 102 **Mr. G. Anthony Samy**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.

- 103 **Mr. Adam Bin Masbah**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 104 **Ms. Lee Bee Lan**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 105 **Mr. C.A. Balan Nair**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 106 **Ms. Chew Won Eng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 107 **Mr. Michael Ang Swee Teck**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 108 **Mr. Chua Huck Leng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 109 **Mr. S. Ganendra**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 110 **Mr. Victor Pang Koon Seah**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 111 **Mr. Tan Ting Meng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 112 **Mr. Chan Wah Lum**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 113 **Mr. Sim Hor Peng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 114 **Mr. Lee Van Chong**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 115 **Mr. Arunasalam Balakrishnan**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 116 **Mr. Elengoven s/o Ramasamy**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.

- 117 **Mr. Panirselveam s/o Athmanban**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 118 **Mr. Abdullah bin Saleh Said bin Talib**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 119 **Ms. Tan Siew Kiow**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 120 **Mr. Abdullah bin Aman**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 121 **Mr. Kuppusamy Vengadasalam Gopal**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 122 **Mr. Wong Khye Cheong**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 123 **Mr. Teo Chor Kai**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 124 **Mr. Chua Poon Guan**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 125 **Mr. Tan Kin Lian**  
Chief Executive Officer  
NTUC Income  
75 Bras Basah Road  
Singapore-189557.
- 126 **Ms. Goh Ming Huay**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 127 **Mr. Andrew Chan Kok Heng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 128 **Ms. Carole Lee Poh Geok**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 129 **Ms. Clara Lee Lye Imm**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.

- SRI LANKA
- 130 **Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe**  
President  
National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka  
"Coop House", 455 Galle Road  
Colombo-3, Sri Lanka.
- 131 **Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya**  
Chairman  
SANASA Development Bank  
No.106, Dharmapala Mawatha  
Colombo-7, Sri Lanka.
- 132 **Mr. J.P. Hettiarachchi**  
Additional Secretary  
Ministry of Cooperatives  
No.64, Galle Road, Colepetty  
Colombo-3, Sri Lanka.
- 133 **Mr. GLDT Nanayakkara**  
General Manager  
Atakalan Multipurpose Coop Society  
Samupakra Building  
Godakawela, Sri Lanka.
- 134 **Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana**  
General Manager  
Sri Lanka Consumer Coop Societies Federation  
No. 11, Saunders Place, Colombo-12, Sri Lanka.
- 135 **Mr. Priyanath W. Peiris**  
Consultant (Management and Business)  
Sri Lanka Consumer Coop Societies Federation  
No. 11, Saunders Place, Colombo-12, Sri Lanka.
- 136 **Udaya Ranjith Seneviratne**  
Director General  
National Institute of Cooperative Development  
Polgolla, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- THAILAND
- 137 **Mr. Sa-Ngiam Kaeolangka**  
Board of Director  
Cooperative League of Thailand  
13, Pichai Road, Dusit  
Bangkok-10300, Thailand.
- 138 **Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway**  
International Relations Officer, CLT  
13, Pichai Road, Dusit  
Bangkok-10300, Thailand.
- VIETNAM
- 139 **Dr. Nguyen Ty**  
President  
Vietnam Cooperative Alliance  
77, Nguyen Thai Hoc Street  
Hanoi, Vietnam.



- 140 **Mrs. Tran Thu Hang**  
Interpreter, VCA  
77, Nguyen Thai Hoc Street  
Hanoi, Vietnam.
- ACCU 141 **Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions  
36/2 Soi 60 Ramkhamhaeng Road, Bangkokpree  
Bangkok-10240, Thailand.
- BRUNEI 142 **Mr. Zainuddin bin Haji Tuah**  
Cooperative Development Officer  
Brunei Industrial Development Authority (BINA)  
Km.8, Jalan Gadong BE-1118  
Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- GERMANY 143 **Dr. Hans J. Munkner**  
Professor  
University of Marburg  
AM Schlag 19A  
D-35037 Marburg, Germany.
- CANADA 144 **Mr. Robby Tulus**  
#1102-1480 Riverside Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1G 5H2.
- ILO 145 **Mr. Huseyin Polat**  
Programme Coordinator, INDISCO  
Senior Cooperative Development Specialist  
International Labour Office  
4, Route des Morillons  
CH-1211, Geneva-22, Switzerland.
- 146 **Ms. Teresita de Leon**  
Regional Coordinator, Coopnet/Coopreform  
International Labour Organisation  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Neda Sa Makati Building  
106, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village  
Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- AARDO 147 **Mr. Mehmoodul Haq**  
Special Assistant to Secretary General  
Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation  
2, State Guest Houses Complex  
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021, India.
- CICOPA 148 **Mr. Ruben Villa Benayas**  
President  
Union de Cooperativas Madrilenas Trabajo Asociado  
C/ Valverde, 13-4<sup>o</sup>  
28004 Madrid, Spain.

- ICA
- 149 **Mr. Ivano Barberini**  
President  
International Cooperative Alliance  
15, Route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland.
- 150 **Mr. Iain Macdonald**  
Director General  
International Cooperative Alliance  
15, Route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland.
- 151 **Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen**  
Director of Development, ICA  
15, Route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland.
- ICA ROAP
- 152 **Mr. Shil Kwan Lee**  
Regional Director  
ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 153 **Mr. B.D. Sharma**  
Senior Consultant, ICA Domus Trust  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 154 **Mr. Jiro Ito**  
Director (Special Programs)  
Singapore Business Office  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 155 **Mr. Sung-Chul Kim**  
Advisor – Agricultural Programs  
Singapore Business Office  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 156 **Ms. Savitri Singh**  
Advisor (Gender Programs), ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 157 **Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan**  
Planning Officer, ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.

- 158 **Mr. K. Kukreja**  
Finance Officer, ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 159 **Mr. P. Nair**  
Communication Officer, ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 160 **Mr. A.K. Taneja**  
Program Officer, ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.

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14<sup>th</sup> July 2003

ANNEXURE - 2

**Minutes of the ICA ROAP Standing Committee Meeting**  
**New Delhi (India): 5<sup>th</sup> February 2004**

The following members attended the ICA ROAP Standing Committee (SC) Meeting that was held at the Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi (India) on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2004 from 10:00 to 13:15 hours:

**In attendance**

- |     |   |   |                 |
|-----|---|---|-----------------|
| 01. | Dr. Yehudah Paz, Israel   |   |                 |
| 02. | Dr. S.S. Sisodia, member, India   |   |                 |
| 03. | Mr. D.P. Baskota, Nepal   |   |                 |
| 04. | Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka  |   |                 |
| 05. | Mr. Zhang Wangshu, representing Mr. Mu Li, Chairperson, China               |   |                 |
| 06. | Mr. Leow Peng Kui, representing Mr. Seah Kian Peng, member, Singapore       |   |                 |
| 07. | Mr. Lyu Keun-Won, representing Mr. Chung Dae-Kun, member, Korea             |   |                 |
| 08. | Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum, representing Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, VC, Malaysia |   |                 |
| 09. | Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, representing Ms. Junko Ito, VC, Japan.                  |   |                 |
| 10. | Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, ICA Board Member, Malaysia                             |   |                 |
| 11. | Mr. Nasir Khan Yahaya, ANGKASA, Observer                                    |   |                 |
| 12. | Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, ICA                                   | - | Special Invitee |
| 13. | Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Development Director, ICA                             | - | Special Invitee |
| 14. | Mr. Guy Malacrida, Finance Director, ICA                                    | - | Special Invitee |
| 15. | Mr. Jiro Ito, Director (Special Programs), SBO                              | - | Observer        |
| 16. | Mr. Sung-Chul Kim, Advisor (Agri-Programs), SBO                             | - | Observer        |
| 17. | Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, ICA DT                                  | - | Observer        |
| 18. | Ms. Savitri Singh, Gender Advisor, ICA ROAP                                 | - | Observer        |
| 19. | Mr. P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA ROAP                                | - | Observer        |
| 20. | Mr. K. Kukreja, Finance Officer, ICA ROAP                                   | - | Observer        |
| 21. | Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA ROAP                              | - | Secretary       |
| 22. | Mr. K. Sethu Maddhavan, Planning Officer, ICA ROAP-                         |   | (Recording)     |

**Apologies**

01. Mr. Sutrisno Iwantono, Indonesia.

**Agenda Item 01: Opening Remarks**

In the absence of the Chairperson, Mr. Mu Li, and Vice Chairpersons, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, requested Dr. Yehudah Paz from Israel to chair the meeting. Dr. Yehudah Paz opened the meeting and welcomed all members and invitees.

**Agenda Item 02: Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Yehudah Paz asked the members whether they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

### **Agenda Item 03: Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the minutes were sent to the members and no comments had been received. Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum informed the meeting that in the minutes the name of the Committee had been mentioned as "ICA Regional Standing Committee" and in the Agenda it had been mentioned as "ICA Standing Committee". Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that the correct name is "ICA ROAP Standing Committee". The Chairman said that the correct name should be mentioned everywhere. With this change, the minutes were confirmed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item 04: ICA ROAP Activity Report for 2003**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the activities carried out by ICA ROAP during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003.

Dr. Sisodia wanted to know whether we are satisfied with the number of participants in the activities. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the number was alright, but we should try to improve the quality of the participants. He further said that in some cases, the same persons attend many meetings and the participation of Executives in the meetings was very low.

Dr. Yehudah Paz said that ROAP had done a good job in 2003 under the leadership of Mr. Shil Kwan Lee. He further said that the seminars and training courses conducted by ROAP were very useful for the development of cooperatives in the region. He expected more involvement of member organizations for this purpose in the future.

### **Agenda Item 05: ICA ROAP Financial Report for 2003**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the financial report for 2003. He informed the meeting that there is a surplus of US\$ **94,614** at New Delhi Office and US\$ **14,640** at Singapore Business Office.

Some members wanted to know what ROAP was going to do with the surplus. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that during the last 5 years there is an accumulated deficit at ROAP and the surplus would go to ICA HO account.

Mr. Iain Macdonald informed the meeting that any surplus will go to the current reserve and the ICA Board had already agreed to this system.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that there was only two staff members working at Singapore Business Office and they were on deputation from JCCU and NACF. Dr. Yehudah Paz thanked JCCU, NACF and NCUI for secondment of their staff to work with the ICA ROAP.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران wanted to know the basis of re-distribution of ICA subscription. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that last year we got 21% of the subscription collected from our region and this year we would get 23%.

Some members said that MO's indirect support (in kind) was not included in the financial report. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that MO:s spend lot of money when we organized any activity in their country. However, it was not easy to calculate the MO's indirect support.

### **Agenda Item 06: ICA ROAP Work Plan for 2004**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the ICA ROAP Work Plan for the year 2004. He said that we are trying to spread out the activities in most of the countries served by ROAP.

Mr. B.D. Sharma said that the activities mentioned in the work plan are based on the Key Result Areas which was approved by the Standing Committee earlier. Whenever a project was materialized, it was brought to the attention of the Standing Committee.

Some members suggested that ROAP should undertake more trade-related activities. Mr. Lee informed the meeting that trade promotion was very important and we held a trade seminar in Bangkok last year. This year there would be a Trade Forum and Exhibition in Beijing. Further, in the ROAP's website there would be a separate section for coop trade with commodity information. We would also collect more information on coop trade and put it in the website.

### **Agenda Item 07: ICA ROAP Budget for 2004**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the ICA ROAP budget for 2004 and said that there would be a surplus of US\$ 11,000.

Mr. Guy Malacrida said that each Region should increase their membership subscription by 5% in 2004 and 60% of the increased subscription was returned to the respective regions.

Mr. Iain Macdonald said "increasing the subscription by 5% is not an easy task. Only 25% of the members pay their subscription according to ICA Rules. This applies to all regions. I suggest that members should pay their subscription according to ICA Rules. So we need your support to increase the subscription by 5%".

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that we are trying to expand our membership. He also requested the Standing Committee members to pay more attention to increase the membership.

### **Agenda Item 08: New Rules of ICA in Asia-Pacific**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that as desired by the Standing Committee at its last meeting in Norway, the secretariat had prepared the new draft Rules of ICA in Asia-Pacific and sent to the members in advance through e-mail. The meeting discussed the new Rules by Article by Article and suggested some changes. The revised Rules are attached, as per the suggestions made by the members.

Mr. Lee said that the members could still send their suggestions/comments to the secretariat regarding the new Rules till November 2004. The final draft of the new Rules will be submitted to the next Standing Committee meeting for its approval.

### **Agenda Item 09: ICA ROAP Priorities for 2005-2009**

The Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the Regional Assembly had approved the existing ICA ROAP Priorities for 2000-2004; and priorities for 2005-2009 need to be decided before the end of the current year. He then presented the ICA ROAP Priorities for 2005-2009.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران said that the recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministers' Conference should be kept in mind while preparing the Priorities for 2005-2009.

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi suggested that on page 4 Priority # (f) should read as "Gender Mainstreaming and Involvement of Youth".

Mr. Leow Peng Kui suggested that on page 4 Priority # © should read as "Strengthening of Cooperative Directors Management Capabilities".

The meeting authorized Mr. Shil Kwan Lee to make necessary changes in the Priorities for 2005-2009 and submit it to the next Standing Committee meeting for its approval.

### **Agenda Item 10: Preparations for next Regional Assembly**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that based on the preliminary discussions he had with Mr. Wit Praturckchai, Executive Director of Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) regarding the next Regional Assembly/Coop Forum and other related events to be held in Thailand, the tentative schedule of the meetings may be as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> December : *Arrival of participants*
- 7<sup>th</sup> December : *Specialized Committee meetings/Women's Forum/ Research Conference.*
- 8<sup>th</sup> December : *Joint Opening Ceremony & Cooperative Forum*
- 9<sup>th</sup> December : *Cooperative Forum*
- 10<sup>th</sup> December: *Regional Assembly*
- 11<sup>th</sup> December: *Field trip*
- 12<sup>th</sup> December: *Departure of participants*

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee further mentioned that the Secretariat had identified the following two themes for the Cooperative Forum:

1. *Building Cooperative Competitiveness in a Globalised Economy.*
2. *Achieving Millennium Development Goals through Cooperatives.*

After discussions, Dr. Yehudah Paz suggested that the main theme could be "Cooperatives Facing Globalization" and the sub-theme could be "Increasing Cooperative Competitiveness" and Achieving Millennium Development Goals".

The meeting authorized Mr. Shil Kwan Lee to finalize the theme of the Cooperative Forum and later on inform the members accordingly.

In view of the ICA Board Meeting to be held in Kenya from 10<sup>th</sup> December and the ICA Regional Assembly for African region from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December, it may be ensured that there is no overlapping of dates of ICA ROAP Regional Assembly and the events in Africa. Therefore, the meeting authorized Mr. Shil Kwan Lee to contact the concerned people and decide the dates accordingly.

Mr. Lee informed the meeting that the CLT would prefer to have the venue of the events in Bangkok. The meeting agreed to it.



## **Agenda Item 11: ICA Membership from Asia-Pacific Region**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the present membership of ICA ROAP consisted of 54 organizations in 24 countries. The membership of the following organisations had been terminated in 2003 due to non-payment of subscriptions:

- The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India.
- The Union of Consumer Societies, Turkmenistan.

The following organizations had been admitted to ICA membership in 2003:

- The Coop Jerusalem of Israel.
- National Coop Housing Foundation for Asia and the Pacific based in Malaysia.
- Cooperative College of Malaysia.
- National Institute of Cooperative Development, Sri Lanka.

Ms. Rahaiah Baheran informed the meeting that the National Cooperative Housing Foundation for Asia and the Pacific was not registered in Malaysia.

The meeting suggested that Brunei should be approached for membership of ICA again.

## **Agenda Item 09: Other Business Matters Arising**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that there was a proposal for establishing a separate Youth Committee. Some members suggested that the age of the youth should be defined clearly and the campus youth should also be involved.

Ms. Rahaiah Baheran said that need for constituting a Special Committee for YOUTH may be examined in the context of availability of resources.

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi said that there was already some networking of the youth in the Asian region.

The meeting requested Mr. Shil Kwan Lee to look into the above suggestions and submit a proposal to the next Standing Committee meeting in Bangkok.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the present staff strength of ICA ROAP was nine (9) including three deputations from NCUI (India), NACF (Korea), and JCCU (Japan).

The meeting also expressed its appreciation to the Regional Director and his able staff.

Mr. Sisodia thanked Dr. Yehudah Paz for conducting the meeting so successfully and answering all questions.

## **Agenda Item 10: Date of Place of Next Meeting**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the ROAP Work Plan/Budget for 2005 has to be sent to ICA Geneva in September after Standing Committee's. Therefore, we could have a separate SC meeting in September or get the approval of the SC members through e-mail.

After discussion the meeting authorized Mr. Lee to send the documents to the SC members through e-mail.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Standing Committee would be held in Bangkok (Thailand) in December 2004 in conjunction with the Regional Assembly/Cooperative Forum. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair at 13:15 hours.

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25<sup>th</sup> March 2004

**Minutes of the meeting of the ICA Regional Standing Committee**  
**05 September 2003 at Oslo, Norway**

**Present**

|     |                         |                              |             |                         |
|-----|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1.  | Mr. Mu Li               | Chairperson                  | China       |                         |
| 2.  | Ms. Junko Ito           | Vice Chairperson             | Japan       |                         |
| 3.  | Ms. Akiko Yamauchi      | JCCU                         | Japan       |                         |
| 4.  | Mr. Song Jin-Hwan       | NACF                         | Korea       |                         |
| 6.  | Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe | Member                       | Sri Lanka   |                         |
| 7.  | Ms. Rahiah Baharen      | ICA Board Member             | Malaysia    |                         |
| 8.  | Hj. Mohd. Ali Baharum   | ANGKASA                      | Malaysia    |                         |
| 9.  | Dr. S.S.Sisodia         | Member                       | India       |                         |
| 10. | Dr. Yehudah Paz         | Member                       | Israel      |                         |
| 11. | Mr. D.P. Baskota        | Member                       | Nepal       |                         |
| 12. | Mr. Guillermo P. Cua    | NATCCO                       | Philippines |                         |
| 13. | Mr. Seah Kian Peng      | Member                       | Singapore   |                         |
| 14. | Mr. Leow Peng Kui       | SNCF                         | Singapore   |                         |
| 15. | Mr. Iain Macdonald      | DG, ICA                      | Geneva      |                         |
| 16. | Mr. Ivano Barberini     | President, ICA               | Geneva      |                         |
| 17. | Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen    | Director, Development (ICA)  | Geneva      |                         |
| 18. | Mr. Guy Malacrida       | Director, Finance (ICA)      | Geneva      |                         |
| 19. | Mr. Shil Kwan Lee       | Regional Director, ICA ROAP, | India       |                         |
| 20. | Mr. B.D. Sharma         | Senior Consultant, ICA DT,   | India       |                         |
| 21. | Mr. P. Nair             | ICA ROAP                     |             | <b><u>Reporting</u></b> |

Mr. Mu Li welcomed the members and congratulated every one for a successful General Assembly.

The Agenda of the Standing Committee meeting was approved by a voice vote.

**Confirmation of the minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Since no amendments or modifications were suggested by any member, the minutes of the last meeting was confirmed unanimously.

**Amendment to Rules of the Standing Committee**

Dr. Sisodia suggested that the rules of the Standing Committee need to be changed in view of the amendments to the ICA Rules. All other members agreed that there should be amendments to the Standing Committee rules in view of the changes in the Rules of the ICA. The Regional Director was requested to review the rules and submit the modified proposal for the Standing Committee at the next meeting.

Mr. Mu Li requested the Regional Director to review the Rules of the Standing Committee in consultation with the members of the Standing Committee so that the regional rules comply with the global rules and that it is conducive to co-operative development in the Region. It was also proposed that the proposal for amendment will be reported by the Regional Director at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

#### Report of the Regional Director on activities for 2003

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, presented the report on the activities for the year and also the future activities for the year 2003. Dr. Sisodia mentioned that he was happy with the performance of the Regional office and wished that further detailed figures for the budget, for the current and the coming year should be provided.

Dr. Yehudah Paz congratulated the Regional Office for the large number of activities and especially on the members' financial support for the Regional activities. He needed a break down on the budget for the Singapore office.

Mr. Mu Li congratulated the RD on the large number of activities undertaken by the Regional Office and specially on the financial support received from the member organizations.

#### ILO Programme on Poverty alleviation

Mr. Mu Li suggested that the ICA ROAP should take up the ILO programme on poverty alleviation seriously as the project could be very big. He thanked the Regional Director and members who contributed to the ROAP's development programme and suggested that the ROAP should widen the scope of members' involvement in activities. He requested the members to give more attention to the activities of the Regional Office.

#### Critical Study on Co-operative Legislation

Ms. Rahaiah Baharen said that Malaysia is keen to collaborate with the Regional Office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> critical study on co-operative legislation and wanted the Regional Office to collaborate with the ICA Ho on ILO Recommendation No.193. She also explained about the Regional Women Co-operative Leaders' Training Programme.

#### Planned Activities for 2004

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the planned activities of the ROAP for the year 2004. Mr. Lee also mentioned that he will report further detailed plan and budget by e-mail to Standing Committee members, when it is ready.

## New Members

Mr. Ivano Barberini, the ICA President, said that all co-operative organizations can and should become members of the ICA. Mr. Mu Li added that we should attract more members. He further said that in many cases, the current members of the ICA ROAP are weak and affiliated members of the apex organizations are some times stronger. He said that ROAP should facilitate the affiliated members of apexes to become ICA members and that the apexes should support the application of the affiliated members. The ROAP should strive to recruit more members but the ICA should consult the apexes and the Standing Committee. Mr. Lee requested the Standing Committee members to support the Regional Office in new member recruitment in different countries.

Dr. Sisodia mentioned that he is trying his best to get the National Co-operative Dairy Federation back into the ICA fold.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Ministers' Conference and its theme

Mr. B.D. Sharma explained the preparations for the Ministers' Conference. Dr. Sisodia suggested that for a successful Co-operative Ministers' Conference, very active collaboration among the ICA ROAP, the NCUI and the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, may have to be ensured. He assured all support of NCUI in this regard. He also suggested that the ROAP should contact MOs from all countries on this.

Mr. B.D. Sharma explained the arrangements for the Ministers' Conference and requested guidance from the Standing Committee on the theme of the Conference. Dr. Yehudah Paz suggested that Recommendation No.193 of ILO should be translated into Co-operative Law and should be discussed as the theme after properly wording it. Dr.Sisodia supported the suggestion of Dr. Paz. Mr. B.D. Sharma further explained the situation and said that at the Government Level, ILO 193 fall within the purview of the Ministry of Labour, which is the nodal agency for ILO to deal with. Co-operative Ministers may have some reservations in deliberating on the ILO 193. He suggested that since ILO 193 is fully in line with the ICA's perception on co-operative legislation and policy in the region, it may be taken as an important background paper for deliberation and the theme may be worded in such a way as will embrace the contents of ILO 193 and also visualization of ICA. Dr. Paz agreed to the suggestion.

Mr. Seah Kian Peng from Singapore supported the idea of 193 for the theme of the Ministers' Conference. Mr. Leow Peng Kui mentioned that the ICA ROAP had already conducted 2 workshops on Recommendation 193 and suggested the wording could be "Incorporating Recommendation 193 into Legal Framework and Policies for Co-operative Law".

Dr.Sisodia accepted this and needed some background of the Ministers' Conferences. Mr. B.D. Sharma explained the background of all Ministers' Conferences and said that in the

past the theme were to do with 'Co-operative Laws'. Dr. Sisodia also felt that some other ministries may not be interested with 193. Mr. Gill Cua, Philippines, agreed to the suggestion. Dr. Sisodia mentioned that the wording of the theme should be carefully worked out.

However, it was finally agreed that the theme should be properly re-worded to include 193, so that proper legislation could be made in member countries.

#### Visa Problems for Israeli's to Kuwait

Dr. Paz put forward the problem of the Regional Consultation in Kuwait, where he said that the Israelis may not be able to get visas. He says this was not acceptable and enquired what action the ICA would take on it.

Mr. Barberini agreed that it is a problem of ICA and suggested that a letter be sent to Kuwaiti government signed by himself and Mr. Mu Li. May be a copy could be marked to the UN.

Dr. Sisodia enquired from B.D. Sharma as to what was the response of the Kuwaiti side when he first discussed the matter. Mr. Sharma explained that the problem was not with the Co-operative movement but this was a political and diplomatic issue and the Government of Kuwait, as a policy, cannot issue visas to Israelis. The same situation arose in Iran, when we had last meeting there. The Kuwaiti delegates at the General Assembly expressed their inability to influence the issue of visa.

Mr. Mu Li mentioned that he already had a discussion with the Kuwaiti delegation in Oslo. He said that the Kuwaiti movement and government have made elaborate efforts for the Regional Consultation. He agreed that the situation where delegates from any country cannot participate in an ICA event is not correct. His view was that any ICA MO should agree to participation by all members, since we are co-operatives, there should not be any violation of co-operative fraternity. The present problem is by the government of Kuwait and not the co-operative movement. We should make all out efforts to allow Israeli delegates to participate. He agreed and welcomed the suggestion of Mr. Barberini to send a letter to Kuwait. However, he does not agree to send any letter of copy to the UN, since this is not a UN issue. He also suggested that the President and Director General of ICA should make it clear to all member organizations in future to allow all MOs to participate in all activities in any country.

Mr. Mu Li further mentioned that when the Ministers' Conference was held in China, they were able to persuade the government to allow ICA member from a country which had no diplomatic relations with China. He felt that the problem with the Kuwaiti authorities could be sorted out.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee mentioned that it was with great difficulty that the ROAP managed to bring middle east countries to ICA activities and hence we should not spoil the relations with the member organizations in the middle east.

Dr. Paz thanked the ICA President and the Chairperson/Members of the Standing Committee about the efforts promised by them on his 'exclusion'. He further said that the ICA should refuse to hold any activity in any such country. He said that he was instrumental in setting up the Cairo office of the ICA and welcomed the expansion of ICA activities to the Middle East. The ICA should follow the example of China and Malaysia. He requested that the promised letter to Kuwait be issued immediately by the President and Mr. Mu Li and the response intimated to him.

Mr. Mu Li hoped that all members agree to the discussions and a letter signed by him and Mr. Barberini will be written soon. We should take care in the future to avoid such problems.

Dr. Sisodia enquired what would be the next course of action, if Kuwait refuses to issue visas for the Israelis. Mr. Mu Li felt that things may work out after writing the letter. Mr. Barberini mentioned that he could refuse to go to Kuwait if needed.

The Regional Director requested the Committee to instruct the ROAP as to what we should do. Should we stop activities with Middle East countries, if this issue is not solved?

Mr. Baskota of Nepal mentioned that we should think positively and he felt things will work out in Kuwait. Mr. Mu Li agreed with all members of the Standing Committee and felt that we should wait for a response from the Kuwait movement.

#### Venue and dates for the next meeting

Dr. Sisodia offered to host the Standing Committee meeting in February 2004 in New Delhi.

The Director General thanked all members and mentioned that he is visiting China in April and possibly Delhi office too.

Mr. Mu Li thanked every one present and closed the meeting.

ANNEXURE - 3



## ICA - ASIA AND PACIFIC WORK PLAN FOR 2005

| S.# | Activity Details  | Time Frame                 | Venue           |
|-----|---|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1   | 1st Part of the 19th ICA-Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Coops including Study Visits to Agricultural Coops in Indonesia. | 16th January to 12th March | India/Indonesia |
| 2   | 2nd Part of the 19th ICA-Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Coops.   | 13th March to 23rd April   | Japan           |
| 3   | 5th ICA-Japan Training Course for Strengthening Women's Agricultural Coops in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management & Rural Life.                  | August/Sept.               | Malaysia/Japan  |
| 4   | Training Course for Board Members of Consumer Cooperatives.   | 14-22 May                  | Japan           |
| 5   | Regional Workshop for Senior Managers of Consumer Cooperatives.   | July                       | Singapore       |
| 6   | Three Training Programs for Managers of Consumer Coops (Miyagi/Tokyo/Kanagawa).   | Sep/Oct/Nov.               | Japan           |
| 7   | Two Exposure/Networking Program for Women Cooperative Leaders.  | Sept/October               | India/Korea     |
| 8   | Joint Program of ICA Regional Women's Committee and APHCO on Prevention of HIV/AIDS   | May                        | Thailand        |
| 9   | Trainers' Training Program for Women Leadership Development.  | May                        | Sri Lanka       |
| 10  | Asia-Pacific Health Cooperative Organization (APHCO) Board/General Meeting and Seminar.   | 25-27 February             | Nepal           |
| 11  | Critical Study on Consumer Cooperatives and National Workshop in Thailand.  | October/<br>November       | Thailand        |
| 12  | Replication of success story of "SAIGON COOP" to selected regions of Vietnam.   | Jan-December               | Vietnam         |
| 13  | Publish quarterly ASPACON and ICA-AP Annual Report.   | Jan-December               | ICA-AP          |

| S.# | Activity Details   | Time Frame   | Venue                    |
|-----|--|--------------|--------------------------|
| 14  | Promotion and Development of Consumer Cooperatives in the Philippines.   | Jan-December | Philippines              |
| 15  | Study Tour to Agricultural Cooperatives in the Republic of Korea.  | September    | Korea                    |
| 16  | ICA-ACCU Workshop on Micro Finance.  | November     | India                    |
| 17  | Project on Organization of Informal Workers in Cooperatives.   | Jan-December | Nepal                    |
| 18  | Cooperative Policy and Legislation Dialogue between Governments and Cooperatives.  | September    | Malaysia                 |
| 19  | Conference on Role of Cooperatives in Poverty Alleviation.   | June         | Vietnam                  |
| 20  | <b>ICA-AGRITERRA Project on Promoting and Strengthening Agricultural Coops:</b>  | January-July | Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam. |
|     | <i>a) National workshops on sensitization of policy makers, senior officials, rural leaders, farmers organization.</i>       |              |                          |
|     | <i>b) Training programs for formulation and implementation of area-specific and coop specific business development plan.</i> |              |                          |
|     | <i>c) National workshops on capacity building of members, board members, managers and employees of cooperatives.</i>         |              |                          |
|     | <i>d) Review and formulation of appropriate policy and cooperative legal framework.</i>                                      |              |                          |
| 21  | <b>Committee Meetings:</b>   |              |                          |
|     | <i>Meetings of ICA Regional Committees on Agriculture, Consumer, HRD, Women, RCBA.</i>                                       | Jan-December |                          |

5.11.04

**ICA ASIA AND PACIFIC  
BUDGET FOR 2005**

| <b>Description</b>                            | <b>Amount<br/>Swiss Francs</b> |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                                |                                |
| Re-distribution of Membership Subscription    | 145,130                        |
| Administrative Contribution                   | 118,440                        |
| Contribution from MO (NACF & ACFSMC)          | 50,400                         |
| Meeting Revenue                               | 0                              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>313,970</b>                 |
| <b>EXPENSES not covered by programs:</b>      |                                |
| Personnel Expenses                            | 195,300                        |
| Travel Expenses not covered by Programs       | 37,800                         |
| General Office Expenses (including Audit Fee) | 30,870                         |
| Communication                                 | 17,640                         |
| Meeting Expenses                              | 12,600                         |
| Contingency (Other Expenses)                  | 6,300                          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>300,510</b>                 |
| <b>SURPLUS</b>                                | <b>13,460</b>                  |
| <b>Negotiated (2005)</b>                      |                                |
| MAFF, Government of Japan                     | 710,338                        |
| JCCU, Japan                                   | 119,700                        |
| AGRITERRA, Netherlands                        | 252,700                        |
|   | <b>1,082,738</b>               |

**SINGAPORE OFFICE BUDGET FOR 2005**

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                   |               |
| SNCF, Singapore                  | 22,050        |
| JCCU, Japan                      | 2,520         |
|                                  | <b>24,570</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>                 |               |
| Travel Expenses                  | 4,788         |
| Rent and General Office Expenses | 15,120        |
| Communication                    | 4,662         |
|                                  | <b>24,570</b> |

ANNEXURE - 4

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE ASIA AND PACIFIC (ICA-AP)

| <b>MULTI-ANNUAL BUDGET - ICA AP</b><br><i>(All Amounts are in Swiss Francs)</i> | <b>THREE-YEARS BUDGET</b> |                |                |
|---|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|   | <b>2005</b>               | <b>2006</b>    | <b>2007</b>    |
| <b>INCOME:</b>  |                           |                |                |
| Re-distribution of Membership Subscription                                      | 145,130                   | 145,580        | 145,430        |
| Administrative Contribution   | 118,440                   | 118,440        | 126,000        |
| Contribution from MO (NACF & ACFSMC)  | 50,400                    | 50,400         | 50,400         |
| Meeting Revenue   | -                         | 50,400         | -              |
|   | <b>313,970</b>            | <b>364,820</b> | <b>321,830</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>  |                           |                |                |
| Personnel Expenses  | 195,300                   | 201,600        | 207,900        |
| Travel Expenses not covered by programs   | 37,800                    | 37,800         | 37,800         |
| General Office Expenses (incl. Audit Fee)                                       | 30,870                    | 32,760         | 34,020         |
| Communication   | 17,640                    | 18,270         | 18,900         |
| Meeting Expenses  | 12,600                    | 25,200         | 12,600         |
| Contingency (Other Expenses)  | 6,300                     | 6,300          | 6,300          |
|   | <b>300,510</b>            | <b>321,930</b> | <b>317,520</b> |
|   | <b>13,460</b>             | <b>42,890</b>  | <b>4,310</b>   |

## SINGAPORE BUSINESS OFFICE

|                                  |               |               |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>                   |               |               |               |
| SNCF, Singapore                  | 22,050        | 22,050        | 22,050        |
| JCCU, Japan                      | 2,520         | 2,520         | 2,520         |
|                                  | <b>24,570</b> | <b>24,570</b> | <b>24,570</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>                 |               |               |               |
| Travel Expenses                  | 4,788         | 4,788         | 4,788         |
| Rent and General Office Expenses | 15,120        | 15,120        | 15,120        |
| Communication                    | 4,662         | 4,662         | 4,662         |
|                                  | <b>24,570</b> | <b>24,570</b> | <b>24,570</b> |

ANNEXURE - 5

## **PRIORITIES OF ICA-ASIA AND PACIFIC**

2005 - 2008

### ***Preamble***

01. Previous Strategic Plan of ICA- Asia and Pacific based on ICA Organizational Review held in Singapore in 1999 was formulated in 2000 for a period of five years (2000-2004) that will be concluded in December 2004. During this five year-period, a lot of new trends have taken place in socio-economic complexion of various countries. The Strategic Plan identified the following Key Result Areas (KRAs) as the basis of Work Plan of ICA-AP:

- a. *Cooperative Identity and Image;*
- b. *Policy Development and Legislation;*
- c. *Leadership and (value-based) Professional Management;*
- d. *International Cooperative Trade Network (ICTN);*
- e. *Gender Mainstreaming;*
- f. *Information, Communication and Technology; and*
- g. *Specialization and Integration (sectoral development).*

02. These Key Result Areas were based on the trends that occurred in Asia-Pacific region. Important of these trends was Asian financial crisis that brought forth the resilience of cooperatives to survive the negative impact of globalization and growing realization on the part of both the governments as well as movements to closely coordinate with each other to create enabling environment for cooperatives to grow in a competitive environment. A number of governments in the region initiated cooperative legislation and policy reforms.

03. While the postulates based on which previous Strategic Plan was prepared, by and large, still hold good, there may be need for redrawing them in view of other changes that are taking place and/or likely to take place in coming years.

### ***Activities Undertaken***

04. Based on the above referred Key Result Areas, postulates visualized therein, ICA-AP undertook a number of activities, important of which are as follows:

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum;
- b. Workshops on ILO Recommendation 193 on Promotion of Cooperatives;
- c. Workshop on Employment Generation, Poverty Alleviation and HRD: Perspectives of Cooperative and Trade Union Movements;
- d. Regional Workshop on Role of Cooperatives in Poverty Alleviation with reference to PRSPs.

- e. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Research Conference;
- f. Validation and Cooperative Trainers' Workshops on Value-Based Professional Management;
- g. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Studies on Cooperative Legislation and Policy Reforms;
- h. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation of Permanent Secretaries in-charge-of Cooperatives in the governments and Chief Executive Officers of National Cooperative Organizations in Asia-Pacific; and
- i. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference.
- j. Sectoral Cooperative Development Activities:

Agricultural Cooperatives

- 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Training Courses on "Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives";
- Project on Strengthening Agricultural Cooperatives; and
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Training Courses on Strengthening of Rural Women Leaders in Agricultural Coops.

Financial Cooperatives

- Seminar on Surveillance System for Cooperative Credit and Banking Institutions;
- Regular meetings of Regional Cooperative Banking Association (RCBA).

Consumer Cooperatives

- Training Programs for Senior Managers of Consumer Cooperatives;
- Four Regional Workshops on Management of Consumer Coops;
- Regular meetings of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation.

- k. Development of International Cooperative Trade Network:

- Organization of seminars; and
- Organization of Trade Forum and Exhibition.

- l. Gender Mainstreaming:

- Meetings of Regional Women's Committee;
- Regional Women Fora; and
- Trainers' Training Program for Women Leadership Development.



m. Youth Development:

- Regular meetings of University Students Committee; and
- Regional Seminar on Youth and Cooperatives.

n. Social Sector:

- Regular meetings-cum-seminar on Asia-Pacific Health Coop Organization (APHCO).

### ***Trends in Asia-Pacific***

05. Asia has recovered from the crisis and is back on the growth path. Most of the countries of the region are showing signs of good growth with China and India as the fastest growing economies of the region. However, intensive competition unleashed by globalization continues to affect private, public, and cooperative sector in respect of their structure, business and management practices. The WTO negotiations are likely to subject agriculture to acute competition and thereby adversely affect family farmers and small farmers and their cooperative institutions. Many fear that with increasing emphasis on commercialization of agriculture, problem of food security looms large in a number of countries in Asia-Pacific region.

06. Poverty is endemic in developing countries and newly liberated countries which are abound by the poor. Asia does possess more than two-third of the world's poor. Poverty alleviation, therefore, is a priority issue with the concerned governments.

07. Poverty is the result of unemployment. Informal sector continues to be largest provider of employment. However, informal sector workers suffer with lack of appropriate institutional set up that could organize them. Cooperatives are thought to be viable option in this regard. Further displacement of workers due to downsizing and closure of companies further add to the problems.

08. Although Information Technology (IT) is spreading very fast, many of the countries in the region are yet to harness its full potential. Further benefits of IT are yet to percolate to grass-root level and governance systems.

09. The cooperative sector of Asia-Pacific is also trying to adapt with the changes that are taking place at macro level. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Study on Cooperative Legislation and Policy Reforms reveals that although there has been increasing realization on the part of movements and the governments to initiate reform process – some countries have modified their laws and policies – its pace continues to be slow. In most of the countries, particularly developing ones, economic reforms continue to lag behind the on-going economic reforms in national economy. The study, therefore, emphasizes that the process of change in cooperatives ought to be dynamic. Another important trend identified by the Study is that cooperatives supported by the Government with equity and subsidy have miserably failed when support is withdrawn.

10. Important areas of concern for cooperatives noticed by the Study Team during the course of field studies are:

- *Lack of effective mechanism for policy implementation;*
- *Absence of professionalisation of management;*
- *Absence of manpower planning and development strategies;*
- *Absence of business planning;*
- *Absence of integrated working and networking among cooperatives;*
- *Problem of recapitalization and dealing with non-performing assets;*
- *Problem of revitalization of sick cooperatives;*
- *Slow pace of institutional restructuring; and*
- *Slow progress in technology application and upgradation.*

11. A significant development, which will have positive impact on cooperative development, has been facilitated by the ILO Recommendation 193 of 2002 on Promotion of Cooperatives. The Recommendation not only endorses the definition, values and principles of cooperation as mentioned in ICA Cooperative Identity Statement, it also provides practical guide points regarding role of state, policy and legislation reform process and management practices for cooperatives in the changing contexts.

At multilateral level while ILO continues to play very important role in promoting cooperatives, other multilateral agencies particularly World Bank and Asian Development Bank do not seem to be much enthusiastic to facilitate development of cooperatives. Similarly with budgetary cuts in FAO, agricultural cooperatives appear to have vanished from their agenda. The situation seems somewhat paradoxical, while multilateral agencies and the governments implement their developmental programs through civil society organizations; in case of cooperatives they appear to have forgotten NGO character of cooperatives.

#### ***Priorities of ICA ROAP: 2005-2008***

13. Noting the speed of changes that are taking place around us and limitation of ICA-AP in terms of financial resources and manpower, it would be appropriate to define priorities based on which a well focused and achievable work program could be undertaken during 2005-2008. In this context, however, it sounds propose to take note of important happenings that are likely to impact positively the growth and development of cooperatives in coming years.

14. In view of the above, it is proposed to draw out the following priorities for ICA-AP that will form the basis of its Work Plan during 2005-2008:

- a. Propagation of Cooperative Values and Principles***
- b. Cooperative Legislation and Policy Reforms***
- c. Strengthening of Cooperative Management Capabilities***
- d. Active Participation in Poverty Alleviation***
- e. Promotion of International Cooperative Trade***
- f. Gender Mainstreaming and Involvement of Youth***
- g. Improvement of Information and Technology in Cooperatives.***

ANNEXURE - 6

## **RULES OF ICA-ASIA AND PACIFIC**

*(Based on the Rules approved by ICA General Assembly on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2003)*

### **Article 1: Mission Statement**

The International Cooperative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) shall strive to promote and strengthen the Cooperative Movement in the region.

### **Article 2: Objects**

The International Cooperative Alliance in Asia-Pacific, in compliance with Article 2 of the ICA Rules, shall have the following objects:

1. To promote the Cooperative Movement in Asia-Pacific region;
2. To promote and protect Cooperative Values and Principles;
3. To facilitate the development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations between its member organisations;
4. To promote sustainable human development and to further the economic and social progress of people, thereby contributing to peace and security in Asia-Pacific region; and
5. To promote equality between men and women in all decision-making and activities within the Cooperative Movement.

ICA-Asia and Pacific shall not affiliate itself to any political or religious organisation and shall maintain independence in all its activities.

### **Article 3: Regional Assembly**


1. Under Article 16 of the ICA Rules, there shall be a Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific region, consisting of representatives appointed by the ICA member organisations in the region.
2. The Regional Assembly shall, as a rule, take place every second year, alternating with ICA General Assembly, if not decided otherwise by it.
3. The total number of voting representatives from any country shall not exceed the maximum number of member organisations from any country in the region.
4. Member organisations in the region shall be entitled to additional votes based on multiple of ICA Geneva membership subscription or as otherwise approved by the Regional Assembly.

5. Member organisations from the region shall have the right to send non-voting Observers to the Regional Assembly upon payment of registration fee.
6. Non-members of ICA such as international organizations, parastatal organizations and other institutions concerned with the promotion of cooperatives can be invited to the Regional Assembly as Observers upon payment of registration fee.
7. The functions of the Regional Assembly shall be:
  - a. Draw up their own business procedures and representation rules, subject to approval by the ICA General Assembly;
  - b. Establish the priorities for the ICA-AP work programme in the region;
  - c. Implement the decisions of the ICA General Assembly in the region;
  - d. Submit reports, proposals, and resolutions for the consideration of the General Assembly;
  - e. Elect a person as President of the region who shall also serve as global **ICA Vice-President**, subject to ratification by the General Assembly. The President of the region shall, as a rule, be the **Chairperson** of the **Regional Assembly** and the **Standing Committee**. The person to be eligible for election as President of the region must have served on one or more ICA governing bodies for at least two years;
  - f. Elect two Vice Presidents, one of whom shall preferably be a woman. The two Vice Presidents shall be the Vice Chairpersons of the Regional Assembly and the Standing Committee;
  - g. Elect a maximum of eight Members to the Standing Committee, in addition to President and two Vice Presidents, from among the candidates proposed by member organisations in the Region;
  - h. The term of office of President, Vice Presidents and Members of the Standing Committee shall be **FOUR** years. In case any elected person ceases to represent or is withdrawn by his/her sponsoring member organization, the sponsoring organization shall be entitled to co-opt a new member until the next Regional Assembly; and
  - i. Establish Regional Specialized Committees and Thematic Committees and approve their Constitutions.

#### **Article 4: Standing Committee**

1. Under Article 20 of the ICA Rules, there shall be a Standing Committee (Regional Elected Body) consisting of a President, two Vice Presidents and eight Members elected by the Regional Assembly. No more than one person from one member country can be elected to the Standing Committee.

2. The Asia-Pacific members of the ICA Board, who are not members of the Standing Committee, shall have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee.
3. No person shall be entitled to serve on the Standing Committee whose organisation has ceased affiliation with the ICA.
4. A quorum of the Standing Committee shall be constituted when more than half of its members are present. Acceptance of a resolution shall be on a simple majority of all Committee members present and voting. Each member of the Committee is entitled to one vote.
5. The Regional Director of ICA-AP shall be the Secretary of the Standing Committee.
6. The functions of the Standing Committee shall be:
  - a. To work within the policy guidelines and decisions laid down by the Regional Assembly;
  - b. To manage the affairs of ICA at regional level between the meetings of the Regional Assembly;
  - c. To prepare the Agenda and organise the meeting of the Regional Assembly;
  - d. To reinforce member organisations' active participation in ICA activities in the region;
  - e. To promote sustainable cooperative development in the region;
  - f. To strengthen and expand Sectoral Organizations and Thematic Committees in the region and ensure their cooperation with their global equivalent;
  - g. To enhance the image of ICA and the Cooperative Movement in the region;
  - h. To provide recommendations on membership applications from its region to the ICA Board; and
  - i. To ensure regional finance and budgeting is strictly monitored and within the general guidelines of ICA;
  - j. To approve and monitor the annual budget and work plan prepared by the Regional Director before submitting to the Director-General and ICA Board for final approval.

- 
1. The Regional Assembly shall be convened by the Standing Committee. The ordinary Regional Assembly takes place every second year, alternating with the ICA General Assembly. The time and venue of the next Regional Assembly shall normally be decided by the previous Regional Assembly or by the decision of the Standing Committee.

2. If necessary, the Standing Committee may convene a special Regional Assembly either on its own decision or at the request of at least **one-third** of the ICA member organisations in the Region.
3. The Standing Committee meeting shall be convened by the President of the region at least once in a year.
4. The Regional Director shall be responsible for preparation and circulation of meeting documentation, and for practical arrangements of the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee.
5. The official language of the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee shall be English. Delegates using other than English shall arrange their own interpreters.

#### **Article 16**

1. The delegates or their sponsoring organisations shall be responsible for covering the expenses of their participation at the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee.
2. Participation in the Regional Assembly and other related meetings will be subject to payment of Registration Fee as prescribed by the Standing Committee.
3. In line with ICA tradition, Regional Assembly shall be hosted by the member organisations in the region who may take care of logistic and other related costs as mutually agreed upon.
4. The budget and financial resources for implementing the work plan of ICA-Asia and Pacific shall be derived from the following sources:
  - a. Re-distribution of membership subscription to the region;
  - b. Funds provided through agreements with development agencies including governmental organisations;
  - c. Special contributions; and
  - d. Income from other sources as agreed by the Regional Assembly on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

#### **Article 17**

1. These Rules and any subsequent amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Assembly.
2. For all other matters, which are not covered by these Rules, ICA Rules (September 2003) shall apply.





## ICA COOPERATIVE IDENTITY STATEMENT

### DEFINITION

A Co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

### VALUES

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, Co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

### PRINCIPLES

The Principles of Co-operation are guidelines by which Co-operatives put their values into practice.

**First Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership:** Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

**Second Principle: Democratic Member Control:** Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women, serving as elected representatives, are accountable to the membership. In primary Co-operatives, members have equal voting rights [one member one vote], and Co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

**Third Principle: Member Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their Co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the Co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their Co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the Co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

**Fourth Principle: Autonomy and Independence:** Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their Co-operative autonomy.

**Fifth Principle: Education, Training and Information:** Co-operative provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their Co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of Co-operation.

**Sixth Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives:** Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Co-operative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**Seventh Principle: Concern for the Community:** Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

**MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ICA REGIONAL  
ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
Cebu (Philippines) : 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003**

**AGENDA ITEM 01 : OFFICIAL OPENING**

The formal joint opening ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly was held at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu (Philippines) on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003. His Excellency Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., Vice President of the Philippines, delivered the keynote address. Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo also sent a message which was read by Hon'ble Secretary Efren Moncupa, Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority. Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President and Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President delivered the opening remarks during the ceremony. Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Chairperson of NATTCO welcomed the delegates.

After conclusion of ICA Regional Cooperative Forum, the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu (Philippines) on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003. 160 participants from China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and ACCU attended the meeting. In addition, special invitees from Brunei, Canada, Germany, AARDO, CICOPA, ILO and ICA also attended the meeting. The list of participants of the meeting is annexed (Annex-1).

Mr. Mu Li, Vice President of ICA and Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly opened the meeting and welcomed all members and invitees. Mr. Mu Li said "I am very happy that most of the member organizations' representatives could come to Cebu to attend the meeting. He said that this was the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Assembly meeting in the new millennium to deliberate on important issues and make decisions on role of ICA in Asia-Pacific in strengthening cooperatives to face emerging challenges. He requested Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA, to officially inaugurate this meeting".

Mr. Ivano Barberini said "I would like to congratulate the organizers for the excellent arrangements made for the Cooperative Forum and the Regional Assembly. We have had some excellent initiatives in these days, with very good speakers who have come up with analysis and results and useful and stimulating ideas. This has been seen in the presence and attention given by participants and the work carried out by each of them. For me, this is also a sign of the dynamism of cooperators in the Asia-Pacific region, a wide and important area of the world, destined to leave a deep imprint on the history of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to overcome the challenges inherent in globalization. Challenges will involve social, economic, political and cultural aspects".

Commenting on the theme of the Regional Cooperative Forum, the ICA President remarked "Looking at the next 10 years does not mean trying to see the future in a crystal ball. We live in uncertain times of rapid changes and, in many cases, they are uncontrollable. It would be very risky to decide on choices based on long-term forecasts of the future. The future, it has been said, is not predictable, it happens. I think this is the right approach. This is the meaning of the research and discussions that have arisen from this theme. Building the future is a much more difficult task than trying to forecast it. It requires a combination of know-how, intelligence and passion, social visibility and the best economic performances".

Mr. Ian Macdonald Director General of ICA also addressed the opening ceremony. He said "The Regional Assembly is the higher democratic forum of ROAP, and as it only meets once

every two years, it is an eagerly awaited event. The fact that it exists at all is testament to the hard work of its Board and staff, but also to the vision of those who regionalized the ICA some 10 years ago. This was not some expedient whim, but an exercise in member participation and democracy – a fundamental principle of the Cooperative Movement. The ICA was immediately transported from being a somewhat distant global organization in Europe to cooperators in the four main continents of the world”.

He further said “Ten years on I think most would agree it has been a success. I would prove that by pointing to the number of request for even greater devolution – always a good sign. We are not of course complacent and improvements can always be made, but I think, however, that what is needed is a closer examination of our values and how we implement them”.

At this point Mr. Mu Li invited Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Chairperson of NATCCO and Member of the Standing Committee to chair the rest of the Session.

Mr. Alonzo thanked the members for electing him as Chair to conduct the rest of the meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 02: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair asked the members whether they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda, which was circulated at the meeting, was unanimously approved.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 03 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING HELD IN SINGAPORE ON 29<sup>TH</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000.**

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Assembly held in Singapore on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/amendments had been received. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the minutes without any corrections.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 04 : PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA ROAP STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY.**

Since last Regional Assembly, five meetings of the Standing Committee were held. Confirmed minutes of these meetings were circulated at the meeting. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes had already been completed. The delegates of the Regional Assembly endorsed the minutes of the Standing Committee.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 05 : ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF ICA ROAP STANDING COMMITTEE.**

According to ICA Regional Assembly Rules (Article 3 (g)), ICA Regional Assembly shall elect maximum of eight members in addition to Chairperson and two Vice Chairpersons. Since Chairperson of ICA Regional Assembly is Vice President of ICA from Asia-Pacific region, the

5<sup>th</sup> meeting of ICA Regional Assembly would elect two Vice Chairpersons and eight members of Standing Committee.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the SC at its recent meeting had agreed to propose the names of the following 11 persons for approval by the Regional Assembly:

- |                           |         |             |   |                  |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------|---|------------------|
| • Mr. Mu Li               | ACFSMC  | China       | - | Chairperson      |
| • Ms. Junko Ito           | JCCU    | Japan       | - | Vice Chairperson |
| • Prof Ungku A.Aziz       | ANGKASA | Malaysia    | - | Vice Chairperson |
| • Dr. Yehudah Paz         | CUCS    | Israel      | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Chung Dae-Kun       | NACF    | Korea       | - | Member           |
| • Dr. S.S. Sisodia        | NCUI    | India       | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Seah Kian Peng      | SNCF    | Singapore   | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo    | NATCCO  | Philippines | - | Member           |
| • Mr. D.P. Baskota        | NCFN    | Nepal       | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Sutrisno Iwantono   | DEKOPIN | Indonesia   | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe | NCC     | Sri Lanka   | - | Member           |

Mr. K.K. Ravindran from India raised the issue whether the Regional Assembly could elect members who were not present in the meeting.

Ms. Rahaiah Baheran from Malaysia said that nominations from Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Israel had been received. Malaysia had nominated Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz to the Standing Committee and got the endorsement from other member organizations in Malaysia. The ICA ROAP Rules are silent about election of members who were not present in the meeting.

Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya from Sri Lanka explained the unavoidable situation that rendered Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe unable to be present in the meeting.

Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore said that the important issue was not the absence of member, but submission of proper nomination to ICA ROAP.

The Regional Assembly approved the above names as proposed by the Standing Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM 06 :            *PROGRESS REPORT FROM REGIONAL  
DIRECTOR, ICA ROAP.***

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee made a power point presentation on the important activities carried out by ICA ROAP after the last Regional Assembly meeting in Singapore. He said that we have tried to spread out the activities in most of the countries served by ROAP. He presented the financial report for 2002 and informed the meeting that there was a surplus of US\$ 31,816 in ROAP and US\$ 2,070 at Singapore Business Office.

Some members wanted to know the criteria for selecting the activities for reporting, as they had organized a number of activities in collaboration with ICA ROAP in their countries. However, these were not mentioned in the report. It would be appropriate to include all activities carried out by ICA ROAP in the report.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that his report covered only very important activities. But all activities undertaken by ICA ROAP find mention in the Annual Report of ICA ROAP.

**AGENDA ITEM 07 : APPROVAL OF WORK PROGRAM/BUDGET OF ICA ROAP FOR 2003.**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the ICA ROAP Work Plan and Budget for 2003 which was earlier approved by the Standing Committee. He said that there would be a surplus of US\$ 28,212 at ROAP in 2003.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee thanked the development partners and member organizations for their financial support.

Mr. B. Subrahmanyam from India emphasized the need for as much as comprehensive consultations with the cooperative leaders in the mainstream to obtain their views on the issues for which ICA ROAP had initiated critical studies from time to time. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that this would be kept in view while undertaking the 3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Study on Cooperative Legislation and Policy.

Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India wanted to know the rationale of keeping the Singapore Business Office. Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore informed the meeting that this matter was reviewed by the Task Force appointed by the Standing Committee in 2000. The findings and budget for Singapore Business Office was also approved. He also said that ICA must look forward due to diversity of our region.

**AGENDA ITEM 08 : REPORTS FROM ICA ROAP SPECIALISED COMMITTEES.**

**Women's Committee:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Women's Committee was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, Chairperson of the Committee, chaired the meeting. The meeting had almost full attendance. Twelve members along with two Vice Chairpersons of the Committee attended the meeting. Election of the office bearers of the Committee was held. The members unanimously re-elected Ms. Rahaiah Baheran as Chairperson of the Committee. Ms. Preemashanti Sooriyarachchi of NCC, Sri Lanka and Ms. Junko Ito of JCCU, Japan were re-elected as Vice-Chairpersons for the next term of the Committee.

Ms. Savitri Singh, Secretary of the Committee presented a report of the activities. Important issues such as low membership of the Committee, establishment of national women's fora in member countries, financial position of the Committee, trainers' training programs for leadership development of women were discussed at length. The meeting called upon the members to make efforts to increase the membership of the Committee and collaborate with the member organizations for organizing national women's fora and women leadership development programs.

**Consumer Committee:** The 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 22 delegates from Japan, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated at the meeting. Mr. T. Fujioka, Chairperson of the Committee, welcomed the participants and thanked the host NATCCO for providing valuable support to organize this meeting. He also

thanked Mr. Edgar Comeros, CEO of VICTO for agreeing to present a special report on cooperatives in the Philippines and arranging a study visit for the participants. Mr. Fujioka informed the meeting that Asian economy had been developing steadily. Hence consumer buying power would also increase and competition with private market will intensify. He invited the participants to discuss in more details as to how to cope with the competitive situation. Mr. Dudz Samson, Co-CEO of NATCCO Network – Visayas (VICTO) presented the report on consumer coops in the Philippines. The Union of Consumer Coop Societies, Kuwait, was accepted as a member of the Consumer Committee.

**Agricultural Committee:** The 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 11 members from India, Indonesia, Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the meeting. Dr. Sutrisno Iwantono, Vice President of DEKOPIN was elected as Chairperson, while Mr. Wirat Iam-Ua-Yut, Chairman of CLT was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Committee. Both the elections were unanimous. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Agricultural Advisor at ICA Geneva presented a paper on the “*Impact of WTO Negotiations on Agricultural Cooperatives*”. The meeting felt that there was a need for a comprehensive farmers’ education programme to sensitise them about the implications of the WTO negotiations and requested agricultural coops and their federations to chalk out suitable strategy in this regard.

Mr. B.D. Sharma, Secretary of the Committee, presented a report on the critical studies on agricultural coops conducted in Bangladesh, India, Laos, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam, as an AGRITERRA funded project. The Committee appreciated AGRITERRA for their support. The meeting authorized the Chairperson to decide on the venue and date of the next meeting.

**Regional Cooperative Banking Association:** The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RCBA was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 16 delegates from India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand participated at the meeting. In the absence of Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairperson, the meeting was chaired by Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, former Chairperson of RCBA.

The meeting was inaugurated by the President of ICBA. In his opening speech, he emphasized the importance of Coop Financial System for dynamic growth of cooperative economy. He said that the following important issues will decide the future growth of coop banks in the world, including Asia: (a) what kind of values coop banking system should adopt; (b) how the coops respond to needs of modern society; (c) prevalence of poverty despite globalization; (d) how do the coops market themselves; (e) banking laws; and (f) quality of product. It was decided that RCBA and ICBA should collaborate to conduct joint activities in Asia-Pacific region.

**HRD Committee:** The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 19<sup>th</sup> February. 22 members from six countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and ACCU attended the meeting. The meeting unanimously elected Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chief Executive of SNCF as Chairperson and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, CEO of NCUI as Vice Chairperson. The meeting recorded its thanks and sincere appreciation for the significant contributions made by Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz and Dr. Yehudah Paz to the Committee. Brief country reports on HRD activities were presented by members from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Development Director of ICA Geneva made a presentation on the “*Global Virtual Coop Learning Centre*”. Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, General Manager of ACCU made a presentation on “*Action Research on Institutional Development*”. The meeting appreciated the support and hospitality provided by NATCCO.

**AGENDA ITEM 09 :           REPORT OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> COOPERATIVE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HELD IN NEPAL FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002.**

Mr. B.D. Sharma presented a report on the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministers' conference. The 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference was convened by ICA ROAP in Kathmandu (Nepal) from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2002. The Conference was hosted by His Majesty's Government and Cooperative Movement of Nepal. It was attended by cooperative ministers, government officials, cooperative leaders and chief executives of 17 countries of Asia-Pacific region and eight international organizations. The theme of the Conference was "Establishing relevant Legislation and Policy for Cooperatives in the new Millennium".

The Conference, in line with past tradition, adopted a Joint Declaration known as "Kathmandu Declaration". The Declaration calls upon the governments to formulate and implement public policy and other sectoral policies that support development of member-based cooperatives. The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference have been circulated to the governments and member organizations of ICA in Asia-Pacific region for taking appropriate action to implement the Recommendations.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 :           REPORT AND NEW ISSUES ARISING FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> ICA REGIONAL COOPERATIVE FORUM.**

The ICA ROAP successfully conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum in collaboration with NATCCO at Waterfront Hotel on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2003. More than 650 delegates (including 350 Filipinos) from Brunei, Canada, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and five international organizations (ACCU, AARDO, CICOPA, ILO and ICA) attended the Forum.

The formal joint opening ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly was held at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu (Philippines) on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003. His Excellency Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., Vice President of the Philippines, delivered the keynote address. Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sent a message which was read by Hon'ble Secretary Efren Moncupa, Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority. Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President and Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President delivered the opening remarks during the ceremony. Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Chairperson of NATTCO welcomed the delegates.

The theme of the Forum was "COOPERATIVES: PAST 10 YEARS AND 10 YEARS AHEAD" with the following four sub-themes:

- (a) Asian Values as Reinforcing Element to Strengthen Cooperative Values;
- (b) Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific – An Introspective View;
- (c) Globalisation – Its Impact on Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific; and
- (d) Facing the Future.

Mr. Hans H. Muenkner from Germany made a summary of the presentations at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11 :           REPORT OF 3<sup>RD</sup> REGIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Regional Women's Forum was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February wherein 85 delegates participated. The objectives of the Forum were to determine whether Asian values enhance the participation of women in cooperatives; and to identify mechanisms to overcome factors that limit women's participation in cooperatives. Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President; speakers; participants and observers and gave the opening remarks.

In his inaugural address Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA observed that the role of women in cooperatives continued to be limited specially at managerial and leadership levels. He emphasized the need for a women-friendly legal system, particularly in the context of the impact of globalization on women, and concluded that coops offer an important opportunity to confirm the rights and needs of women more than any other types of enterprise.

Hon'ble Corazon Juliano Soliman, Secretary, Department of Social Development, Philippines, delivered the key-note speech. Ms. Remmy Rikken, Operations Director of CAPWIP presented a well researched paper on the theme. Ms. Rameshwary Ramachandra of DEW Credit Coops in Singapore made a presentation based on her experience in an UP Project in North Korea. Participants from India, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Japan and Thailand also presented country papers. Group discussions were held for the participants to provide an opportunity to interact with each other, on a sub-theme chosen, "*Asian values as facilitator or obstacle for women's participation in coops*".

**Call for action:** Based on the findings of the presentations and discussions at the Forum, the Forum called on men and women cooperators and cooperative organizations in Asia and the Pacific at all levels for the following action:

*"Develop and design more programs towards leadership development and empowerment of women in cooperatives, like daycare for children and elderly, reproductive health and medical services, business information and know-how for women entrepreneurs, and education for member on leadership, gender concerns in coops, etc".*

At the concluding session, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director, emphasized ICA's commitment for the cause of women.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12 :           REPORT OF 2<sup>ND</sup> ASIAN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Cooperative Research Conference was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18-19 February. Almost 80 researchers and coop leaders from Brunei, Canada, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, AARDO, ACCU and the ILO participated at the deliberations.

Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the Global Research Committee presided over, while Mr. M.V. Madane, Chair of the Asia-Pacific Research Group coordinated the Conference. Mr. Iain Macdonald, ICA Director General presented a paper and Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President also participated.

The main theme of the Conference was current problem vexing the cooperatives the world over, viz. Globalisation of the economy and how cooperatives could cope with the situation



to the satisfaction of stakeholders. Another equally important theme of the Conference was Gender Integration. Many speakers, especially from Malaysia, presented very elaborate papers on gender integration in coops.

This Asia-Pacific Research Group hoped to organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Conference during the next Regional Assembly in Thailand.

**AGENDA ITEM 13 : PRESENTATION OF NEW ILO RECOMMENDATION ON COOPERATIVES (ILO RECOMMENDATION NO. 193).**

Mr. Huseyin Polat, Program Coordinator, INDISCO, Senior Cooperative Development Specialist of ILO Geneva made a presentation of new ILO Recommendation on Cooperatives (ILO Recommendation # 193). The Regional Assembly expressed its appreciation of ILO and ICA collaboration in bringing out ILO Recommendation # 193 on Promotion of Cooperatives. The Regional Assembly hoped that the Recommendation, which includes ICA Cooperative Identity Statement, would provide very useful guidelines for cooperative development in the new millennium.

**AGENDA ITEM 14 : CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) offered to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly and related meetings in Thailand by end of 2004 or early 2005. The date and venue would be decided in consultation with the secretariat. The meeting unanimously accepted the invitation and thanked CLT for their kind offer.

**AGENDA ITEM 15 : OTHER MATTERS**

A resolution on IDACA was presented at the meeting which was earlier approved by the Standing Committee. The Regional Assembly unanimously approved the following Resolution:

We, the participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly, are aware that the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) has been playing an important role in the sphere of human resource development for agricultural cooperatives in Asia-Pacific region with a significant support of Japanese Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries-MAFF). In this context, the ICA ROAP has been jointly implementing a project on Agricultural Cooperative Management Training for the last 17 years and a Rural Women Leaders Training Course for the last 12 years. We are happy to note that IDACA has completed its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its dedicated services to agricultural cooperatives. On this occasion, the following Resolution is placed for adoption by the Regional Assembly:

**“Recognising** the significant role of IDACA in the field of human resource development for agricultural cooperatives by training 4,500 managerial personnel and cooperative leaders for the last 4 decades with the substantial financial support of Japanese Government and JA-ZENCHU (Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives) of Japan;

**Appreciating** a very long collaboration between ICA ROAP and IDACA to catalyse the process of human resource development in agricultural cooperatives of Asia-Pacific region;

**Further appreciating** the large financial support of Japanese Government to enable IDACA and ICA ROAP to undertake the management training for agricultural cooperatives and rural women leaders training course to strengthen agricultural cooperatives to enhance farmers income, women empowerment, standard of living of people and poverty alleviation in the spirit of self-help and mutual help;

The Regional Assembly earnestly calls upon the Japanese Government to continue its support to IDACA and ICA ROAP to enable them jointly moving forward effectively to build up strong agricultural cooperatives of Asia-Pacific region.”

Mr. B. Subrahmanyam from India raised a question at the meeting. He said his organization had been remitting funds to attend ICA GA and RA. Every eligible member has a right to attend the meetings without any fee. So ICA should not charge any registration fee for attending GA and RA meetings. He also said that this was a serious issue and should be considered favourably.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said at the moment we follow ICA rules.

Mr. Iain Macdonald said that ICA is an enormous organization with huge expenses. The host also takes care of considerable expenses. It is not only for the RA but for all the events conducted in Cebu. We fully understand the question, but it is a case of costs and expenses.

Mr. Subrahmanyam replied that ICA was looking at the financial angle only. To strengthen ICA funds other avenues should be explored.

Mr. K.K. Ravindran from India suggested that the dates of meeting of Specialized Committees and related events should be so synchronized that there is no time gap between the two. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed that in future while preparing the schedule of various events ICA ROAP would ensure their synchronization.

The Chairperson thanked the members for coming and attending the meeting. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**SHIL KWAN LEE**  
Regional Director

**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly**

Cebu : 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003

**List of Participants**

- CHINA
- 01 **Mr. Mu Li**  
Vice President  
All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Coops.  
(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street  
Beijing-100801, China.
- 02 **Mr. Yu Ning**  
Director, International Cooperation Department  
(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street  
Beijing-100801, China.
- 03 **Mr. Jin Wen Cun**  
Division Chief, International Cooperation Department  
(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street  
Beijing-100801, China.
- 04 **Mr. Zhang Wangshu**  
Dy. Division Chief, International Cooperation Department  
(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street  
Beijing-100801, China.
- 05 **Mr. Wen Chun Hui**  
Interpreter, International Cooperation Department  
(ACFSMC), 45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street  
Beijing-100801, China.
- INDIA
- 06 **Dr. S.S. Sisodia**  
President  
National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)  
3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg,  
New Delhi-110016, India.
- 07 **Mr. Bhagwati Prasad**  
Chief Executive, NCUI  
3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg,  
New Delhi-110016, India.
- 08 **Mr. T.D. Janardhan Rao**  
Chairman  
National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural  
Development Banks' Federation Ltd. (NAFCARD)  
"Takshshila" (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floors)  
Madhavdas Pasta Road, Near Chitra Cinema,  
Dadar (East), Mumbai-400014, India.
- 09 **Mr. K.K. Ravindran**  
Executive Director  
NAFCARD, "Takshshila" (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floors)  
Madhavdas Pasta Road, Near Chitra Cinema,  
Dadar (East), Mumbai-400014, India.

- 10 **Mr. B. Subrahmanyam**  
Managing Director  
National Federation of State Coop Banks (NAFSCOB)  
J.K. Chamber, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Plot No. 76, Sector 17, Vashi,  
Navi Mumbai-400703, India.
- 11 **Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan**  
Former President, NCUI  
84, Residency Road  
Bangalore-560025, India.
- 12 **Mr. M.V. Madane**  
Chairman  
Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation  
No.2, 'Partha', 84/1/1 Erandwane  
Prabhat Road, Lane 12, Pune-411004, India.
- 13 **Mr B.S. Shekhawat**  
General Manager  
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development  
Bandra-Kurla Complex  
Mumbai-400051, India.
- 14 **Mr. Mahesh Kambli**  
Additional General Manager  
Apna Bazar Coop, 106-A, Govindji Keni Road, Naigaum  
Mumbai-400014, India.
- 15 **Mr. Baliram S. Mane**  
Hon. Secretary  
Apna Bazar Coop, 106-A, Govindji Keni Road, Naigaum  
Mumbai-400014, India.
- 16 **Mr. Pradip Goswami**  
President, Assam State Coop Union &  
Member of Governing Council of NCUI  
3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg  
New Delhi-110016, India.
- 17 **Mrs. Arti Bisaria**  
Member, NCUI Committee for Empowerment of Women  
3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg  
New Delhi-110016, India.
- INDONESIA
- 18 **Mr. Lukmansyah Haiyinegara**  
Chairman for Investment Facilitation  
Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN)  
Grha Induk – KUD Lt.2, Jl. Warung Buncit Raya 18-20  
Jakarta-12510, Indonesia.
- 19 **Mr. Sutrisno Iwantono**  
Chairman for Foreign Relations, DEKOPIN  
Grha Induk – KUD Lt.2, Jl. Warung Buncit Raya 18-20  
Jakarta-12510, Indonesia.

- 20 **Dr. Ibnoe Soedjono**  
Chairman  
Institute for Indonesian Coop Development Studies  
(LSP 21), P.O. Box 3460,  
Jl. Gunung Sahari 111/7, Lantai  
Jakarta-10610, Indonesia.
- IRAN
- 21 **Mr. Mohammad Karimbiki Firuzabadi**  
Managing Director  
Central Union of Rural Agricultural Coops of Iran  
(CURACI), 78, North Felestin Avenue  
**Tehran-15948**, Iran.
- 22 **Mr. Mohammad Reza Geramipour**  
Deputy Managing Director  
CURACI, 78, North Felestin Avenue  
**Tehran-15948**, Iran.
- JAPAN
- 23 **Mr. Kazuo Tsukada**  
Executive Director  
Central Union of Agricultural Coops (JA-ZENCHU)  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 24 **Mr. Naoki Higuchi**  
Manager, General Affairs Section  
JA-ZENCHU, 8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 25 **Ms. Ayako Nakata**  
General Affairs Section, JA-ZENCHU  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 26 **Ms. Sachiko Tanaka**  
Interpreter, JA-ZENCHU  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 27 **Ms. Yoriko Maeda**  
Interpreter, JA-ZENCHU  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 28 **Ms. Kumiko Shirae**  
Interpreter, JA-ZENCHU  
8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 29 **Mr. Shegenori Takemoto**  
President  
Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU)  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo150-8913, Japan.

- 30 **Ms. Junko Ito**  
Board Member, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 31 **Mr. Takeyoshi Fujioka**  
Executive Director, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 32 **Mr. Akira Kurimoto**  
Director, International Department, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 33 **Ms. Akiko Yamauchi**  
Acting Manager, International Department, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 34 **Mr. Boku Nakano**  
International Department, JCCU  
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 35 **Mr. Masazumi Kanno**  
President  
Japan Workers' Cooperative Union (JIGYODAN)  
2-33-10, Minamiotsuka, Toshima-ku,  
Tokyo 170-0005, Japan.
- 36 **Ms. Mami Gemba**  
JIGYODAN, International Relations  
2-33-10, Minamiotsuka, Toshima-ku,  
Tokyo 170-0005, Japan.
- 37 **Mr. Kunihiro Ohori**  
Managing Director  
National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance  
Cooperatives (ZENROSAI)  
2-12-10, Yoyogi Shibuya-ku,  
Tokyo 151-8571, Japan.
- 38 **Mr. Satoshi Takano**  
Manager, Research and International Section  
ZENROSAI, 2-12-10, Yoyogi Shibuya-ku,  
Tokyo 151-8571, Japan.
- 39 **Mr. Hiroshi Kato**  
Section Chief, Research and International Section  
ZENROSAI, 2-12-10, Yoyogi Shibuya-ku,  
Tokyo 151-8571, Japan.

- 40 **Mr. Kiyotaka Ohno**  
Executive Director  
National Federation of University Coop Associations  
(NAFUCA), 3-30-22, Wada, Suginemi-ku  
Tokyo 166-8532, Japan.
- 41 **Mr. Toshifumi Kuriki**  
Manager, International Relations  
NAFUCA, 3-30-22, Wada, Suginemi-ku  
Tokyo 166-8532, Japan.
- 42 **Ms. Kazuko Okada**  
Vice President  
National Association of Women's Group of ZENGYOREN  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Coop Building, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 101-8503, Japan.
- 43 **Ms. Eiko Matsuo**  
Vice President  
National Association of Women's Group of ZENGYOREN  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Coop Building, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 101-8503, Japan.
- 44 **Mr. Koichi Oshima**  
Staff of Fishery Policy Department  
National Federation of Fisheries Coop Associations  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Coop Building, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 101-8503, Japan.
- 45 **Mr. Hisashi Kawane**  
Manager of International Affairs Division  
National Mutual Insurance Fedn of Agril Coops (ZENKYOREN)  
7-9, Hirakawa-cho, 2-Chome, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 102-8630, Japan.
- 46 **Ms. Hiroko Kowada**  
Assistant Manager of International Affairs Division  
ZENKYOREN, 7-9, Hirakawa-cho, 2-Chome, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 102-8630, Japan.
- 47 **Mr. Gong-Sik Chung**  
Vice President  
National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF)  
75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.
- 48 **Mr. Keun-Won Lyu**  
Dy. General Manager, International Cooperation Office  
NACF, 75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.
- 49 **Mr. Duck-Wha Oh**  
NACF, 75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.

KOREA

- 50 **Mr. Jong-Chan Lee**  
NACF, 75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.
- 51 **Mr. Si-Hyung Jo**  
NACF, 75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku  
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.
- 52 **Mr. Suk-Hong Cha**  
President  
National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives (NFFC)  
11-6 Shincheon-dong, Songpa-ku,  
Seoul 138-730, Republic of Korea.
- 53 **Mr. Poong-Kyoo Park**  
Team Manager, NFFC  
11-6 Shincheon-dong, Songpa-ku,  
Seoul 138-730, Republic of Korea.
- 54 **Mr. Kwang-Bum Park**  
Interpreter, NFFC  
11-6 Shincheon-dong, Songpa-ku,  
Seoul 138-730, Republic of Korea.
- 55 **Mr. Yun Jong Lee**  
President  
National Forestry Coops Federation  
111-5, Samjeon-Dong, Songpha-ku  
Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- 56 **Mr. Seung Ho Lee**  
Assistant Manager, National Forestry Coops Federation  
111-5, Samjeon-Dong, Songpha-ku  
Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- 57 **Mr. Talak Saqer M. Al-Heim**  
Chairman  
Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies  
P.O. Box 1836, Sanaa Street,  
Safat-13019, Kuwait.
- 58 **Mr. Hisham Saleh Al-Sharikh**  
Head of Public Relation & Information  
Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies  
P.O. Box 1836, Sanaa Street,  
Safat-13019, Kuwait.
- 59 **Mr. Mohamad Ali Al-Kandari**  
Deputy Coop Minister  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour  
P.O. Box 563, Safat-13006, Kuwait.
- 60 **Ms. Nawal Abdulrahman Al-Gayeb**  
Head of Arab Affairs Section  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour  
P.O. Box 563, Safat-13006, Kuwait.

KUWAIT



MALAYSIA

- 61 **Mr. Saad A.J.F. Al-Jasmi**  
Office Head  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour  
P.O. Box 563, Safat-13006, Kuwait.
- 62 **Hajah Rahaiah Baheran**  
Vice President  
National Coop Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA)  
Wisma Ungku A. Aziz  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 63 **Dr. Mohd. All Bin Hj. Baharum**  
Vice President, ANGKASA  
Wisma Ungku A. Aziz,  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 64 **Mr. Munir Bin Badrul Jamil**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 65 **Haji Zulkifli Bin Yusof**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 66 **Haji Hasan Bin Haji Omar**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 67 **Haji Abu Mansor Bin Hj. Mohd. Yusof**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 68 **Haji Mohd. Salleh Bin Lela**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 69 **Haji Radzi Bin Jaafar**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 70 **Mr. Mutadho Bin Bahri**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

- 71 **Haji Wan Ali Bin Tuanku Madhi**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 72 **Haji Mohd. Jais Bin Hassan**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 73 **Mr. Ismail Bin Nordin**  
Committee Member, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 74 **Mr. Mohd Zamri Hj. Yaacob**  
Executive Secretary, ANGKASA  
Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
- 75 **Mr. Zulkarnain Bin Noordin**  
Vice Chairman  
Penang Government Servant Coop Society  
No.25, Lebuah Bishop  
Penang-10200, Malaysia.
- 76 **Mr. Hassan Bin Mohd. Zain**  
Secretary, Penang Government Servant Coop Society  
No.25, Lebuah Bishop  
Penang-10200, Malaysia.
- 77 **Mr. Abu Bin Othman**  
Committee Member, Penang Govt. Servant Coop Society  
No.25, Lebuah Bishop  
Penang-10200, Malaysia.
- 78 **Mr. Azmi Bin Md. Taib**  
Treasurer, Penang Government Servant Coop Society  
No.25, Lebuah Bishop  
Penang-10200, Malaysia.
- 79 **Mr. Mohd. Amin Ghazali**  
Chairman, Koperasi Mgu Sdn Bhd  
Aras 3, Wisma Mgu, Jalan Pintu Pong  
Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia.
- 80 **Encik Mohd Nordin Bin Abd. Hamid**  
Chairman, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 81 **Tuan Haji Haron Bin Kayat**  
Vice Chairman, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.

- 82     **Tuan Haji Razali Bin Mohd Daud**  
Director, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 83     **Encik Abdul Rahman Bin Md. Zain**  
Director, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 84     **Encik Tahir @ Shariff Bin Ibrahim**  
Director, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 85     **Encik Mokhtar Bin Abdullah**  
Secretary, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 86     **Ms Rokiah Bte. Abd. Manan**  
Bendahari, Koperasi Pos Nasional Berhad  
Wisma Koponas, 70-74 Jalan Tun Sambanthan  
Kuala Lumpur-50470, Malaysia.
- 87     **Mr. Sabardin Bin Ahmad**  
Koperasi Unikeb Berhad, Wisma Unikeb  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
43600-Bangl, Selangor, Malaysia.
- 88     **Dr. Mohd. Jamil Bin Maah**  
Treasurer  
University of Malaya Coop Bookshop Limited  
P.O. Box 1127, Jalan Pantai Baru  
59700 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 89     **Mr. Hussain Bin Nik Mohamed**  
Board Member  
University of Malaya Coop Bookshop Limited  
P.O. Box 1127, Jalan Pantai Baru  
59700 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 90     **Mr. Saroni Judi**  
Lecturer  
University Pertanian Malaysia  
Fakulti Ekonomi Dan Pengurusan  
43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor Darul Ehsan  
Malaysia.
- 91     **Ms. Hayati Bt. Md. Salleh**  
Head of Training Centre  
Cooperative College of Malaysia  
103, Jalan Templer  
46700 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

- 92 **Ms. Raja Maimon Bt. Raja Yusof**  
Head of Training Centre  
Cooperative College of Malaysia  
103, Jalan Templer  
46700 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 93 **Ms. Indar Kaur**  
Head of Training Centre  
Cooperative College of Malaysia  
103, Jalan Templer, 46700 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- NEPAL 94 **Mr. Deepak Prakash Baskota**  
Chairman  
National Cooperative Federation of Nepal Ltd.  
G.P.O. Box 11859, Bijuli Bazar,  
Kathmandu-10, Nepal.
- PHILIPPINES 95 **Mr. Manuel Alonzo**  
President  
National Confederation of Coops Inc. (NATCCO)  
227 J.P. Rizal Street, Project-4  
Quezon City-1109, Philippines.
- 96 **Mr. Guillermo P. Cua**  
Chief Executive Officer, NATCCO  
227 J.P. Rizal Street, Project-4  
Quezon City-1109, Philippines.
- SINGAPORE 97 **Mr. Seah Kian Peng**  
Chairman  
Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF)  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 98 **Mr. Thomas Thomas**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 99 **Mr. Leow Peng Kui**  
Chief Executive, SNCF  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 100 **Mr. Lee Lup Poon**  
Manager, SNCF  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 101 **Ms. Lim Wah Cheng Karen**  
Manager, SNCF  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 102 **Mr. G. Anthony Samy**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.

- 103 **Mr. Adam Bin Masbah**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 104 **Ms. Lee Bee Lan**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 105 **Mr. C.A. Balan Nair**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 106 **Ms. Chew Won Eng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 107 **Mr. Michael Ang Swee Teck**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 108 **Mr. Chua Huck Leng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 109 **Mr. S. Ganendra**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 110 **Mr. Victor Pang Koon Seah**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 111 **Mr. Tan Ting Meng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 112 **Mr. Chan Wah Lum**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 113 **Mr. Sim Hor Peng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 114 **Mr. Lee Van Chong**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 115 **Mr. Arunasalam Balakrishnan**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 116 **Mr. Elengoven s/o Ramasamy**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.

- 117 **Mr. Panirselveam s/o Athmanban**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 118 **Mr. Abdullah bin Saleh Said bin Talib**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 119 **Ms. Tan Slew Klow**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 120 **Mr. Abdullah bin Aman**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 121 **Mr. Kuppusamy Vengadasalam Gopal**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 122 **Mr. Wong Khye Cheong**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 123 **Mr. Teo Chor Kal**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 124 **Mr. Chua Poon Guan**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 125 **Mr. Tan Kin Lian**  
Chief Executive Officer  
NTUC Income  
75 Bras Basah Road  
Singapore-189557.
- 126 **Ms. Goh Ming Huay**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 127 **Mr. Andrew Chan Kok Heng**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 128 **Ms. Carole Lee Poh Geok**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 129 **Ms. Clara Lee Lye Imm**  
SNCF, 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.

- SRI LANKA
- 130 **Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe**  
President  
National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka  
"Coop House", 455 Galle Road  
Colombo-3, Sri Lanka.
- 131 **Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya**  
Chairman  
SANASA Development Bank  
No.106, Dharmapala Mawatha  
Colombo-7, Sri Lanka.
- 132 **Mr. J.P. Hettiarachchi**  
Additional Secretary  
Ministry of Cooperatives  
No.64, Galle Road, Colepetty  
Colombo-3, Sri Lanka.
- 133 **Mr. GLDT Nanayakkara**  
General Manager  
Atakalan Multipurpose Coop Society  
Samupakra Building  
Godakawela, Sri Lanka.
- 134 **Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana**  
General Manager  
Sri Lanka Consumer Coop Societies Federation  
No. 11, Saunders Place, Colombo-12, Sri Lanka.
- 135 **Mr. Priyanath W. Peiris**  
Consultant (Management and Business)  
Sri Lanka Consumer Coop Societies Federation  
No. 11, Saunders Place, Colombo-12, Sri Lanka.
- 136 **Udaya Ranjith Seneviratne**  
Director General  
National Institute of Cooperative Development  
Polgolla, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- THAILAND
- 137 **Mr. Sa-Ngiam Kaeolangka**  
Board of Director  
Cooperative League of Thailand  
13, Pichai Road, Dusit  
Bangkok-10300, Thailand.
- 138 **Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway**  
International Relations Officer, CLT  
13, Pichai Road, Dusit  
Bangkok-10300, Thailand.
- VIETNAM
- 139 **Dr. Nguyen Ty**  
President  
Vietnam Cooperative Alliance  
77, Nguyen Thai Hoc Street  
Hanoi, Vietnam.

- 140 **Mrs. Tran Thu Hang**  
Interpreter, VCA  
77, Nguyen Thai Hoc Street  
Hanoi, Vietnam.
- ACCU 141 **Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions  
36/2 Soi 60 Ramkhamhaeng Road, Bangkokpree  
Bangkok-10240, Thailand.
- BRUNEI 142 **Mr. Zainuddin bin Haji Tuah**  
Cooperative Development Officer  
Brunei Industrial Development Authority (BINA)  
Km.8, Jalan Gadong BE-1118  
Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- GERMANY 143 **Dr. Hans J. Munkner**  
Professor  
University of Marburg  
AM Sehlag 19A  
D-35037 Marburg, Germany.
- CANADA 144 **Mr. Robby Tulus**  
#1102-1480 Riverside Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1G 5H2.
- ILO 145 **Mr. Huseyin Polat**  
Programme Coordinator, INDISCO  
Senior Cooperative Development Specialist  
International Labour Office  
4, Route des Morillons  
CH-1211, Geneva-22, Switzerland.
- 146 **Ms. Teresita de Leon**  
Regional Coordinator, Coopnet/Coopreform  
International Labour Organisation  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Neda Sa Makati Building  
106, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village  
Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- AARDO 147 **Mr. Mehmoodul Haq**  
Special Assistant to Secretary General  
Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation  
2, State Guest Houses Complex  
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021, India.
- CICOPA 148 **Mr. Ruben Villa Benayas**  
President  
Union de Cooperativas Madrilenas Trabajo Asociado  
C/ Valverde, 13-4<sup>o</sup>  
28004 Madrid, Spain.



- ICA
- 149 **Mr. Ivano Barberini**  
President  
International Cooperative Alliance  
15, Route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland.
- 150 **Mr. Iain Macdonald**  
Director General  
International Cooperative Alliance  
15, Route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland.
- 151 **Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen**  
Director of Development, ICA  
15, Route des Morillons, 1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland.
- ICA ROAP
- 152 **Mr. Shil Kwan Lee**  
Regional Director  
ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 153 **Mr. B.D. Sharma**  
Senior Consultant, ICA Domus Trust  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 154 **Mr. Jiro Ito**  
Director (Special Programs)  
Singapore Business Office  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 155 **Mr. Sung-Chul Kim**  
Advisor – Agricultural Programs  
Singapore Business Office  
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,  
Singapore-298135.
- 156 **Ms. Savitri Singh**  
Advisor (Gender Programs), ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 157 **Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan**  
Planning Officer, ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.

- 158 **Mr. K. Kukreja**  
Finance Officer, ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 159 **Mr. P. Nair**  
Communication Officer, ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.
- 160 **Mr. A.K. Taneja**  
Program Officer, ICA ROAP  
9, Aradhana Enclave (Ring Road)  
R.K. Puram, Sector-13  
New Delhi-110066, India.

**Fifth Meeting  
of the  
ICA Regional Assembly for Asia & the Pacific**

**CEBU, PHILIPPINES  
21st February 2003**

**AGENDA NOTES**



**International Co-operative Alliance  
Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific  
New Delhi-110066. India**

**Fifth Meeting  
of the  
ICA Regional Assembly for Asia & the Pacific**

**CEBU, PHILIPPINES  
21st February 2003**

**AGENDA NOTES**



**International Co-operative Alliance  
Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific  
9, Aradhna Enclave, (Ring Road),  
Sector-13, R. K. Puram,  
New Delhi-110066. India.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific  
Cebu (Philippines) : 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003**

**AGENDA NOTES**

**AGENDA ITEM 01 : OFFICIAL OPENING**

Following joint opening ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and Regional Assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of ICA Regional Assembly will be officially opened on 21<sup>st</sup> February by Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA. Mr. Ian Macdonald, Director General of ICA may give his remarks. Mr. Mu Li, Vice President of ICA and Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly will chair.

**AGENDA ITEM 02 : APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Delegates would be requested to accord formal approval of Agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 03 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup>  
MEETING HELD IN SINGAPORE ON 29<sup>TH</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE 2000.**

Minutes as enclosed at Annexure-1 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/amendments have been received. Minutes may be approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 04 : PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA ROAP STANDING  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL  
ASSEMBLY.**

Since last Regional Assembly, five meetings of the Standing Committee were held. Confirmed minutes of these meetings are enclosed at Annexure-2. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes has already been completed. Hon'ble delegates of the Regional Assembly may kindly peruse.

**AGENDA ITEM 05 : ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF ICA ROAP  
STANDING COMMITTEE.**

According to ICA Regional Assembly Rules (Article 3 (g), ICA Regional Assembly shall elect maximum of six members in addition to Chairperson and two Vice Chairpersons. Since Chairperson of ICA Regional Assembly is Vice President of ICA from Asia-Pacific region, the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of ICA Regional Assembly will elect two Vice Chairpersons and six members of Standing Committee.

ICA ROAP Secretariat had already written to member organizations to propose their nominees for election as member of Standing Committee. Information so received will be placed before the Standing Committee which may recommend electoral procedures and proposals for consideration of Regional Assembly.

**AGENDA ITEM 06 : PROGRESS REPORT FROM REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ICA ROAP.**

Progress Report will be presented before the Regional Assembly.

**AGENDA ITEM 07 : APPROVAL OF WORK PROGRAM/BUDGET OF ICA ROAP FOR 2003.**

The Work Programme/Budget for 2003 as approved by the Standing Committee is enclosed at Annexure-3. Regional Assembly may kindly approve.

**AGENDA ITEM 08 : REPORTS FROM ICA ROAP SPECIALISED COMMITTEES.**

Chairpersons of the following Specialised Committees will present their report at the time of Regional Assembly:

- (a) Women's Committee
- (b) Consumer Committee
- (c) Agricultural Committee
- (d) Regional Cooperative Banking Association
- (e) HRD Committee

**AGENDA ITEM 09 : REPORT OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> COOPERATIVE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HELD IN NEPAL FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002.**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference was convened by ICA ROAP in Kathmandu (Nepal) from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2002. The Conference was hosted by His Majesty's Government and Cooperative Movement of Nepal. It was attended by cooperative ministers, government officials, cooperative leaders and chief executives of 17 countries of Asia-Pacific region and eight international organizations. The theme of the Conference was establishing relevant legislation and policy for cooperatives in the new millennium.

Conclusions and Recommendations are enclosed in a printed booklet for perusal of the delegates.

The Conference, in line with its past tradition adopted a Joint Declaration known as "Kathmandu Declaration". The Declaration calls upon the governments to formulate and implement public policy and other sectoral policies that support development of member-based cooperatives.

The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference have been circulated to the governments and member organizations of ICA in Asia-Pacific region for taking appropriate action to implement the Recommendations. Regional Assembly may kindly peruse for further suggestions, if any.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 : REPORT AND NEW ISSUES ARISING FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> ICA REGIONAL COOPERATIVE FORUM.**

Delegates are aware that 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum hosted by NATCCO of the Philippines has been planned on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February. All the member organizations have been informed. We expect nearly 200 participants in this Cooperative Forum, besides local participants.

The theme of the Forum is “ COOPERATIVES: PAST 10 YEARS AND 10 YEARS AHEAD” and sub-themes are the following:

- (a) Asian Values as Reinforcing Element to Strengthen Cooperative Values;
- (b) Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific – An Introspective View;
- (c) Globalisation – Its Impact on Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific; and
- (d) Facing the Future.

Detailed report and issues arising from the Forum will be placed before the Regional Assembly on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**AGENDA ITEM 11 : REPORT OF 3<sup>RD</sup> REGIONAL WOMEN’S FORUM.**

Report will be placed before the Regional Assembly by the Chairperson of the Women’s Forum.

**AGENDA ITEM 12 : REPORT OF 2<sup>ND</sup> ASIAN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE.**

Report will be placed before the Regional Assembly by the Chairperson of the ICA Research Conference.

**AGENDA ITEM 13 : PRESENTATION OF NEW ILO RECOMMENDATION ON COOPERATIVES (ILO RECOMMENDATION NO. 193).**

Representative of ILO Geneva will present the new Recommendation on Cooperatives to Regional Assembly.

**AGENDA ITEM 14 : CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The present meeting of Regional Assembly was due in 2002. However, due to unavoidable administrative reasons, the meeting was postponed to February 2003.

In view of this, the next meeting may either be convened in the last part of year 2004 or early 2005. The Standing Committee may be authorized to fix up the date.

As regards venue, delegates/prospective host member organizations may give their proposal at the time of the meeting.

***AGENDA ITEM 15 : CLOSING SESSION***



# Annexure - I

## ANNEXURE - I

### MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC SINGAPORE: JUNE 29-30, 2000

#### Agenda Item 1: Official Opening

The fourth Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held in Singapore on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000. 100 delegates/observers from Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Thailand, Vietnam and ACCU attended the meeting. In addition special invitees from ILO, CCA, DID, CICOPA, AGRITERRA, AARDO also attended the meeting.

Mr. Mu Li, Vice President, ICA, Asia-Pacific, and Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA officially opened the meeting.

Mr. Mu Li said since last meeting in Seoul in 1998 cooperatives suffered a great deal due to economic crisis, but in spite of this cooperatives survived and played a positive role in economic development in respective countries. This fully revealed the vitality of cooperatives and efforts made by all cooperators. He hoped that after our RA meeting in Singapore, cooperatives can see further development and also the cooperatives in our region can have more cooperation among cooperatives.

In his welcome address, Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman, SNCF, extended warm welcome to all those present and said that SNCF was pleased to co-host the Regional Assembly Meeting with ICA ROAP. He said that two years ago when we assembled in Korea for the third RA meeting, our region was in the midst of financial crisis. The crisis had severe impact on the economies of the region and on the various business entities. Cooperative business was also affected in varying degrees. Through the good offices of ICA we had useful exchange of ideas and discussion on the impact of the crisis on our cooperatives and on the strategies to overcome this difficulties. We also discussed the impact of the crisis on our individual members especially those from the lower income groups and shared ideas how cooperatives could help the members to face the difficult time. Today in most parts of the region we have emerged successful from the crisis and economic prospects are improving. But our cooperatives are now faced with challenges of the different kinds. Two days ago we participated in the First Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum and deliberated on the theme "Cooperatives in the New Millennium: Are we Changing?" This topic was timely as our cooperatives have to face a new environment with the emergence of the new economy characterized by globalization, liberalization, increased competition, rapid changes and the advanced technology. Our cooperatives also have to meet the highest expectations of our members and customers. We have to respond to their changing needs. We have to be more innovative in improving the range and quality of our services to meet their needs. We have to use latest technology to improve our efficiency. He hoped that this RA in Singapore would foster a useful exchange of ideas and information and contribute to a better understanding of the challenges of the new economy. He wished all participants a very fruitful discussion, a pleasant stay in Singapore and wished all of them a very successful RA.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA, said the meeting we are going to have today is quite different from the Forum that was attended by well over 300 people, or 500 if we include the Research Conference and other meetings. Today It is only the cooperative family, which is gathered here. We are among ourselves and we have to discuss our future direction. This is, as you know, the statutory business meeting of the ICA for the Asia-Pacific Region. ICA changes its rules to give more of a regional approach, to allow cooperatives in the region to decide among themselves how they wanted their region to develop, to look at the work ICA is doing, to decide future strategy and policy for the region. This is the agenda you have today. Mr. Thordarson hoped that it would be a very productive and fruitful RA.

**Agenda Item 2: Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda, which was updated and circulated at the meeting, was approved and accepted.

**Agenda Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the 1998 Regional Assembly**

The minutes of the Third Meeting of the RA held in Seoul, Korea, in October 1998, which had been circulated in advance, was unanimously accepted and confirmed by the Meeting without any corrections.

Dr. Yehuda Paz then presided over the meeting.

**Agenda Item 4: Report/Recommendations from the Fourth Meeting of The ICA Executive Council for Asia and the Pacific held in Beijing, October 10, 1999.**

The meeting unanimously approved the minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the ICA Executive Council held in Beijing, China, in October 1999, which had been circulated. The Meeting thus confirms and ratifies the abolishment of the Executive Council as per the recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the ICA ROAP Executive Council.

**Agenda Item 5: Amendments of the Rules of the ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly**

The proposed amendments to Rules of the ICA General Assembly and to the Regional Assembly (Asia-Pacific), which had been circulated in advance to all members, were unanimously confirmed by the meeting without any further corrections.

**Agenda Item 6: Election of ICA Vice President for Asia and the Pacific**

Prof. Ungku A. Aziz took the podium and said that the Standing Committee (SC) at its recent meeting has concluded unanimously to recommend Mr. Mu Li for the post of Vice President of ICA (Asia-Pacific), which was accepted unanimously by the meeting with around of applause. The meeting confirmed that Mr. Mu Li has full expression of confidence and support of all ICA members in Asia and the Pacific.

**Agenda Item 7: Election of new Officers/Chairperson for the Regional Assembly**

Mr. Yehuda Paz said that the SC at its recent meeting has proposed the names of the following persons of the SC for approval by the RA :

1. Mr. Mu Li, Chairperson
2. Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, Vice Chairperson
3. Ms. Hatsuko Omori, Vice Chairperson
4. Dr. Yehuda Paz, Member
5. Mr. Chung Dae Kun, Member
6. Mr B.S. Vishwanathan, Member
7. Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Member
8. Mr P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Member
9. Mr. Lius Carrillo, Member

The RA approved the above names of the SC as proposed.

Mr. Mu Li then presided over the meeting. He wished that each and every member of the ICA in this region would be more active in participation in the work. He would like to see the newly elected body to play a new role in a consolidated way. Mr. Mu Li then delegated his authority to the following persons, in the spirit of a genuine teamwork:

1. Prof. Ungku A. Aziz                      Chairperson of the SC & Vice Chairperson of the Regional Assembly
2. Mr. Tan Kin Lian                      Vice Chairperson of the SC & Chairperson of the Regional Assembly
3. Ms. H. Omori                              Vice Chairperson of SC and the RA

Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of the SNCF and having been delegated the Chairmanship of the RA, was then requested to preside over the next session of the meeting.

**Agenda Item 8: Progress Report from the Regional Director, and Presentation of the "Strategic Plan of ICA ROAP: 2000-2004"**

A printed progress report of the RD was made available during the Regional Assembly. Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director of ICA ROAP offered a power-point presentation on the ICA ROAP Progress Report. Copies of the ICA ROAP Strategic Plans were also distributed to all participants.

**Agenda Item 9: Remarks by Mr. Mutsutami Harada, President, JA-ZENCHU of Japan**

Mr. Mutsutami Harada, President, JA-ZENCHU of Japan, said: "First of all I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Mu Li for having been re-elected ICA Vice President for Asia-Pacific as well as to the members of the Standing Committee for their elections. I am convinced of their excellent leadership for the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Movement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is extremely significant that the last meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> century of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific is

being held here in Singapore, a city that represents Asia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to exchange views with cooperators of Asia and the Pacific. On the eve of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are increasingly concerned over problems, such as global resources, environment and food crisis. Globalization of economy, on the other hand, threatens to cause cross-border mega competition among businesses, delineating winners and losers with possible consequences of environmental destruction and social unrest.

Faced with these problems, we the Japanese agricultural cooperatives believe that the 21<sup>st</sup> century should be a century of symbiosis instead of competition. Countries, urban and rural societies, businesses, organizations and people should respect each other and share benefits in trying to achieve sustainable economic development and well-balanced social development.

Japanese agricultural cooperatives are actively promoting the movement of three symbioses, which we started three years ago. They are (i) symbiosis with consumers through supply of safe and reliable food, (ii) symbiosis with the next generation through fulfillment of multifunctional role of agriculture, and (iii) symbiosis with Asia through cooperation for the development of agricultural cooperatives in Asia.

At our triennial convention in October this year, we are going to deepen this movement furthermore by confirming the important role of agriculture for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and adopt as our basic policy "the century of agriculture and symbiosis".

Let me say a few words on WTO agricultural negotiations and rule on trade, that can cause decline of agriculture in some countries but prosperity in only certain other countries, is not a fair or an equitable rule.

What is really needed is to establish a trade rule, which is fair and equitable for all, i.e. food importing as well as exporting countries and developed as well as developing countries, so that agriculture of all countries can co-exist. We should not forget that there is no other sector than agriculture where the identity of each country can be strongly expressed. Needless to say, multi-functionality of agriculture, smooth implementation of agriculture policy, diversity in natural conditions, differences in historical as well as cultural backgrounds of agriculture of each country deserve to be considered.

In closing I would like to express my appreciation of Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director of ICA, everyone of ROAP, Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of Singapore National Cooperative Federation for their outstanding efforts for the organization of this epoch-making meeting. Cooperatives are a movement. We must build such a happy world through our movement."

#### **Agenda Item 10: Reports from Specialized Committees**

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture** for Asia and the Pacific was held in Singapore on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2000. Important decisions of the meeting were:

1. Committee felt concerned about the possible negative impact of globalization and WTO policies on small farmers and their cooperatives and called upon ICA ROAP to bring these concerns to forthcoming Agriculture Ministers' Conference convened by FAO in August 2000 in Tokyo.

2. As decided in last meeting, members should take a quick study on Role of Cooperatives in Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture.
2. Committee decided to continue its focus on the role of cooperatives in following areas: - (a) Sustainable Agriculture Development and Food Security, (b) Agriculture & Rural Finance, (c) Agricultural Trade & WTO Policies, (d) Legislative and Institutional Reforms, (e) Capacity Building of Agricultural Cooperatives.

Mr. Deepak Baskota from National Cooperative Federation of Nepal was elected as Chairperson and Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee from National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea as Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

**The ICA Consumer Committee** held its 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the Mandarin, Singapore, on June 25. Twenty-eight delegates from India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam participated. The meeting was opened by Mr. K. Okayasu, Vice Chairperson, in the absence of Mr. K. Tanaka, who could not attend due to illness. Mr. Kurimoto presided over the rest of the session. The meeting discussed the activities of the Committee and elected its new office bearers for a two-year term. Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Okayasu were re-elected as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively, while Mr. Mohd. Iqbal from Indonesia was elected as the second Vice Chair of the Committee. The Committee meets again in Seoul, Korea, in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly next year.

**The ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University Cooperatives** held its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Mandarin Hotel, Singapore. Thirty three delegates from 8 countries attended. Besides discussing other important matters, the Committee elected Mr. K. Okayasu, Japan, Chairperson, Prof. Poo Gee Swee, Singapore, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Mohd Iqbal, Indonesia, Vice Chairperson for the next two years. The members of the Committee visited the NTUC Fairprice Co-op Supermarket at Hogan Point, Singapore, on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2000, where they studied the operations of the Co-op Supermarket. The next meeting will be held in Seoul, Korea, in 2001, in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly.

**The ICA Regional Cooperative Banking Association (RCBA)** held its third meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June at the Mandarin, Singapore. The meeting reviewed the trends in cooperative banking and finance and deliberated on strategies for widening the membership base of RCBA. The meeting also decided to undertake a study to analyze the trends in cooperative banking in Asia and the Pacific and another study on the Role of NGOs in financial sector. Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya of Sri Lanka was elected Chairperson for a two-year term, while the Chairman of Cooperative League of Thailand and Chairman of National Federation of Urban Coop Banks and Credit Societies of India were elected as Vice-Chairpersons. The Committee appreciated the services of the founder Chairperson, Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan.

**The ICA Regional Women's Committee** had its second meeting at the Mandarin, Singapore, on June 25, 2000. 12 delegates and 41 observers participated at the meeting. Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, chairperson, presided over the session, facilitated by Mr. Juku Ozawa, Secretary. While members made country presentations, the Secretary reported on the activities of the Committee since its first meeting in Seoul, Korea in October 1998. He also presented a work plan for the next two years. The

meeting emphasized the need to appoint contact persons in member organizations and also to get information on cooperative legislation in member countries, which hinders gender equality. The Committee agreed to work closely with AWCF to conduct a survey on the legal situation concerning women's participation. The meeting also suggested that there should be some kind of mechanism for networking between women cooperators within the region. The Committee plans to publish a newsletter at regular intervals, and will be posted on the Website. The meeting re-elected Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Malaysia and Ms. Hatsuko Omori, Japan, as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively. The meeting also elected Ms. Preema Shanti Sooriyarachchi from Sri Lanka as the second Vice Chairperson. The next meeting of the Committee will take place in 2002 during the next Regional Assembly.

**The HRD Committee** organized a Seminar on Interactive Learning and Training for the members of the ICA HRD Committee for Asia and the Pacific in Mandarin, Singapore, on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2000. The seminar featured a presentation by Dr. Mohd Saimi Mohd Sohod, Chief Executive Officer of the United Multimedia Sdn Bhd, a IT company based in Kuala Lumpur, on the concept and mechanism for learning/training environment and the process involved in creating that environment. The seminar is part of the effort the regional HRD Committee to create interest in information technology and its use in cooperative education and training.

**Agenda Item 11: Report from the Second Regional Women's Forum  
And the Asia Pacific Co-operative Research Conference**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Women's Forum on the theme of "Transcending Glass Ceiling and Glass Ladder in the New Millennium" was held on June 26, 2000 in Singapore. Madam Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Senior Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development and Sports, Singapore, was the Guest of Honour at the opening. This forum provided an excellent platform to examine and discuss the roles and opportunities for women in the cooperative movement, to identify the obstacles the women face and came up with possible solutions.

Ms. Lydia Johnson, Regional Manager at the Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, presented the Keynote address on the theme. Panelists Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Mr Paul Sinnappan, Ms. Teresita de-Leon, Mr. Fujioka and Ms. Kamakshi Balakrishnan, gave over-views of the situation in countries of the region. After the panel presentations, delegates were divided into six discussion groups, facilitated by the panelists. The discussions enabled delegates to understand the 'glass ceiling' and 'glass ladder' situation for women and came out with useful suggestions and comments on how to break the glass ceiling and how to make the glass ladder less slippery. The panel session was moderated by Ms. Lota Bertulfo, Coordinator of Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum. The Forum concluded with definite strategies to achieve participant's goals to advance gender equality in their cooperatives and anticipation for the next meeting.

**The First Asian Research Conference** was held in Singapore on 24-25 June, 2000 where twenty-six research papers, representing studies on cooperatives undertaken by researchers in Asia (including one from Europe) were presented. The wide range of scientific inquiry included issues on participative democracy, value-based management, gender and youth, strategies and structures, creating employment, renewal and innovation, and supporting community. The Conference was organized

by the ICA Research Committee for Asia and the Pacific and attended by 57 researchers, cooperative leaders and practitioners. Members of the ICA Research Committee headed by Prof. Roger Spear attended the Conference. Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the Asian Cooperative Research Forum, led the conference. The next Research Conference will be held in 2002 in conjunction with the ICA Regional Assembly meeting.

**Agenda Item 12: Presentation of ILO Recommendation No. 127**

Ms. Teresita de Leon, Regional Coordinator, ILO-Coopnet/Coopreform informed the meeting that ILO is an inter-governmental organization of the UN system. It was established in 1920 as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations. ILO was founded to advance the cause of social justice and, in so doing, to contribute to the establishment of universal and lasting peace.

ILO now proposes to revise its Recommendation No. 127 which was formulated some time in 1966. It has sent a Questionnaire to cooperative organizations in the Asia-Pacific Region. Based on the answers to the questionnaires received from the cooperative organizations in the region, the ILO will try to revise the Recommendation No. 127. She said except for Japan, no other organization has sent their replies. She requested the ROAP to send this questionnaire to its member organizations in the region and expedite the replies.

**Agenda Item 13: Progress report of, and issues emerging from, the Fifth Cooperative Ministers Conference in Beijing, October 1999**

Mr. B.D. Sharma at the ICA ROAP presented to the meeting various Resolutions emerging from the Fifth Cooperative Ministers Conference held in Beijing, China, in October 1999. The Ministers' Conference was preceded by a Regional Consultation in Singapore in July 1999. Based on the recommendations of the Regional Consultation, the 5<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Ministers Conference deliberated and formulated specific recommendations in joint declaration on the following issues: (i) Autonomy and Independence, (ii) Legal Existence, (iii) Recognition (iv) Fair Playing Field, (v) Self-Regulation, (v) Capitalization; (vi) Official Development Assistance; and (vii) Networking. There is a great deal of uniformity on the line of thinking of the representatives of the cooperative movement, experts, academicians who participated in the Forum and the visualizations contained in the recommendations of 5<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Ministers' Conference.

The Regional Assembly was also apprised of the follow-up action on the recommendations initiated by ICA ROAP. Important of which are as follows:

- (a) Recommendations have been sent to member organizations and national governments in the region.
- (b) In a number of countries in the region, the reform process of cooperative laws has been initiated. To name a few of them, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Vietnam are currently working on this reform agenda. Most of the countries feel the need for inclusion of the ICIS in the cooperative law.



- (c) ICA ROAP has initiated second critical study of Cooperative Policy and Legislation in Asia-Pacific Region.
- (d) ICA ROAP has set up its Website for better networking with its member organizations.
- (e) Steps have been initiated to set up Cooperative Data Bank and Information Centre.
- (f) Collaboration with International Development Partners, namely, ILO, FAO (NEDAC), ADB is being intensified.

**Agenda Item 14: Report and new issues arising from the First Asia Pacific Cooperative FORUM, June 27-28, 2000**

Mr. Romy Villamin of ICA ROAP said that the First Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum was held in Singapore on 27-28 June, 2000 which was inaugurated by H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, Vice President of Indonesia. After inauguration, the Forum went in to discussion on Panel Themes, which were Cooperative Governance, Cooperative Legislation, Globalization and Innovation.

*ISSUES:*

- i. Professional Management
- ii. Uncertain Board/Management Relations
- iii. Restructuring
- iv. Stagnation
- v. Under-capitalization
- vi. Ennui

*RESPONSE:*

- i. Identity of Cooperatives
- ii. Keeping Focus
- iii. Improved governance
- iv. Government partnership
- v. Alliances – strategic and wholesome relationship between cooperatives, government and private sector.
- vi. Information technology

Participants evaluated the overall conduct and results of the forum. The overall rating was better than average. There was a suggestion that more experts from Asia should be heard in the next forum.

The Forum discussed the following themes :-

- i. Cooperative Governance
- ii. Cooperative Legislation
- iii. Globalization
- iv. Innovation
- v. Capital Mobilization
- vi. Cooperative Trade

**Agenda Item 15: Venue and Date of Next Meeting**

Mr. Luis Carrillo, Chairman, National Confederation of Cooperatives of the Philippines invited the RA to hold its next meeting, the fifth in the series, in Cebu City, Philippines, in the year 2002. The RA was informed that the SC in its next meeting would take a final decision on this matter and inform the members accordingly.

**Agenda Item 16: Remarks/comments by International Partner Agencies**

**Ms. Lynne Toupin, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA)**, said: "This is my first opportunity to come into your region since becoming the CEO of CCA last year. I have good fortune of meeting you all and to get an overview of the issues, challenges and opportunities for the cooperative movement in this region. I bring you warm greetings from the 32 members of the CCA, which is the apex organization for anglophone cooperatives in Canada.

I want to reaffirm the commitment of Canadian cooperators to the many deep and lasting partnerships we have formed with cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

Last year, with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency, CCA directed 40% of its total financial resources for international cooperative development to the Asia-Pacific region. The challenges we face in Canada are: dealing with increased competition in the marketplace; reducing fragmentation within the cooperative movement; affordability and implementation of new technology; adding value to membership; developing new grassroots cooperatives; increasing diversity of the membership and within the elected leadership; and raising awareness about the value and values of cooperatives.... Canadian cooperatives want to see thriving dynamic cooperative sectors in every country. Our long-term vision is worldwide cooperative reality. We have come along way together, but there is more to be done. As globalization trends continue, we know that our fate and the fates of co-ops everywhere are very-more tightly woven together, we are interdependent, fundamentally reliant on mutual interest and working ever more closely to achieve our shared missions. We must go forward into this new millennium together. CCA therefore pledges its continued alliance with the ICA as we move forward together in cooperation.

**Mr. Pierre Giguere, Regional Director, Developpement International Desjardins (DID)** said: "DID is celebrating this year its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It coincides with Movement Desjardins 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. DID is currently present in 27 countries in 4 continents. We intervene in the field of financial intermediation, particularly in savings and credit and increasingly in insurance. Our interventions have been at the outset centered on technical assistance to enhance and at times help create institutional capacities. Over the years, we have moved along with our partners to reflect and become involved in broader socio-economic problematic, such as the Poverty Alleviation Agenda in China and in Vietnam, always looking forward in parallel the need for a partner institution to keep aim on their financial viability. Our aim, part of our mission, is to empower the community (women, farmers, and small entrepreneurs) through access to financial services. To carry out this endeavour: (1) we have high quality experts. We have today staff of over 100 Canadians and 300 national experts from the countries we are working with, (2) we develop innovation methodologies and role, (3) we support innovative research, (4) we develop financial partnership with leaders and organizations. We have some challenging partnership

and presently with the IFC and the World Bank notably. We are involved networking not only on institutional capacity building, but also on the environment, legislation, supervision, notably stimulating and satisfying work being done currently in China, Vietnam with Central Banks of these countries. We are strongly convinced the current situation provides cooperative leaders with great opportunities to which we are looking forward to contribute and participate increasingly. Thanks to the ICA for providing us the opportunities to share ideas on occasions like this to enhance our common understanding and better view of the challenges and the opportunities that Together we are facing.”

**Ms. Teresita de Leon, Regional Coordinator, ILO-Coopnet/Coopreform:**

The Coopnet programme of the ILO is to facilitate the process of development of self-reliant, vibrant, peoples'-oriented cooperatives. An effective approach to develop such cooperatives is by way of capacity-building of HRD institutions, apex level federations and support agencies through networking, at the regional, national and sub-national levels. Through such Networking, cooperative leaders, managers, trainers and development workers can exchange experiences and expertise, draw upon from each other's resources, and get inspiration and fresh ideas from their counterparts, Networking thus can smoothen the process of development of self-sustaining, self-manged and pro-active cooperatives.

Coopreform stands for Inter-Regional Programme for Structural Reform through Improvement of Cooperative Development Policies and Legislation. The programme aims at to assist in the creation of a enabling environment in which cooperatives and cooperative type organizations can develop as viable member-oriented enterprises. The programme adopts a macro-systems approach whereby technical assistance is provided to improve the economic, socio-political and legal framework necessary for the development of cooperatives and cooperative type organizations. Coopreform provides advisory and information services to institutions involved in the process of structural reform of cooperative movements and facilitates an exchange of experiences made in this field in different regions of the world.

**Agenda Item 17: Closing Session, with keynote address by  
Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, President ICA**

Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, President, ICA, said: “At the outset, may I express my deep apologies for my inability to participate in the Cooperative Forum and on the first day of the Regional Assembly due to prior commitments at the General Assembly of the United Nations and elsewhere. As my duties and responsibilities of ICA President and love for Asia and Asian Cooperative Movement compelled me, I am here to be with you, though for a very short period. At the last Regional Assembly we met under the gloom of the financial crisis, which was, shattering Asian economies and putting a big question mark on the suitability of free markets and globalized economy. But this Assembly meets in an environment of hopes and confidences. Asia has started booming again with fast recovery and growth. This has been due to the inherent strength and will of the Asian people whose motto of life is “Never say die even in the Worst situation.”

Recalling my comments at the last Regional Assembly in Korea that we know from the history that cooperatives had always developed and grown during difficult economic situations. Spectacular resilience shown by cooperatives during the financial crisis has proven once again this historical truth. Let us keep it up and

strengthen the cooperative resilience further so as to make cooperatives a bulwark against the future crisis. I take this opportunity to congratulate Asian cooperators and cooperatives for your achievements and resolve to withstand the difficult times.

But challenges are not over. In fact bigger challenges are ahead of us. The spillover impact of globalization that has resulted into increase of poverty, inequities, unemployment is likely to be further intensified with the entry of a number of countries into second stage of economic reforms. A recent study by ILO shows that although globalization has spurred economic growth, it has also brought social tensions and increased poverty. This poses a peculiar challenge before cooperatives, which are expected not only to respond to these problems but also to act as market stabilizing factor. This calls for deepening their concern for community as well as strengthening their competitiveness in the market place. I would, therefore, re-emphasize, as I said in Korea, that if cooperatives were to cope successfully with this situation it must orient their management practices, organizational structure and even behaviour, so as to be more sensitive to the emerging community and market needs. Inculcation of Value Based Professional Management into cooperatives is the need of the hour.

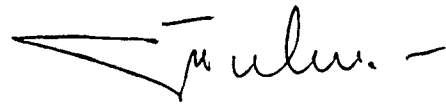
Viewed in this context, organization of Cooperative Forum with the theme "Cooperatives in 21<sup>st</sup> century: Are We Changing" in conjunction with Regional Assembly is very timely and appropriate. I am sure that the Forum would have identified innovative steps to give momentum to the change process in cooperative movement. I must congratulate Mr. Robby Tulus and his team for organizing the Coop Forum, especially to have H.E. Madam Megawati Soekarnoputri, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, to be the Keynote Speaker.

ICA, at global level too, has been making earnest efforts to project the role and potential of cooperatives in mitigating the negative impact of globalization particularly in the fields of employment promotion and social sector development. We have, therefore, deliberately chosen "Employment Promotion" as the theme of this year's 78<sup>th</sup> ICA International Cooperative Day and 6<sup>th</sup> UN International Day of Cooperatives, which fall on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000. ICA Global in its message has called upon the world community to harness cooperative potential in the area of employment promotion. Statistics published by the UN show that livelihood of nearly half of world's population is made secure by the cooperatives. With nearly 800 million individual memberships, cooperatives generate 100 million jobs.

This potential of cooperatives can be further expanded, if the national governments and political leadership create enabling environment for cooperatives through a conducive policy and legislation framework. The Joint Declaration of 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference reflects this. What is now required is to give a concrete shape to these recommendations and visualizations. I am very much optimistic that Regional Assembly will formulate workable parameters and Action Plan to realize this. I wish you all success.

We must give meaning for our lives. So the meaning of life is learning – learning with love and justice to teach, to help people to build a better world... All of us have learnt a little more here today and by learning we are giving all together a meaning for lives. Learning here today we are all doing our best to better world because our children would be very grateful to us.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robby Tulus', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

New Delhi  
4 July, 2000

**Robby Tulus**  
Secretary/Regional Director

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## Annexure - II

## ANNEXURE - II

### Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting Xiamen (China) : 16<sup>th</sup> January 2001

The following members attended the Standing Committee (SC) Meeting which was held in Mandarin Hotel, Xiamen (China) on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2001.

#### In attendance

01. Mr. Mu Li, Vice President, ICA
02. Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, ANGKASA, Malaysia, Chairperson
03. Mr. Chung Dae Kun, NACF, Korea, Member
04. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, India, Member
05. Mr. Luis Carrillo, Member, NATCCO, Philippines, Member
06. Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, repr Ms. Hatsuko Omori, Vice Chairperson, Japan
07. Mr. Leow Peng Kui, repr Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Member, Singapore
08. Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, SANASA, Sri Lanka, Member
09. Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, ICA Board Member, Malaysia, Observer
10. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, NACF Korea, Observer
11. Mr. Chikara Sato, JA-Zenchu, Japan, Observer
12. Mr. Rong Jun, ACFSMC, Interpreter
13. Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director, ICA ROAP. - Secretary
14. Mr. K. Sethumadhavan, Planning Officer, ICA ROAP – Record taking

#### Apologies

Dr. Yehudah Paz, Israel, Member

#### Opening

Mr. Mu Li said that "I am very delighted to be here to attend the Standing Committee Meeting. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the new millennium of 21<sup>st</sup> century. The indication of having this meeting here in Xiamen means we have a very bright future for the cooperative development in Asia and the Pacific. I think our region should make further progress based on unity, consensus and coordination. I take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Robby Tulus for making very good preparations for the meeting. Based on the agreement of the last Standing Committee Meeting in Singapore, I would like to request Professor Ungku A. Aziz to chair the meeting. I wish the meeting all the success".

Professor Ungku A. Aziz said that "I am very honored indeed in running this meeting as Chairperson. I welcome you all to the meeting and I hope we would be able to conduct the meeting efficiently and smoothly".

He further said that the Agenda has been sent to all of you on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2000 and if there were no suggestion, we would stick to this Agenda.

## **Agenda 1 : Report from the Regional Director**

The Regional Director, Mr. Robby Tulus, presented to the meeting the main activities carried out by ICA ROAP since last June through a power point presentation. A report on the activities of ROAP, which was presented to the ICA Board, was also circulated at the meeting.

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan appreciated the activities undertaken by ROAP and said that he has been watching the activities of ROAP very closely for the last 20 years and the number of activities have definitely gone up. He also said that RD should spend at least 8 to 10 days in Delhi office in a month.

Professor Ungku A Aziz said that as Mr. Mu Li stated most of us are making use of improved technology and with the improved communication system the travel days of RD should be reduced.

Mr. Leow Peng Kui said that the ICA-ILO-ICFTU Regional Workshop on Employment Generation, Poverty Alleviation and Human Resource Development held in Manila in October 2000 also discussed about the possibility of revising the "ILO Recommendation No.127" and this should be discussed in the next Standing Committee Meeting.

## **Agenda Item 2 : Update on key results of ICA Board Meeting in Bratislava**

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, ICA Board Member from Malaysia, informed the meeting about the key results of ICA Board Meeting held in Bratislava in October 2000. The main points she same are:

- Mr. Bruce Thordarson has been replaced by a new Director-General (Mr. Karl Fogelstom) from September 2000 and he made a presentation entitled "Walking the Talk" at the Board Meeting.
- ICA Women's Committee has changed its name as "Gender Equality Committee".
- ICA is sending to all MO:s their Gender Policy and requested the MO:s to respond positively.
- Some gender activities will be held in October 2001.
- Youth networking.
- ICA is at present discussing about Group 21 and the details are available with ICA Geneva.

It was decided that changing the name of the Committee should be left to the Regional Women's Committee. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan said that he is willing to host the Women's Committee Meeting in India, especially in Bangalore.



### **Agenda Item 3 : Membership issues**

RD said that the GEC (Education) Union of Cooperative Syndicates Limited, Myanmar, has been terminated by ICA because for non-payment of its subscription. On a query from a member, it was clarified that they have not paid any subscription to ICA after became the member. They did not even reply to our repeated reminders. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan said that if there is a specific request, we can recommend it to the ICA Board for leniency and RD is the right person to recommend the case.

Mr. Mu Li informed the meeting that the Taiwan Provincial Farmers' Association (TPFA) has again approached the ICA for Associated Membership. He gave the background of this organisation and wanted the Standing Committee to take a firm decision on TPFA.

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan from India made the following points. (a) The Taiwan Provincial Farmers' Association (TPFA) is not a cooperative organisation; (b) TPFA is not a national level organisation; (c) TPFA is not a supportive organisation to cooperatives; and (d) There is no unanimity amongst ACFSMC.

Because of the above reasons, TPFA need not be considered for becoming an Associate Member of the ICA.

Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya from Sri Lanka agreed to the points made by Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, and wish to second the motion to decline TPFA's request to become a members of the ICA.

Mr. Luis Carrillo from the Philippines said that since TPFA is not a cooperative, we should reject their application.

Mr. Leow Peng Kui said that we should not entertain their membership application.

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi asked whether do we have the capacity to recommend to the Board. The Chairperson said that the ICA President has referred the matter to the Standing Committee for its comments. She said that she is not authorised to deal with this issue.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee from Korea said that since there was no formal application from TPFA, hence we could not take a letter to ICA President as an application. The ICA Board does not want to take a decision and they referred the matter to us. Mr. Chung said that we need more time for consultations because a consensus needs to be reached first among Chinese co-operatives before we can admit TPFA as a member. If the latter is reflected in our resolution, then there is no problem.

Based on these discussions the Standing Committee decided to reject the request submitted by the TPFA for ICA membership by consensus.

The following *RESOLUTION* on declining the request for ICA membership submitted by the TPFA of China was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION**  
**ON DECLINING THE REQUEST FOR ICA MEMBERSHIP SUBMITTED BY**  
**THE TAIWAN PROVINCIAL FARMERS' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA**

***Preamble:***

On the request of Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President, during ICA Board Meeting held in Bratislava in the month of October 2000, and in observance of the ICA Rules, the Standing Committee of ICA for Asia and the Pacific in its meeting held in Xiamen on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2001, deliberated on the request for ICA membership submitted by the Taiwan Provincial Farmers' Association of China (hereinafter referred to as TPFA).

***NOTING:***

1. The fact finding trip made by the previous ICA ROAP Regional Director, the late Mr. G.K. Sharma, on which he presented a verbal report at the Board Meeting in Prague in 1994 and concluded that the TPFA is not a cooperative organization and, therefore, not eligible to become ICA membership;
2. That the conclusion reached by the late Mr. G.K. Sharma was concurred by the ICA Board;
3. That the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (hereinafter referred to as ACFSMC) currently represents cooperatives all over China at the ICA, and plays a very active and important role both in the ICA and the Cooperative Movement worldwide;
4. That from the point of view of the international community, Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of China;
5. That based on the ICA Rules, the request of TPFA to become a member of the ICA necessitates close consultation with existing member(s) in the same country, in this case ACFSMC, well in advance;

***OBSERVING:***

6. That no consideration be rendered on this issue until a harmonious consensus is reached among the Chinese Cooperative Movements;
7. That should TPFA be admitted into the ICA in any capacity, ICA will work against the satisfaction of its current member in China, and will always be subjected to the sensitive issue on Taiwan with all its ramifications, and which will badly affect the orderly functioning of the ICA and further damage its internal harmony and unity, or may even lead to serious results such as a split within the ICA organization.

***Be it resolved, therefore, that:***

The Standing Committee in its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2001 in Xiamen, China, "Declines the request submitted by the TPFA for ICA membership for now on account of the above mentioned considerations, and until harmony and consensus are reached within the Chinese Cooperative Movements".

#### **Agenda Item 4 : Contact persons for Gender and Youth issues**

RD said that the ICA Regional Women's Committee at its second meeting in Singapore on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2000 emphasized the need to appoint a contact person in each of ICA member organization, and also to receive information on cooperative legislation in member countries that hinders the pursuit of gender equality. The Committee also agreed to work closely with AWCF to conduct a survey on the legal situation concerning women's participation. It was decided that ROAP should write to ICA MOs in the region to appoint a contact person. The survey on legal situation concerning women's participation should also be one of the topics of the Regional Committee.

#### **Agenda Item 5 : ICA ROAP planned activities for 2001**

RD informed the meeting about the planned activities for the year 2001. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan suggested that ROAP should hold the activities in 8-10 countries, instead of locating it in 3-4 countries.

Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya suggested that ROAP should write to all member organisations in Sri Lanka for nominating participants for the programmes being conducted by them. Merely marking a copy of the invitation is not sufficient.

Mr. Leow Peng Kui, in reference to the National Women's Forum in Vietnam, reiterated the principle and procedure that any invitation for participants and/or resource persons should be addressed to the National Cooperative Organisation and not to the individuals directly. The Chairperson concurred and requested that it be recorded and be followed.

#### **Agenda Item 6 : ICA ROAP Budget for the year 2001**

A copy of the ICA ROAP budget, presented at and approved by the ICA Board in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001 was placed for discussion at the meeting.

RD suggested that the strong members (China, Japan, Korea, and Singapore) should support the Singapore Business Office. Last year ACSMC contributed US\$ 20,000 to SBO and hoped that they will contribute this year also. He also said that DG suggested that we should discuss it at the Standing Committee Meeting.

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi informed the meeting that the contribution from JCCU to ROAP would be reduced because of the depreciation of Japanese Yen. The JCCU's total contribution to ROAP for the year 2001 will be US\$ 102,600 only.

Prof. Aziz, followed by comments from Mr. Leow Peng Kui, suggested that we should change the program "ISO Training" to "Quality Management Training", because ISO is a very technical term for certification and does not .

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan wanted to know how much the ICA Geneva is contributing to ROAP from the subscription. RD said that we are getting only US\$ 32,000 per year. But Mr. Vishwanathan informed the meeting that ICA Geneva had agreed to contribute 30 per cent of the membership subscription collected from the region to ROAP. The meeting suggested that we should make a Resolution to this effect.

Professor Ungku A. Aziz said that we should try to get more money from Geneva (30%) and if this money is not sufficient we are willing to contribute more.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that we should have a unified policy for contribution of additional funds to ROAP.

Mr. Mu Li said that I have been very well informed about the re-distribution of funds from ICA Geneva and have a good knowledge about it. According to my memory ICA should re-distribute 30% to ROAP and if we are not receiving it, we should re-negotiate with them.

It was decided that the Board Members from Asia should represent the views of the Standing Committee at the Board Meeting.

After a lengthy discussion the Standing Committed unanimously approved the following Resolution.

## RESOLUTION

**The Standing Committee at its Meeting held in Xiamen on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2001:**

1. REGRETS that since the establishment of the ICA ROAP Advisory Committee in Bangalore November 1994 and its subsequent meetings in Singapore (1995) and Kuala Lumpur (June 1996), the proposal to raise the percentage of membership subscription allocated to the Regional Office up to 30% in order to improve the activities in the Region, was discussed with the ICA President and the ICA Director General, and approved by the President, but unfortunately has not been seriously followed up on with the Board of Directors and hence not resolved in a satisfactory manner.
2. Unanimously resolves to RECOMMEND once again to the ICA President and Director General and also to the ICA Board, to consider at the earliest possible time the allocation of 30% of the subscription collected from the Asia Pacific Region to the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

This resolution is passed unanimously by the Standing Committee, composed of the following delegates:

01. *Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, Chairperson, ANGKASA, Malaysia*
02. *Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President (Asia Pacific), ACFSMC, China*
03. *Mr. B.S. Vishawanathan, representing NCUI, India*
04. *Mr. Chung Dae Kun, representing NACF, Korea*
05. *Dr. Luis Carrillo, Representing NATCCO, Philippines*
06. *Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Representing SANASA, Sri Lanka*
07. *Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Representing Mr. Tan Kin Lian, SNCF, Singapore*
08. *Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, Representing Ms. Hatsuko Omori, JCCU, Japan*

**Agenda Item 7 : Update on Domus Trust**

The RD presented a brief update on the ICA Domus Trust to the meeting. He said "A meeting of the Domus Trust was held in Bratislava on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2000. The Meeting formally instituted the change of Trustees, namely, Mr. Mu Li succeeding Mr. Yang Deshou, in the capacity of ICA Vice President and Chairman of ICA in Asia and the Pacific; and Mr. Karl J Fogelstrom succeeding Mr. Bruce Thordarson in the capacity of ICA Director-General.

With the successful sale of the Bonow House, it was agreed that the proceeds from the sale should be invested and used in accordance with the plan generated from consultations with Ernst & Young Tax Consulting and Compliance Services. It was stressed that the advice of Ernst & Young TCCS should be the final deciding factor on this matter and that they should be the administrators of all investments. It was agreed that the bulk of the sale amount be invested in NABARD for tax exemption purposes.

The Regional Director-cum Executive Trustee - Mr. Robby Tulus is mandated to continue the search for suitable new premises in New Delhi, having the powers to conclude an acquisition in consultation with the ICA Secretariat and then report back to the full Board of Trustees.

The Trustees agreed to the principle that the Trust should reimburse the ICA, based on invoicing, for all services rendered and expenses incurred in relation to the sale of the Bonow House and the move to new premises. All such invoicing must be reviewed and cleared with Ernst & Young TCCS.

A work plan and budget is being worked out by the Trust, and these work plans and service agreements will be reviewed and cleared with Ernst & Young TCCS".

The members suggested that maximum possible amount should be invested for a longer period and only the interest should be used for activities. RD will present the report about the purchase of land to the Board Meeting in Rome.

**Agenda Item 8 : Preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> FORUM and 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly in CEBU, Philippines**

RD said that Dr. Luis Carrillo, Chairman of NATCCO of the Philippines, has agreed to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum and 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly in Cebu City, Philippines in 2002. But there is an important activity (Ministers' Conference) in 2002. The members were of the opinion that it will not be feasible for the Secretariat to hold two important activities in 2002.

After discussions the meeting agreed to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum and 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly in Cebu in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of January 2003. The Regional Director was requested to firm up the dates in consultation with NATCCO.

**Agenda Item 9 : Other business arising**

**1.1. Rochdale Pioneer Award:**

The information was noted. It was decided that the Standing Committee members should encourage the member organisations to send suitable candidates (two persons – one man, one woman – every three years) for receiving the Rochdale

Pioneer Award directly to ICA Geneva. The deadline for nomination is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2001 and the 1<sup>st</sup> prize will be awarded on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the General Assembly in Seoul in October 2001.

### **1.2. Candidature for the Global Legislative Committee of the ICA Board**

At the Board Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, it was announced that the Standing Committee during its meeting in Xiamen would nominate a member for the Global Legislative Committee. After a brief discussion, the meeting authorised Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President, to nominate a member for the Global Legislative Committee. He then nominated Ms. Rahaiah Baهران from Malaysia to the Global Legislative Committee.

### **1.3. ICA Data Base and Statistics**

RD said that the ICA ROAP has been proactive in organizing Expert Workshops on the establishment of a Co-op Data Bank. However, when the questionnaire was sent to all ICA members in Asia and the Pacific, the latter have been rather slow in replying to the questionnaire. The statistical information of such Data Base was to be forwarded to ICA Geneva for updating the ICA global statistical information, but we were told that no response has been received from this region

It was felt that the Questionnaire sent by ROAP is very complicated and it requires more time for compilation. However, it was agreed that the Standing Committee members would take necessary action in this regard.

## **Agenda Item 10 : Date and place of next meeting**

The Standing Committee decided to hold its next meeting some time in late May or July. The possible venue could be Kuala Lumpur, Singapore or Bangalore. It was left to the Secretariat to decide about the dates and the venue for the next Standing Committee meeting.

### **Any Other Matter**

RD informed the meeting that the International body charged with managing the Internet announced on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2000, its selection of .coop as one of only seven new top-level domains (TLD) that will join .com and .org at the end of Internet addresses. This will give cooperatives instant recognition on the Internet and help consumers find the businesses they trust online.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) approved .coop after a highly competitive application and review process. It found both overwhelming global support for .coop from all sectors of the economy and a clear, unmet need for a unique cooperative identity online.

The net TLD will be restricted for use by only bona fide cooperative businesses, which number more than 750,0000 globally with 760 million members. Registration for the .coop domain will be available to cooperatives after mid-2001.

The RIO Cooperative Declaration was circulated at the meeting. RD said that the ICA President and the Board wants to re-promote cooperatives in the new millennium and they want as many signatures as possible as a recognition to cooperatives. Mr. Mats Ahnlund is coordinating this and he will send a letter to all ICA member organisations from Geneva.

Professor Ungku A. Aziz said that the Standing Committee Members should translate it into local languages so that everybody can understand it and try to get the maximum signatures. The meeting agreed to his suggestion.

**Virtual HRD** - A paper entitled "New Approaches to Management and Leadership Development in Cooperatives" was circulated at the meeting. The information was noted. Professor Ungku A Aziz said that we do not have to pay big money for this and we can do it ourselves. The HRD Committee and Delhi office can do it.

RD read out the e-mail he received from Dr. Yehudah Paz informing his inability to attend the Standing Committee Meeting. The members wished him a speedy recovery.

The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat and the host for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

Mr. Mu Li thanked Professor Ungku A Aziz, the Chairperson, for conducting the meeting very smoothly and well in advance. He looked forward to a closer collaboration among the Standing Committee Members.

## **Agenda Item 11 : Adjournment**

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

## **Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting Shanghai (China) : 31 August- 01 September 2001**

The following members attended the Standing Committee (SC) Meeting that was held at Jinjiang Hotel, Shanghai (China) on August 31 and September 01, 2001

### **In attendance**

01. Mr. Mu Li, Vice President, ICA
02. Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, ANGKASA, Malaysia, Chairperson
03. Mr. Chung Dae Kun, member, Korea
04. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, member, India
05. Dr. Yehudah Paz, member, Israel
06. Mr. Tan Kin Lian, member, Singapore
07. Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, representing Ms. Ito, Vice Chairperson, Japan
08. Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, member, Sri Lanka
09. Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, ICA Board Member, Malaysia, Observer
10. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, NACF Korea, Observer
11. Dr. S.S. Sisodia, observer
12. Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Director general, ICA – Special Invitee
13. Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director, ICA ROAP- Secretary
14. Mr. Yu Ning, ACFSMC, Observer
15. Mr. Rong Jun, ACFSMC, Observer/Interpreter

### **Apologies**

Representative from NATCCO, Philippines

### **Agenda Item1: Opening**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order, and asked Mr. Mu Li to address the Meeting. Mr. Mu Li extended his warm welcome to all members and guests, and thanked all those who were able to make it to Shanghai. He stressed the importance of this meeting and believed that with the good chairmanship of Prof. Aziz we will be able to achieve all the results as expected.

Professor Ungku A. Aziz opened the meeting with a vote of thanks to the host, and proceeded by asking if the Meeting could approve the Agenda (*Agenda Item 2*) as circulated by ICA ROAP, and to confirm the Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee in Xiamen (*Agenda Item 3*).

The Agenda was accepted, and Minutes confirmed without any question and revision.

He then asked the Regional Director to present his Progress Report.



#### **Agenda Item 04: Report from the Regional Director**

The Regional Director (Robby Tulus), presented a series of slides entitled "Retrospect (1996-2001) and Prospects" (2001 onwards) of ICA ROAP, assessing past results and future directions by way of a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis.

The progress report was favorably accepted by the meeting, and the meeting commented that it is well structured, coherent and comprehensive. The Chairperson said that the region is very large and we have successfully carried out programs which benefits are felt by members. He invited comments or questions, and said that it would be advisable to have copies made of these slides for the benefit of the Standing Committee members.

Comments on the SWOT analysis:

Mr. Tan Kin Lian concurred with the sub-regional approach in the management structure of ICA ROAP because it brings more focus, but that he will be more in favor of receiving concise report on activities that must be communicated more frequently through email. He commented that it is fine and well to have additional members of ICA recruited with the help of Board members and active members in this region, but that the additional subscriptions that go to Geneva be utilized for this region as well. He also commented on the government's bias towards SMEs, manifesting the government's perception that co-op are not effective instruments to help people. We must make this a key policy issue, and stressed the importance of advocacy.

Dr. Yehudah Paz stated that the impressive analytical report shown in these slides should not only be distributed among the Standing Committee members but also among the larger membership. He emphasized that economic cooperation should be enhanced to cover sectors like tourism, industrial co-ops etc.; ICA ROAP should build more new alliances in addition to the latest one made with ICFTU, and while we have a legislative committee in ICA global, the legislative program of ROAP must be continuously strengthened within the Asia context.

Mr. Kiriwandeniya suggested that it would be a good idea to review the impact of the Co-op Ministerial Conferences held so far. (RD commented that this is an ongoing exercise and will be done in the next one in Kathmandu as well).

HJH Rahaiah Baheran was happy to note that the Manual on Women in Leadership has now been validated, but stressed that the implementation of the manual must be actively promoted. She also mentioned that Gender issues must be an integral part of the discussions at the next Coop Ministers' Conference in Kathmandu.

The Chairperson commented that in the context of the work being done in Asia Pacific, he is not entirely in agreement with Mr. Tan that we should sub-regionalize our work. We should try to combine programming that sweeps across sub-regions from Israel/Iran to those in the Pacific, because co-op is an important instrument to build these links. Prof. Aziz further remarked that we also need to keep the grassroots alive, so large co-operative structures will not lose their contacts with and mandate from the ground level. There are many instances where white-colored professionals and leaders take advantage of the movement but are not supported from the ground up. As a result, they are dependent on government support and remain weak. Therefore, we must always think and bring programs one stage down from the "triangle". Many agricultural co-ops fail because of over-dependence on governments. Therefore, Agriculture Co-ops such as in Korea (NACF) and Japan (JA Zenchu) are now being emulated by ANGKASA in Malaysia because they have not lost their linkages with the grassroots. They knit together and bring all members together.

Mr. Karl Fogelstrom also commended the Progress Report and said that many elements are in full congruence with the ICA Agenda now being envisioned by the Secretariat in Geneva.

#### **Agenda Item 05: Election of ICA Board and President**

Mr. Mu Li introduced the Agenda item by giving an account on the Board Meeting in Rome (April) and in Geneva (June), wherein the Election Committee has confirmed two candidates for the post of ICA President, i.e. Dr. Paz (Israel) and Mr. Barberini (Italy). Dr. Paz has since withdrawn his candidacy, hence paving the way for Mr. Barberini to be the only candidate for election of the President. Mr. Mu Li admired the decision made by Dr. Paz since it will make the election very smooth. Mr. Mu Li said that Dr. Paz carries great wisdom and that on behalf of the ICA he wishes to give him the highest respect for his wise decision.

Since the deadline for nominations of the ICA Board was closed on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2001, Mr. Mu Li requested Mr. Karl Fogelstrom to describe the candidates for the ICA Board elections during the General Assembly in Seoul.

The Director General gave detailed information about the Board election, and indicated that all 4 Vice Presidents from all 4 regions remain the same and will not be subject for election this year. Hence there will be 15 seats to be contested for elections. At this point there are 22 nominations, including 4 women (2 from Europe, one from the Americas, and 1 from Asia Pacific). There are 6 nominations for the Audit Committee, of which 5 will be elected.

There are currently 7 candidates from the Asia Pacific region, in addition to the 5 from the countries currently represented. The current candidates are Dr. S.S. Sidodia from India, Dr. Yehudah Paz from Israel, Mr. M. Harada from Japan, Mr. Chung Dae Kun from Korea, and Ms. HJH Rahaiah Baheran from Malaysia. The two additional candidates are nominated by member-Co-operatives in Sri Lanka and Kuwait.

Mr. Karl Fogelstrom read out the names of all 22 candidates.

**After some discussions, *the Standing Committee resolved that we should recognize the consensus reached earlier by the Standing Committee in that only six candidates, namely from the above mentioned six countries will constitute the representation at the ICA Board, namely Dr. S.S. Sisodia, Dr. Yehudah Paz, Ms. HJH Rahaiah Baheran, Mr. Mu Li (Vice President), Mr. M Harada, and Mr. Chung Dae Kun. The consensus of the Standing Committee is to retain these five candidates (excluding the Vice President whose re-election will take place later) to be elected to the ICA Board from the five countries, namely India, Israel, Malaysia, Japan, and Korea, on account of their outstanding services in this region. ICA ROAP was further directed to circulate to all ICA members in Asia as well as other regions, this consensus.***

## **AGENDA ITEM 06: ICA PLAN AND BUDGET**

The Director General (Mr. Karl Fogelstrom), presented a series of slides on the new Vision and Agenda of the ICA, and he made references to the proximity of many elements of the ICA Agenda with those of ICA ROAP as presented earlier by Robby Tulus.

Mr. Fogelstrom then gave a detailed overview of the financial situation at the Secretariat in Geneva. He described how ICA is "Bleeding" financially these days, on account of the accumulated deficits of previous years (i.e. from the regions, including ROAP which accounts for SFR 115,000 in 1999 and SFR 144,000 in 2000), and for the compensation of personnel who left ICA in Geneva in the year 2000, amounting to SFR 1.1 Million, hence depleting the ICA reserves altogether.

He said this bleeding must be stopped. While the policy on regionalization in 1992 was a good thing, Mr. Fogelstrom said that the financial implication of a regionalized approach was not taken into account. As a result, we now have severe liquidity problems.

On the positive side, we have the dot.COOP as an innovative asset to bank on, and the important renewal of ILO Recommendation 127. On the latter, however, Mr. Fogelstrom felt that the contents seem to be too biased towards the social dimension and tend to favor workers only.

Dr. Yehudah Paz remarked that we must indeed stop the financial "bleeding". It is important to note, however, that the deficit at ICA ROAP was a planned one, and that the ICA Board was conscious about this deficit because the amount was to be replenished with the sale of the Bonow House. Unfortunately, the complications and delayed sale of the Bonow House has exacerbated the situation, and that therefore ICAROAP must be more effective in its financial management. But it must be noted that the deficit was not a result of mismanagement.

To get a clearer picture, Mr. Tan Kin Lian requested more details about the financial figures of the income from subscriptions, total expenses, revenue and development support, and how the deficit was derived. The Director General gave a detailed description of the finances.

Ms. Akiko said that the deficit at ICA poses many questions from all the ICA members in Japan. Members in Japan feel that their big subscription contribution has not resulted in good enough progress. ICA needs to explain to the members in Japan how this deficit issue will be resolved because otherwise they question the merits of being members of the ICA.

Mr. Fogelstrom said that we now have a liquidity crunch in Geneva. In ICA ROAP, fortunately, there are revenues gained from the proceeds of DOMUS Trust investments. The DOMUS Trust Board in Rome has resolved to use the proceeds of US \$ 120,000.00 for the operations of ICA ROAP (not for the Singapore office). This amount must now be used for the operations and programs of ICA ROAP and that measures must be taken to make this fund available as soon as possible. Mr. Vishwanathan agreed and said that we need to seek legal advice from Ernst and Young to make this happen.

(Lunch Break)

Upon resuming the meeting after lunch, Prof. Aziz as Chairperson and Dr. Yehudah Paz reached an agreement to propose a solution to stop the financial "Bleeding" of ICA. The idea came from Prof. Ungku Aziz.

The proposal is to resolve the issue between ICA members in Asia Pacific and the Secretariat in Geneva. Each party will give something and gets something.

***In the first place, ICA members in Asia and the Pacific will put enough resources to help "bail out" the deficit at the Secretariat in Geneva as a ONE TIME CONTRIBUTION.***

***In return, a percentage of the total subscription from Asia Pacific should be returned to the region (ROAP) on an annual basis, decided by a fixed formula.***

The above proposal means that members in Asia Pacific will give a blood transfusion to the bleeding vessels in Geneva, and once the bleeding stops we can constitute a formula of redistribution of subscription funds to allow the Secretariat and the Regional Offices to function well without future deficits.

Dr. Paz re-emphasized the fact that we must define two numerical figures:

First: To establish what range is feasible and possible for the "blood transfusion" process;

Second: To define an equitable redistribution of subscription fund in terms of percentage.

This proposal represents a major contribution from the Asia region to the global scene, and it must therefore be seen as Asia taking the lead in helping to solve the financial crisis of the ICA.

Mr. Tan indicated that since the total subscription is SFR 2.2. Million, and the deficit SFR 1.1 Million, the contribution all ICA members have to make is between one half to one year of subscription. In the Asia Pacific region it will be around 20% to 30% of that total.

Mr. Fogelstrom explained about the distribution of subscription money to the regions. SFR 610,000 in total goes back to the region, of which Asia receives SFR 55,000,- Americas SFR 55,000, Europe SFR 310,000, and Africa (2 offices) SFR 190,000.-. The distribution takes into account the spirit of solidarity to support the Africa region, whereas Europe receives the most with 30% of its paid subscription (Asia Pacific will receive SFR 176,000.- if the 30% formula is used).

Hence fixed figures and the time frames must be developed.

Mr. Vishwanathan is of the opinion that pruning the expenses is a more logical way out because if we use the above proposal we may be "bailing out" the mistakes made by other regions and hence difficult to convince our co-operative members to contribute. Ms. Akiko echoed the point raised by Mr. Vishwanathan and said that members in Japan has paid its full dues and would thus be hard to convince to contribute more.

Prof. Aziz pointed out that we must be transparent even to our members to show what actually happens so nothing is hidden underneath the carpet. The question is: are we ready to reform or will continue the bleeding like it is now?

Mr. Mu Li indicated that the financial crisis is a serious one, and he is doubtful that all members, especially the large ones, are willing to contribute the amount even if it is a one time payment. For those paying the minimum subscription it is okay, but the large ones may object. Hence the Standing Committee should adopt a pledge for members to pay a sum to stop the crisis, without having to compel them.

After further discussions, the following will be the recommendation of the Standing Committee:

- 1) To solve the deficit problem of ICA by way of a "one off contribution";
- 2) ROAP should define a formula whereby the proportion of subscription paid by members in Asia Pacific be returned to the region for its operations;
- 3) The time frame has to be determined.

These two problems are linked and must therefore be solved together and not separately.

## **AGENDA ITEM 07: ICAROAP Singapore Business Office**

Mr. Tan Kin Lian read out Annexure-V "Paper on the ICA ROAP Singapore Business Office (SBO)", and underlined the two options proposed by SNCF:

1. To downsize the current office space from 1,900 Sq feet to 900.
2. To locate the ICA ROAP Business Office at the SNCF premises, and support intended for the infrastructure can be channeled to other significant ICA ROAP projects, which will be considered on a planned program basis.

The Regional Director gave further explanations to the revised budget and the reasons for the deficit, and stresses that a long-term view is important if one need to obtain a feasible return on investment.

Mr. Vishwanathan said that what we need to know first of all is whether the SBO has been beneficial to members. We need to conduct an evaluation in order to know the real situation.

Mr. Tan Kin Lian described the advantages of the SBO from a cost-efficient point of view, but he agrees with Mr. Vishwanathan that an objective evaluation be conducted, and which results and recommendations should be honored.

***Ms Akiko made a motion that ICA ROAP should move to the SNCF premises as soon as possible to cut on costs. This was unanimously approved by the Meeting.***

The meeting decided to form a team of three to undertake the evaluation of the SBO. After some discussions, it was agreed that the Team be composed of Dr. Yehudah Paz as Chairperson, Mr. Vishwanathan (NCUI), and Ms. Akiko Yamauchi (JCCU).

***The meeting also places on record its deep appreciation to Mr. Tan Kin Lian and SNCF for their invaluable contribution to making it possible for the ICA ROAP Singapore Office to be opened, and to operate as actively as it does now.***

The results of the evaluation and new budget will be presented at the Standing Committee meeting in Seoul in time for the Board to approve it.

The Chair suggested that since we need more time to discuss Agenda Item 08, this Agenda be deferred to the next day on September 01.

## **AGENDA ITEM 09: OTHER BUSINESS MATTER ARISING**

The agenda item on "Succession Planning" to appoint the successor of the ICA Regional Director for Asia Pacific, Mr. Robby Tulus, was discussed. The Chairperson asked Mr. Fogelstrom to explain his views on the matter.

Mr. Fogelstrom said that he has always worked on the principle of reaching the broadest possible consensus, hence he is listening carefully to what the members in Asia Pacific has to say at this Standing Committee meeting. He said he pursued the process in the most transparent way possible.

He further pointed out that after signing the letter to Robby Tulus, in response to his request to take up an earlier retirement as from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2001, he called on one incumbent he knows well and who is prepared to take up the position as Regional Director. However, after the nomination of Mr. Shil Kwan Lee from NACF, and having received letter of support from 7 countries, he has told the incumbent that the situation has now changed. The incumbent understood it very well. Based on this, it is now clear that the person best supported by the region, and also known very well to the Director General, can take over as Regional Director. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee is therefore the most appropriate person to take this position as Regional Director, and in the meantime Mr. Fogelstrom has appointed Mr. B.D. Sharma to take the role as Acting Regional Director until such time that Mr. Lee is ready to commence his position.

***Mr. Mu Li and the Chairperson, on behalf of the Standing Committee, wishes to place on record the deep appreciation to Mr. Karl Fogelstrom for having made the process as smooth as possible, inasmuch as this consensus was a result of his thorough endeavor and good work, and will also mark a good beginning for future co-operation between ROAP and the Secretariat, and further development of the ICA.***

The Chairperson further indicated that Robby Tulus is a hard act to follow – to use a Hollywood jargon – and believes that Mr. Lee is just the one to be able to succeed him.

***We must therefore record the contribution of NACF to nominate Mr. Shil Kwan Lee as the successor of Mr. Robby Tulus, but more so to appreciate highly the contribution of Mr. Robby Tulus who has made such tremendous contribution to this region.***

Mr. Vishwanathan wishes to add that his services be continued as a Senior advisor/consultant to help ICA ROAP with the organization of the Ministers' Conference in Kathmandu. Dr. Paz said that we need to have his services beyond that and that some arrangements need to be made to that effect.

Mr. Fogelstrom added that Robby Tulus' association with the ICA is essential from his point of view and he has appreciated the work of Robby Tulus and expressed it in both verbal manner as well as in writing. He mentioned that the official thanks and recognition to Robby Tulus will be done in Seoul.

***Mr. Robby Tulus also asked to place on record his deep appreciation to the Standing Committee, Asia Board members, ICA members, the Director General and all ICA Staff, for the great cooperation rendered to make the job so rewarding and meaningful, and for the kind sentiments raised by the Standing Committee in this Meeting in Shanghai.***

The Regional Director proceeded by explaining about the proposal of a Consortium in Asia to become a founding member of DOT.COOP; Due to time constraint the Chair asked that this be discussed the following day.

### **AGENDA ITEM 09 (continued)**

The Meeting resumed on September 01, with a power-point presentation by the Regional Director of the KRA and envisioned OUPUTS/INPUTS for 2002. The Revenues and Expenses Projection for 2001/2002 (Annexure III) was used as reference.

Comments from the Meeting:

Dr. Paz suggested that there should be more programs of ICA ROAP using facilities owned by members in this region. This is echoed by Mr. Vishwanathan, stressing that the VAMNICOM in Pune could be a good place for various programs conducted by ICA ROAP. He also indicated that members should deal with and through ICA ROAP rather than individual countries when it comes to inter-country programs.

Mr. Tan indicated that SNCF has also been sanctioned some funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct training for co-op leaders from the ASEAN countries. He mentioned that ICA ROAP should also do the coordination of this training program, in collaboration with SNCF.

He also indicated that research papers on various global issues that are relevant to co-operative development be used in global and regional workshops for CEO and coop leaders.

Mr. Kiriwandeniya said that long term subsidized credit is available for funding to various countries in Asia and that ICA ROAP could help and take the leadership to coordinate this program.

Prof. Aziz stated that the Independent State of East Timor needs support and that ICA ROAP should seek the cooperation of its members in Australia and perhaps in Portugal, especially in the field of education and training.

Ms. Akiko raised the point in the budget for 2002, and wishes to know how the figures were derived in the projected budget amounts for 2002. The Regional Director explained about the project proposals already prepared for CCA and CICOPA, but that the one for JCCU is yet to be developed. As well, the planning will only be conducted in November with the involvement of the new Regional Director. Ms. Akiko felt that it will be too late, and that ICA ROAP needs to present the project well in advance, because JCCU planning cycle is happening around the same time and that she is afraid the figures will come in too late. The Regional Director thanked Ms Akiko for her information and will work out the budget with the ICA Secretariat well in time before the Board Meeting in Seoul.



Dr. Paz stated the need for us to also seek more membership from Australia, and new members from New Zealand.

Both Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and Mr. Karl Fogelstrom gave an update on the preparations as well as content of the General Assembly in Seoul for information only.

The Regional Director asked the Chair as to how the discussions on DOT.COOP could be advanced at this stage, and the Chair, with the consent of the Meeting, has asked the Secretariat in Geneva to give follow up on the matter of the Founding Member from Asia.

The Chairperson asked Mr. Mu Li to deliver his closing remarks, and Mr. Mu Li believed that it has been a very smooth-going and successful meeting. He appreciated the good results of the meeting through the hard work of all of us in this room under the good chairmanship of Prof. Aziz.

***Mr. Fogelstrom wishes to put on record his deep appreciation to the Standing Committee for having invited him to Shanghai, and for the very fruitful discussions in this 'working' Meeting. There are many things to be learned and he appreciated the substantive discussions, which led to the good results.***

Ms Akiko wishes to inform the meeting that the National Federation of University Co-operative Association has applied for membership at the ICA so Japan will soon be represented by one additional member at the ICA. This was much appreciated by the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 11: DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was decided that the date and venue of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee will be on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2001 in Seoul at 17:00 hours. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee will inform the exact venue of the meeting to all Committee members. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

**Robby Tulus**  
Regional Director, ICA

**Royal Prof. Ungku Aziz**  
Chairperson, Standing Committee

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**September 2, 2001**

## **Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting SEOUL (KOREA) : 11<sup>th</sup> October 2001**

The following members attended the Standing Committee (SC) Meeting that was held at the COEX Room 314 AB, Seoul (Korea) on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2001:

01. Mr. Mu Li, Vice President, ICA
02. Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, ANGKASA, Malaysia, Chairperson
03. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, representing Mr. Chung Dae Kun, member, Korea
04. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, member, India
05. Dr. Yehudah Paz, member, Israel
06. Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Representing Mr. Tan Kin Lian, member, Singapore
07. Ms. Junko Ito, Vice Chairperson, Japan
08. Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, member, Sri Lanka
09. Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, ICA Board Member, Malaysia, Observer
10. Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Director General, ICA – Special Invitee
11. Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director (outgoing), ICA ROAP- Secretary
12. Mr. B.D. Sharma, Regional Director (acting), ICA ROAP
13. Mr. Yu Ning, ACFSMC, Observer
14. Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, Observer
15. Mr. Rong Jun, ACFSMC, Observer/Interpreter

### **Apologies**

Representative from NATCCO, Philippines.

### **Agenda Item 1: Review and adoption of Minutes of the Shanghai Meeting**

The Chairperson, Prof Aziz, opened the meeting and welcomed all members and invitees. He asked the Meeting to review the Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting held in Shanghai, including the addendum proposed by Messrs. B.S. Vishwanathan and Tan Kin Lian respectively. There being no further comments, the Minutes as well as the said Addendum was approved and adopted (see Appendix 1). The Chairperson asked the Regional Director (outgoing) to report on the follow-up actions taken since the Shanghai Meeting. Mr. Tulus explained that the circular letter to all ICA members, signed by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, regarding "the consensus of the five candidates from Asia for election to the ICA Board" was duly sent and circulated to all members of the ICA. The preparations and implementation of the Evaluation of the ICA Singapore Business Office was also carried out according to plan.

## **Agenda Item 2: Report by the Evaluation Committee**

The Report of the Evaluation Committee on the Singapore Business Office of ICA ROAP was distributed and read out by the Chairperson, Dr. Yehudah Paz. Dr. Paz expressed his profound thanks to the Evaluation Committee members, the SNCF leadership and staff, the Government of Singapore, and to the Regional Director (outgoing) for their excellent collaboration throughout the evaluation process.

Subject to the above comments, the Meeting reviewed the Report (see Appendix 2) in detail, and appreciated the hard and efficient work done by the Committee. It is a well constructed report and could be accepted in principle. However, the following comments, additions, and amendments were also noted and adopted:

### **Page 3, Item 2:**

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan proposed the change to read as follows:

*“Noting that little or no formal procedure was followed prior to setting up the Singapore Business Office, the Committee proposes that in the future ICA offices, **including future offices in Asia**, be set up only after full discussion, **including confirmed financial commitment within a defined time frame**, and approval by the appropriate regional governing body in conjunction with the Director General and staff, and only after presentation to the ICA Board”.*

The point is taken that the opening of a new office must be discussed based on *felt and real NEEDS* of members.

### **Page 3, Sub-item 3.2:**

Mr. B.D. Sharma, noting the written views of JCCU, commented that the JCCU sponsorship and decision to locate its coordinator in Singapore must not be construed as a step to establish a parallel administrative structure in the region. It is a matter of principle that no parallel administrative structure should be set in place and dictated upon by any funding agency. The Regional Director has the final and overall responsibility to determine staffing and the place where staff is to be stationed.

Mr. Leow Peng Kui commented that the coordination of ICA offices, in case there is more than one in the region, must be done and guided by the Regional Director. However, efficiency must be taken into account both in the program and financial aspects. He agrees that the Regional Director is the source of decision-making.

Mr. Sharma indicated that the trade initiative, which led to the need of having a business office, was already felt and expressed many years back since the time of (the late) Mr. G.K. Sharma. Hence we need to take a functional approach to the Singapore Business Office, not a structural one.

Under **Sub-item 3.3**, Prof Aziz said that the ASEAN Co-operative Organization (ACO) could be revived under the auspices of the SBO. This is just for consideration by the Committee, because we must first see if such revival is at all feasible.

On **Item 4** (page 4), particularly **Sub-item 4.1**, Mr. Vishwanathan proposed that the Committee submit a request to NTUC Income, through the kind offices of Mr. Tan Kin Lian, to waive further payment and penalty when vacating the current office premises on the fourth floor of the SLF Building. It was further suggested that NTUC Income should also absorb the current office furniture at a reasonable price. Mr. Leow Peng Kui described the standard penalty clause, the three months notice, and the responsibility of tenant for the demolition of partitions. Mr. Vishwanathan also asked to SNCF to support the above proposal.

The Standing Committee wishes to place on record its profound gratitude to Messrs. Leow Peng Kui and Tan Kin Lian for their great support and contribution in making it possible for the move to proceed smoothly.

On **Sub-item 4.3/4.4**, Mr. Leow Peng Kui said that the contribution of Singapore \$ 60,000.00 will be continued till May 31, 2002, and since the original purpose of the contribution was to pay rent of the SBO, there will be some savings accrued from the move to SNCF offices. Dr. Paz indicated that ICA needs to pay for the transition costs, and we need to discuss this with the SNCF as a consequence of the decision made by the Standing Committee, and reflected in the formal agreement as stipulated in item **Sub-item 4.4**.

During the deliberation on the **Staff Structure**, Prof Aziz suggested that the Regional Director should designate one person to head the Singapore Business Office. Acknowledgement should be given to the fact that the HRD Committee secretariat is run from the SBO despite its non-business function. He stressed the point that we must follow the function and not the person. There should not be a watertight compartmentalization because it is a practical appointment, and such appointment (if related to the HRD function) must not be construed as a fixed position.

The Chair proceeded with the Budget discussions. The Standing Committee agreed that the Chairperson should consult with the All China Federation for Supply and Marketing Co-operatives and circulate to members the decision made by ACFSMC regarding their contribution of \$ 10,000. On **Sub-Item 5.c**, the Committee concluded that while the purpose of the Business Office is to generate income through its activities, it is crucial that no deficit should be incurred through its business activities.

On **Item 6**, the Standing Committee agreed that the SBO be reviewed once every two years, but that in the interim the Standing Committee and the Secretariat will guide the Regional Director in conducting those activities that will prevent any future deficit to occur.

Before proceeding with the next Agenda Item, the Standing Committee wishes to place on record their deepest appreciation for the effective work performed by all three members of the Committee, and to the Regional Director (outgoing) for his excellent facilitation.

### **Agenda Item 3: Update on ICA Board Elections**

There being no changes in the program of the General Assembly with regard to the Statutory Business and the Board elections, the Chair and members felt no further need to discuss this Agenda.

### **Agenda Item 4: Other Business Arising**

The Chairperson, Prof. Aziz, brought up the issue of the ICA deficit, and reiterated the agreement reached in Shanghai to add 50% subscription of our members in Asia to cover the loss of reserves of the ICA, and that henceforth 30% of subscription will be returned to the region once the reserves are replenished. He then questioned each and every member of the Standing Committee for their recommitment to this resolve, and all members agreed.

The ICA Director General proceeded with a summary account of the important decisions made by the Finance Committee held in Geneva in September 2001, and explained that a resolution to increase subscription by members will be tabled at the General Assembly. He stressed that the Board is reaching a point of definition for proposing this Resolution for ICA to reestablish its reserve fund, and to receive good returns in the future. The Standing Committee agrees that the future redistribution of funds to the region must include the Asian Standing Committee in the discussions.

### **Agenda Item 5: Adjournment**

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**ADDENDUM**

Please refer to the draft minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting in Shanghai, of August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 01, 2001.

The following are proposed additions/amendments:

***A. Proposed by Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan***

" 1. According to my observation, it was decided that Mr. B.D. Sharma will continue for a further period of one year to support the new Regional Director and also to have Indian Cooperative Movement satisfied. After his retirement his replacement would also be from India.

2. The fulfillment of terms and conditions, as decided in the Standing Committee Meeting, for the purchase of ICA Domus Trust Building".

***B. Proposed by Mr. Tan Kin Lian***

The following point in the Draft Agenda:

***"Akiko made a motion that ICA ROAP should move to the SNCF premises as soon as possible to cut on costs. This was unanimously approved by the Meeting",***

to be amended as follows:

***" ICA ROAP should move to SNCF Premises, or to such other place, in order to cut on costs. The final decision, however, should take into account the recommendation by the Evaluation Committee after it has completed its exercise in early October 2001"***

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September 9, 2001

**REPORT OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE  
ON THE  
SINGAPORE BUSINESS OFFICE OF ICA ROAP**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

The Standing Committee of the Asia Pacific region meeting in Shanghai, China in August 31 to September 1, 2001 discussed the present situation and future prospects of the Singapore Business Office (SBO) at length. Because of the importance of the issue for the future activity of the region it was decided to set up a committee charged with further investigating the issue and formalizing recommendations for the standing committee's consideration. The committee, consisting of Dr Y Paz (Chairman), Mr B.S. Vishwanathan and Ms Akiko Yamauchi met in Singapore on October 8 - 10, 2001. During the course of its stay in Singapore it met with:

Mr Tan Kin Lian - Chairman, SNCF

Mr Leow Peng Kui - Chief Executive, SNCF

and other staff members

Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Community Development and Sports and Deputy Chairperson SNCF Board of Trustees.

The committee wishes to record its deep gratitude to Mr Robby Tulus, outgoing Regional Director of ICA ROAP, whose collaboration and work in preparation of the meeting and throughout its sessions were the basis and foundation of its work.

It also wishes to thank SNCF, its Chairman and its Chief Executive for their support and warm hospitality.

## **B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Position and function of the Singapore Business Office:**

The Evaluation Committee notes the broad program of activities of the Singapore Business Office since its establishment on 10 July 1999, but recognizes that only part of its potential was realized. Therefore, the Committee decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to:

- (a) maintain and continue the operations of the Singapore Business Office;
- (b) define the central/core function of the Singapore Business Office to be primarily to undertake business and trade activities, within the below mentioned budget parameters and to also further the other objectives set out in the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 5 July 1999. \*)

*\*) The objectives contained in the Memorandum of Understanding may be found in Appendix I.*



## **2. Procedure for setting up Future Offices:**

Noting that little or no formal procedure was followed prior to setting up the Singapore Business Office, the Committee proposes that in the future ICA offices be set up only after full discussion and approval by the appropriate regional governing body in conjunction with the Director General and staff, and only after presentation to the ICA Board.

## **3. Functions of the Singapore Business Office (SBO)**

- 3.1. To coordinate and promote co-operative economic activities, including cross sectoral and interlocking mechanisms for co-operative businesses and other trade related activities;
- 3.2. To serve as the base for the direction and implementation of activities financed and initiated by JCCU, specifically in the field of consumers co-operative development, gender, youth, etc., which activities will be coordinated by the staff person nominated and sponsored by JCCU and stationed in Singapore;  
*\*) It is proposed that a staff member recruited and sponsored by NCUI will support activities relating to gender and youth at the Delhi office. The JCCU coordinator based in Singapore will monitor this work.*
- 3.3. To develop and promote co-operative activities related to the sub-region of South East Asia.

*\*) The other sub-regions (South, West, and Central; East Asia and the Pacific) are presently coordinated through the Regional Office in New Delhi under the general direction and coordination of the Regional Director.*

- 3.4. Regional activities other than those mentioned above will continue to be directed and coordinated through the regional office in New Delhi. Regional Specialized Committees will continue to be coordinated through the Regional Office in New Delhi unless otherwise requested by their respective chairpersons.

#### **4. STRUCTURE of the Singapore Business Office (SBO):**

##### **Physical Structure:**

- 4.1. By October 31, the present Singapore Business Office will be closed. (There will be no penalty for the early closure of the SBO as the owners – NTUC Income – has waived further payment and the penalty clause contained in the Tenancy Agreement)
- 4.2. On November 01, 2001, the SBO will re-open in its new location – within the premises of SNCF and utilizing an office space with 4 workstations in the SNCF office. *(If circumstances require, these dates may be moved to November 14 for closure, and November 15, 2001, for re-opening.)*

- 4.3. SNCF has generously agreed to provide support services to the SBO, including the use of equipment, access to meeting room, limited storage space, etc.
- 4.4. A formal agreement with SNCF will be formulated and signed by the above mentioned dates in item 4.2.

### **Staff Structure**

4.5. The Regional Director, based in New Delhi, will also be in charge of the SBO, spending time in Singapore as required;

4.6. Staff members of the SBO will consist of:

**a. Mr. Juku Ozawa** -- Director, Special Projects (JCCU Coordinator)

*\*) Mr. Ozawa will complete his term in March 2002, and his replacement will take up his responsibilities by April 01, 2002.*

**b. Mr. Romy Villamin** – Director, South East Asia

**c. Administrative Assistant** – It is proposed to fix this position on a half-time basis.

*\*) JCCU covers all salary payments etc. to its Coordinator.*

*\*) The salary of Mr. Romy Villamin is paid partially by JCCU, and partially by his outside employment as a consultant, and in small measure by the ICA. It may also include cost recoveries from projects.*

*\*) The salary of the Administrative Assistant is paid by the SBO.*

## 5. BUDGET (for the year beginning on 1 November 2001)

| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>                                 | US \$            |
|--|------------------|
| Rent   | 5,600.00         |
| Admin Assistant                                      | 11,500.00        |
| Apartment Subsidy*)                                  | 5,200.00         |
| Other operating expenses,<br>Including contingencies | 3,500.00         |
|  | -----            |
|  | <b>25,800.00</b> |
| <br><b>REVENUE</b>                                   |                  |
| SNCF   | 16,700.00        |
| ACFSMC **)   | 10,000.00        |
| JCCU   | 2,000.00         |
|  | -----            |
|  | <b>28,700.00</b> |

\*) Paid to Mr. Romy Villamin as his housing allowance

\*\*) Based on preliminary discussions, to be finalized.

### **Notes to budget:**

The above budget indicates the following:

- a) SBO can operate in its new premises without a deficit;
- b) No funding is required from Geneva or from the Regional Office or from the Domus Trust Fund;
- c) Project activities of the SBO must be financed outside of this budget.

## **5. REVIEW**

The work of the SBO should be reviewed and discussed periodically. The Committee suggests that this be done at least once every two years so that an up-to-date report can be submitted to the Standing Committee and to the Regional Assembly.

### **C. CLOSING STATEMENT**

THE COMMITTEE RECORDS ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO SNCF FOR ITS MAJOR AND CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE SBO, AND TO JCCU FOR THE SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN THIS REGION, AS WELL AS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE AND ESPECIALLY TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS WHICH HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN SUPPORTING JOINT PROJECT ACTIVITIES OF ROAP & SNCF AT THE SBO, AND HOPES FOR THE REALIZATION OF THIS POTENTIAL.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Dr. Yehudah Paz**  
Chairperson

**B.S. Vishwanathan**  
Member

**Akiko Yamauchi**  
Member

*RT/10/10/2001*

**Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting**  
**Kathmandu (Nepal): 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2002**

The following members attended the Standing Committee (SC) Meeting that was held at the Board Room of Soaltee Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kathmandu on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2002 from 16:00 to 19:00 hours:

01. Mr. Mu Li, Vice President, ICA - Chairperson
02. Mr. Ivano Barberini, President, ICA - Special Invitee
03. Dr. Yehudah Paz, member, Israel
04. Dr. S.S. Sisodia, member, India
05. Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, member, Sri Lanka
06. Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Representing Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Singapore
07. Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, Representing Ms. Junko Ito, Japan
08. Mr. Guillermo P. Cua, Representing Mr. Antonio C. Aranas, Philippines
09. Mr. Jong-Chan Lee, Representing Mr. Chung Dae-Kun, Korea
10. Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Development Director, ICA Geneva.
11. Mr. Yu Ning, ACFSMC, Observer
12. Mr. Zhang Wangshu, ACFSMC, Observer
13. Mr. Wen Chunhui, ACFSMC, Interpreter
14. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA ROAP - Secretary
15. Mr. B.D. Sharma, Director (SOWECA), ICA ROAP
16. Mr. Romulo M. Villamin, ICA ROAP SBO.
17. Mr. Juku Ozawa, ICA ROAP SBO.
18. Mr. Jiro Ito, ICA ROAP SBO.
19. Mr. K. Sethu Maddhavan, ICA ROAP. - (Recording)

**Agenda Item 01: Opening Remarks**

The Chairperson, Mr. Mu LI, opened the meeting and welcomed all members and invitees. Mr. Mu Li said "I am very delighted to have all of you together here before the Ministers' Conference. This Ministers' Conference is very important and we have lot of support from the Nepal Cooperative Movement and Government and the ROAP. At this Standing Committee meeting we will discuss some important points in our region. Through the discussion we can get a consensus. I am also delighted to have the ICA President to attend our meeting". He further recalled that a meeting of ICA President and Vice Presidents held in China last March discussed a lot of things there.

After his welcome remarks, Mr. Mu Li invited Mr. Ivano Barberini to give his remarks.

Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President, made a brief account of the work done by the ICA Global Task Force. He said there were 8 candidates for the DG's post and a Consultant Company controlled by cooperatives had been hired to scrutinise/examine their suitability and put before next board meeting. Most probably the next Board Meeting will decide about the parameters for selection

of new DG. He further emphasised that in the emerging context of 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have to think to restructure ICA at global and regional level to be responsive to new realities. Other priorities would be increasing the membership and evolving need based activity portfolio of ICA. Therefore, a long-term view needs to be taken after careful and objective evaluation of happenings in the world and their impact on cooperatives.

**Agenda Item 02: Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Mu Li asked the members whether they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 03: Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the minutes were sent to the members on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2002 and no comments had been received. The minutes were confirmed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 04: Activities Carried out by ICA ROAP in 2001**

**Agenda Item 05: ICA ROAP Work Plan and Budget for 2002**

**Agenda Item 06: ICA ROAP Singapore Office Budget for 2002**

Above three Agenda Items were taken up together with the permission of the Chair. Mr. Lee made a power point presentation on these items. Mr. Lee said that there was no deficit in 2001 in ROAP. However, there would be a deficit of US\$ 46,050 in the SBO which was planned.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia suggested that in order to enable members to formulate their studied comments full information should be supplied to them in advance. Mr. Lee agreed to the suggestion. Mr. Mu Li also appreciated the suggestion and advised the Regional Director to send full information to members in advance.

On a query from Dr. Paz, Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen clarified that the revenue and expenses constitutes the core of the office. Therefore, there was a need to have income to meet the core activities. The projects, supported by the development partners, should not only support activity/programme cost, but also share administrative cost for core staff. The new format of reporting would reflect on the accounting system also.

Dr. Paz said that budget should reflect clearly development (programme) budget and administrative budget.

It was mentioned that the revenue of ICA Domus Trust had increased. On a query from Mr. Kiriwadeniya, Mr. B.D. Sharma said that the expenditure incurred out of Domus Trust funds is made on the basis of objects defined in

the Trust Feed. Besides, the Auditors are also consulted. It was further mentioned that Trust funds could not be spent at discretion.

On financial support from Domus Trust for ICA ROAP programme and activities, Dr. S.S. Sisodia suggested that specific proposals should be first brought to Standing Committee. Request to Trust for such purposes could be made only after the Standing Committee's approval has been accorded.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia also said that various issues and information regarding the programme planning should be placed before the Standing Committee to elicit its guide points and comments. Mr. Lee said that normally there were two Standing Committee meetings in a year and all information could be placed at these meetings.

Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen clarified that most of the development programmes of ICA ROAP are members and development partners driven rather than demand-driven. They are formulated at the planning meeting, keeping in view the opinions of members expressed at different fora and development partners. Normally the Standing Committee endorses the programme.

Dr. Paz said that the input of the Standing Committee should come both at the planning stage and also at implementation. He opined that programme should be demand-driven. He also said that in the next Standing Committee there should be a half-day discussion about the programmes for 2003.

Mr. Kiriwandeniya said that poverty alleviation, peace and good governance are the three important items for inclusion in the work plan for 2003.

Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen said that there should be impact assessment and the new reporting system would give you more information. He also said that generally twice in a year Geneva staff goes to regional offices - one for planning and another for review.

Mr. B.D. Sharma said that the ROAP had formulated Key Result Areas for 2000-2004 which were approved by the Regional Assembly. The work plan was prepared based on these Key Result Areas and the ICA global priorities.

Mr. Ivano Barberini said that in the next board meeting they are going to suggest that a research on what happened in last 10 years and what happens in next 10 years be undertaken.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that there would be a surplus of US\$ 24,500 in the ROAP budget for 2002 subject to availability of consultancy assignments or equivalent amount. If it does not materialise, there will be no surplus. Dr. Paz asked whether the surplus will go to ICA or ROAP.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee also said that there might be no deficit in Singapore Business Office in 2002. The members suggested that there should be more coop trade promotion activities in the SBO.



### **Agenda Item 07: Progress on Purchase of Office Building**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed that so far the progress was very poor. In the previous meeting SC was informed about the purchase of a building in Defence Colony. We checked about the legality of that building. The owner of the building had not cleared it. An informal market study shows that property prices were showing declining trend. With the same level of budget, a good house could be purchased. So new and better options were being identified. These options may include re-negotiations with the owner of Defence Colony building and simultaneously to identify other buildings. The issue would be placed before ICA Domus Trust meeting day after tomorrow to take a final decision in the matter.

### **Agenda Item 08: Preparations for 6<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Ministers' Conference**

Mr. B.D. Sharma explained about the preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Ministers' Conference to be held in Kathmandu from 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The theme of the Conference was "Establishing Relevant Policies and Legislation for Cooperatives in the New Millennium". So far participation from 18 countries was confirmed. There may be 11 ministers in total. Total number of delegates may be 200. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Critical Study was conducted by two consultants in eight countries. The Study would be the basis for deliberations. Mr. Mu Li said that the arrangements for the Conference were very good.

### **Agenda Item 09: Preparations for ICA Regional Assembly in Cebu**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the next Regional Assembly will be held in Cebu (Philippines) in January 2003. The schedule of the meetings are given below:

- |                         |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan    | : | Arrival of participants  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan    | : | Women's Forum/ Specialised Committee Meetings/<br>Research Conference. |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan FN | : | Registration   |
| AN                      | : | Joint inauguration of Regional Assembly and Forum.                     |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan    | : | Coop Forum   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan    | : | Regional Assembly Meeting  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan    | : | Field visits   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan    | : | Departure of participants  |

The members wanted more time to decide on the theme for the Regional Assembly. Dr. Paz suggested that 1<sup>st</sup> day should be devoted to "**what happened in the last 10 years**" and the 2<sup>nd</sup> day should be devoted to "**what is going to happen in the next 10 years in Asia-Pacific Region**". Ms. Akiko said that she agreed with Dr. Paz's suggestion.

It was decided that the Chairman in consultation with the Regional Director would finalise the theme of the Regional Assembly.

Mr. Ivano Barberini said that ICA Board would be suggested to have a small group of 4-5 persons to implement the decision on proposed research study of trend analysis in last 10 years and future perspectives for next 10 years. Two academicians – one from Canada and one from Asia - to be part of ICA Global Group to be constituted by ICA.

#### **Agenda Item 10: ICA Membership from Asia-Pacific Region**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the present membership of ICA ROAP consisted of 52 organisations in 22 countries. The following two organisations were terminated in 2001 – (a) The Malaysian Cooperative Insurance Society (MCIS); and (b) The Sind Government Employees Coop Housing Society, Pakistan. The National Federation of University Cooperative Association (NAFUCA) of Japan was admitted in 2001. New applications for membership had been received from the Cooperative Union of the Philippines and Al-Butain Agricultural Coop Association, Saudi Arabia.

#### **Agenda Item 11: Other Business Matters Arising**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting about the following staff changes:

- The NCUI has seconded one staff member (Ms. Savitri Singh) to work at ICA ROAP from 11<sup>th</sup> April onwards to look after the gender activities.
- Mr. Juku Ozawa will be returning to JCCU by the end of April 2002 after working with SBO for three years.
- Mr. Jiro Ito has joined the SBO from March 2002 onwards.

#### **Agenda Item 12: Date of Place of Next Meeting**

It was decided that the date and place of next meeting be decided by the Chairman in consultation with the Regional Director.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair at 19:00 hours.

## **Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting** **Hong Kong : 15<sup>th</sup> October 2002**

The following members attended the Standing Committee (SC) Meeting that was held at the Hong Kong Gold Coast Hotel, Hong Kong on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2002 from 10:00 to 17:00 hours:

- |     |   |   |                  |
|-----|---|---|------------------|
| 01. | Mr. Mu Li, Vice President, ICA                                    | - | Chairperson      |
| 02. | Ms. Junko Itoh, member, Japan.                                    | - | Vice Chairperson |
| 03. | Mr. Chung Dae-Kun, member, Rep. of Korea                          |   |                  |
| 04. | Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, member, Sri Lanka                         |   |                  |
| 05. | Mr. Guillermo P. Cua, Representing Mr. Manuel Alonzo, Philippines |   |                  |
| 06. | Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, ICA Board Member, Malaysia                    |   |                  |
| 07. | Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, JCCU, Observer                                |   |                  |
| 08. | Mr. Jong-Chan Lee, NACF, Observer                                 |   |                  |
| 09. | Mr. Chang-Sik Park, NACF, Observer                                |   |                  |
| 10. | Mr. Kun-Won Lyu, NACF, Observer                                   |   |                  |
| 11. | Mr. Yu Ning, ACFSMC, Observer                                     |   |                  |
| 12. | Mr. Meng Zhou, ACFSMC, Observer                                   |   |                  |
| 13. | Mr. Wen Chun Hui, ACFSMC, Interpreter                             |   |                  |
| 14. | Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA ROAP                    | - | Secretary        |
| 15. | Mr. K. Sethu Maddhavan, ICA ROAP.                                 | - | (Recording)      |

### **Agenda Item 01: Opening Remarks**

The Chairperson, Mr. Mu Li, opened the meeting and welcomed all members and invitees. Mr. Mu Li said "I am very delighted to have all of you together here at Hong Kong. Ms. Rahaiah Baهران and myself attended the ICA Board Meeting recently held in Lisbon and ICA Board will pay more attention to the views of the Standing Committee and the Regional Assembly. We will discuss some important issues in our region and the preparations of the next Regional Assembly meeting and other events to be held in Cebu in February 2003".

### **Agenda Item 02: Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Mu Li asked the members whether they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

### **Agenda Item 03: Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the minutes were sent to the members and no comments had been received. The minutes were confirmed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item 04: Activities Carried Out/ Planned by ICA ROAP In 2002**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee made a power point presentation on the activities carried out from January to September and the activities planned for October to December 2002. He said that we have tried to spread out the activities in most of the countries served by ROAP.

Mr. Kiriwandeniya said that insurance sector and banking sector should be included in the next year's work plan. Mr. Lee said that ROAP would try to collaborate with ICMIF. Mr. Lee also said that ROAP would pay more attention to trade. For this purpose two studies will be conducted this year. Korea will conduct one study for Japan, China and Korea and the other by Iran for India, Kuwait, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Mr. Mu Li said that ROAP has done a good job in 2002 under the leadership of Mr. Shil Kwan Lee. He further said that the seminars and training courses conducted by ROAP are very useful for the development of cooperatives in the region. He expected more involvement of member organisations for this purpose.

#### **Agenda Item 05: Financial Report for 2002**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the financial report for 2002. He informed the meeting that there would be no deficit at ROAP and SBO for the year 2002.

Mr. Mu Li said that according to the Finance Committee report the financial situation of the ICA is not very good because of historic reasons. ICA has taken some measures by increasing the subscription and paying the subscription in advance. One of the reasons for the deficit is exchange loss when the members pay their subscription in CHF. The Task Force will continue to pay more attention to the financial situation of ICA. At the end of December a Financial Committee meeting will be held. At this meeting the Finance Committee will come up with a clear picture of the ICA's financial position. After the Finance Committee meeting, there will be a partial Board Meeting in January. The decision made at this Meeting will be proposed to the next ICA Board Meeting to be held in Shanghai.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران said that if there is any exchange loss, it should be settled every year. She also said that the contributions from MOs in kind have not been included in the Financial Report.

Mr. Cua said that if we want a strong ICA we should have a strong Regional Office and good networking.

Mr. Lee said that there was no deficit in 2001 in ROAP. However, there was a deficit of US\$ 46,050 in the SBO which was planned.

#### **Agenda Item 06: ICA ROAP Work Plan and Budget for 2003**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the ICA ROAP Work Plan (in sector-wise) and Budget for 2003.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران said that the Executive Committee meeting of the ICA Global Gender Equality Committee was going to hold its meeting in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. She also said that ROAP should officially write to ANGKASA for hosting the Youth Seminar in Malaysia in 2003.

Mr. Yu Ning informed the meeting that ACFSMC in collaboration with ROAP would hold an international trade fair and exhibition in Beijing in October 2003 for three days. About 1,000 participants from 25 countries (including the participants from 31 Provinces in China) are expected to attend. Many cooperative experts will be invited to this trade fair and exhibition. In China there are 54,000 enterprises and they would be able to provide the products needed by our cooperatives.

Mr. Kiriwandeniya said that no activity on micro credit has been included in the Work Plan. Mr. Lee informed the meeting that our activities are mainly donor-based. However, we will try to include micro finance and poverty alleviation. Mr. Cua suggested that information technology is very important and some activities may be included in the next year's Work Plan – may be joint venture.

Mr. Mu Li said that we should try to give more attention to Central Asian countries. So far we have not paid much attention to them.

Some members said that the indirect contributions received from MOs have not been included in the Budget. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that he would report the indirect contributions received from MOs to the next Regional Assembly in Cebu.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee also said that there would be no deficit in ROAP and Singapore Business Office in 2003.

#### **Agenda Item 07: Progress on Purchase of Office Building**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that ICA Domus Trust has acquired a new building in the heart of New Delhi near Diplomatic Enclave at 9 Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. The material used for construction of the building was of very high quality with all modern fittings and lift. The building has been constructed on a plot area of 370 square yards and the built up area is 11,000 square feet consisting of basement, ground, first, second and third floors. For two years we were in a rented building. The short-term deposit of Rupees 50 million has been used for purchase of this building. The Sale-Deed has been registered on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2002 and we have taken possession of the building. From November 2002 we will start functioning from the new building. The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) will now be located in this building.

### **Agenda Item 08: Preparations for ICA Regional Assembly/Coop Forum**

Mr. G. Cua made a presentation on the Cebu events. He wanted to know the number of participants and the programme of the Forum for making necessary preparations. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee agreed to send these to him as soon as possible. A schedule of events to be held in Cebu was also circulated. The following changes were suggested:

- The Standing Committee Meeting will now be held from 17:00 to 19:00 hours on 18<sup>th</sup> February.
- The Executive Committee meeting of the ICA Global Gender Equality Committee will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> February from 09:30 to 12:30 hours.

### **Agenda Item 09: ICA Membership from Asia-Pacific Region**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the present membership of ICA ROAP consisted of 52 organisations in 22 countries. The following organisations have been terminated in 2002 due to non-payment of subscriptions:

- The Fiji Cooperative Union, Fiji.
- The Indonesian Workers' Cooperative Alliance, Indonesia.
- The Coop Blue Square Consumer Coop of Israel, Israel.
- Union of Agricultural Products Coop Societies of Kuwait, Kuwait.
- The Malaysian Coop Insurance Society, Malaysia.
- Mongolian Association of Private Herders' Cooperatives, Mongolia.

The Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP) has decided to rejoin the ICA and made some partial payments.

#### ***Associate Membership of Cooperative College of Malaysia***

Mr. Mu Li informed the meeting that the membership issue of the Cooperative College of Malaysia was going on for quite some time now. In the last ICA Board Meeting held in Lisbon, this matter came up for discussion again. The ICA Board then referred the membership issue of the Cooperative College of Malaysia to ICA ROAP Standing Committee for its decision. The Standing Committee discussed the matter thoroughly and it was decided that ROAP should write to ANGKASA for their opinion.

Since it has been the general practice that we ask our existing members in the countries to seek their views on the application of a new member, RD was requested to write to ANGKASA as soon as possible so that we can inform ICA Geneva accordingly.

### **Agenda Item 10: Review of Cooperative Movements in the Region**

The following members made brief presentation about their cooperative movements:

- Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, Japan
- Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, Malaysia
- Dr. P.A. Kiriwadeniya, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Chung Dae-Kun, Rep. of Korea
- Mr. Guillermo P. Cua, Philippines
- Mr. Mu Li, China

### **Agenda Item 11: Other Business Matters Arising**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that according to the Rules, the Standing Committee has to be reconstituted every two years. According to the practice, the Standing Committee presents a list to the Regional Assembly. At the Regional Assembly meeting held in Singapore in 2000, the Standing Committee was reconstituted.

The meeting decided that ROAP should give this information to all member organisations. The dead line could be end of **January 2003**. The Standing Committee will short-list the members at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> and present the final list to the Regional Assembly on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee also informed the meeting about the following staff changes:

- Mr. Romulo M. Villamin, Director (SEA) has completed his assignment with the ICA ROAP on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2002.
- Mr. B.D. Sharma, Director (SOWECA) has retired from ROAP on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002. Effective 1<sup>st</sup> July he has been appointed as Senior Consultant in ICA Domus Trust.
- The present staff strength of ICA ROAP is eight (8) including deputation from NCUI, NACF and JCCU.

### **Agenda Item 12: Date of Place of Next Meeting**

It was decided that the next meeting of the Standing Committee would be held in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2003 from 17:00 to 19:00 hours.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair at 17:00 hours.

## Annexure - III



## ANNEXURE - III

**ICA ROAP WORK PLAN FOR 2003**

| <b>S.#</b> | <b>Name of the Activity</b>  | <b>Time Frame</b>     | <b>Venue</b>                  |
|------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
|            | <b>Seminars/Workshops/Conferences/Studies</b>  |                       |                               |
| 01         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum.  | 19-20 Feb.            | Cebu                          |
| 02         | 5 <sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly Meeting.   | 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb. | Cebu                          |
| 03         | Development Partners Forum.  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb. | Cebu                          |
| 04         | RCBA Seminar on Finance & Banking.   | 23-24 Feb.            | Cebu                          |
| 05         | Women's Forum  | 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb. | Cebu                          |
| 06         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Regional Workshop on Management of Consumer Coops.                         | July                  | Singapore                     |
| 07         | Regional Youth Seminar.  | August                | Malaysia                      |
| 08         | Trainers Training of Women Leaders   | February              | India                         |
| 09         | HRD Seminar on Financial Coops   | May                   | Sri Lanka                     |
| 10         | Sub-regional workshop on Strengthening Agri. Coops for South-Asia sub-region.              | March                 | Sri Lanka                     |
| 11         | Sub-regional workshop on Strengthening Agri. Coops for ASEAN sub-region.                   | April                 | Indonesia                     |
| 12         | National workshops on Agricultural Coop Development.                                       | May                   | India, Nepal, Bangladesh.     |
| 13         | National workshops on Agricultural Coop Development.                                       | June                  | Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam. |
| 14         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Critical Study on Coop Policy and Legislation.                             |                       |                               |
| 15         | Regional Consultation on Coop Legislation and Policy.                                      | October               | Kuwait                        |
| 16         | Fact finding mission to investigate the existing situation of coops sector in Afghanistan. | March                 | Afghanistan                   |
| 17         | International Forum on Rebuilding of Coops in Afghanistan.                                 | May                   | Iran                          |
| 18         | International Trade Fair and Forum.  | October               | China                         |
| 19         | Trade Union/Coop Top Leaders Conference.   | September             | Singapore                     |

| <b>S.#</b> | <b>Name of the Activity</b>  | <b>Time Frame</b>     | <b>Venue</b> |
|------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|
|            | <b><i>Specialised Committees' Activities</i></b>                                   |                       |              |
| 20         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Asian Cooperative Research Conference.                             | 18-19 Feb.            | Cebu         |
| 21         | Women's Committee Meeting  | 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb. | Cebu         |
| 22         | Consumer Committee Meeting.  | 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb. | Cebu         |
| 23         | Agricultural Committee Meeting.  | 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb. | Cebu         |
| 24         | Meeting of RCBA.   | 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb. | Cebu         |
| 25         | HRD Committee Meeting.   | 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb. | Cebu         |
| 26         | 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ICA Consumer Sub-committee on University/College Coops. | August                | Kuala Lumpur |
| 27         | APHCO Board Meeting and General Assembly.  |                       |              |
| 28         | Standing Committee Meetings.   | Feb/Sept.             | Cebu/KL      |

| <b>S.#</b> | <b>Name of the Activity</b>  | <b>Time Frame</b>                                  | <b>Venue</b>        |
|------------|--|--|---------------------|
|            | <b><i>Training Courses</i></b>   |  |                     |
| 29         | 1 <sup>st</sup> part of the Training Course on Management of Agricultural Coops. | 14 <sup>th</sup> January to 8 <sup>th</sup> March. | India and Thailand. |
| 30         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> part of the Training Course on Management of Agricultural Coops. | 9 <sup>th</sup> March to 19 <sup>th</sup> April.   | Japan               |
| 31         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> ICA-Japan Training Course for Women Leaders.                     | Sep-October  | Thailand and Japan/ |
| 32         | Training Course for Board Members of Consumer Coops.                             | June   | Japan               |
| 33         | Training Program for managers of consumer coops.                                 | September  | Miyagi, Japan       |
| 34         | Training Program for managers of consumer coops.                                 | October  | Tokyo               |
| 35         | ISO Training.  | May  | Singapore           |

**ICA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**  
**Revenues and Expenses Projection for 2003**

| Description  | Amount<br>US Dollars |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Revenues:</b>                                       |                      |
| Contribution from Member Organisations                 | 0.00                 |
| Support from Head Office                               | 50,155.00            |
| Over head covered by programs                          | 92,792.00            |
| Contribution from NACF (Korea)                         | 30,000.00            |
| Registration Fees (RA/Coop Forum)                      | 20,000.00            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>192,947.00</b>    |
| <b>Expenses not covered by programs:</b>               |                      |
| Office expenses (including audit fees)                 | 19,655.00            |
| Administrative payroll                                 | 125,000.00           |
| Communications   | 6,000.00             |
| Travel expenses not covered by programs.               | 30,000.00            |
| Project Development                                    | 10,000.00            |
| Contingency  | 2,292.00             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>192,947.00</b>    |
| <b>SURPLUS</b>   | <b>0.00</b>          |
| <b>Budget of programs to be negotiated-2003</b>        |                      |
| ILO Geneva   | 100,000.00           |
| DID, Canada  | 12,000.00            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>112,000.00</b>    |
| <b>Negotiated (2003)</b>                               |                      |
| MAFF, Government of Japan                              | 549,325.00           |
| Japanese Consumers Coop Union (JCCU)/NFUCA (8,000)     | 99,200.00            |
| Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Govt. of Kuwait | 136,400.00           |
| Ministry of Cooperatives, Government of Iran.          | 30,712.00            |
| AGRITERRA, Netherlands                                 | 83,600.00            |
| Developpement International Disjardins, Canada         | 6,000.00             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>905,237.00</b>    |

## SINGAPORE OFFICE BUDGET FOR 2003

| Description                             | Amount<br>US Dollars |
|---|----------------------|
| <b><u>INCOME:</u></b>                   |                      |
| SNCF, Singapore                         | 16,700.00            |
| ACFSMC, China                           | 10,000.00            |
| JCCU, Japan                             | 2,000.00             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>28,700.00</b>     |
| <b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>                 |                      |
| Office Rent                             | 7,000.00             |
| Office Expenses                         | 6,000.00             |
| Communications                          | 3,500.00             |
| International Coop Trade Fair and Forum | 3,500.00             |
| Travel Expenses not covered by programs | 7,000.00             |
| Contingency                             | 1,700.00             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>28,700.00</b>     |
| <b>SURPLUS</b>                          | <b>-</b>             |

1 US\$ = S\$ 1.80

11th December 2002

# ICA STATEMENT OF COOPERATIVE IDENTITY

## DEFINITION

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

## VALUES

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

## PRINCIPLES

The Cooperative Principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice.

### **First Principle : Voluntary and Open Membership**

Cooperatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

### **Second Principle : Democratic Member Control**

Cooperatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women, serving as elected representatives, are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights [one member, one vote], and cooperatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

### **Third Principle : Member Economic Participation**

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least a part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their cooperatives, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

### **Fourth Principle : Autonomy and Independence**

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

### **Fifth Principle : Education, Training and Information**

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of Cooperation.

### **Sixth Principle : Cooperation among Cooperatives**

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Cooperative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

### **Seventh Principle : Concern for the Community**

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
FOURTH MEETING  
OF THE  
ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Held at  
**SINGAPORE**  
**June 29-30 2000**



**International Co-operative Alliance**  
**Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**  
E-4 Defence Colony [3<sup>rd</sup> floor], Ring Road, New Delhi 110024. India

**MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC  
SINGAPORE: JUNE 29-30, 2000**

**Agenda Item 1:      Official Opening**

The fourth Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held in Singapore on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000. 100 delegates/observers from Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Thailand, Vietnam and ACCU attended the meeting. In addition special invitees from ILO, CCA, DID, CICOPA, AGRITERRA, AARDO also attended the meeting. The list of participants of the meeting is annexed (Annex-1).

Mr. Mu Li, Vice President, ICA, Asia-Pacific, and Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA officially opened the meeting.

Mr. Mu Li said since last meeting in Seoul in 1998 cooperatives suffered a great deal due to economic crisis, but in spite of this cooperatives survived and played a positive role in economic development in respective countries. This fully revealed the vitality of cooperatives and efforts made by all cooperators. He hoped that after our RA meeting in Singapore, cooperatives can see further development and also the cooperatives in our region can have more cooperation among cooperatives.

In his welcome address, Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman, SNCF, extended warm welcome to all those present and said that SNCF was pleased to co-host the Regional Assembly Meeting with ICA ROAP. He said that two years ago when we assembled in Korea for the third RA meeting, our region was in the midst of financial crisis. The crisis had severe impact on the economies of the region and on the various business entities. Cooperative business was also affected in varying degrees. Through the good offices of ICA we had useful exchange of ideas and discussion on the impact of the crisis on our cooperatives and on the strategies to overcome this difficulties. We also discussed the impact of the crisis on our individual members especially those from the lower income groups and shared ideas how cooperatives could help the members to face the difficult time. Today in most parts of the region we have emerged successful from the crisis and economic prospects are improving. But our cooperatives are now faced with challenges of the different kinds. Two days ago we participated in the First Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum and deliberated on the theme "Cooperatives in the New Millennium: Are we Changing?" This topic was timely as our cooperatives have to face a new environment with the emergence of the new economy characterized by globalization, liberalization, increased competition, rapid changes and the advanced technology. Our cooperatives also have to meet the highest expectations of our members and customers. We have to respond to their changing needs. We have to be more innovative in improving the range and quality of our services to meet their needs. We have to use latest technology to improve our efficiency. He hoped that this RA in Singapore would foster a useful exchange of ideas and information and contribute to a better understanding of the challenges of the new economy. He wished all participants a very fruitful discussion, a pleasant stay in Singapore and wished all of them a very successful RA.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA, said the meeting we are going to have today is quite different from the Forum that was attended by well over 300 people, or 500 if we include the Research Conference and other meetings. Today It is only the cooperative family, which is gathered here. We are among ourselves and we have to discuss our future direction. This is, as you know, the statutory business meeting of the ICA for the Asia-Pacific Region. ICA changes its rules to give more of a regional approach, to allow cooperatives in the region to decide among themselves how they wanted their region to develop, to look at the work ICA is doing, to decide future strategy and policy for the region. This is the agenda you have today. Mr. Thordarson hoped that it would be a very productive and fruitful RA.

**Agenda Item 2: Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda, which was updated and circulated at the meeting, was approved and accepted.

**Agenda Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of the 1998 Regional Assembly**

The minutes of the Third Meeting of the RA held in Seoul, Korea, in October 1998, which had been circulated in advance, was unanimously accepted and confirmed by the Meeting without any corrections.

Dr. Yehuda Paz then presided over the meeting.

**Agenda Item 4: Report/Recommendations from the Fourth Meeting of The ICA Executive Council for Asia and the Pacific held in Beijing, October 10, 1999.**

The meeting unanimously approved the minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the ICA Executive Council held in Beijing, China, in October 1999, which had been circulated. The Meeting thus confirms and ratifies the abolishment of the Executive Council as per the recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the ICA ROAP Executive Council.

**Agenda Item 5: Amendments of the Rules of the ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly**

The proposed amendments to Rules of the ICA General Assembly and to the Regional Assembly (Asia-Pacific), which had been circulated in advance to all members, were unanimously confirmed by the meeting without any further corrections.

**Agenda Item 6: Election of ICA Vice President for Asia and the Pacific**

Prof. Ungku A. Aziz took the podium and said that the Standing Committee (SC) at its recent meeting has concluded unanimously to recommend Mr. Mu Li for the post of Vice President of ICA (Asia-Pacific), which was accepted unanimously by the meeting with alround of applause. The meeting confirmed that Mr. Mu Li has full expression of confidence and support of all ICA members in Asia and the Pacific.



**Agenda Item 7: Election of new Officers/Chairperson for the Regional Assembly**

Mr. Yehuda Paz said that the SC at its recent meeting has proposed the names of the following persons of the SC for approval by the RA :

1. Mr. Mu Li, Chairperson
2. Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, Vice Chairperson
3. Ms. Hatsuko Omori, Vice Chairperson
4. Dr. Yehuda Paz, Member
5. Mr. Chung Dae Kun, Member
6. Mr B.S. Vishwanathan, Member
7. Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Member
8. Mr P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Member
9. Mr. Lius Carrillo, Member

The RA approved the above names of the SC as proposed.

Mr. Mu Li then presided over the meeting. He wished that each and every member of the ICA in this region would be more active in participation in the work. He would like to see the newly elected body to play a new role in a consolidated way. Mr. Mu Li then delegated his authority to the following persons, in the spirit of a genuine teamwork:

1. Prof. Ungku A. Aziz                      **Chairperson of the SC & Vice Chairperson of the Regional Assembly**
2. Mr. Tan Kin Lian                        **Vice Chairperson of the SC & Chairperson of the Regional Assembly**
3. Ms. H. Omori                              **Vice Chairperson of SC and the RA**

Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of the SNCF and having been delegated the Chairmanship of the RA, was then requested to preside over the next session of the meeting.

**Agenda Item 8: Progress Report from the Regional Director, and Presentation of the "Strategic Plan of ICA ROAP: 2000-2004"**

A printed progress report of the RD was made available during the Regional Assembly. Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director of ICA ROAP offered a power-point presentation on the ICA ROAP Progress Report. Copies of the ICA ROAP Strategic Plans were also distributed to all participants.

**Agenda Item 9: Remarks by Mr. Mutsutami Harada, President, JA-ZENCHU of Japan**

Mr. Mutsutami Harada, President, JA-ZENCHU of Japan, said: "First of all I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Mu Li for having been re-elected ICA Vice President for Asia-Pacific as well as to the members of the Standing Committee for their elections. I am convinced of their excellent leadership for the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Movement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is extremely significant that the last meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> century of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific is

being held here in Singapore, a city that represents Asia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to exchange views with cooperators of Asia and the Pacific. On the eve of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are increasingly concerned over problems, such as global resources, environment and food crisis. Globalization of economy, on the other hand, threatens to cause cross-border mega competition among businesses, delineating winners and losers with possible consequences of environmental destruction and social unrest.

Faced with these problems, we the Japanese agricultural cooperatives believe that the 21<sup>st</sup> century should be a century of symbiosis instead of competition. Countries, urban and rural societies, businesses, organizations and people should respect each other and share benefits in trying to achieve sustainable economic development and well-balanced social development.

Japanese agricultural cooperatives are actively promoting the movement of three symbioses, which we started three years ago. They are (i) symbiosis with consumers through supply of safe and reliable food, (ii) symbiosis with the next generation through fulfillment of multifunctional role of agriculture, and (iii) symbiosis with Asia through cooperation for the development of agricultural cooperatives in Asia.

At our triennial convention in October this year, we are going to deepen this movement furthermore by confirming the important role of agriculture for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and adopt as our basic policy "the century of agriculture and symbiosis".

Let me say a few words on WTO agricultural negotiations and rule on trade, that can cause decline of agriculture in some countries but prosperity in only certain other countries, is not a fair or an equitable rule.

What is really needed is to establish a trade rule, which is fair and equitable for all, i.e. food importing as well as exporting countries and developed as well as developing countries, so that agriculture of all countries can co-exist. We should not forget that there is no other sector than agriculture where the identity of each country can be strongly expressed. Needless to say, multi-functionality of agriculture, smooth implementation of agriculture policy, diversity in natural conditions, differences in historical as well as cultural backgrounds of agriculture of each country deserve to be considered.

In closing I would like to express my appreciation of Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director of ICA, everyone of ROAP, Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of Singapore National Cooperative Federation for their outstanding efforts for the organization of this epoch-making meeting. Cooperatives are a movement. We must build such a happy world through our movement."

#### **Agenda Item 10: Reports from Specialized Committees**

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture** for Asia and the Pacific was held in Singapore on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2000. Important decisions of the meeting were:

1. Committee felt concerned about the possible negative impact of globalization and WTO policies on small farmers and their cooperatives and called upon ICA ROAP to bring these concerns to forthcoming Agriculture Ministers' Conference convened by FAO in August 2000 in Tokyo.

2. As decided in last meeting, members should take a quick study on Role of Cooperatives in Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture.
2. Committee decided to continue its focus on the role of cooperatives in following areas: - (a) Sustainable Agriculture Development and Food Security, (b) Agriculture & Rural Finance, (c) Agricultural Trade & WTO Policies, (d) Legislative and Institutional Reforms, (e) Capacity Building of Agricultural Cooperatives.

Mr. Deepak Baskota from National Cooperative Federation of Nepal was elected as Chairperson and Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee from National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea as Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

The ICA Consumer Committee held its 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the Mandarin, Singapore, on June 25. Twenty-eight delegates from India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam participated. The meeting was opened by Mr. K. Okayasu, Vice Chairperson, in the absence of Mr. K. Tanaka, who could not attend due to illness. Mr. Kurimoto presided over the rest of the session. The meeting discussed the activities of the Committee and elected its new office bearers for a two-year term. Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Okayasu were re-elected as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively, while Mr. Mohd. Iqbal from Indonesia was elected as the second Vice Chair of the Committee. The Committee meets again in Seoul, Korea, in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly next year.

The ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University Cooperatives held its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Mandarin Hotel, Singapore. Thirty three delegates from 8 countries attended. Besides discussing other important matters, the Committee elected Mr. K. Okayasu, Japan, Chairperson, Prof. Poo Gee Swee, Singapore, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Mohd Iqbal, Indonesia, Vice Chairperson for the next two years. The members of the Committee visited the NTUC Fairprice Co-op Supermarket at Hogan Point, Singapore, on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2000, where they studied the operations of the Co-op Supermarket. The next meeting will be held in Seoul, Korea, in 2001, in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly.

The ICA Regional Cooperative Banking Association (RCBA) held its third meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June at the Mandarin, Singapore. The meeting reviewed the trends in cooperative banking and finance and deliberated on strategies for widening the membership base of RCBA. The meeting also decided to undertake a study to analyze the trends in cooperative banking in Asia and the Pacific and another study on the Role of NGOs in financial sector. Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya of Sri Lanka was elected Chairperson for a two-year term, while the Chairman of Cooperative League of Thailand and Chairman of National Federation of Urban Coop Banks and Credit Societies of India were elected as Vice-Chairpersons. The Committee appreciated the services of the founder Chairperson, Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan.

The ICA Regional Women's Committee had its second meeting at the Mandarin, Singapore, on June 25, 2000. 12 delegates and 41 observers participated at the meeting. Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, chairperson, presided over the session, facilitated by Mr. Juku Ozawa, Secretary. While members made country presentations, the Secretary reported on the activities of the Committee since its first meeting in Seoul, Korea in October 1998. He also presented a work plan for the next two years. The

meeting emphasized the need to appoint contact persons in member organizations and also to get information on cooperative legislation in member countries, which hinders gender equality. The Committee agreed to work closely with AWCF to conduct a survey on the legal situation concerning women's participation. The meeting also suggested that there should be some kind of mechanism for networking between women cooperators within the region. The Committee plans to publish a newsletter at regular intervals, and will be posted on the Website. The meeting re-elected Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Malaysia and Ms. Hatsuko Omori, Japan, as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively. The meeting also elected Ms. Preema Shanti Sooriyarachchi from Sri Lanka as the second Vice Chairperson. The next meeting of the Committee will take place in 2002 during the next Regional Assembly.

**The HRD Committee** organized a Seminar on Interactive Learning and Training for the members of the ICA HRD Committee for Asia and the Pacific in Mandarin, Singapore, on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2000. The seminar featured a presentation by Dr. Mohd Saimi Mohd Sohod, Chief Executive Officer of the United Multimedia Sdn Bhd, a IT company based in Kuala Lumpur, on the concept and mechanism for learning/training environment and the process involved in creating that environment. The seminar is part of the effort the regional HRD Committee to create interest in information technology and its use in cooperative education and training.

**Agenda Item 11: Report from the Second Regional Women's Forum ✓  
And the Asia Pacific Co-operative Research Conference**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Women's Forum on the theme of "Transcending Glass Ceiling and Glass Ladder in the New Millennium" was held on June 26, 2000 in Singapore. Madam Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Senior Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development and Sports, Singapore, was the Guest of Honour at the opening. This forum provided an excellent platform to examine and discuss the roles and opportunities for women in the cooperative movement, to identify the obstacles the women face and came up with possible solutions.

Ms. Lydia Johnson, Regional Manager at the Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, presented the Keynote address on the theme. Panelists Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Mr Paul Sinnappan, Ms. Teresita de-Leon, Mr. Fujioka and Ms. Kamakshi Balakrishnan, gave over-views of the situation in countries of the region. After the panel presentations, delegates were divided into six discussion groups, facilitated by the panelists. The discussions enabled delegates to understand the 'glass ceiling' and 'glass ladder' situation for women and came out with useful suggestions and comments on how to break the glass ceiling and how to make the glass ladder less slippery. The panel session was moderated by Ms. Lota Bertulfo, Coordinator of Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum. The Forum concluded with definite strategies to achieve participant's goals to advance gender equality in their cooperatives and anticipation for the next meeting.

**The First Asian Research Conference** was held in Singapore on 24-25 June, 2000 where twenty-six research papers, representing studies on cooperatives undertaken by researchers in Asia (including one from Europe) were presented. The wide range of scientific inquiry included issues on participative democracy, value-based management, gender and youth, strategies and structures, creating employment, renewal and innovation, and supporting community. The Conference was organized

by the ICA Research Committee for Asia and the Pacific and attended by 57 researchers, cooperative leaders and practitioners. Members of the ICA Research Committee headed by Prof. Roger Spear attended the Conference. Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the Asian Cooperative Research Forum, led the conference. The next Research Conference will be held in 2002 in conjunction with the ICA Regional Assembly meeting.

**Agenda Item 12: Presentation of ILO Recommendation No. 127 ✓**

Ms. Teresita de Leon, Regional Coordinator, ILO-Coopnet/Coopreform informed the meeting that ILO is an inter-governmental organization of the UN system. It was established in 1920 as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations. ILO was founded to advance the cause of social justice and, in so doing, to contribute to the establishment of universal and lasting peace.

ILO now proposes to revise its Recommendation No. 127 which was formulated some time in 1966. It has sent a Questionnaire to cooperative organizations in the Asia-Pacific Region. Based on the answers to the questionnaires received from the cooperative organizations in the region, the ILO will try to revise the Recommendation No. 127. She said except for Japan, no other organization has sent their replies. She requested the ROAP to send this questionnaire to its member organizations in the region and expedite the replies.

**Agenda Item 13: Progress report of, and issues emerging from, the Fifth Cooperative Ministers Conference in Beijing, October 1999 ✓**

Mr. B.D. Sharma at the ICA ROAP presented to the meeting various Resolutions emerging from the Fifth Cooperative Ministers Conference held in Beijing, China, in October 1999. The Ministers' Conference was preceded by a Regional Consultation in Singapore in July 1999. Based on the recommendations of the Regional Consultation, the 5<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Ministers Conference deliberated and formulated specific recommendations in joint declaration on the following issues: (i) Autonomy and Independence, (ii) Legal Existence, (iii) Recognition (iv) Fair Playing Field, (v) Self-Regulation, (v) Capitalization; (vi) Official Development Assistance; and (vii) Networking. There is a great deal of uniformity on the line of thinking of the representatives of the cooperative movement, experts, academicians who participated in the Forum and the visualizations contained in the recommendations of 5<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Ministers' Conference.

The Regional Assembly was also apprised of the follow-up action on the recommendations initiated by ICA ROAP. Important of which are as follows:

- (a) Recommendations have been sent to member organizations and national governments in the region.
- (b) In a number of countries in the region, the reform process of cooperative laws has been initiated. To name a few of them, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Vietnam are currently working on this reform agenda. Most of the countries feel the need for inclusion of the ICIS in the cooperative law.

- (c) ICA ROAP has initiated second critical study of Cooperative Policy and Legislation in Asia-Pacific Region.
- (d) ICA ROAP has set up its Website for better networking with its member organizations.
- (e) Steps have been initiated to set up Cooperative Data Bank and Information Centre.
- (f) Collaboration with International Development Partners, namely, ILO, FAO (NEDAC), ADB is being intensified.

**Agenda Item 14: Report and new issues arising from the First Asia Pacific Cooperative FORUM, June 27-28, 2000** ✓

Mr. Romy Villamin of ICA ROAP said that the First Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum was held in Singapore on 27-28 June, 2000 which was inaugurated by H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, Vice President of Indonesia. After inauguration, the Forum went in to discussion on Panel Themes, which were Cooperative Governance, Cooperative Legislation, Globalization and Innovation.

**ISSUES:**

- i. Professional Management
- ii. Uncertain Board/Management Relations
- iii. Restructuring
- iv. Stagnation
- v. Under-capitalization
- vi. Ennui

**RESPONSE:**

- i. Identity of Cooperatives
- ii. Keeping Focus
- iii. Improved governance
- iv. Government partnership
- v. Alliances – strategic and wholesome relationship between cooperatives, government and private sector.
- vi. Information technology

Participants evaluated the overall conduct and results of the forum. The overall rating was better than average. There was a suggestion that more experts from Asia should be heard in the next forum.

The Forum discussed the following themes :-

- i. Cooperative Governance
- ii. Cooperative Legislation
- iii. Globalization
- iv. Innovation
- v. Capital Mobilization
- vi. Cooperative Trade

**Agenda Item 15: Venue and Date of Next Meeting**

Mr. Luis Carrillo, Chairman, National Confederation of Cooperatives of the Philippines invited the RA to hold its next meeting, the fifth in the series, in Cebu City, Philippines, in the year 2002. The RA was informed that the SC in its next meeting would take a final decision on this matter and inform the members accordingly.

**Agenda Item 16: Remarks/comments by International Partner Agencies**

**Ms. Lynne Toupin, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA)**, said: "This is my first opportunity to come into your region since becoming the CEO of CCA last year. I have good fortune of meeting you all and to get an overview of the issues, challenges and opportunities for the cooperative movement in this region. I bring you warm greetings from the 32 members of the CCA, which is the apex organization for anglophone cooperatives in Canada.

I want to reaffirm the commitment of Canadian cooperators to the many deep and lasting partnerships we have formed with cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

Last year, with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency, CCA directed 40% of its total financial resources for international cooperative development to the Asia-Pacific region. The challenges we face in Canada are: dealing with increased competition in the marketplace; reducing fragmentation within the cooperative movement; affordability and implementation of new technology; adding value to membership; developing new grassroots cooperatives; increasing diversity of the membership and within the elected leadership; and raising awareness about the value and values of cooperatives.... Canadian cooperatives want to see thriving dynamic cooperative sectors in every country. Our long-term vision is worldwide cooperative reality. We have come along way together, but there is more to be done. As globalization trends continue, we know that our fate and the fates of co-ops everywhere are very-more tightly woven together, we are interdependent, fundamentally reliant on mutual interest and working ever more closely to achieve our shared missions. We must go forward into this new millennium together. CCA therefore pledges its continued alliance with the ICA as we move forward together in cooperation.

**Mr. Pierre Giguere, Regional Director, Developpement International Desjardins (DID)** said: "DID is celebrating this year its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It coincides with Movement Desjardins 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. DID is currently present in 27 countries in 4 continents. We intervene in the field of financial intermediation, particularly in savings and credit and increasingly in insurance. Our interventions have been at the outset centered on technical assistance to enhance and at times help create institutional capacities. Over the years, we have moved along with our partners to reflect and become involved in broader socio-economic problematic, such as the Poverty Alleviation Agenda in China and in Vietnam, always looking forward in parallel the need for a partner institution to keep aim on their financial viability. Our aim, part of our mission, is to empower the community (women, farmers, and small entrepreneurs) through access to financial services. To carry out this endeavour: (1) we have high quality experts. We have today staff of over 100 Canadians and 300 national experts from the countries we are working with, (2) we develop innovation methodologies and role, (3) we support innovative research, (4) we develop financial partnership with leaders and organizations. We have some challenging partnership

and presently with the IFC and the World Bank notably. We are involved networking not only on institutional capacity building, but also on the environment, legislation, supervision, notably stimulating and satisfying work being done currently in China, Vietnam with Central Banks of these countries. We are strongly convinced the current situation provides cooperative leaders with great opportunities to which we are looking forward to contribute and participate increasingly. Thanks to the ICA for providing us the opportunities to share ideas on occasions like this to enhance our common understanding and better view of the challenges and the opportunities that Together we are facing.”

**Ms. Teresita de Leon, Regional Coordinator, ILO-Coopnet/Coopreform:**

The Coopnet programme of the ILO is to facilitate the process of development of self-reliant, vibrant, peoples'-oriented cooperatives. An effective approach to develop such cooperatives is by way of capacity-building of HRD institutions, apex level federations and support agencies through networking, at the regional, national and sub-national levels. Through such Networking, cooperative leaders, managers, trainers and development workers can exchange experiences and expertise, draw upon from each other's resources, and get inspiration and fresh ideas from their counterparts, Networking thus can smoothen the process of development of self-sustaining, self-manged and pro-active cooperatives.

Coopreform stands for Inter-Regional Programme for Structural Reform through Improvement of Cooperative Development Policies and Legislation. The programme aims at to assist in the creation of a enabling environment in which cooperatives and cooperative type organizations can develop as viable member-oriented enterprises. The programme adopts a macro-systems approach whereby technical assistance is provided to improve the economic, socio-political and legal framework necessary for the development of cooperatives and cooperative type organizations. Coopreform provides advisory and information services to institutions involved in the process of structural reform of cooperative movements and facilitates an exchange of experiences made in this field in different regions of the world.

**Agenda Item 17: Closing Session, with keynote address by  
Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, President ICA**

Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, President, ICA, said: “At the outset, may I express my deep apologies for my inability to participate in the Cooperative Forum and on the first day of the Regional Assembly due to prior commitments at the General Assembly of the United Nations and elsewhere. As my duties and responsibilities of ICA President and love for Asia and Asian Cooperative Movement compelled me, I am here to be with you, though for a very short period. At the last Regional Assembly we met under the gloom of the financial crisis, which was, shattering Asian economies and putting a big question mark on the suitability of free markets and globalized economy. But this Assembly meets in an environment of hopes and confidences. Asia has started booming again with fast recovery and growth. This has been due to the inherent strength and will of the Asian people whose motto of life is “Never say die even in the Worst situation.”

Recalling my comments at the last Regional Assembly in Korea that we know from the history that cooperatives had always developed and grown during difficult economic situations. Spectacular resilience shown by cooperatives during the financial crisis has proven once again this historical truth. Let us keep it up and



strengthen the cooperative resilience further so as to make cooperatives a bulwark against the future crisis. I take this opportunity to congratulate Asian cooperators and cooperatives for your achievements and resolve to withstand the difficult times.

But challenges are not over. In fact bigger challenges are ahead of us. The spillover impact of globalization that has resulted into increase of poverty, inequities, unemployment is likely to be further intensified with the entry of a number of countries into second stage of economic reforms. A recent study by ILO shows that although globalization has spurred economic growth, it has also brought social tensions and increased poverty. This poses a peculiar challenge before cooperatives, which are expected not only to respond to these problems but also to act as market stabilizing factor. This calls for deepening their concern for community as well as strengthening their competitiveness in the market place. I would, therefore, re-emphasize, as I said in Korea, that if cooperatives were to cope successfully with this situation it must orient their management practices, organizational structure and even behaviour, so as to be more sensitive to the emerging community and market needs. Inculcation of Value Based Professional Management into cooperatives is the need of the hour.

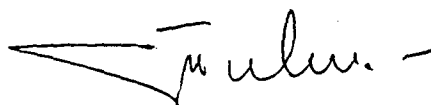
Viewed in this context, organization of Cooperative Forum with the theme "Cooperatives in 21<sup>st</sup> century: Are We Changing" in conjunction with Regional Assembly is very timely and appropriate. I am sure that the Forum would have identified innovative steps to give momentum to the change process in cooperative movement. I must congratulate Mr. Robby Tulus and his team for organizing the Coop Forum, especially to have H.E. Madam Megawati Soekarnoputri, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, to be the Keynote Speaker.

ICA, at global level too, has been making earnest efforts to project the role and potential of cooperatives in mitigating the negative impact of globalization particularly in the fields of employment promotion and social sector development. We have, therefore, deliberately chosen "Employment Promotion" as the theme of this year's 78<sup>th</sup> ICA International Cooperative Day and 6<sup>th</sup> UN International Day of Cooperatives, which fall on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000. ICA Global in its message has called upon the world community to harness cooperative potential in the area of employment promotion. Statistics published by the UN show that livelihood of nearly half of world's population is made secure by the cooperatives. With nearly 800 million individual memberships, cooperatives generate 100 million jobs.

This potential of cooperatives can be further expanded, if the national governments and political leadership create enabling environment for cooperatives through a conducive policy and legislation framework. The Joint Declaration of 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference reflects this. What is now required is to give a concrete shape to these recommendations and visualizations. I am very much optimistic that Regional Assembly will formulate workable parameters and Action Plan to realize this. I wish you all success.

We must give meaning for our lives. So the meaning of life is learning – learning with love and justice to teach, to help people to build a better world... All of us have learnt a little more here today and by learning we are giving all together a meaning for lives. Learning here today we are all doing our best to better world because our children would be very grateful to us.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robby Tulus', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

New Delhi  
4 July, 2000

**Robby Tulus**  
Secretary/Regional Director

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# **Fourth Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly For Asia and the Pacific**

**Singapore : June 29-30, 2000**

## **AGENDA**



International Cooperative Alliance  
Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific  
"Bonow House", 43, Friends Colony (E)  
New Delhi-110065. India.

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**SINGAPORE: JUNE 29-30, 2000**

**June 29, 2000**

**09:30 – 16:00**

- Agenda Item No. 1 :** OFFICIAL OPENING, to be Inaugurated by Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi, the Hon. Minister for Community Development and Sports of the Republic of Singapore.
- Award Presentation.**
- Agenda Item No. 2 :** Approval of the Agenda
- Agenda Item No. 3 :** Approval of the Minutes of the 1998 Regional Assembly.
- Agenda Item No. 4 :** Report/Recommendations from the Fourth Meeting of the ICA Executive Council for Asia and the Pacific held in Beijing, October 10, 1999.
- Agenda Item No. 5 :** Amendments of the rules of the ICA Asia Pacific Regional Assembly.
- Agenda Item No. 6 :** Election of new Officers/Chairperson for the Regional Assembly.
- Agenda Item No. 7 :** Election of ICA Vice President for Asia and the Pacific
- Agenda Item No. 8 :** Progress Report from the Regional Director, and Presentation of the "Strategic Plan of ICA ROAP: 2000-2004"

- Agenda Item No. 9 :** Reports from Specialized Committees
- Agenda Item No. 10 :** Report from the Second Regional Women's Forum and the Asia Pacific Co-operative Research Conference
- Agenda Item No. 11 :** Presentation and adoption of Resolution from Committees (if any)

**Adjournment**

**DINNER RECEPTION:** hosted by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), at the Neptune Theatre Restaurant.

June 30, 2000                      09:00 – 12:00

- Agenda Item No. 12:** Progress report of, and issues emerging from, the Fifth Co-operative Ministers Conference in Beijing, October 1999

Discussion.

- Agenda Item No. 13 :** REPORT and new issues arising from the First Asia Pacific Co-operative FORUM, June 27-28, 2000

Discussion.

- Agenda Item No. 14 :** Venue and Date of Next Meeting

- Agenda Item No. 15 :** Remarks/comments by International Partner Agencies

- Agenda Item No. 16 :** Closing Session, with keynote address by Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President.









**Agenda Item 10**      **Report from the Second Regional Women's Forum and the Asia Pacific Co-operative Research Conference.**

**Agenda Item 11**      **Presentation and adoption of Resolution from Committees (if any)**

**Adjournment**

**Agenda Item 12**      **Progress report of, and issues emerging from, the Fifth Co-operative Ministers Conference in Beijing, October 1999**

*Narrative: The ICA ROAP in collaboration with the Singapore National Cooperative Federation held a Regional Consultation in Singapore from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July which was attended by 88 participants from 19 countries, including six international organizations. The overall aim was to assist member organizations and their governments to foster an enabling environment for cooperatives through proper laws and regulations. The Regional Consultation was preceded by three sub-regional workshops organised for the purpose of getting issues that were relevant and close to the broad constituency of cooperatives across the region. The Consultation, after lengthy and in-depth discussions, proposed a number of relevant recommendations to the 5<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Ministers Conference.*

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference was convened by ICA ROAP – October 11-16, 1999 in Beijing, China. The Government of the Peoples Republic of China and the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives hosted the Conference. 163 participants, including 15 Co-operative Ministers and high ranking government officials and 139 co-operative leaders from 24 countries and 22 participants from eight international organisations (ACCU, AARRO, CCA, CICOPA, DID, FAO, ILO, ICA) participated in the Conference.*

*Based on the recommendations of the Regional Consultation, the 5<sup>th</sup> Co-operative Ministers' Conference deliberated and formulated specific recommendations on the following issues: (i) Autonomy and independence; (ii) Recognition; (iii) Fair playing field; (iv) Legal Existence; (v) Self-regulation; (vi) Capitalization; and (vii) Official Development Assistance.*

*Besides, the Conference also made a specific recommendation on Networking as an important element in maximizing the effectiveness of development assistance. Deliberations of the Conference culminated into a Joint Declaration highlighting a new approach to cooperative development focusing on the need for creation and sustaining an enabling policy and legal environment and the need for establishment of new forms of cooperation between the governments and cooperatives.*

**Emerging issues will be presented and discussed during the Plenary Session.**

**Agenda Item 13      REPORT and new issues arising from the First Asia  
Pacific Co-operative FORUM, June 27-28, 2000**

**Emerging issues will be presented and Discussed at the Plenary  
Session.**

**Agenda Item No. 14:      Venue and Date of Next Meeting**

**Agenda Item No. 15:      Remarks/comments by International  
Partner Agencies**

**Agenda Item No. 16:      Closing Session, with keynote address  
by Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President.**

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**MINUTES OF THE  
THIRD MEETING OF THE  
ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**Seoul, Korea : October 28-29, 1998**



**International Cooperative Alliance**  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
"Bonow House", 43 Friends Colony East  
New Delhi 110 065 (India).

- b) The Regional Assembly shall elect four Vice Chairpersons, giving fair representation to the sub-regions in Asia and the Pacific, and at least one of the four shall be a woman.
- c) The Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons will continue until their successors are elected in the next meeting of the Assembly. They may stand for re-election.
- d) The Regional Assembly shall also nominate one candidate for election as ICA Vice President by the General Assembly. Each member organization, and international member, in the region is entitled to submit nominations. Candidates must have served on one or more governing bodies for at least two years. The Governing Body shall be composed of the ICA Standing Committee, the Regional Assembly, and the Executive Council. If there is no unanimity, voting is to be conducted by secret ballot. The Regional Director shall be responsible for communicating the name or the regional nominee of the ICA Secretariat no less than three months prior to the next General Assembly.

The Standing Committee shall be composed of the ICA Vice President from Asia and the Pacific, the Chairperson and four Vice Chairpersons of the Regional Assembly, and the Chairperson of the Executive Council.

- e) The Vice President shall serve a four-year term and is eligible for re-election if nominated again by the Regional Assembly. He/she may stand for re-election.

The Regional Assembly unanimously adopted the above amendments by acclamation.

With the adoption of the above amendments, Article 5 of the Rules of the Executive Council, which reads:

*“The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Executive Council shall be elected by the members at the meeting of the Executive Council for a period of two years or till the next meeting of the Council whichever is later”*

is thereby abolished.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4 : Approval of Minutes of the 1996 Regional Assembly**

The minutes of the Second Meeting of the RA held in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, in June 1996, which had been circulated in advance, were confirmed by the Meeting without any corrections.

### **Agenda Item No. 5 : Election of Officers**

Mr. Yang Deshou, Chairperson, Standing Committee, said that the Standing Committee at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October discussed and proposed the names of following officers for election after very prudent discussion and full consultation. He believed that these leaders, if elected, will work befitting towards the expectations of members and play an active role in strengthening the cooperative movement of Asia-Pacific Region:

Chairperson : Mr. Won Churll-Hee, Korea

Vice Chairpersons :

- i. Prof. Ungku A.Aziz, Malaysia
- ii. Ms. Teresita M. de Leon, Philippines
- iii. Mr. H. Kohno, Japan
- iv. Mr. Yehuda Paz, Israel

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, India, will continue to be the Chairperson of the Executive Council until the next Regional Assembly in the year 2000.

The Chairperson invited nominations from the floor, if any. The President of NCC from Sri Lanka was nominated by the delegate from Bangladesh, and another nominee from Kuwait was nominated by the delegates from Kuwait. The Chairperson explained that in the spirit of democracy he would like to seek the approval from the Assembly to add these nominations to the list prepared by the Standing Committee. There being no support from the floor to approve the additional nominations, the RA gave standing support to the above list, as proposed by the Standing Committee, and the list was unanimously approved by acclamation.

On being elected Chairperson, Mr. Won Churll-Hee, said that he was honoured to be the Chairperson and that he will try to do his best to conduct the meeting successfully. He also thanked the outgoing Chairperson, Royal Prof. Ungku Aziz for his excellent Chairmanship at the Assembly.

### **Agenda Item No. 6 : Report from the Executive Council**

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairperson, Executive Council, said that he took over the Chairpersonship from Mr. Yang Deshou in Chiangmai, Thailand, in 1997. He further mentioned that "it has been our endeavour to build up integral relationship between Executive Council and ICA ROAP so as to enhance its effectiveness to serve the member organizations in the Asia-Pacific Region so that they can meet the emerging challenges of market economics. It was its role to operationalise the Co-operative Identity Statement and to have an objective assessment of positioning of cooperatives through workshops and cooperative Think Tank Consortium. The ICA ROAP has made remarkable initiatives to serve members in this region, and thereby strengthen the cooperative movements."

He informed the RA that the next meeting of the Executive Council will take place in Beijing at the time of the Ministerial Conference in October 1999.

### **Agenda Item No. 7 : Report from the Regional Director**

The Regional Director, Mr. Robby Tulus, circulated his report in the form of a printed booklet. To make it more effective, his report to RA was made by way of a Power Point presentation. He said that the two years covered by this report saw a number of absorbing realities in this region, and also notable shifts within the ICA ROAP.

In short, he mentioned that a paradigm shift has taken place within ICA ROAP. "Focus on focusing" will continue in earnest to bring more business results through the provision of tangible and practical services to members, while at the same time strengthening our co-operative identity.

Before proceeding with the item on "development chronology", ICA ROAP's RD mentioned the invaluable support received from member organisations in this region, ICA Board members from Asia-Pacific, President Roberto Rodrigues, Vice President Yang Deshou, Director General Bruce Thordarson and all HO staff in Geneva. The support received constitutes a tremendous boost that has made the shift in paradigm possible. He then proceeded to describe the results achieved in the Policy front, the Development front, and the Management front.

### **Agenda Item No. 8 : Reports from the Specialized Committees**

The Chairpersons/Vice Chairpersons/Secretaries of the Specialized Committees on Agriculture, Consumer, University Coops, APHCO, Fishery, HRD, ICBA, Women, CICOPA, and Research reported on the recent meetings of the various specialized committees held in Seoul, Korea in October 1998. A summary of their reports are attached (Annex-2).

At this point the Chairperson, Mr. Won Churl-Hee, handed the Chair to Dr. Yehudah Paz.

### **Agenda Item No. 9 : Adoption of new Constitutions**

Dr. Paz chaired the Assembly meeting, and proceeded with Agenda Item 9. Upon clarifications of some more amendments made in the Constitution by the respective Committees, the RA duly adopted and approved the constitutions of the following Specialized Committees :

- i. Women's Committee
- ii. Housing Committee
- iii. Regional Cooperative Banking Association
- iv. Fisheries Committee

The RA also agreed to change the words "Chairman/Vice Chairman" in all constitutions of various Specialized Committees with "**Chairperson/Vice Chairperson**".

#### **Agenda Item No. 10 : Report from the Special Workshop**

Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Deputy Regional Director, ICA ROAP, presented the report of the Special Workshop on "**Agriculture/Consumers/Fisheries Strategic Alliance**" held on 27<sup>th</sup> October in Seoul, Korea. He said that the Workshop was attended by 50 participants which also included two international organizations. It was considered an important workshop because it was for the first time in the ICA's history in this region that three committees joined together to discuss important issues. The workshop recommended, inter alia, to organize more activities to exchange information between consumer, agriculture and fishery; exchange information among members in these three sectors; identify, formulate strategies and directions for this type of alliances in the future; ROAP to select and promote successful experiences in this region from the producer sector, agriculture sector and fishery sector; to make more joint ventures for international trade and technology transfer.

#### **Agenda Item No.11 : Report from the Regional Women Forum**

H. Rahaiah bt. Baheran, Chairperson, presented the report to the Regional Assembly on the 1<sup>st</sup> ICA ROAP Regional Women's Forum for Asia and Pacific held on 26<sup>th</sup> October at the NACF Agriculture Cooperative College in Seoul, Korea. A total of 130 women and men representing 19 cooperative organisations from 12 countries participated in this landmark and historic event.

The Forum recommended to the RA that ICA ROAP should take necessary action to ensure the participation of women in all specialized bodies, organize Regional Women's Forum in conduction with the Regional Assembly, assist the member organisations in different countries to lobby for positive amendments to cooperative laws and bye-laws to enable more participation of women in decision-making in cooperatives.

#### **Agenda Item No. 12 : Introduction of the Draft Guidelines/Best Practices of the ICA Co-op Identity Statement**

At the request of the Chairperson, Prof. Ian MacPherson, Dean of Humanities, University of Victoria, Canada, presented a paper entitled "**Principles to Practice : From Manchester to Seoul Through Jaipur**" at the RA. He said that the Identity Statement was a necessary step so that the international movement could clearly establish its unique role for three reasons. First, the need to project, not least to cooperative leaders and members, but also

others, most particularly government officials, a clear understanding of the nature of cooperative uniqueness. Second, to distinguish cooperatives clearly from the private sector. Third, cooperatives have a clear understanding of their uniqueness so they could broaden out or leverage their influence, not only with each other, but also, with appropriate safeguards, with other organisations, public and private.

In Asia Pacific Region, the starting point for the development of appropriate practice has become concentrated upon the importance of values-based professional management.

Member-organisations are being requested to point to this paper as an important guideline for best practices in the implementation of the ICIS, in accordance with the prevailing circumstances and conditions in their respective countries.

#### **Agenda Item No. 13 : Presentation and adoption of Resolution from Committees**

The RA approved and adopted the Resolution of Cooperatives in Achieving the Food Security, which was earlier adopted by the Agriculture Committee, Resolution of Fishery Committee and Women's Forum Resolution. These Resolutions are annexed (Annex-3).

These Resolutions have been addressed to the ICA Regional Structure and regional framework and to the member-organizations of the region for their adoption. We also take upon the task of bringing them to our cooperative organisations and movements and to making every effort to see that they become part of the framework of reference for the activities and programmes or form part of operation of cooperatives in all the countries of the region.

#### **Agenda Item No. 14 : Venue and Date of Next Meeting**

Mr. Tan Kin Lian, delegate from Singapore, and Chairman of the Singapore National Cooperative Federation, invited the RA to hold its next meeting, the fourth in the series, in Singapore in the year 2000. The RA thanked the delegate from Singapore for the invitation and accepted the invitation.

#### **Agenda Item No. 15 : Information about the Fifth Co-operative Ministers Conference in Beijing, October 1999**

At the request of the Chairperson, Mr. Yang Deshou (China) said that the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC), entrusted by the Government of China, will host the Fifth Co-operative Ministerial Conference for Asia and the Pacific Region, from 11-16 October 1999 at Friendship Hotel, Beijing China. The theme of the conference would be "***Sustainable Development of Cooperatives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*** –



## ***Enhancing Cooperation between Government and the Cooperative Movement in the spirit of Partnership***

He said: "Since the last Ministerial Conference, the economic and social environment in Asia and the Pacific Region has witnessed dramatic changes. The questions of how cooperatives can positively contribute to the economic and social development in every country and help the laborers of the middle and lower strata of the societies to gain benefits and how to foster the government's concern over and support to the cooperative movement and strengthen the alliance of and cooperation among cooperatives in different countries have become important issues of the day facing the cooperative movement in Asia and the Pacific region. The cooperatives in China, in the process of transiting from the socialist planned economy system to the socialist market economy system, are also encountering numerous problems and challenges. It is our hope that you come to Beijing to exchange experiences of development and discuss about the strategies for rejuvenating the cooperative movement in the region so that the cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific region can enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century vigorously. We understand that ICA ROAP will organize sub-regional workshops and a Regional Consultation to address pertinent issues prior to the Ministers' Conference itself."

### **Agenda Item No. 16 : Co-operative Open Forum**

Explaining the rationale of the Co-operative Open Forum, Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, said : "In an effort to provide more value-added services to members, and in our quest for effective networking and collaborative strategies with UN and multilateral agencies, we are extremely pleased to receive such a positive response from the ADB and UN organizations in their willingness to share their views and insights about the "impact of the economic crisis in Asia" (which, as well know, have also developed into a social and psychological crisis as the economic situation worsened or is continuing to linger with no signs of abating soon). Therefore, as the economic situation in Asia is becoming increasingly uncertain, especially as these economic ills have now already spilled over to Russia and other regions in the world, people begin to seek collective security rather than just individual freedom. While political solidarity gains prominence at this point, it is likely to be short-lived once the economy stabilizes itself. But the trend is paving the way for more transparency and want for consensus building, which establishes a positive norm and safeguard against future misconduct and corrupt practices (in Indonesia it is know as CCN: collusion, corruption, nepotism). The dynamic shift towards more openness and creative group action presents a good opportunity for co-operatives to capitalize on these trends and henceforth consolidate themselves in order to become the best alternative for people's own development. In this way they can turn existing markets to members' advantage, and utilize management tools to provide best services to their members."

Against this background and rationale, the contributions from ADB, UN-ESCAP, FAO and ILO will be invaluable to ICA ROAP's efforts to chalk out future plans to better serve its members.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA, extended greetings on behalf of the ICA to the Co-operative Open Forum. He explained about the major advancements now being made with the UN organisations such as FAO, HABITAT, and notably with ILO as our longstanding partner. President Roberto Rodrigues also met with the DG of FAO in Brazil, following which a visit in Rome by ICA President yielded positive results, including a MOU. Work is also intensifying to link up more closely with the WTO in Geneva.

Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, President, ICA, in his Opening Address, said : "... there is no reason why co-operative cannot survive and thrive, even in the face of difficult economic conditions which we find around the world. Indeed, we know from history that co-operatives have always developed and grown precisely when economic conditions are difficult, for the simple reason that this is when they are most needed by ordinary people. In most Asian countries co-operatives have strong roots, and their structures are sufficiently strong that they are not going to be blown away by the winds of recession. However, for co-operatives to cope successfully with this challenge, I believe that we need to make changes in our behaviour."

"The time has passed when co-operatives were a third way for socio-economic growth, occupying the space between capitalism and socialism. We have now entered a different era. The failure of socialism, on one side, and the inability of capitalism to solve social problems on the other side, have created a certain identity crisis for co-operatives."

"Many new ideas about co-operative management have recently been discussed both among co-operative leaders and in the academic world, and many new innovations have been introduced. I think there is one essential quality of good management today—the ability to take decisions quickly. This is of course a sensitive area for co-operatives, given our attachment to consultation and democratic decision-making. But if members have to be consulted every time an important decision is needed, we are bound to have delays.....The legitimate co-operative leader must be prepared to make changes among his other qualities."

"We also need change in order to promote amalgamations and mergers among co-operatives. There is no rule which says that co-operatives must be big in order to be successful.....The main idea is to add value through horizontal and vertical integration. Mergers are not the only way. Promoting strategic alliances within similar sectors is another way of benefiting members..... Professionalisation of co-operative management is another essential point."

"We must invest in a positive image of our movement, raising the banner of social responsibility which is ours – in the areas of the environment, food security, income distribution, the fight against unemployment. These are

issues of concern to society, and it is good for our image to be associated with them. Similarly, we should not hesitate to support governments when they adopt good policies in these areas”.

“All these issues lead to the conclusion that, today more than ever, co-operative education is essential. Education is needed at all levels – leaders, managers, members – in order to understand clearly our difference, in order to be proud that we are the best. Above all, education must be for young people and women. Without them, our victories will be temporary and we will have no future”.

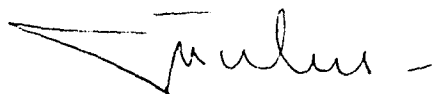
“If we are able to accomplish everything I have described, there is no doubt that our co-operatives will flourish and will increase their market shares”.

After the above introductions, the following papers were presented to RA by speakers from ADB, UN/ESCAP, ILO and FAO and discussions took place:

1. “Lessons drawn from the Asian Economic Crisis, an ADB Perspective” – Mr. Lee Jung-Soo, Chief Economist, ADB.
2. “The Impact of the Asian Economic Crisis – an UN/ESCAP Perspective” – Mr. Kiran Pyakuryal, Chief of Rural Development Section, UN/ESCAP.
3. “The Impact of the Asian Economic Crisis : an ILO Perspective” - Mr. Krishan K Taimni, Regional Coordinator for Asia-Pacific of ILO Coopnet.
4. “The Impact of the Asian Economic Crisis : an FAO Perspective” - Mr. W.I. Khan, Adviser, FAO.

The Speakers presented their excellent analysis on the respective subjects pertaining to the Asian Crisis. Four delegates, one from each Sub-region, were invited to give their impromptu/reactions/responses to the presentations made by the above speakers. These responses, ranging from full support and counter-statements to provocative questionings, elicited a constructive debate during the Plenary Session. Papers of the four Speakers are annexed (Annex-4).

The meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



**Robby Tulus**

Regional Director/Secretary  
ICA ROAP