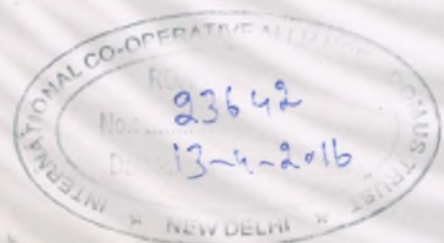




International
Co-operative
Alliance
Asia and Pacific



Annual Report 2013



ICA Asia and Pacific ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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Message

Message from the President

I am happy to present the ICA-AP Annual Report of 2013, an action packed year! This year, we successfully completed as many as 22 activities in the areas of capacity building, lobbying and advocacy that covered 750 co-operators from 18 member countries.

In the face of economic recession, globalisation, cut throat business competition and poverty, our aim is to help co-operatives generate sustainable livelihood and achieve inclusive development. The diversity of the Asia-Pacific region poses a challenge to uniform cooperative growth. We need to work hard to assist our members in achieving their socio-economic goals by providing need-based services through participatory activities.

We are focused on creating an enabling environment by advocating for appropriate policies and laws to support the growth of co-operatives. It was a proud moment for me to inaugurate the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to address the legal issues involved in governance of Primary Co-operatives. The Resolutions adopted by the

conference will go a long way in making primary co-operatives independent and robust.

In order to expand our services to members, we opened a Business Office in Kuala Lumpur. The office will help to increase business interactions between co-operatives and provide technical and managerial assistance to all members in the region.

We are committed to serving our members in achieving their goals and will continue working towards gender mainstreaming, inclusion of youth and good governance practices to promote growth.

I am grateful to all our Board Members, Member Co-operatives and Stakeholders for their continued support. I would like to thank the Regional Director and staff for their hard work in achieving our goals.

Li Chunsheng
President
International Co-operative Alliance
Asia and Pacific



Report

Report of the Regional Director

It gives me great pleasure to present the ICA-AP 2013 Annual Report on behalf of my predecessor Dr. Chan Ho CHOI. Dr. Choi retired as Regional Director in March 2014 after more than four years of exemplary service to the Asia-Pacific Region. We are grateful to him for the tremendous work he has done to grow and diversify the co-operative movement in Asia Pacific.

During 2013, the ICA-AP regional office continued its tradition of co-operation and collaboration. The office organised workshops, seminars and conferences with members and in partnership with governments and stakeholders. The trainings and workshops on promotion of trade, agriculture and management of consumer co-operatives, to name a few, were done with an eye to include women and youth, advance communication channels and build network among members. All the initiatives were focused towards the goal of positioning co-operatives as builders of sustainability.

A major highlight of the year was the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference held in partnership

with the Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission and the Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This year, in order to enhance interest in co-operatives and in the work of ICA, participants were invited from Lao, Cambodia and Maldives to take part in various activities.

The opening of the Malaysian Business Office, we hope will help in providing more services and activities to our members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their active participation, the Board for its sage guidance and staff at the Regional Office for their dedicated service.

Balasubramanian (Balu) G. Iyer
Regional Director
International Co-operative Alliance
Asia and Pacific

Vision & Mission



Vision

To be prized as the organisation of reference which provides an effective and efficient global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about co-operatives.

Mission

The International Co-operative Alliance unites co-operatives worldwide.

It is the custodian of co-operative values and principles and makes the case for their distinctive values-based economic business model which also provides individuals and communities with an instrument of self-help and influence over their development. The ICA advocates the interests and success of co-operatives, disseminates best practices and know-how, strengthens their capacity building and monitors their performance and progress over time.

Year at a Glance

- i. 750 women and men co-operators from 18 countries took part in 22 activities spread over 10 projects.
- ii. 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- iii. ICA-AP Business Office opened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- iv. Completed ICA-AP study on, "Bye Laws of Primary Co-operative Societies".
- v. Field tested the first draft of the "Resource Guide for advanced training of co-operatives on entrepreneurship development of women and gender equality."
- vi. Seminar on international trade among co-operatives in the region held in China.
- vii. ICA President, Dame Pauline Green visited members in India.
- viii. ICA-AP President, Mr. Li Chunsheng visited ICA AP office and Indian members.
- ix. Director-General of ICA, Mr. Charles Gould visited ICA-AP office and members in Korea.



Women working in a vegetable processing center in Japan



Participants in the gender training program during pilot testing of the Advanced Resource Guide



ICA-AP staff visits Mongolian Co-operatives



A photograph during the study visit to a primary coop in Mongolia

Executive Summary

In order to step up implementation of the 5 priority themes identified in the ICA Blue Print for a Co-operative Decade, ICA-AP organised several events focused on increasing participation within membership, capacity building of members as well as co-operative institutions, preserving the co-operative identity, ensuring supportive frameworks for co-operative growth and securing reliable co-operative capital while ensuring member control.

1. Elevating participation within membership

In order to increase interaction among members and enhance their capacity to actively participate in the business of their co-operatives, ICA-AP conducted several activities with members from the region.

- i. Continued collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan; National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF), Korea; All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) China to implement innovative projects.
- ii. Strengthened communication and information sharing with members through newsletters, reports and website.

2. Sustainability

Capacity building of members and co-operative institutions is necessary to make co-operatives sustainable business organisations. At the same time, it is essential to increase participation of women and youth. ICA-AP conducted trainings, workshops and seminars to increase the capacity of all stake holders, especially women and youth.

- Training of coop managers and leaders for development of consumer co-operatives.
- Training and workshop for enhancing the role of women in co-operative business.
- Conferences and meetings for enhancing participation of youth in co-operative development.
- Training, workshops, study visits for fostering core leadership in agriculture co-operative and safety and quality management for farm products for enhancing income of the farmers.
- Workshops and Seminars for human resource development in co-operatives.
- Seminar for promotion of international trade among co-operatives in the region.

3. Identity

The co-operative business is based on unique principles and values. It is a business with difference wherein members are owners and work for collective benefit and not for individual profit.

The Board of ICA-AP is fully aware of the need to keep and promote the unique identity. The regional board meetings deliberated upon governance issues which help members in organising/identifying authentic co-operatives based on the identity and discouraging co-operatives that do not follow ICA principles and values.

The new ICA COOP marque was launched in Cape Town, Africa during the ICA General Assembly in November 2013. There were four options of the co-operative marque for the Asia Pacific region to choose from and these were circulated to all members. Of the 20

responses (12 countries, 20 members) received, an overwhelming majority opted for the marque Option 1b (see section on New COOP Marque).

4. Ensuring Supporting Legal Frame Works

The 1st Asia Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference was held in November in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 10-11 December 2013. The ICA-AP study on, "Bye Laws of Primary Co-operative Societies" was commissioned and presented at the Conference.

5. Securing Reliable Co-operative Capital

Reliable capital is the base of any business. However, in case of co-operative business, securing reliable capital is more of a concern as it is a collective business and risk taking capacity among members is not so strong. In line with the values of self-help and solidarity, members should generate their own funds and not invest in risky ventures. The co-operatives should be made aware of reliable investment streams and be vigilant in

safeguarding the interest of members in case they accepted investment from outside of co-operatives.

ICA-AP conducted several capacity building programs to enhance the capacity of stakeholders to create wealth through co-operative business. ICA-AP collaborated with several members in the region to generate capital for implementation of its various activities. It also extended support to members who required financial assistance in implementing their projects. Besides financial capital, skilled human capital is also very important. Therefore, serious efforts need to be made for inclusion of women and youth in the co-operatives to make it an inclusive organisation.

ICA-AP members contributed generously to support members from co-operatives in the Philippines who were devastated by typhoon Haiyan.

In order to promote trade among co-operatives, a seminar was held in China.

□



Participants of the ICA-Japan Training Course at the Direct Sales Shop of JA Enshu-Chuo

Highlights

New COOP Marque

The new ICA COOP Marque was launched in Cape Town, Africa during the ICA General Assembly in November 2013. On the day of the launch of the marque, Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA said,

“This new brand or identifier that we have produced, is something that we believe there is a real thirst for around the world and has been for some time. When we had the UN logo, everybody around the world used it.”

There were four options of the co-operative marque for the Asia Pacific region to choose from and these were circulated to all members. Of the 20 responses (12 countries, 20 members) received, an overwhelming majority opted for the marque given below.



Mr. Charles Gould, Dame Pauline Green and the Regional Director of ICA-Americas at the launch of the new Co-op Marque in Cape Town, South Africa.

1st ASIA PACIFIC CO-OPERATIVE REGISTRARS' CONFERENCE

Theme: Sound Tuning of Co-operative Law, Policy & Regulation and Primary Co-operative Bye-Laws

The 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference on the theme, **'Sound Tuning of Co-operative Law, Policy & Regulation and Primary Co-operatives Bye-Laws'** was held on 10-12 December 2013 in Kuala Lumpur co-hosted by the Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission (MCSC) and Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA).

Co-operative Registrars are the central and very important Government Authorities who are responsible for formation, development, amalgamation and dissolution of cooperative societies especially in the South Asia region. Therefore, conferencing among

context, the objectives of the Conference were multi-functional:

- To review and follow up on the progress of action taken on the Declaration and Recommendations of the last Co-operative Ministers' Conference
- To address legal, policy and regulatory issues impacting overall governance and supportive measures for co-operatives in their respective countries
- To share experiences of countries and best practices in respect of the concerned areas of co-operative development.



The delegates with H.E Dato' Hasan bin Malek, Honourable Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Government of Malaysia

Registrars of various countries is the best instrument to carry out the mandates given by the Co-operative Ministers' Conference and to build better co-operative system together with the co-operative apex organizations of their respective countries in the region.

The Conference was mandated by the 10th ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly held in Kobe, Japan on 29 November 2012, in order to address legal, policy and regulatory issues impacting over all governance and functioning of Co-operatives in the region. Given this

With the above objectives, the Conference deliberated on co-operative governance, experience sharing including best practices so as to arrive at a common understanding of main issues – legal and practical for preparation of bye laws of primary Co-operatives in a manner consistent with the ICA Statement on Co-operative Identity and to consider common guidelines for adoption in the conference on framing of bye laws of primary co-operatives.

The owner of the Conference, Registrars of Co-



(l-r) Dr Chan Ho-Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP; Dato Hj. Abdullah, President, ANGKASA; H.E. Dato Hasan Bin Malek, Hon'ble Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism; Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, Vice-President, ICA-AP and Dato Hj. Nik Ali Bin Mat Yunus, Executive Chairman, MCSC, at opening the Conference

operatives from 7 countries, representatives of seventeen ICA-AP member apex co-operatives and three international organisations – International Labour Organisation (ILO), Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) and International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Co-operatives (CICOPA) participated fully and their contribution has been of immense value to the Conference.

The participation of the H.E Dato' Hasan bin Malek, Honourable Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Government of Malaysia; Emmanuel S. Santiaguell, Chairperson, Co-operative Development Authority of Philippines; Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Vice Chairperson of the ICA Asia and Pacific Board and Datuk Hj. Nik Ali Bin Mat Yunus, Executive Chairperson, Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission and around 200 co-operators

representing the co-operative movement made the Conference a broad based conclave on the subject of bye laws taken up for the first time by the ICA Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) as a strategic issue for co-operative development. The Regional Director of ICA AP drew the attention of the Conference to the System Elements in 'Building Enabling Legal and Policy Environment for Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific' highlighting basic principles, institutions of governance and their inter relationships for building this environment conducive to growth of co-operatives. This constituted the framework of the proceedings of the Conference.

The findings of the study on bye laws of primary co-operative societies in the region formed the base paper for deliberations of the Conference. Delivering the inaugural address, the Honourable Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Malaysia informed the Conference that the Government of



(r-l): Mr. Hyungsik Eum, CICOPA; Mr. Maurizio Bussi, Director, ILO; Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, CEO, ACCU and Hon'ble Registrars of Co-operatives, Mr. W.H. Karunarathana, Sri Lanka; Mr. Low Puk Yeong, Singapore; Dr. Emmanuel M. Santiaguel, Philippines; Mr. Kedar Newpane, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Nepal

Malaysia has accorded high importance to the co-operatives as a sector balancing market based economic activities under capitalism and state sector taking into account the social impact of globalisation which necessitated a clear separation as well as simultaneous and harmonious growth of agencies and sectors influencing the economy. This is in line with the Vision-2020 document to make Malaysia a developed country by providing its citizens opportunities for growth in all spheres. Malaysia is keen to expand social co-operatives as distinct from co-operatives engaged purely in business activities as a means to maximise socio-economic benefits blending concern for community with economic progress.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Vice Chairperson - ICA Asia and Pacific and President, National Co-operative Union of India, gave an overview of the co-operative sector in India highlighting its huge coverage in the form of 600,000 co-operatives with 230 million members in

diverse sectors. He also mentioned that in Asia Pacific region, the enactment of Co-operative Code 2009 in Philippines containing the seven ICA Principles of Co-operative Identity and laying down elaborate rules and procedures for specialised co-operative activities in 20 sectors, e.g. agriculture and fisheries, the Co-operative Amendment Act 2009 of Bhutan and the co-operative policy reforms measures in Sri Lanka, inclusion of the Right to form co-operatives as a fundamental right in the list of Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India, the Co-operative Development Plan 2011-2016 of Philippines, the Iranian Plan to raise the share of the Co-operatives in the national GDP from the present 9% to 25% by 2020, the Japanese Basic Plan for food and agriculture and rural areas for ensuring food security and the important role assigned to co-operatives in the national effort must be viewed as outcomes of the advocacy of ICA-AP.

□

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

Adopted on December 11, 2013

Whereas, the ICA-Asia and Pacific has been urging its members and national Governments through various forums such as the Co-operative Ministers' Conference especially, the Joint Declaration of the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, Bangkok - 2012, that called upon countries to initiate changes in co-operative laws and policies to achieve the objective in creating the legal and policy environment that is conducive to the development of co-operatives in accordance with the principles embodied in the ICA Statement on Co-operative Identity (Manchester - 1995) and that, in pursuance of the aforesaid Declaration, the Regional Assembly of the ICA-Asia and Pacific, Kobe - 2012 decided to convene a Conference of Registrars of co-operative societies of the region in Malaysia in 2013 to deliberate on the making of by-laws by primary co-operative societies - viewed as a 'strategic issue' with the objective of making the process transparent and participatory with active participation of women and youth, and attaining financial sustainability while exploring new areas of co-operative businesses and that, we, the participants from sixteen countries deliberated on the legal, policy and management issues, taking note of the positions obtained from the region, and while reaffirming the autonomous and voluntary character of co-operatives and the co-operative principle of 'concern for the community', hereby resolve,

1. that ICA-Asia and Pacific members and representatives of Governments will work earnestly in close co-ordination to review the existing provisions in co-operative laws of their respective countries relating to the formulation of by-laws and make the process truly participatory;
2. to increase the participation of women and youth in the overall functioning of Co-operatives to ensure inclusive participation and social cohesion;
3. to incorporate systems and procedures in by-laws to ensure financial sustainability of co-operatives by introducing prudential norms of management designed to help the members to


avoid risky ventures and to improve and diversify their businesses while achieving their social, cultural and economic well being in a manner consistent with the co-operative principles;

4. to recommend a facilitative role for the concerned co-operative apex organisation in providing expert advice in the preparation of by-laws and institutionalise such roles of the co-operative apex organisation by proposing suitable legal measures and further recommend a mechanism of organising national conferences to deliberate on legal, policy and management issues concerning the co-operatives in their respective countries to enable co-operatives to evolve towards a higher and sustainable growth path;
5. to encourage the formation of a parliamentary network to support the efforts of the Registrars/Regulators in establishing a responsive legal and policy framework;
6. to consider the indicative by-laws presented in the Conference, an adaptive approach of making of by-laws which allows a responsive mechanism to meet local needs and situations to be adopted rather than the prevalent practice of 'adopting' model bylaws, to appropriately provide a practical, legal and functional framework for primary co-operatives;
7. to invite the ICA-Asia and Pacific to follow up the matter of reforming the process of making by-laws with members and respective regulatory authorities and report the progress achieved to the Regional Assembly from time to time; and
8. to consider the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars'/Registrars' Association and its secretariat.

Adopted by the Conference under the Chairmanship of Datuk Nik Ali Bin Mat Yunus, Executive Chairman, Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission.



Datuk Nik Ali Bin Mat Yunus
Chairperson



Dr. Chan Ho Choi
Conference Secretariat

Signed on 11th December 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly held on 29th November, 2012 in Kobe, Japan approved the opening of a Malaysia Business Office (MBO) in collaboration with member organisation, ANGKASA. To this end, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP and Dr. Mohd Ali Baharum, President of ANGKASA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 27th February, 2013 for establishing the office at ANGKASA premises.

The soft opening ceremony of the ICA-AP MBO was held on the afternoon of 28th August 2013 in the premises of ANGKASA. The opening address was by Dato' Hj. Abdul Fattah Hj. Abdullah, the newly elected President of ANGKASA, followed by Dr. Chan Ho Choi. Those present at the opening included, ICA-AP staff, the Deputy President, Vice Presidents and other officers of ANGKASA, representatives of two other ICA-AP members, ACFSMC, China and NACF, Korea and the staff seconded by these organisations to the MBO. A press conference was held after the opening. The MBO will plan and implement relevant activities to achieve following strategic objectives:

- To increase business interaction and exchange between/among consumer co-operatives, co-operative insurance and banking.



Soft launching of ICA-AP Malaysia Business Office by Dr Chan Ho-choi and Dato' Hj. Abdullah

- To promote 'coop trade' strategically by the models of 'fair-trade' and 'B to B trade platform' through internet in the region.
- To promote technical exchange and assistance in IT technology through workshops and trainings.
- To transfer technical and managerial know-how, especially in the field of 'resource recycling' and 'renewable energy' business.

□



Signing of the MOU by the ICA-AP and ANGKASA

ICA AP Regional Board Meetings

There were two meetings of ICA-AP Regional Board held in 2013.

- i. The first meeting was held in Haikou, China on 15th March 2013 hosted by ACFSMC.



Mr. Li Chunsheng (5th from left) with Board Members in China

- ii. The second meeting was held in Cape Town, South Africa on 1st November 2013 in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly.



The Board members and staff posing for a photo in Cape Town after the meeting

Projects

During the year, 22 activities were conducted under the 10 projects, covering 750 women and men co-operators from 18 countries. The projects covered all sectors of business in which our members are involved and included cross cutting themes such as gender mainstreaming and youth co-operation.

1. Agriculture

The ICA-AP in collaboration with MAFF Japan, JA-Zenchu and IDACA implemented three major capacity building programs in which about 40 co-operative leaders/officials from 15 countries were trained.

- i. Two courses under the ICA Japan Training on, “Fostering Core Leadership of Agricultural Co-

operatives,” were held in February-March and October-November. The duration of each program is about 2 months; one month is spent at the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), India where the participants attend training on co-operative management and the other month they move to Japan and attend training by Japanese agriculture co-operatives. The intake in each batch is 12 participants from 10 countries.



Owner of Organic Hut – Bhaikaka Krishi Kendra, briefing the participants of the training course in India



Participants of the course at a grading and processing centre in Japan

ii. Organising farmers and strengthening marketing activities of farmer's organisations is essential for ensuring sound development of agriculture and activation of rural economy. The ICA-Japan Training Course on, "Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products" was designed as a new training course from 2011 for a period of 3 years. The course is held once in a year and participants are invited from Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV countries) and South Asian countries. The objective of the training course is to assist experts in the distribution field to play an important role in the

quality and safety management of farm products.

This program is held for 23 days in IDACA, Japan every year. This year, 12 participants from 6 countries attended the program held from 9th July to 1st August 2013.

iii. Training on "Agricultural Products Marketing and Logistics for Co-operatives" was held in Beijing



Participants in China Training

China from May 22-31, 2013 in collaboration with ACFSMC and ILO.

iv. The ICA-NACF joint workshop on "Agricultural Co-operative System in Korea" was held from 23-28 September 2013 in Seoul, Korea.



Opening ceremony of the workshop on Agricultural Co-operative System in Korea held in Seoul

2. Consumer



Participants with the Chairman of NCCF and Mr. Amano in Goa workshop

The following activities were implemented for development of Consumer Co-operatives in the region.

- i. Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives was held on 3rd April 2013 in Goa, India.



Participants learning at a R&D centre in Miyagi coop

- ii. A 17 days training program on 'Management of Consumer Co-operatives' for managers of consumer co-operatives was held by ICA-AP in collaboration with JCCU from July 19 to August 4 2013 at Miyagi Co-operative in Japan.

- iii. The 13th Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on 'Management of Consumer Co-operatives' was held in Singapore from 3-5 July 2013.



Participants of the 13th Regional Workshop in Singapore

NTUC Fairprice, Singapore hosted this 3 days workshop, which was attended by 18 co-operators from Vietnam, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Iran and Indonesia. The objectives of the workshop were to promote understanding of socio-economic role of consumer co-operatives, to study the successful cases of international and to establish an international network of consumer co-operative leaders and managers. □

3. Gender Mainstreaming

Women empowerment and gender mainstreaming for co-operative development are the core strategic areas for ICA-AP. A number of programs were implemented to achieve the goal of increasing women's participation at all levels of co-operative business management. The ICA-AP Committee on Women is quite active in planning and implementing its activities. The following activities were implemented during the year:

- i. Meeting of the Office Bearers of ICA-AP Committee on Women was held on 13th Feb 2013 in Saitama City in Japan.



Office bearers of the Women Committee with Mr. Amano at the Office bearers meeting

- ii. The writing of "Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender equality" was commissioned in 2012 and the first draft was pilot tested at workshops held in Tokyo, Japan in February and in Pune, India in April respectively.



Training in progress in Pune, India



Participants in the Training in Tokyo, Japan

- iii. ICA-AP Regional Workshop on enhancing the role of women in co-operative business for women and men co-operative leaders was held from 4-6 June, in

Mongolia in collaboration with Mongolian Co-operative Alliance.



Workshop in progress



Participants visit a co-operative

- iv. Training for “Management Capacity Building of Women for Co-operative Development” was held in Tehran, Iran from 14-18, 2013 in collaboration with Iranian Chamber of Co-operatives.



Co-operative members with their products at the coop bazar



A coop carpet weaving training centre in Tehran, Iran

v. Quarterly newsletters of the Committee on Women have been published and disseminated to members.

Issues of the Newsletters



vi. The 3rd ICA-Japan Training Course on “Revitalisation of Local Community by Rural Women” was held in Thailand and Japan from 16th September to 18th October 2013. 11 participants from 8 countries attended this annual program supported by MAFF, Japan. The main objective of

the course is to build the capacity of women field workers/coordinators and co-operative leaders who are engaged in mobilising women in rural community to help them in enhancing skills for income generation.



Course participants in Japan

4. Youth Co-operation

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation meeting was held in Buldana, India on 19th July 2013 and attended by 14 members from 10 countries. The election of the office bearers of the committee was held and the meeting formally adopted the constitution of the committee.

In conjunction with the committee meeting, the Asia-Pacific Co-operative Youth Forum on the theme: "Challenges for Youth as a Strategic Group in Development of Co-operatives" was also held and attended by 600 co-operators.



The Youth Committee members and other leaders with Dr. CHOI

5. University/Campus Co-operatives

The Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives was held in Seoul, Korea followed by a workshop on the theme, "Better Campus life, Better Society by Co-operation," from 4-7 July 2013.

More than 100 co-operators from 9 countries and students and teaching faculty of universities attended the workshop. The committee recommended adopting students as members of the committee.



The participants with banner of the workshop in Seoul

6. Human Resource Development

- i. The 25th Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held on 26th November, 2013 in Colombo, Sri Lanka to

discuss administrative matters and future course of action.



Dr. Karunarathna and Dr. Bhagwati Prasad lighting the inaugural lamp at the opening ceremony

- ii. In conjunction with its 25th meeting, the ICA-AP Committee on HRD also held a Regional Seminar on, "Success stories as a tool for co-operative education and training," in Colombo on 26-28 November in collaboration with Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation Ltd. (COOPFED).

Co-operatives, as business/service organization, are implementing HRD measures to ensure capacity building of all stakeholders – members, officials and employees engaged. The seminar focused on concept, definition and functions of HRD and also show cased the "Best Practices" being adopted by some co-operatives to achieve performance improvement.

7. Communications

The communication system in the Regional Office has been improved with an eye to promote understanding of co-operative message and increasing awareness not only among members but also stakeholders.

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Governance

ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia



MBO signing the office of the Malacca Co-operative Centre

The ICA-AP Regional Office is pleased to announce that the Malacca Co-operative Centre (MCC) has been established in Malacca, Malaysia. The MCC is a joint venture between the ICA-AP Regional Office and the Malacca Co-operative Centre. The MCC is a non-profit organization that will provide training and support to co-operatives in Malacca. The MCC is currently in the process of setting up its office and will be operational by the end of the year.



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Governance

ICA President in India



Dr. Chao Hick Tin at ICA President in India

The ICA President, Dr. Chao Hick Tin, visited India in March 2013. During his visit, he met with the ICA-AP Regional Office staff and the ICA-AP Business Office staff in Malaysia. He also met with the ICA-AP Business Office staff in India. He was accompanied by the ICA-AP Regional Office staff and the ICA-AP Business Office staff in Malaysia. He was also accompanied by the ICA-AP Business Office staff in India.

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President of India inaugurates 16th Indian Co-operative Congress



The President of India with ICA-AP Regional Office staff and ICA-AP Business Office staff in India

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, inaugurated the 16th Indian Co-operative Congress in New Delhi, India, on May 16, 2013. The Congress was organized by the ICA-AP Regional Office and the ICA-AP Business Office staff in India. The President of India was accompanied by the ICA-AP Regional Office staff and the ICA-AP Business Office staff in India. He was also accompanied by the ICA-AP Business Office staff in India.

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ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia Opened



The staff opening ceremony of the ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia

The ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia was opened on July 15, 2013. The office is located in Malacca, Malaysia. The office is a joint venture between the ICA-AP Regional Office and the Malacca Co-operative Centre. The office is currently in the process of setting up its office and will be operational by the end of the year.



ICA-AP and ANSARA staff at the opening

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Workshop on Agricultural Co-operative System



Dr. Chao Hick Tin at the workshop

The workshop on Agricultural Co-operative System was held in Malacca, Malaysia, on September 10-11, 2013. The workshop was organized by the ICA-AP Regional Office and the ICA-AP Business Office staff in Malaysia. The workshop was attended by the ICA-AP Regional Office staff and the ICA-AP Business Office staff in Malaysia. The workshop was also attended by the ICA-AP Business Office staff in India.

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1st ICA Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference held



Participants and organizers of the 1st ICA Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference

The 1st ICA Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference was held in Malacca, Malaysia, on November 14-15, 2013. The conference was organized by the ICA-AP Regional Office and the ICA-AP Business Office staff in Malaysia. The conference was attended by the ICA-AP Regional Office staff and the ICA-AP Business Office staff in Malaysia. The conference was also attended by the ICA-AP Business Office staff in India.

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8. Coop Trade

The ICA-ACFSMC Seminar on “International Trade among Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific” was held in Kunming, China from 17-22 November 2013 in collaboration with ACFSMC and ILO. The objective of the seminar was to enhance knowledge and skills of co-

operators on various aspects of trade and encourage co-operatives to establish trade relationship among themselves. The seminar provided a platform for 30 participants from 11 countries to come together and build a network.



Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA-AP President addressing the seminar alongwith Dr. Chan Ho Choi



A view of the participants at the Seminar

9. Research



Dr. J.N.L. Srivastava and Mr. Akira Kurimoto at the opening ceremony

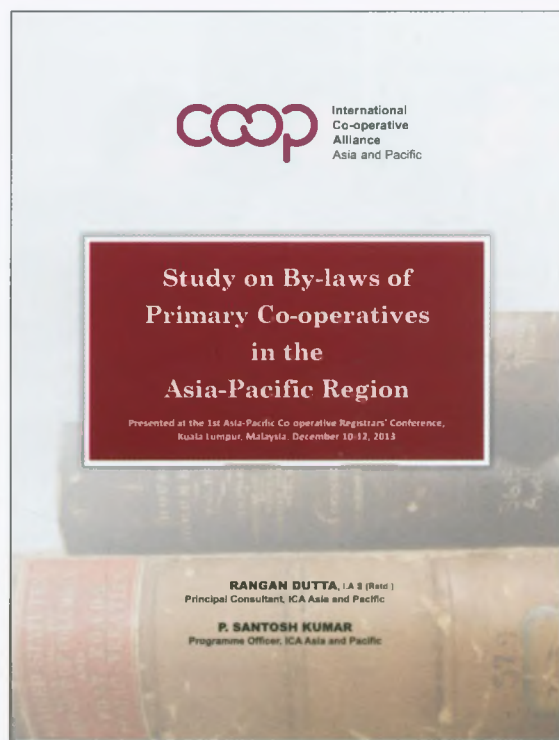
The 8th ICA-AP Research Conference on “Mainstreaming Co-operatives in Global Economy” was held from 29-30 November, 2013 in Mysore, India. The event was hosted by the Department of Studies in Economics and Co-operation and the Third Sector Research Resource Centre, University of Mysore.

Dr. J.N.L. Srivastava, Managing Trustee, IFFCO Foundation; Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Director, Japan Consumer Co-operative Institute, Tokyo, Japan; Prof. K.S. Rangappa, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore; Prof. D.S. Leelavathi, Chairman, Department of Studies in Economics and Co-operation; Prof. Yashavantha Dongre, Professor of Commerce, University of Mysore and Prof. M. Indira, Coordinator, Third Sector Research Resource Centre, University of Mysore were the chief organisers and speakers who stressed upon the urgent

need to establish good study and research on co-operatives as the Asia-Pacific region lacks good research documents on co-operatives. The Conference was attended by officials from the State Co-operative Department, faculty from various departments of the University of Mysore, research scholars, students and paper presenters from various parts of India, South Asian countries, Japan and Malaysia.

During the two days Conference, three technical sessions with three parallel streams were held and attended by over 250 participants. The Conference ended with a Closing Plenary. Out of 52 abstracts received, 37 were selected based on blind reviews. 32 scholars attended and presented their papers in the parallel sessions. The papers were well-received and there was lively discussion.

10. Studies, Reports and Guides



- i. The ICA-AP Study on the Bye Laws of Primary Co-operatives was successfully completed and presented at the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference.
- ii. From time to time, ICA-AP develops resources for the benefit of its members. The "Resource Guide for advanced training of co-operatives on entrepreneurship development of women and gender equality" was commissioned in 2012. The first draft of the Guide was pilot tested in trainings held in Tokyo, Japan and Pune, India in February and May 2013 respectively.

- iii. The Resolution and Report of the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference held in Malaysia in December 2013 was published and distributed.



All the publications can be found at : www.ica-ap.coop

Highlights from the Region

ICA President in India



ICA President with President of NCUI and other co-operators in New Delhi

In April, Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA visited India. This was her first visit to India since she took charge as President of ICA in November 2009. Dame Green visited the ICA-AP office in New Delhi to meet staff, paid a visit to Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) and attended a meeting organised by National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI).

She put down succinctly her views on the role India could play as an emerging economy and the present and future potential of the co-operative movement in the country. According to her, "India is now getting used to being something other than just a 'developing' country, as its economy continues to grow at rates significantly

greater than those of mature Western economies — an average of 7.6% between 2002 and 2007 and of 8.2% for the four years 2007 to 2011. So what of its huge co-operative sector? The largest co-operative country by numbers of primary co-ops at just over 610,000, with 98% of Indian villages covered by co-operatives that are active in a vast range of economic activities, the Indian movement represents one quarter of the worlds one billion individual co-operative members! A three-day visit can only touch the surface of understanding just what that means for the future of co-operation in this vast, teeming, energetic and young country as it starts to lift itself into a better future. The ICA has had an Asia Pacific office in New Delhi now for over 50 years and this was the starting place for my visit. ..."

India: NCUI-National Co-operative Congress



The Honourable President of India alongwith national and international leaders at the Congress

The 16th Indian Co-operative Congress was held on 25-26 June 2013 in New Delhi. The President of India, His Excellency, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Congress. Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA and Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-AP were also present.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI welcomed the honourable guests and members. The Honourable President of India delivered the opening address.

The two day Congress discussed the following issues:

1. Direct Tax Code Bill
2. Co-operative Legislation and Governance
3. Co-operative Credit sector: Issues and Challenges
4. Co-operative Enterprises acceptable business
5. Consumer and Food Production: Role of Co-operatives
6. Women and Youth in Co-operatives
7. Co-operative Education and Training
8. Emerging Co-operatives: Weaker Section Co-operatives

Iran: Building and Construction Industries exhibition

The Iranian Chamber of Co-operatives (ICC) held the International Building and Construction Industries

Exhibition in July, 2013. Several countries from Asia, EU and Africa participated in the exhibition.

New Zealand: New Trends Emerging

Co-operative Business NZ reported that while new co-ops are emerging, consolidation is taking place.

Two seemingly opposite trends are going on right now among New Zealand's co-operatives. While almost 30 groups are taking advantage of provisional membership of Co-operative Business New Zealand to help them get a new co-op off the ground, the members of large, well-established co-ops are voting to combine. In February 2013, members of the country's two largest farm supply coops voted in favour of merging. A merger of South Island co-op CRT and the North Island co-op Farmlands, with 54,000 members, more than 1,000 staff and 78 stores, the new Farmlands Co-operative Society will

have an annual revenue of more than NZ\$ 2 billion.

So as consolidation takes place among existing co-operatives, the number of coops in New Zealand is growing as more entrepreneurs become aware of what can be gained through joining together with others in a co-operative business that transacts with its members. The small number of co-operatives and mutual businesses in New Zealand are not insignificant: put together, their annual revenue is almost NZ\$ 40 billion. These two seemingly opposite moves are likely to result in a long-term increase in the contribution co-operatives make to the economy.

Visitors to ICA-AP



ICA President, Dame Pauline Green visited in April and June, 2013



ICA-AP President, Mr. Li Chunsheng visited in April, 2013



15 students from Gandhigram University visited in September, 2013



IDACA officials visited for annual planning meeting in February, 2013



A delegation of 40 Co-operators from Nepal visited in January, 2013

Partners

As a pan Asia organisation, ICA-AP works with a diversified range of co-operative members, government agencies, international organisations and other stakeholders.

In order to achieve the goals listed in the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade and to reposition Co-operatives as “Builders of Sustainability”, the ICA-AP works in close co-operation with:

- 1. All members in 24 countries:** Members extend support and host various ICA-AP capacity building and advocacy programs especially, NCUI, ACFSMC, NACF, JCCU have always been supportive by sending staff on secondment/deputation and supporting dedicated programs on development of agriculture, marketing, consumer coops and also gender mainstreaming, inclusion of youth.
- 2. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF):** MAFF is a long standing

partner and has been supporting major capacity building programs for more than 25 years. These programs are being implemented by ICA in collaboration with Ja-Zenchu and IDACA.

- 3. The UN Agencies and International Organisations** such as UNDP, ILO and FAO: Representatives of these organisations have been invited to attend events and share information and resources.
- 4. Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission and The Malaysian National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA)** have been very generous to host the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars’ Conference. We are grateful to them for all the support in successfully organising the Conference.
- 5. ANGKASA** helped in setting up the ICA-AP Malaysia Business Office by providing logistics and administrative support, including office space and seconding of staff.

OBITUARY



Dr. Yehudah Paz bid adieu to us on November 28, 2013.

The ICA family is deeply saddened by this news.

Mr. Li Chunsheng, Vice President, International Co-operative Alliance, extended heartfelt condolences to Dr. Yehudah Paz’s family and the NISPED-AJEEC family.

He said in his message that, “Dr. Yehudah Paz, the founding Chairman of NISPED-AJEEC, made tremendous contributions to the Kibbutz movement and to the world co-operative movement. During his service in the board of ICA, Dr. Yehudah Paz left us a treasure trove of memories. What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes part of us. I do believe that the best way to honour Dr. Yehudah Paz who is not with us any more is to keep his memory alive through every day events and further promote the co-operative movement to make a better world. May Dr. Yehudah Paz rest in peace.”

Dr. Yehudah Paz was the ICA Board member (1995-2005), Chairperson of the ICA-AP HRD Committee and member of the ICA-AP Standing Committee.

I. List and contact of Board Members

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>01 Mr. Li Chunsheng <i>Chairperson</i>
Vice President
All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Coops
45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street
Beijing-100 801, China.
E-mail: chinacoop@acfsmc.coop</p> | <p>07 Mr. Jose Romeo B. Ebron
Chairperson
National Confederation of Coops (NATCCO)
227, J.P Rizal Street, Project-4
Quezon City-1109, Philippines.
E-mail: jrebron75@yahoo.com.ph
cc: ceo@natcco.coop</p> |
| <p>02 Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav <i>Vice Chairperson</i>
President
National Co-operative Union of India,
3, Siri Institutional Area
New Delhi-110016, India.
E-mail: ncuipresident@gmail.com</p> | <p>08 Mr. Chan Tee Seng
Chairman
Singapore National Co-operative Federation
510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Building,
Singapore-298135.
E-mail: chants@ntucfirstcampus.com
cc : dollygoh@sncf.org.sg</p> |
| <p>03 Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid <i>Vice Chairperson</i>
President
DEKOPIN (The Indonesian Coop Council)
Jl. Raya Pasar Minggu No.97-B
Jakarta Selatan-12520, Indonesia
E-mail: ratihdekopin@yahoo.com</p> | <p>09 Mr. W. Lalith A. Peiris
President
National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka
455 Galle Road
Colombo-3, Sri Lanka.
E-mail: chairman@coopinsu.com</p> |
| <p>04 Mr. Akira Banzai
President
Central Union of Agricultural Coops (JA-ZENCHU)
1-3-1, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-6837, Japan.
E-mail: kokusai.s@zenchu-ja.or.jp</p> | <p>10 Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit
Chairman
Co-operative League of Thailand
13, Pichai Road, Dusit
Bangkok-10300, Thailand.
E-mail: green.clt@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>05 Mr. Won-Byung Choi
Chairman
National Agricultural Co-operative Federation
75, Chungjeong-ro, 1-Ga, Jung-ku,
Seoul City -100707, Rep. of Korea.
E-mail: nacfico@nonghyup.com</p> | <p>11 Mr. Dao Xuan Can
President
Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
Duong Dinh Nghe Street
Yen Hoa Ward, Cau Giay District
Hanoi, Vietnam.
E-mail: thuhangvca@yahoo.com</p> |
| <p>06 Prof Dato Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum
President
Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA)
Wisma Ungku A. Aziz, Jalan SS S/3, Kelana Jaya
46798 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.
E-mail: dr.ali@angkasa.coop
cc: international@angkasa.coop</p> | <p>12 Dr. Sukesh Zamwar
Youth Representative
Chief Managing Director
Buldana Urban Credit Co-operative
Sahakar Setu, Malkapur Road, Buldana City
Maharashtra, Postal Code-400031, India
E-mail: kanishkasukesh@yahoo.co.in</p> |

ii. List of Members

AUSTRALIA

01. Capricorn Society Ltd.
172 Burswood Road
Victoria Park, Perth, WA-6979
Australia.
02. Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. (CBH Group)
Gayfer House, 30, Delhi Street,
West Perth 6005-Western Australia.

BANGLADESH

- 03 Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union
Samabaya Bank Sadan
9/D, Motijheel Commercial Area, 7th Floor
Dhaka -1000, Bangladesh.

CHINA

- 04 All China Federation of Handicraft & Industrial Coops
(ACFHIC)
22-B, Fuwai Street, Xicheng District
Beijing-100833, China.
- 05 International Co-operation Department
All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Coops.
45, Fu Xing Men Nei Street
Beijing-100801, China.
- 06 International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese
Industrial Co-operatives (ICCIC)
Apt. 805, Building 3, Jilijiyuan, No. 20,
Shaoyaoju, Chao Yang District
Beijing-100029, China

INDIA

- 07 Co-operative House Building & Finance Corporation
Ltd. (Sahakari Awas-Nirman Evam Vitt Nigam Ltd.)
6, Sarojini Naidu Marg
Lucknow-226001.
- 08 Indian Farm Forestry Development Coop Ltd. (IFFDC)
FMDI, IFFCO Colony, Sector-17-B
Gurgaon-122001.
- 09 Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO)
'IFFCO SADAN'
C-1, District Center, Saket
New Delhi-110017.
- 10 Krishak Bharati Co-operative Ltd. (KRIBHCO)
A-10, Sector-1, Noida-201301.

- 11 National Agricultural Coop Marketing Federation of
India Limited (NAFED)
"NAFED House", 1 Siddhartha Enclave,
Ring Road, Ashram Chowk,
New Delhi-110014.
- 12 National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural
Development Banks' Federation Ltd (NCARDBF)
701 (7th Floor), A-Wing, BSEL Tech Park
Opp: Vashi Railway Station
Vashi, Navi Mumbai-400703.
- 13 National Co-operative Consumers' Federation Ltd.
92, Deepali Building, 5th Floor, Nehru Place,
New Delhi-110019.
- 14 National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI)
3, Siri Institutional Area, Khelgaon Marg,
New Delhi-110016.
- 15 National Federation of Fishermen's Coops Ltd.
7-A, Sarita Vihar Institutional Area
New Delhi-110076.
- 16 National Federation of State Coop Banks Ltd.
J.K. Chamber, 5th Floor,
Plot No. 76, Sector 17, Vashi,
Navi Mumbai-400703.
- 17 National Coop Development Corporation (NCDC)
4, Siri Institutional Area, Khelgaon Marg
New Delhi-110016.

INDONESIA

- 18 DEKOPIN
Jl. Raya Pasar Minggu No.97-B
Jakarta Selatan-12520, Indonesia
- 19 INDUK KUD (National Federation of Rural Coops)
Graha Padesan, Jl. Warung Buncit Raya No.18-20,
Pejaten Jakarta 12510, Indonesia.

IRAN

- 20 Central Organization for Rural Co-operatives of Iran
1813, Valli-e-Asr-Avenue, P.O. Box 14155-6569
Tehran-15948, Iran.
- 21 Central Union of Rural Agricultural Coops of Iran
78, North Felestin Avenue
P.O. Box 14155-6413,
Tehran-15948, Iran.

- 22 Iran Oil Seeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Factories
Coop (FARDA Coop)
No. 399, West Taleghani Street
Felestin Square
Tehran, Iran.
- 23 Iran Central Chamber of Co-operatives (ICC)
No. 3, Sabounchi Street
Shahid Beheshti Avenue
Tehran, Iran.
- 24 Mollah Al-Movahedin Credit Co-operative (NAMCC)
No. 20, Nader Alley
Shahid Beheshti & Vali-e-asr Street Intersection
Tehran-15116, Iran.
- 25 Supervision and Co-ordination Central Union of
Rural and Agricultural Co-operatives (SCURA)
4th Floor, No. 518, North Felestin St.
Tehran, Iran.
- 26 Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank)
No. 271, Next to LG Company,
Before Alborz St., Mirdamad Blv.,
Tose'e Ta'avon Bank
1918934351-Tehran, Iran.
- 27 Cooperative Investment Guarantee Fund (CIGF)
13 Nejadkey St, Mirzaye Shirazi St,
Karimkhane Zand Ave, Tehran, Iran.
- 28 Pishgaman Kavir Yazd Co-operative Company (PKYCC)
Opposite of Yazd TCI, Pishgaman Building,
Sadoghi Blvd., Yazd, Iran.
- 29 Central Union of Iran Animal Farmers (CUIAF)
No. 12, Azin Alley, Vesal Shirazi St.
p.c. = 1417843511
Tehran, Iran.
- ISRAEL**
- 30 Coop Israel
19, Hagana Street
P.O. Box-24092
Jerusalem-97851, Israel.
- 31 The Kibbutz Movement
13 Leonardo Da Vinci Street
Tel Aviv 61400, Israel.
- 32 Central Union for Co-operative Initiative in Israel
24, Ha-arbaa Street
Tel Aviv, Israel.
- JAPAN**
- 33 Central Union of Agricultural Coops (JA-Zenchu)
1-3-1, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-6837, Japan.
- 34 IE-NO-HIKARI Association (Association for Education &
Publications on Agri. Coops),
11, Funagawara-ku, Ichigaya,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan.
- 35 Japanese Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU)
Kobunsha Building, 6th Floor
3-1-2, Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku
Tokyo 171-0014, Japan.
- 36 Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU)
Coop Plaza, 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo 150-8913, Japan.
- 37 National Association of Labour Banks (NALB)
5-15, Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo-1010062, Japan.
- 38 National Federation of Agricultural Co-operative
Associations (ZEN-NOH)
8-3, Otemachi, 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan.
- 39 National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative
Association (Zengyoren)
Cooperative Building, 7th Floor,
1-1-12, Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 101-8503, Japan.
- 40 National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-operative
Associations (Zenmori-Ren)
Coop Building, 8th Floor,
1-1-12, Unchikanda, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 101-0047, Japan.
- 41 National Federation of University Coop Associations
(NFUCA)
Daigaku Seikyo Kaikan Building
3-30-22, Wada, Suginemi-ku
Tokyo 166-8532, Japan.
- 42 National Federation of Workers and Consumers
Insurance Co-operatives (Zenrosai)
12-10, Yoyogi-2, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo 151-8571, Japan.

- 43 National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives (ZENKYOREN)
JA Kyosai Building
2-7-9, Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-8630, Japan.
- 44 The Japan Agricultural News
2-3, Akihabara, Taito-ku,
Tokyo 110-8722, Japan.
- 45 The Norinchukin Bank
(Central Coop Bank for Agriculture & Forestry)
1-13-2, Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-8420, Japan.
- 46 Japanese Health and Welfare Co-operative Federation (HeW Coop JAPAN)
Sanken Building, 4th floor
3-25-1, Hyakunin-cho, Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo-169-0073, Japan.

KAZAKHSTAN

- 47 Union of Consumer Societies
57, Tole bi Street
050000-Almaty, Kazakhstan.

KOREA

- 48 iCOOP Solidarity of Consumer Coops
Yeongdeungpo-gu
Singil-dong 171-9, 3rd Floor
Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- 49 Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives (KFCCC)
164, Samseong 1-dong, Gangnam-gu
Seoul 135-538, Republic of Korea.
- 50 International Co-operation Office
National Agricultural Co-operative Federation
75-1-ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku
Seoul City 100-707, Republic of Korea.
- 51 National Credit Union Federation of Korea (Nacufok)
949, Dunsan-dong, Seo-ku
Daejeon Metropolitan City
302-120, Republic of Korea.
- 52 National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives (NFFC)
11-6, Songpa-Gu,
Shin-Cheon Dong
Seoul 138-730, Republic of Korea.

- 53 National Forestry Coops Federation (NFCF)
111-5, Samjeon-Dong, Song-gu
Seoul 138-880, Republic of Korea.
- 54 Korean Association of Social Economy Enterprises (KASEE)
23-4, Jungja-dong, Jangan-gu, 463-847 Suwon,
Gyeonggi-do, Rep. of Korea

KUWAIT

- 55 Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies
Hawally, Bloc 97, Othman Street
4th Ring Road, P.O. Box 1836
Safat-13019, Kuwait.

MALAYSIA

- 56 Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA)
Wisma Ungku A. Aziz, Jalan SS 6/1, Kelana Jaya
47301 Petaling Jaya
Selangor, Malaysia.
- 57 National Land Finance Co-operative Society Ltd.
Level 10, Wisma Tun Sambanathan,
Jalan Sulaiman, P.O. Box 12133
Kuala Lumpur-50000, Malaysia.
- 58 Co-operative College of Malaysia
103, Jalan Templer, P.O. Box 60
46700 Petaling Jaya
Selangor, Malaysia.

MONGOLIA

- 59 National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Coops
Peace Avenue 18A/1
Ulaanbaatar-49
Mongolia.
- 60 Mongolian National Cooperators' Association (MNCA)
Room 603, Government building 11,
Chingeltei district
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

MYANMAR

- 61 Central Co-operative Society Limited (CCS)
Saya San Plaza, Junction of Saya San Road &
New University Avenue Road
Yangon, Myanmar.

NEPAL

- 62 National Co-operative Federation of Nepal Ltd.
Bijuli Bazar-39. GPO Box 11859
Kathmandu-10, Nepal.

- 63 National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB)
Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal
- 64 Nepal Agricultural Coop Central Federation (NACCF)
Kupandole Height
Lalitpur, Nepal.

NEW ZEALAND

- 65 New Zealand Co-operative Association Inc.
Level 3, 75 Ghuznee Street
Wellington-6011, New Zealand.

PAKISTAN

- 66 Karachi Coop Housing Societies Union Ltd.
SNPA-15, Shaheed-E-Millat Road
Karachi-74800, Pakistan.

PHILIPPINES

- 67 National Confederation of Coops Inc. (NATCCO)
227 J.P. Rizal Street, Project-4
Quezon City-1109, Philippines.
- 68 VICTO National Coop Federation & Development
Center
59 1st Street, Beverly Hills, Lahug
Cebu City, Philippines.

SINGAPORE

- 69 Singapore National Co-operative Federation Ltd.
(SNCF)
510 Thomson Road,
#12-02, SLF Building,
Singapore-298135.

SRI LANKA

- 70 Federation of Thrift & Credit Coop Societies Ltd.
45/90, Nawala Road
Narahenpita
Colombo-5, Sri Lanka
- 71 National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka (NCC)
"Cooperative House", 455 Galle Road,
P.O. Box 1469,
Colombo-3, Sri Lanka.

- 72 Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
No. 11, Saunders Place,
Colombo-12, Sri Lanka.

- 73 National Institute of Co-operative Development
Polgolla, Kandy
Sri Lanka.

- 74 Kotikawatta Thrift and Credit Co-op Society Ltd-KTCCS
230/A, Avissawella Road
Kitakawatta, Angoda
Sri Lanka.

TAJIKISTAN

- 75 Republican Union of Consumer Societies
(Soyuz Tadjikmatlubot)
Rudaki Ave. 137
Dushanbe-734003
Republic of Tajikistan.

THAILAND

- 76 Cooperative League of Thailand
13, Pichai Road, Dusit
Bangkok-10300, Thailand.
- 77 Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions
8th Floor, U-Tower Building
No. 411, Srinakarin Road, Suanluang
Bangkok-10250, Thailand.

U.A.E.

- 78 The HR and Admin Manager
Sharjah Co-operative Society (SCS)
P.O. Box 5435
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

VIETNAM

- 79 International Relations Department
Vietnam Co-operative Alliance
Duong Dinh Nghe Street
Yen Hoa Ward, Cau Giay District
Hanoi, Vietnam.

ICA Co-operative 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.



Co-operative History The Rochdale Pioneers

Co-operatives started out as small grassroots organisations in Western Europe, North America and Japan in the middle of the last century, however, it is the Rochdale Pioneers that is regarded as the prototype of the modern co-operative society and the founders of the Co-operative Movement.

In 1844 a group of 28 artisans working in the cotton mills in the town of Rochdale, in the north of England established the first modern co-operative business, the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society (photo). The weavers faced miserable working conditions and low wages, and they could not afford the high prices of food and household goods. They decided that by pooling their scarce resources and working together they could access basic goods at a lower price. Initially, there were only four items for sale: flour, oatmeal, sugar and butter.

The Pioneers decided it was time shoppers were treated with honesty, openness and respect, that they should be able to share in the profits that their customer contributed to and that they should have a democratic right to have a say in the business. Every customer of the shop became a member and so had a true stake in the business. At first the co-op was open for only two nights a week, but within three months, business had grown so much that it was open five days a week.

The principles that underpinned their way of doing business are still accepted today as the foundations upon which all co-operatives operate. These principles have been revised and updated, but remain essentially the same as those practiced in 1844.

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International
Co-operative
Alliance
Asia and Pacific

ANNUAL REPORT- 2014

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

◆ ASIA AND PACIFIC ◆



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Year End Report

Dear Members,

2014 was another successful year as we were able to increase membership, organize a successful Regional Assembly, raise the voice of cooperatives, manage leadership transition, and carry out most planned activities.

We have highlighted experiences of some individuals who participated in the trainings, workshops and exchange programmes organized this year. Their stories show that they have gained through these experiences and more importantly many have put into practice what they have learned. This is the objective of any training and we are glad this is happening.

The 11th Regional Assembly and 8th Co-operative Forum held in Indonesia adopted the Bali Resolution on, "Cooperatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific," to recognize the relevance of Sustainable Development Goals and position co-operatives in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda. This year, we hope through our joint efforts, co-operatives get a mention in the final declaration at the United Nations. The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation, which participated in the World Conference on Youth in Sri Lanka, in May, ensured the role and importance of co-operatives was recognized in the final declaration. These are important steps and will help to create an enabling environment to foster the cooperative model of business.

The Malaysia Business Office has been fully functional and four seconded staff from All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC), China; Angkasa, Malaysia; Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union (JCCU), Japan; and National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF), Korea are in place.

We are thankful to our sponsoring organizations – ACFSMC, Angkasa, JCCU, JAZENCHU, and NACF. We continue to receive generous support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Japan to foster leadership and develop cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region. We are grateful for the generous time and support we received from our board, regional office staff, members, governments, partners and other stakeholders.

We look forward to 2015 and hope to have another fruitful cooperative year!

Li Chunsheng
President

Balu Iyer
Regional Director

11th Asia Pacific Regional Assembly- 2014

The Assembly adopted the Bali Resolution on, “Co-operatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific,” to recognize the relevance of Sustainable Development Goals and position co-operatives in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.



Mr. Setyo Heryanto, Mr. Balu Iyer, Dame Pauline Green, Mr. Li Chunsheng and Mr. Nurudin Halid at the 11th Regional Assembly.

The 11th Regional Assembly and 8th Co-operative Forum were held in Bali, Indonesia from September 16 to 20. Over 500 cooperators from the region, registered to take part in the Assembly and related events. The Assembly adopted the Bali Resolution on “Co-operatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific,” to recognize the relevance of Sustainable Development Goals and position co-operatives in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.

The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Setyo Heryanto, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives and Small and Medium enterprises, Republic of Indonesia. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-AP and the Chairman of ICA-AP Regional Assembly, opened the meeting and welcomed all the members and special invitees. He expressed his happiness at the large participation of ICA member organizations in Asia and Pacific.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSED AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Introduction of the new Regional Director
- Confirmation of minutes of the 10th Regional Assembly held in Kobe in 2012
- Minutes of the Regional Board Meetings held since last Regional Assembly
- Financial Report of the ICA-AP for 2012-2014
- ICA membership situation in the Asia and Pacific Region

- Presentation of the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade by the ICA Director General
- Report of the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference-2013 held in Malaysia
- Status of ICA-AP Malaysia Office
- Reports from ICA-AP Sectoral/Thematic Committees
- Report of the 8th Co-operative Forum on "Co-operatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific"
- Consideration of venue and date of next ICA-AP Regional Assembly-2016

The sector and thematic committees of ICA-AP held their annual meeting and events in conjunction with the Regional Assembly. The Chairpersons of the committees presented their reports at the Assembly.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and Vice Chairperson of the ICA-AP offered to host the 2016 Regional Assembly in India. The Regional Assembly unanimously accepted the offer of NCUI. Dr. Yadav extended a warm invitation to all the delegates.

Mr Li Chunsheng made the closing remarks and extended his gratitude to all the members for their active participation in the assembly and related events. He thanked the host DEKOPIN for making



H.E.Dr. Syarifuddin Hasan , Mr. Li Chunsheng, Mr. Nurudin Halid, Dame Pauline Green and Mr. Balu Iyer at the Regional Assembly.

excellent preparations and arrangements. The Regional Assembly proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Balu Iyer and ICA-AP staff for organizing the events successfully. The Regional Assembly also expressed its thanks to Dame Pauline Green, President, ICA and Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA for their participation and valued contribution in enriching the discussion of the Regional Assembly.

8th Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum- 2014

Mr. Setyo Heryanto, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives and Small and Medium enterprises, Republic of Indonesia in his inaugural address emphasized his government's support to development of co-operatives, especially women cooperatives. He said his government was giving support in the form of funding, training, capacity building to develop human resources and creating an enabling environment. He said it was apt the Forum was being held in Bali which epitomizes the "Cooperatives Spirit".

The 8th Co-operative Forum was held on 18 September on the theme, 'Co-operatives for Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific' during the 11th Regional Assembly. Mr. Setyo Heryanto, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives and Small and Medium enterprises, Republic of Indonesia in his inaugural address emphasized his government's support for development of co-operatives, especially women cooperatives. He said his government was giving support in the form of funding, training, capacity building to develop human resource and creating an enabling environment for co-operatives. He said it was apt that the Forum was being held in Bali which epitomizes the "Cooperatives Spirit".

In his welcome address, Mr. Nurudin Halid, Vice President of DEKOPIN, emphasized the role of cooperatives in sustainable development and their contribution to the national GDP. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President ICA-AP said cooperatives have a huge role to play in society. The Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade lays out the roadmap for cooperative development. Dame Pauline Green said that the International Year of Cooperatives in 2012 gave a great boost to the co-operative movement. Co-operatives are key to sustainable development because they take part in all walks of life. She wanted the participants to be aware that they are part of a movement which has over billion members. She invited all the participants to take part in promoting the cooperative identity by adopting the COOP marquee.

Prof. I Wayan Windia, Senior Expert on Subak Agriculture and Professor at Udayana University said that co-operatives are based on community and not an individual approach. A community based approach takes into account social and economic equity and concern for environment which ensures sustainable development. As a Balinese native he mentioned about, Tri Hita Karana, the three causes of well-being which includes harmony among people, harmony with nature or environment, and harmony with God.

The Cooperative Forum was divided into three sessions that covered issues relating to evidences of sustainable socio-economic-environmental growth through co-operatives in the region; role of data, research and innovation in sustainable development; and panel discussion and an open forum: Co-operatives Build a Sustainable Society. The technical experts who delivered were Prof. Frederick O. Wanyama, School of Development and Strategic Studies, Maseno University, Kenya; Mr. Gianluca Salvatori, CEO, European Research Institute on Co-operative and Social Enterprises; Dr. Burhanudin Abdullah, President, Co-operative University of Indonesia; and Mr Peter Van Rooij, Director, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Country Office for Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

Experiences from Co-operative movements were shared by Rep. Cresente C Paez, House of Representatives, Philippines; Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa, President of Mongolian Co-operative Alliance; Mr. Zakaria Motevalli, Deputy of International Affairs of Iran Central Chamber of Co-operatives; Mr. A. Praveen Reddy, President, Mulkanoor Co-operative Rural Bank



Charles Gould, ICA Director General with Panellists at 8th Co-operative Forum

and Marketing Society Ltd.; and Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Director, Japanese Consumer Co-operative Institute, Kobe, Japan. The moderators for the sessions were Mr. Agung Sudjarmoko, Vice President of DEKOPIN; Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA; and Dame Pauline Green, President, ICA.

The Forum resolved to assess and measure the contribution of co-operatives, invest in technology, education and training for members, staff, management and board to increase participation, service and competitiveness of co-operative enterprises, initiate activities at national and local level, focusing on achieving inclusive and democratic

sustainable development, call upon national governments, inter-governmental agencies and other stakeholders to recognize co-operatives as representative of a significant section of the population, and to work with the national, regional and global co-operative movements in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, urge national co-operative movements to call on their governments to revise co-operative laws and policies in conformity with internationally recognized definition of co-operative and work closely with the Alliance (ICA) to identify responses of co-operatives to each of the Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted by the international community, and create an enabling atmosphere for co-operatives to play a larger role in realising the goals so adopted.

During the concluding session, Dr. Syarifuddin Hasan, the Minister of Co-operatives and Small and Medium Enterprises, Indonesia, spoke about the Indonesian governments support to cooperatives by dedicating a ministry for cooperatives that undertakes marketing cooperative products, financing for co-operative members and training and education through universities. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-AP and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, read out the proposed resolution of the Forum. Mr. Li, added words of appreciation and thanked the host DEKOPIN for the excellent arrangements.




Cooperatives Delegates at the 8th Cooperative Forum

Bali Resolution (2014) on the Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Development

The Bali Resolution on the “Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Development”.

The 8th Asia Pacific Co-operative Forum, representative of the ICA in the Asia and Pacific and the co-operative movements therein; having met during the 11th Regional Assembly of the ICA Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) from 16 – 19 September, 2014 at Bali, Indonesia, while

- Recognizing the relevance of Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of positioning co-operatives in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda,
- Reaffirming the International Co-operative Identity Statement and its promotion in theory and practice at all levels of co-operative education and training systems,
- Realising the significance of the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade and its themes as indicators in the development of co-operatives in the 21st Century, and in achieving sustainable development while articulating the concern of co-operatives for the community,
- Noting the contribution of co-operative enterprises in ethical and value based business practices and the role of the global co-operative movement in promotion of Sustainable Development Goals.
- Appreciating the inherent ability of co-operative enterprises in mainstreaming women, youth and marginalised sections of the society and, in creating equal opportunity for all and,
- Conscious of inadequate enabling legal, policy and regulatory environment for co-operatives and the resultant constraints in realisation of the complete potential of people-based economic enterprises in Asia Pacific region, hereby resolve with the spirit of co-operation to,
 1. Commit to assess and measure the contribution of co-operatives while increasing the body of co-operative research and knowledge by efficient data collection and management, to enable dissemination of information on co-operatives and sustain sovereign support of national governments and other stakeholders,
 2. Invest in technology, education and training for members, staff, management and board to increase participation, service and competitiveness of co-operative enterprises in realizing their inherent sustainable nature,

- 
3. Initiate activities at national and local level, focusing on achieving inclusive and democratic sustainable development through increased member participation with greater focus on women, youth and other marginalized persons, while addressing their socio, economic, cultural and environmental needs and aspirations,
 4. Call upon national governments, inter-governmental agencies and other stakeholders to recognize co-operatives as representative of a significant section of the population, and to work in co-operation with the national, regional and global co-operative movements in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by pledging support, integrating resources and implementing joint strategies in developing co-operatives in sectors vitals for sustainable development such as clean energy, marine/ ocean resources etc.
 5. Urge national co-operative movements to call on their governments to revise co-operative laws and policies in conformity with internationally recognized definition, meaning and scope of co-operative enterprises, to participate in the global co-operative movement as a significant institutional partner and,
 6. Work closely with the Alliance (ICA) to identify responses of co-operatives to each of the Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted by the international community, and create an enabling atmosphere for co-operatives to play a larger role in realising the goals so adopted.



Committee Meetings and Events- 2014

REGIONAL BOARD MEETING



Board Members with ICA President Dame Pauline Green

Two Regional Board meetings were held during the year; the first in Beijing in February and the second in Bali, prior to the Regional Assembly.

Mr. Li Chunsheng warmly welcomed Dame Pauline Green, ICA President, Charles Gould, ICA Director General and members of the ICA-AP Regional Board and thanked Mr. Nurudin Halid for the meeting arrangements made in Bali. Mr. Nurudin Halid, representing DEKOPIN, also welcomed the board members and talked about the benefits the week long Regional Assembly was to bring to co-operatives in the region.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved and minutes of the last Regional Board meeting were confirmed. Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director presented the activity report, financial report and progress report of the Malaysian Business Office (MBO) for the period of Jan-Aug 2014 and the draft ICA-AP activity plan for 2015. He appraised the board on membership in the region and said that the region currently has 85 members from 26 countries. He also introduced the new website of ICA-AP and gave an overview of its features.

Dame Pauline Green laid emphasis on the significance of the regional board meeting and applauded the development of the new user-friendly website. She informed the board that since the launch of the new global Co-operative Identity in November last year, 750 co-ops in 75 countries had successfully registered to use the COOP marque. In addition, there are 8,000 .coop domains registered in 89 countries. The ICA has now launched a toolkit to promote Co-operative Identity to help achieve the aim of co-operatives becoming one of the best known ethical marques in the world by 2020.

Some of the key items discussed in the meeting related to admission of new members in ICA and the pending membership application of National Farmers' Association (NFA) in Taiwan; and decentralization of MBO and clear delineation of financial responsibility. Mr. Yaguchi proposed that the term of office of ICA-AP President should be for a maximum of two terms and that it should be stipulated in the election rules. The ICA-AP was requested to study this issue and



Board meeting in progress

come up with a proposal at the next board meeting. The proposal was supported by Dame Pauline Green, who hoped for better clarity and transparency in the next elections.

During the Regional Meeting there was a special presentation by Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, Chairperson of the Youth Committee. He said that the Youth Committee had been successful in getting co-operatives mentioned in the Colombo Declaration. They were planning to work with university/campus co-operatives and needed support from all the board members.

Mr. Balu Iyer, announced the next Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference is due in 2016. Indonesia had agreed to host the conference but given the change in government it was not clear if this was still the case. Mr. Halid requested more time for them to confirm with the new Indonesian Minister for Co-operatives; to which the board agreed. The next Regional Assembly will be held in India in November 2016. An affectionate invitation was extended by Mr. Viton Naewpanit, Chairman of Co-operative League of Thailand for all to attend the 2016 celebrations to mark, 100 years of co-operatives in Thailand.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON CREDIT & BANKING

The 12th Meeting of ICA-AP committee on Credit & Banking was held on 16 September, 2014. The President Mr. Li Chunsheng, welcomed the members and observers. In addition to routine matters, the committee discussed and finalized work plan for the next two years (2015-2016). The members made presentations on the topic, "Current scenario of Co-operative Banking".

SEMINAR ON CREDIT & BANKING

The committee meeting was followed by a seminar on, "Capitalization—Challenges for Co-operative Banks." Mr. Robby Tulus, former Regional Director of ICA-AP and Mr. B.D. Sharma former Consultant led the discussions.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The 40th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture was held on 16 September, 2014. There were 19 members in attendance from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, and Palestine.

The committee acknowledged the importance of the UN International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). The Chairman, Mr. Won Byung Choi from National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, Korea saw the IYFF as an opportunity to raise the profile of family farming and small holder farmers. It was a platform



Agriculture Committee members and participants

to highlight the potential of family farmers to eradicate hunger, preserve natural resources and promote sustainable development. He urged members to attend the seminar to be organised by International Co-operative Agricultural Organization (ICAO) the following day to share and exchange their experiences.

The committee approved the membership of the Nepal Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation Limited.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH

The 2nd meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Co-operative Research was attended by members from India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Dr. Y. Dongre, talked on the need to increase membership of Research Committee and to encourage youth researchers to participate by offering them scholarships. The existing Steering Committee will continue to function for the next two years along with Prof. Morris Altman from New Zealand. The Steering Committee consists of 7 members, five from India and one each from Japan and New Zealand. The next Co-operative Research Conference will be held in Pune, India in 2015.



Participants at the Research Committee meeting



Mr. Balu Iyer giving speech during the meeting

CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The 9th ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference was held on 16 September 2014. 39 participants from China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, attended the conference. The Conference Chair, Dr. G.N. Saxena, praised the research committee for its commendable performance over the years and for holding the research conference every year. Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Vice Chairperson of the Committee recounted the history of the activities of the research committee beginning from 2000 till the last seminar at the University of Mysore in India. He also explained the various international research events and forthcoming research projects.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Morris Altman from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, on “Cooperative Organizations as an Engine of Equitable Rural Economic Development.” He talked about the critical and contemporary challenges of co-operatives in the context of changes in the global economy. This was followed by presentation and discussion on the eight papers based on the theme of the seminar, ‘ICA Blueprint for Co-operative Decade.’ The conference ended with concluding remarks by Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP. He highlighted the importance of research and said that ICA-AP office will provide all possible assistance to the Committee.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON YOUTH COOPERATION

The 7th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) was held on 17 September, 2014, on the theme, “Financial Literacy for Youth.” The meeting was attended by 17 members (11 men and 6 women) from Bhutan, China, India, Malaysia and Indonesia. In addition, observers from Iran and Palestine participated and contributed to the deliberations.

The Chairperson, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, presided over the meeting, and updated the members about the activities of ICYC during the past year. He laid emphasis on the importance of judicious use of money by youth for nation building. He said that youth needed to practice the habit of being thrifty as this would save them from being a victim of consumerism and ensure a sustainable future for the society.

During the meeting, video presentations and messages sent by Ms. Anna Gabriella Buffa, ICA Global Youth Chair and Mr. Mumshad Ali Khan, Member-ICYC were played. Ms. Buffa’s video featured Mr. Ernesto Guevara, Manager of Training, Caja Popular, Mexico who brought out the features of credit co-operatives for youth and the work undertaken by his organisation. Ms. Buffa highlighted the role of the Global Youth Network and the slow yet steady progress it was making towards formalizing the association. The Chairperson launched the new look of the ICYC website (www.youth-asiapacific.coop). He also welcomed, Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director as Honorary Member of the committee. Mr. Iyer assured his support and congratulated members on the success achieved during the World Conference on Youth 2014. The meeting tentatively decided to meet in Malaysia in 2015 and work closely with the Global youth Network.



Ernesto Guevara – Manger of Training, Caja Popular Mexicana making a video presentation

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY AND CAMPUS COOPERATIVES

The 6th University/Campus Co-operative Committee Meeting was held on September 17, 2014. Prof. Zenaida S. Diola was nominated as Chairperson of the Meeting. Members and observers from 12 countries took part in the meeting where ANGKASA, DEKOPIN and SNCF furthered their nominations to the committee. Members elected a new board to serve until 2016 during the meeting.

Prof. Kokichi Shoji participated in his last meeting as committee Chairperson owing to his retirement from NFUCA. He proposed the University/Campus Co-operative Committee to nurture ambitious co-operators to help revitalize the movement. The Meeting continued with discussions on activities for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 besides deliberating on budget and hosts for the next meeting. Members from TCOFU, Thailand expressed their interest to host the next meeting. Dr. Sukesh introduced himself as the Chairperson of the Youth Committee and an observer to the meeting. The Youth Committee, during their Committee meeting the day before, had discussed that they could work together with the University/Campus Co-op Committee. Dr. Sukesh suggested that seminars with various themes, such as on financial literacy, could be explored.

The Meeting elected Prof. Furuta (NFUCA) as Chairperson and Prof. Park (KUCF) and Dr. Azlan (ANGKASA) as joint Vice Chairpersons. The Committee also took forward talks on the inclusion of students as members of the committee.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The 9th meeting of the ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and Pacific was held on 16 September, 2014. The meeting was attended by 22 (20 women and 2 men) members as well as observers from 9 countries. The Chairperson at the meeting was Ms. Mashako Shinbo and the special invitee was, Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP. The meeting saw the election of Ms. Masako Shinbo, as Chairperson and Ms. Maria Elena Canda Limocon, as

Vice Chair. Ms. Savitri Singh, reported on the progress of the Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality.

One of the major agenda of the meeting was to increase the membership of the committee. Several members offered suggestions and expressed their views. The Committee also proposed and approved the work plan for 2015. This was followed by presentation of country reports by members from India, Vietnam, Malaysia and Japan.



Women Committee meeting in progress

Mr. Balu Iyer in closing the meeting praised the committee for its commendable efforts to empower women and gender mainstream in co-operatives. He expressed his enthusiasm to support the activities of the Women Committee to encourage more participation of women. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held in India, in 2016, in conjunction with the ICA Regional Assembly.

ICA-AP REGIONAL WOMEN FORUM- 2014

The 8th ICA-AP Regional Women Forum, held on 17 September, focused on the theme, “Gender Mainstreaming in Co-operatives for Sustainable Development.’ The forum was attended by 40 women and men co-operators from 8 countries. The members of the Committee presented 5 papers. Ms. Savitri Singh, started the proceedings by welcoming the participants and giving a introduction on the ICA-AP Regional Women Forum, its purpose and objectives. The Forum was graced by Ms. Masako Shinbo, Chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee on Women and the Special Guest for the event was Dame Pauline Green, ICA President. Ms. Maria Elena Limocon, Vice Chair of Women Committee delivered the vote of thanks and expressed her gratitude to all guests and participants.

Dame Pauline Green made a presentation on, “Gender mainstreaming in Co-operatives for Sustainable Development.” She briefly introduced ICA and its work on sustainable development and explained the situation of women’s participation in co-operatives. The Keynote speech was given by Mr. Peter Van Rooij, Director, International Labour Organisation, Indonesia on the theme, “Gender mainstreaming in Co-operatives for Sustainable Development.” Other speakers at the Forum were Mr. Robby Tulus, former Regional Director of ICA-AP, Ms. Keiko Okawara, chairperson of the National Association of Women of Japan Agriculture Co-operatives group and Ms. Maria Elena Limocon, Vice Chair of committee, Philippines. A stimulating group discussion was also held on the topic, “How to overcome cultural and legal barriers towards gender equality in Coops”.



Savitri Singh, Pauline Green, Masako Shinbo, and Peter Van Rooij with participants of the Women Forum-2014



Panel discussion in progress

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The 26th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held on 17 September. The meeting was attended by 9 members and 30 observers from India, Iran, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka and presided by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the Committee. Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive of NCUI spoke about the Global Human Resource Development Networking portal and said that NCUI was in the process of amending/modifying the portal. The portal will be up and working again from October 2014 onwards. Country reports were presented by members from India, Iran and Sri Lanka.

Dr. Dinesh and Mr. Jose Romeo Ebron, were elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the next four years. The next seminar on the theme, “HRD as a Tool for Improving Performance in Co-operatives” will be hosted by NCUI in India in 2015.

SEMINAR ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, opened the seminar and spoke on good governance as a process for making and implementing decisions in a manner that leads to accomplishing desired objectives. He said, the importance should not be on “correct” decisions, but rather the best possible process for making those decisions. According to him, good decision-making processes and good governance are characterized by participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus-oriented, equity and inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency and accountability. He pointed out that, in cooperatives, good governance can be best accomplished by following principles, values, philosophy and ethos in true spirit by all stakeholders of cooperatives including members, board members and employees. HRD intervention enables stakeholders to prepare themselves and enables them to make good decisions and implement them. Dr. Prasad’s address was followed by presentations by three experts who highlighted various aspects of good governance with focus on HRD.

The seminar concluded with the understanding that HR policy should be an integral part of business policy of every co-operative. The need to involve youth while they are studying in school was emphasized. The examples of Corruption Commission in Malaysia, Aflatoun program for children in Philippines, and mandatory training of board of directors as implemented in Malaysia were highlighted as good examples to follow.



Participants at the HRD Committee meeting

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES

The 48th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operation was held on 17 September. 9 Committee members and 19 observers from 8 countries attended the meeting. The meeting commenced with an opening address by Mr. Amano Haruyoshi, Chairperson of the committee. Ms. Nishimoto Yuki, Secretary of the committee, presented the Activity Report since last meeting in Singapore (2013) and Activity Plan for 2014-2015. The committee members made presentations of their recent activities and business results.

The meeting was followed by election of the Office Bearers of the Committee. Mr. Amano Haruyoshi of JCCU, Japan was re-elected as Chairperson for another term of four years. Mr. Poh Leong Sim of NTUC FairPrice, Singapore and Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana of COOPFED, Sri Lanka were elected as Vice-Chairpersons unanimously. The next committee meeting is scheduled to be held in 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Participants and members of the Consumer Committee

SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In conjunction with the meeting of the Consumer Committee, a seminar on environmental protection was also held. The guest speakers were Ms. Desi Kusumadewi, Director, Indonesian Office of Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and Mr. Jung Won-Gak, Chairperson of iCOOP Co-operative Development Centre. Ms. Kusumadewi gave an “Overview of RSPO”, during which she covered the current situation of consumption and production of palm oil in the world, environmental and social issues, and certification system of RSPO. Mr. Jung made a presentation on, “Business and Activity of iCOOP Korea for Environmental Protection”. The presentation included back ground of iCOOP Korea, eco-friendly agricultural food business, and practices of iCOOP Korea such as protecting Korean native wheat, paddy, wetland conservation activities, and participation of consumers’ in environmental movement.

Participation: Stories and Experience Sharing

I. REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON “ENHANCING ROLE OF WOMEN IN CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS”

A three days workshop on “Enhancing Role of Women in Co-operative Business,” was held from 2-4 December 2014 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The workshop was attended by 25 participants from six countries. In attendance were “Mr. Nguyen Cuu Vice President and Mr. Hoang Nghia Trung Director General of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA). The program coordinator, Mrs Savitri Singh, delivered the welcome address and Mr. Nguyen Dac Thang, Vice President of VCA delivered the inaugural address.



Participants with Mr. Nguyen Dac Thang, Vice President of VCA

Co-operatives in Asia Pacific are widely represented in the traditional sector of economy, namely agriculture and agriculture related business such as farming, dairy, handloom and fisheries.

Statistics from most of the countries reveal that women contribute up to 50% to 70 % of labour in these businesses but, participation of women in co-operatives is still low due to socio-economic and cultural constraints. Therefore, women farmers, producers and workers are often being deprived of services and other benefits provided by a co-operative. ICA-AP is committed to enhancing the capacity of women as well as co-operative institutions to increase women’s participation in co-operative business in the region. The workshop is designed to:

1. Provide opportunity to women co-operators to meet and build up business network
2. Share information and learn about different types of co-operative businesses

The representatives from Co-operative Training Institute of Mongolia; Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative, India; Co-operative College of Malaysia; National Confederation of Co-operatives and National Coop Federation & Development Center, Philippines; All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Cooperatives, China and Micro Finance and Community Development Institute, Vietnam gave detailed presentations. They spoke about the situation of women’s empowerment, their participation as workers and leaders and their contribution to cooperatives and the national economy. The members discussed their activities taking into account the current situation, including issues and challenges; and their plans for gender mainstreaming

A study visit was organized to the Minh Dhuontg Textile Co-operative in the Bac Ninh province.

EXPERIENCE SHARING

Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) interns Tecla Van Bussel (Vietnam) and Olivia Tran (Mongolia) reflect on the role of gender in co-operatives following the International Co-operative Alliance Asia-Pacific's Workshop "Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business" held in Hanoi, Vietnam, December 2014.

'In both Vietnam and Mongolia there is poor female representation in politics and high level positions of power. In co-operatives, most leadership positions are held by men. In Vietnam, a lack of qualifying education and a cultural expectation of "shyness" can hinder women from taking these positions even when the opportunity to do so becomes available. In Mongolia, confronting gender barriers to leadership is not considered an important issue by both men and women because they already perceive their society as being gender equal.

The International Cooperative Alliance - Asia Pacific (ICA-AP) workshop held recently in Hanoi, are essential to provide a common meeting ground for women to share best practices on co-operative business, leadership and gender mainstreaming. Tools and practices discussed at the ICA-AP workshop, such as sex-disaggregated data (to discover patterns in membership and participation), gender advocacy education for men and women, and proper implementation of gender quotas (especially for leadership positions), all have their merits and must be implemented in an individual co-op context in order to work.

From the workshop, and from our experiences working in Vietnam and Mongolia, we have been able to think more critically about development initiatives. Considering the diverse lived experiences of women around the world, asking the question "What barriers still exist for women in co-operatives today, and how do we overcome them?" seems daunting in its breadth and complexity, and there is no one answer. However, this is a question that must be asked by both men and women, by both development practitioners and local co-operators, in order for co-operative development to affect equitable social, political, and economic change."

FULL POST CAN BE FOUND AT:

Huffingtonpost

link: http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/canadian-cooperative-association/gender-gap-co-ops_b_6502940.html



A participant sharing her experiences

2. TRAINING ON “IMPROVING CAPACITY OF RURAL WOMEN” AT IDACA JAPAN.

Reflection from a participant Ms. Kavita Khobragade, Assistant Manager (Marketing) of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO)

It is an honour to get selected by ICA-AP to attend the training program on “Improving Capacity of Rural Women” at Thailand and Japan from 12th November to 10th December 2014. I don't have words to express my gratitude to IDACA for hosting the 2nd part of this training program and acquainting us with Japanese culture, their politeness, food habits, punctuality and also disaster management. During our training in IDACA, we learnt about Women's Association and the past and present situation of women in Japan. Earlier women were treated like cattle and labourers; but, now times have changed and many have become entrepreneurs. Cooperatives in Japan are strong and a reason for this is the involvement of women in cooperative movement. This change occurred with strong support from men in the community. Over time, men understood that agriculture cannot be possible without women and they encouraged them to actively engage in agriculture and business.

During our training program we also learnt about the cooperative movement in Japan. They started was back in 1843 through the spirit of mutual aid. After many ups and downs in cooperatives - before, during and after - World War I & II, the Agriculture Cooperatives Act was enacted in 1947, to establish agricultural cooperatives as economic organization to guarantee farmers independence. In 1954, the Agriculture Cooperatives act was revised and an apex organization, the Central Union of agricultural Cooperatives (JA-Zenchu) formed to coordinate agricultural cooperative movement. In 1963, IDACA was established in order to nurture agriculture cooperative movement in developing countries in the Asia region. The Agricultural cooperatives consist of a) PACs (JA) – multipurpose agriculture coop; b) Prefectural level organizations; c) National Federations and other organizations (doing different business like marketing, insurance, finance, welfare etc); d) JA – Zenchu – collaborates with 47 Prefectural Unions of agriculture cooperatives, provides management guidance, audits, advocates on farm policy and public relation activities for primary cooperatives and federations, and provides training and education; e) Members Organizations – hamlet organizations, commodity wise groups, Youth and Women associations.

We learnt about the formation of Japanese Women's Association (JAWA), which plays important role in business and operations of JA. They are involved, among other things in farming, food processing, running direct sale shops, and conducting welfare activities. We also learnt about JA's activities i.e., providing training and education, marketing, storage and transport facilities, supplying production material, loans, insurance, food processing, welfare services etc. We learnt about JAWA's 'local production for local consumption' movement, education program for children on food and agriculture, welfare activities for elderly people, kindergarten, activity for supporting disaster stricken area, 6th industry etc.



Ms. Khobragade receiving 'Certificate of Participation' from the Executive Director of IDACA, Japan

During our four days visit to Hiroshima prefecture, we visited Peace Memorial Park and Museum and paid our tribute to the victims of the atomic bomb. It was very depressing to see the remains of victims in the museum, but at the same time it teaches us how to come together, unite, cooperate, gather courage to overcome any disaster, be it atomic bomb, earthquake or tsunami. Here we visited direct sale shops, winery, tofu making club and learnt about the working pattern. We went to Kimita Nishiirigimi Mame Mame club and learnt tofu production. We learnt how this club was formed with 8 members; but now only 2 members are remaining, due to ageing. We also learnt about the most difficult but important aspect of life, how to say no politely, .i.e. assertiveness. During one day visit to Gunma prefecture we learned about women entrepreneurship activities and were very impressed that a 70 year old woman was running a business and propagating agriculture in younger generation.

During the entire training program we gained lot of knowledge, which will definitely help me in performing my duties in my organization.

3. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MANAGERS OF CONSUMER COOPERATIVES

EXPERIENCE SHARING

The ICA/JCCU Training Program for Managers of Consumer Coops in Japan -2014. An experience sharing by Ms. Ligaya Adame Barbadillo, Store Manager of Co-op Mart, ADTEMPCO, Philippines.



Miyagi Coop



ADTEMPCO-Coop Mart

I am very thankful to ICA/JCCU for inviting me to join the training course for managers that was held in Japan in 2014. I made new friends from different countries with different culture and religion; but even if we had these differences we also had similarities that are for the betterment of cooperatives in the pursuit of global competitiveness. I learnt a lot from the training course and following are some the lessons I have already adopted at our Co-op Mart.

Promote Member's Product: we provided display shelves exclusively for our members product. Just like Miyagi Coop and other Japanese Coops, we always think of ways in which we can help uplift quality of life of our members.



Social media: since we are now living in a modern society, our Cooperative decided to adopt the strategy of Miyagi Coop to increase both sales and membership through social media and social networking (Facebook account). You can visit our FB account: **ADTEMPCO Coop Mart Lagangilang Branch**.



Miyagi Coop



ADTEMPCO-Coop Mart

Customer service: as a customer service provider, we must serve our members/customers from the bottom of our HEART. We adopted another strategy of Miyagi Coop – Welcome greetings! Simple act of gratitude will surely satisfy ourmembers/customers.



Ms. Ligaya with fellow trainees at the Miyagi Coop



Community service: just like Co-op Net in Japan, our cooperative is also helping less fortunate children in our community. We give FREE education (scholarship) to qualified students and FREE school supplies and feeding program for young children.

Let me take this opportunity to again thank ICA/JCCU management and staff for giving me a chance to be a part of the training course. The chance to catch sight of your beautiful country and see the disciplined people, which I strongly admire. The learnings, experiences and memories that I gained in the training course will always be remembered and cherished in my whole life.

Again, Arigato gozaimasu for your kindness and generosity!



Japanese Coops



ADTEMPCO



ADTEMPCO

Charles Gould further said , “This year marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of Vaikunthbhai Mehta, whose memorial lecture I am privileged to be able to deliver today. The honour is not only in associating my words with the life of Shri Mehta, but also with the words of the 16 individuals who have delivered the memorial lecture in years past — individuals like the legendary Dr. V Kurien and the International Co-operative Alliance’s own Ivano Barberini, our immediate past President, may he rest in peace.” The full speech can be read at <http://ica-ap.coop/icanarticles/global-perspective-and-road-ahead>

CHARLES GOULD REACHES OUT TO MEMBERS IN INDIA

“Shri Mehta, as his biography claims, was the doyen of the Indian Co-operative Movement, but we need not limit his fame to this country. He stands with Raiffeisen in Germany and Desjardins in Canada and Toyohiko Kagawa in Japan and others around the world in having an impact that was intended for their own country and yet which has inspired and influenced others far beyond the ground they personally trod. And so I applaud NCUI for its efforts to keep his story alive and well-known through these lectures,” said Mr. Charles Gould , Director General, ICA while delivering the 17th Vaikunthbhai Mehta Memorial Lecture on 16th June 2014 at National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) auditorium in New Delhi. The Vaikunthbhai Mehta Memorial Lecture Series established by the NCUI is in of honor visionary leader and veteran co-operator, Shri Vaikunthbhai Mehta (26 October 1891 - 27 October 1964).

Shri Vaikunthbhai Mehta served the Bombay State Cooperative Bank (now Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank) as Chief Executive for an uninterrupted period of about 35 years. He was Minister of Finance and Cooperation of the then Bombay State and was first Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The contribution of Vaikunthbhai Mehta to the cause of Cooperative Education and Training was pioneering and foundational. As a tribute to and in memory of the great co-operative leader and philosopher, the National Co-operative Institute has been named the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management (VAMNICOM) in Pune, Maharashtra, India.



Charles Gould delivering lecture on Vaikunth Mehta



Sri Vaikunthbhai Mehta



Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI President speaking at the Vaikunth Mehta Memorial Lecture.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI inaugurated the event and introduced Sri Vaikunth Mehta and talked about how his contribution to the cooperative movement of India had helped in sustainable development of communities.

The Memorial Lecture was attended by about 400 co-operators including officials, leaders, and ICA-AP and NCUI staff.



Director General with the officials of Panipat Arban Co-operative Bank

The Director General, during his three days visit to New Delhi, took the opportunity to meet leaders of IFFCO, NCUI and several other co-operatives. Mr. Gould had a special meeting with Dr. Yadav, wherein he discussed several issues concerning NCUI and their expectation from ICA. The purpose of this meeting was to gain Member Insight into the ICA Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade, value of ICA membership and member expectations.

Mr. Gould also visited a Model Dairy Plant of the National Dairy Research Institute and the Panipat Urban Co-operative Bank in Haryana. He was very much impressed with the performance of both institutions and their contribution to employment generation and the sustainable development of their community.

Sustainability



FAMILY FARMING IN BHUTAN

A summary report on the presentation made by Mr. Sangay (Farmer) Rinchen, CEO & Founder Happy Green Co-operative, Thimpu, Bhutan and Member of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation, at the Meeting of the International Co-operative Agricultural Organization (ICAO) in Bali during the 11th Regional Assembly of the ICA Asia and Pacific organized in co-operation with DEKOPIN at Bali, Indonesia from 17-20 September 2014.

ICA Asia and Pacific in its continued efforts to promote the co-operative movement and agriculture in Bhutan, facilitated the representation of Mr. Sangay (Farmer) Rinchen, as the guest speaker.

Bhutan's national vision is to attain a society based on happiness, which is prescribed in its constitution.

Bhutan has an area of 38,000 sq km with a population of about 800,000 (in 2014). The arable land is around 11% and land under cultivation is only 3%; the forest cover is approximately 85%. Bhutan's economy, like many other south Asian countries is based on an agrarian economy and agriculture directly supports 65% of its population. Agriculture traditionally employs all members of the 'farmers' family and the farming arrangement usually integrates livestock development, agriculture and forestry.

Farming in Bhutan is based on self-sufficiency and what goes to the market is only the surplus produce to the market, mirroring the co-operative philosophy. Such farms operate on traditional co-operative systems of operations and functioning. The farms are in tandem with the philosophy of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness and are treated with natural and non-chemical fertilizing systems. Bhutan's lawmakers envisage a 100% organic production and consumption by 2020.



Farmer Sangay at the Happy Green Cooperative Grocery Store

At the moment there are 37 co-operatives in Bhutan, chiefly operating in the agriculture sector. The co-operative movement in Bhutan is aiming at increasing memberships in co-operative farming, ethical procurement of raw materials, enhancing technology and increasing production of small-scale farm businesses.

Happy Green Co-operative was set up in the year 2007 as the first autonomous co-operative in Bhutan. It began by integrating a few families around the Thimpu area and has grown since to involve members from various sections of the society with an interest in farming. It has now has diversified into consumer goods such as potato wafers.



Happy Green Chips (produced by HGC)

Identity

COOP Marque

There are 1,200 registered users of the global Co-operative Marque in 96 countries.

The leading countries from the Asia Pacific are Republic of Korea (89), Philippines (28), India (25), Australia (12), and Sri Lanka (9)

STATEMENT ON THE CO-OPERATIVE IDENTITY

The Statement on the Co-operative Identity was adopted at the 1995 General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), held in Manchester on the occasion of the Alliance's Centenary. The Statement was the product of a lengthy process of consultation involving thousands of co-operatives around the world.

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 tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Principles: The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.

- **Voluntary and Open Membership:** Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, 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.
- **Democratic Member Control:** Co-operatives are democratic organizations 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 organized in a democratic manner.
- **Member Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to an 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



Coop Identity



any of the following purposes: a) Developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible. b) Benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative. c) Supporting other activities approved by the membership.

- **Autonomy and Independence:** Co-operatives are autonomous, self help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain the co-operative identity.
- **Education, Training and Information:** Co-operatives 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.
- **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.
- **Concern for Community:** Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

BHUTAN: FIRST CO-OPERATIVE SHOP OPENS IN BHUTAN

The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan saw agriculture development scale to a new level when the Royal government formally created an enabling environment in 2001, with the enactment of the Cooperatives Act of Bhutan (CAB), for farmers' groups and cooperatives. In 2009, following an amendment to the CAB, the responsibility to implement the Act was taken up by the newly created, Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives under, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF). Agriculture plays a major role in the Bhutan's goal of achieving self-sufficiency and there is need to promote the expansion of farmers groups and cooperatives and infusion of technical expertise and finance.



Cooperative Shop Bhutan

DOMAIN

Adding .coop to the end of your web or email address is the most cost effective way to let people know you're a co-operative. The .coop domain is an exclusive name reserved purely for cooperatives, so you'll be in good company. And because it's exclusive to co-ops you have a fantastic choice of names with far less limitation than with .com or other domains.



B-Coop Shop Bhutan

There are currently 170 farmers groups, 34 registered cooperatives and one co-operative federation under the department of agriculture marketing and cooperative (DAMC). The department has linked these groups and cooperatives with schools, hydropower projects and other offices to help them market their products. On May 12, 2014, the first Bhutan Cooperative Shop (B-COOP Shop), opened in Thimphu, the capital city of Bhutan. The B-COOP shop will help the farmers groups and cooperatives to display and sell their products directly to the consumer and by pass the middlemen.

USE OF THE MARQUE AND LOGO IN THE ASIA PACIFIC COUNTRIES

JuanREWARDS.COOP People-centered businesses driving social innovation putting people first

REWARDS HOTEL ...the first Condominium Hotel owned and operated by OFW Cooperatives.

The condominium is the first such ambitious and bold development operating as a hotel for investment purposes by OFWs as one of the many Passive Income businesses for them to get out of the Rat Race, and the lead program of the cooperative for OFW Re Integration Program to the Philippines for its members and stakeholders. The project **OFW COOP HOTEL** is owned by the only and current premier OFW Cooperative organization whose common bond of association is occupational Overseas Filipino Workers - the **JuanREWARDS Multipurpose Cooperative (JRMCo)** in partnership with the first real estate cooperative - the **Creating Abundance in Real Estate Network (CARENET) Multipurpose Cooperative** as hotel manager and operators.

CLICK here to see the possible Costing, Price, Photos, Layout Plans, and Passive Income of JRMCo Members...

Juan Rewards Co-operative, Multipurpose co-operative, www.juanrewards.coop



Central Tea Cooperation Federation <http://www.ctcf.org.np>

ABOUT .COOP

.coop is an email and web address top-level domain (TLD), which forms the end of a web address just like other TLDs such as .com and .org. Unlike these extensions, which can be used by any organization or person, .coop is exclusively available to bona fide cooperatives.

The .coop domain is used by thousands of cooperatives all over the world, making it the global identity for the world cooperative movement. It helps co-operative organizations enhance and market their businesses, better connect with their members and network with other cooperatives across the world.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

The .coop story started on 16th November 2000, when the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), supported by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), approved the creation of the .coop TLD.

Legal



The President of Sri Lanka with Youth Delegates from various countries

1. WORLD CONFERENCE ON YOUTH, MAY 2014, SRI LANKA

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation (ICYC) participated in the World Conference on Youth- 2014 (WCY2014) held in Sri Lanka from 5-10 May 2014. The conference was held at the National Youth Services Council, Ministry of Youth and Skills Development, Maharagama, Colombo.

More than half the world's population (3.5 billion people) is under 25 years of age and a large percentage of them are in Asia. The WCY 2014, being held in Asia for the first time, was a recognition of the number and importance of youth in Asia.

The ICYC made space at the conference for its members to highlight the value based alternative model and principles that co-operative enterprises run on. The ICYC delegates from China, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka who participated in the conference organized events such as 'the Coop Difference – A Talk on the co-operative business model' and exhibition booth at the Conference Exposition center to showcase products of co-operatives from the ICYC member countries. The Chairperson of ICYC, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, participated at the Roundtable plenary pertaining to Full Employment and Entrepreneurship to highlight the difference a democratically controlled and member owned economic enterprise such as co-operatives could make in shaping the world.

In the current Millennium Development Goals framework, young people are seen as beneficiaries rather than partners. Youth also account for a large percentage of the most vulnerable and affected population around the



Young Cooperators with Mr. Purvottam Poudel, Minister of Youth, Nepal at the Coop Booth

world. There is no international convention on the Rights of Youth or any other high-level body dealing specifically on youth issues. To address these concerns and to mark a change in the way youth related issues are dealt with, the conference adopted the Colombo Declaration to involve young people in the policy making framework. The Declaration also recognized the role and importance of co-operatives and called upon governments to create an enabling environment to foster such models of business. The excerpt mentioning co-operatives in the declaration is placed below and the full text can be accessed by clicking on the official logo of the WCY 2014.

COLOMBO DECLARATION RECOGNIZES CO-OPERATIVES FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

FULL EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

27. Create an enabling business environment and multi-stakeholder partnerships, including between developing and developed countries, that are environmentally sustainable to boost entrepreneurship, including startups and apprenticeship for youth and alternative models of enterprise such as co-operatives and intra-regional business incubators with focus on young women and young persons living with disabilities.

2. NATIONAL CONFERENCE: BUILDING UP THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM IN LAOS

The National Conference on “Building up the Co-operative System in Laos” was held from 11th to 13th November 2014 in Vientiane in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The Chief Guest, Mr. Phoumy Phoumanivong, Director General of Department of Agriculture Extension and Co-operative (DAEC), in his opening address appreciated the efforts of ICA-AP to help Laos build its co-operative system. Dr. Somnuck Thirasack, DDG of DAEC, MAF, Lao and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP welcomed the participants on behalf of their respective organisations.



World Conference on Youth



Participants with Mr. Phoumy Phoumanivong, Director General of DAEC



Over 50 national and international participants attended the conference. There were representatives from all stake holders in the country, including officials from Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Parliament, Prime Ministers' Office and Ministry of Industry. Farmers and co-operative members from various provinces were also present. The invited speakers were from Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Deutscher Genossenschafts and Raiffeisenverband (DGRV) Laos, Institute for Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) Japan and Co-operative Academic Institute (CAI), Kasetsart University Thailand.



Mrs. Savitri Singh giving a technical presentation

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE WERE:

- To contribute in the progress of establishing co-operative system through enabling law and policy frame work in Laos.
- To provide technical input for framing of Co-operative Law and Policy

Over two days, there were intensive presentation and discussions on the conference issues. Mr. Kham Ouane Khamphoukeo, Head of Production Group Promotion, Co-operative and Agribusiness Division, MAF presented the status paper on the Co-operative Degree and gave an insight into the progress and gaps thereof. Mr. Holger Grages shared DGRV's experience on its contribution to the development of a legal framework for cooperatives in Laos; support to set up farmers' cooperatives; and strengthen member based organisations such as village banks and savings and credit unions. Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, President of CLT and ICA-AP Board Member offered to support MAF in developing co-operative legal framework as well their business. Mrs. Savitri Singh, Adviser-Gender Program and Communication, ICA-AP shared information on inclusive law and policy enabling participation of women in co-operatives. She suggested that woman of the household/member's spouse and farm labourers should be inducted as members/associate members to derive benefit from the services of co-operatives. Mr. Maurizio Bussi, Director from the ILO Regional Office of Asia-Pacific talked about gender equality in co-operatives and ILO's 95



Mr. Maurizio Bussi speaking at the Conference



The conference participants with a Farmer's Group in Porakon region



Visit to an organic fertilizer plant

years of collaboration with ICA and the co-operative movement. IDACA has worked closely with MAF and the farming community in Laos to enhance farmers' income through the co-operative model of business. Mr. Terunuma Hiroshi from IDACA presented the rich experience from Japan. The conference adopted a comprehensive approach to look beyond structure and towards the next steps in the development of co-operative business. Prof. Juthatip Patrawart from CAI, Kasetsart University presented the Farmer Shop model to show the direct link that could be developed between producers and consumers.

Dr. Thirasack, presented the following observations based on the discussions and papers presented:

- Lao PDR is ASEAN member, but is not ICA-AP member
- Lao PDR doesn't have cooperative law
- To be a cooperative member, one must abide by the seven fundamental principles. However, in many instances farmers join because of the incentives offered; this needs to be changed
- When a parent becomes a co-operative member, automatically the others in the family considered to be associate member
- Gender balance in co-operative must be considered
- Integrate co-operative in school curriculum (as is the case in some countries)
- Objectives should focus not only on economic, but also on social and environment issues
- Strong support from policy maker facilitates smooth co-operative movement.

THE NEXT STEPS SUGGESTED WERE:

- Apply to be member or associate member of ICA in the near future
- ICA-AP, ILO, CLT, CPD, CAD, IDACA, KU, DGRV are willing to help the cooperative movement in the Lao PDR. Lao PDR Government should collaborate more with these agencies

- Dissemination of the decree 136/ PM and the two MAF decisions is a top priority in 51 Districts, 109 villages and step by step in other remaining Provinces and Districts;
- Prioritize drafting of cooperative law roadmap with NPAs, NGOs and donors
- Insist high authority to organize co-operative board committee as quickly as possible
- ILO is willing to provide necessary instruments for Lao partners to develop cooperatives

EXPERIENCE SHARING

Mr. Hiroshi Terunuma, consultant, IDACA sharing his experience from the ICA-AP-MAFF. “National Conference: Building up the Co-operative System in Laos.” At the conference that was held for two days in a panel discussion format, introduction to the background of and experiences in the development of agricultural cooperatives in Japan, and presented some proposals on what kind of activities would be required in the future based on the current situation in Laos. The main speakers were Regional Director Balu Iyer and Ms. Savitri Singh from ICA-AP; Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, Chairman of the Co-operative League of Thailand, Mr. Holger Grages, Country Director of the German Co-operative and Raiffeisen Confederation; ILO representative from Thailand and Ms. Juthatip Patrawart, Director of Co-operative Academic Institute, Kasetsart University of Thailand. About 50 people from Laos participated in the conference, including government officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the Ministry of the Interior, as well as representatives of agricultural cooperatives and producers’ groups.

Currently in Laos, there are about 2,400 unregistered producers’ groups, and if the arrangements by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry are implemented, they are to be registered on a timely basis. There are currently no agricultural co-operative laws in Laos, but the Prime Minister’s Decree concerning the establishment of cooperatives was promulgated in February 2012. This Decree stipulates the framework of various cooperatives, but because there are no detailed provisions covering the details of the nature of the agricultural cooperatives, such as the qualifications of the members, the business activities to be handled, and investment conditions as agricultural cooperatives, the enforcement of the Agriculture and Forestry Minister’s “Arrangements for the Establishment of Agricultural Cooperatives and Producer Groups” is being awaited, and it can be said that the establishment of full-fledged agricultural cooperatives has yet to start.

It was good to see that several former participants of ICA/ IDACA Training Courses were involved in this conference, including speakers and conference management staff from Thailand, and government administrators from the Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives, as well as the Planning and International Affairs Departments, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos.



Mr. Terunuma (left) at the Conference along with Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, former Chairman of the Cooperative League of Thailand (center)

In Laos in the future, it will be necessary to formulate a medium - and long-term plan (roadmap) for fostering agricultural cooperatives. To that end, coordination among government ministries and agencies, as well as effective utilization of and coordination with aid agencies and opportunities are required. Therefore, efficient fostering of agricultural cooperatives is necessary through cooperation with ICA-AP, the ASEAN Secretariat, aid agencies, and so forth, as well as cooperation with the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) and the Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD). Amid this process, the former participants of ICA/IDACA training programs are playing a central role. One of good examples of cooperation between Lao PDR and Thailand cooperative movement is ICA-Japan Training course for fostering of core leaders of agricultural cooperative which were conducted over 2 times in the last fiscal year. The course provide opportunity for Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan to study development process of agricultural cooperatives and technical matters such as accounting and business planning in Thailand for 3 weeks and 3 weeks in Japan. This course was extremely relevant and useful for Lao PRD to study about cooperative development as their languages are similar and it makes easy to understand each other.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ICA AND AARDO

Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP and Eng. Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin, Secretary General of Afro Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 2 July, 2014. The objectives of MOU are to:

- a) Ensure that there is continuous and sustainable process of sharing of lessons and experiences, particularly in establishing, strengthening, harmonising and articulating the role of the respective institutions for promotion of technical cooperation in all the fields of economic activity based on the priority areas as mutually defined
- b) Facilitate collaboration in capacity building, training and skills development and building economic linkage in the areas of sustainable economic development, promotion of agriculture and rural development and allied activities.



*Balu Iyer and Eng. Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin,
Secretary General of AARDO*

The salient features of the MOU are:

- i. Maintenance of close contact with each other and periodically exchange information on the co-operative sector
- ii. Recommendation and introduction of co-operation opportunities and partners in concerned areas
- iii. Establishment of linkages between AARDO member states and the offices affiliated with ICA-AP
- iv. Collaboration in the organisation of AARDO member states agricultural missions for carrying out studies on co-operatives in AARDO member states including India
- v. Consultations and exchange of information and expertise.

Capital

TRAINING ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF COOPERATIVES FOR WOMEN COOPERATORS

Women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in cooperatives are priority areas of ICA given the low to negligible levels of participation of women at all levels of cooperatives; especially at the leadership level. To address this, ICA-AP implements a number of capacity building programmes for member co-operatives to promote gender mainstreaming, enhance the number and quality of women participation. Each year, ICA-AP conducts a skill development programme, 'Building Management Capacity of Women for Co-operative Development' in one of the member countries. This program is designed to address the need for economic empowerment of women and start a process of empowerment through entrepreneurship and management capacity building.



Chief Guest, Mr. Mohammad Mashiur Rahman Ranga, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Co-operatives, Bangladesh delivering opening speech

20 women co-operators from various co-operatives across Bangladesh attended a five days residential training in Dhaka. The training was organized by ICA-AP in collaboration with the Department of Co-operatives (DOC), Bangladesh from on 07 to 11 July 2014 at the Bangladesh Institute for Administrative Management (BIAM) Dhaka. Mr. Mofizul Islam, Registrar of DOC delivered the welcome address and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP and, Mr. M.A. Qudersarker, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operative Division the inaugural speech. The Chief Guest

for the event were, Mr. Mohammad Mashiur Rahman Ranga, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Co-operatives, Bangladesh.

This training devoted a substantial time on capacity building of the participants in financial management besides focusing on technical skills such as entrepreneurship and leadership. The discussion on various aspects of co-operative enterprise management and financial management was facilitated by resource persons from ICA-AP and the Confederation of Credit Union of League of



Participant giving speech

Bangladesh. The discussions were followed by education and training on various skills crucial for quality participation of women and men in co-operative business and management. Besides, social and developmental issues like awareness on climate change and economic recession impacting co-operatives and members were also addressed during the course.



Chairpersons and CEOs of Savings and Credits Cooperative in Pokhara, Nepal at the workshop

YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation (ICYC) initiated pilot activities in line with its theme for the year, Financial Literacy for Youth Co-operation. The first pilot to establish youth and youth-led co-operatives was held in Nepal in December and others are planned in Bhutan and India in 2015. Over 300 persons including school and university students, parents and teachers attended the three one-day seminars in Nepal. The initiative was led by Ms. Indira Panta, member-ICYC along with VYCCU, Nepal; the Royal Pokhara Credit Co-operative Society; and Videsh Sanchar Media Cooperative. The workshop in Kathmandu was attended, among others, by the Dr. Ram Sharan, Mahat, Minister of Finance, Mr. Purvsottam Poudel, Minister of Youth Affairs, Dr. Yuvraj Khatiwada, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Dr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairperson of the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal, Secretaries and Registrar of Co-operatives. ICA was represented by Regional Board member and Chairperson of ICYC, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar. Creation of employment is a prime focus of the Nepalese Government and within this youth have a central part to play. Improving



Students and members of National Cooperative Federation of Nepal at the workshop

their knowledge on management of personal finance is important for youth in Nepal. However, for this to happen, the law governing savings among youth needs amendment in lines with Singapore and Philippines law. National co-operative Federations, especially the credit and banking federation and banks must partner to support the financial institutions created by youth by providing banking services. The ICYC will help create appropriate project tools and logo, facilitate partnership with government, national federations and co-operatives in specific areas and seek sources of funding for training and training of trainers.

EXPERIENCE SHARING



Mrs. Indira Pantra member- ICA-AP (ICYC) giving speech at the workshop

Ms. Indra Panta, Member ICYC, Nepal. It is an honor to share my experience with the ICA Asia and Pacific during 2014 with fellow cooperators from various countries across the region and beyond. My direct association with ICA-AP began in 2013 when I was nominated to the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation or ICYC by the Nepal Agriculture Co-operative Central Federation Ltd. Since late 2014, I have been the point person for the proposed project of the ICYC on Financial Literacy for Youth Cooperation that aims to create a larger awareness of the cooperative model among youth in Nepal along with India and Bhutan. The

project aims to engage more youth in co-operatives, primarily through formation of multipurpose co-operatives that include financial services. The committee under the guidance of its chairperson, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar and the Regional Director of ICA-AP, Shri Balu Iyer, organized the first series of pilot workshops in Nepal. These workshops received resounding success with overwhelming participation from students, parents, the teaching committee and the representatives of the Nepalese Government.

One of the key areas targeted is the legislative gap that exists in Nepal where youth under the age of 18 years are not allowed to engage in financial transactions, either directly or otherwise. This gap was filled in the Philippines by way of Laboratory co-operatives and in Singapore through campus co-operatives. The hope is that the project envisioned by the members of the ICYC while keeping the Colombo Declaration on Youth 2014 in mind, makes breakthroughs in the lives of Nepalese youth, with the help of the co-operative model.



Students reacting to the workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Half the total population in Nepal and most of her youth still don't have access to financial Institutions and depend on money lenders to fulfill their short term and long-term financial requirement for which pay heavy interest rates. Even if they save some money, there is no institution to keep it safe.

There are about 40,000 primary schools and high schools in Nepal, about 11,000 universities and 12 State run & planned universities. About 93 lakhs youth attend these educational institutions. It is indeed a loss that these groups of individuals have yet not come under the umbrella of co-operatives. As per the government data every year around 4 to 5 lakhs youth enter labor market and a sizeable portion of them leave the country on a daily basis in search of work. In my opinion and through the experience gained by the ICYC workshops, this challenge can certainly be addressed with the alternative that co-operatives and co-operative entrepreneurship provide. The nation's financial development can be made productive and ethical by the citizens of tomorrow in their schools. Educational institutions are envisaged to be developed as resource centers for co-operative skills' development, training and awareness.

AS A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PROJECT, WE HOPE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Establish co-operatives through membership of students, staff, teachers and parents associated with formal educational institutions.
2. Facilitate the association of such co-operatives with reliable credit co-operatives.
3. Contribution to national output through use of local labor, capital and skills and Train youth for regular savings and loans utilization among members.
4. Facilitate the operation of education related activities/businesses (stationary, books, cafeteria etc.) and make these centers for public awareness on co-operatives.



Chairperson, Member and Secretary of ICYC along with Minister of Finance, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Chairperson NCF and Chairperson of Nepal Centre Health Cooperative among others at the workshop in Kathmandu.

Pilot activities were held in Kathmandu, Nawal Parasi and Pokhra and caught the stakeholders' attention and interest. I believe that through proper planning, resources and concerted efforts among the partners in India and Bhutan, the proposed project can create a lasting impact.

I thank the Nepalese Co-operative movement and our friends at the ICA for giving me the opportunity to share my experience and feelings towards this new step to engage youth who are the citizens of tomorrow and the future of the global co-operative movement.

Activities specifically engaging youth, co-operatives and personal finance had never been organized before in Nepal. I found everyone participating, find a direct connect with our ideas and the co-operative philosophy in general. Members of the co-operative movement present during the workshops also were overwhelmed with the response they received from various quarters of the society. All major stakeholders in this vision, including Ministers of Youth, Finance and the Governor of the Nepal Rastra Bank were happy to join the workshop as this project gave them an idea to undertake the concepts of financial inclusion and entrepreneurship for youth.

Malaysia Business Office

2014 was the first full year the Malaysia Business Office (MBO) has been operational. The MBO was registered as a society and four seconded staff from All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC); Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA); Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union (JCCU); and National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea (NACF) were in place. The MBO has been set up to increase business interaction between co-operatives in the region through workshops, promotion of trade, technical exchanges, and transfer of technical and managerial know-how.

A regional workshop on Cooperative-to-Co-operative Trade (C2C) Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Ahead was organized in Kuala Lumpur from 19-22 August with the support of ACFSMC and ANGKASA. The Malaysian Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Dato Sri Hasan Bin Malek spoke of the importance of trade in Malaysia's context and the role cooperatives could play as the third pillar of development. Over 40 cooperators from the Asia Pacific region representing 13 countries made presentations and discussed the opportunities and challenges to C2C trade. Some of the challenges mentioned were limited access to trade information of potential partners; inadequate business resources such as managers with expertise, efficient teams and finances; and the small scale and scope of cooperative business. Mr. Vitoom Naewpanit, Chairman of Cooperative League of Thailand said the cooperative movement needed to play a more active role in the ASEAN community and take advantage of the regional integration. Following the workshop, there were two Trade Missions to China organized by ACFSMC in October and December. These missions offered participants from China, India, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Philippines, and Sri Lanka the opportunity to have face-to-face interaction with business managers and decision-makers of cooperatives. Expos were organized in Malaysia by ANGKASA and to show case co-operative products from Malaysia and countries in the Asia Pacific region.

The 1st Asia-Pacific Conference of Credit and Banking Cooperatives was held in Selangor, Malaysia, from 2-4 December with the support of NACF and ANGKASA. 76 participants (26 foreign and 50 Malaysians) from seven countries attended the Conference and deliberated on the theme, "Opportunities through Islamic Finance". Inaugurating the event, Mr. Seri Ahmad Bashah Md. Hanipah, Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade, Cooperative and Consumerism, spoke of Malaysia's central role in Islamic finance and the knowledge and know-how it could offer to countries in the region. He spoke of the close association of the underlying values of Islamic finance and cooperative principles. The presentations at the conference were in the areas of Islamic Economics and Promotion of Business, Business Contract in Islamic Finance, Investment and Cooperative Banking and Malaysian Cooperative Islamic Banking. The visit to Bank Rakyat, the number one ranked cooperative bank in Malaysia, gave the participants the opportunity to see first hand the banks operations.

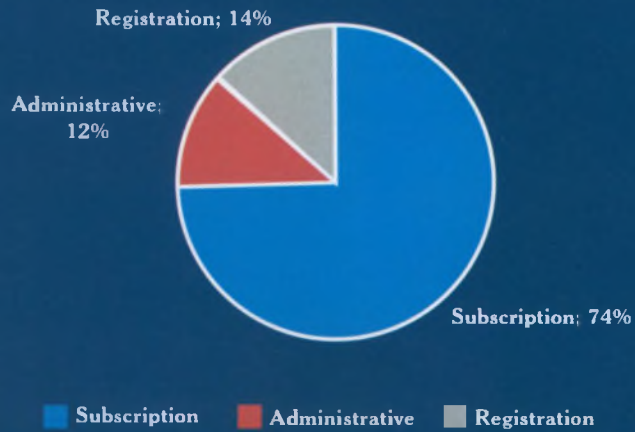


Dato Fatah Abdullah presenting a plaque to Dato Seri Ahmad Bashah Md. Hanipah, Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade, Cooperative and Consumerism with Balu Iyer looking on.

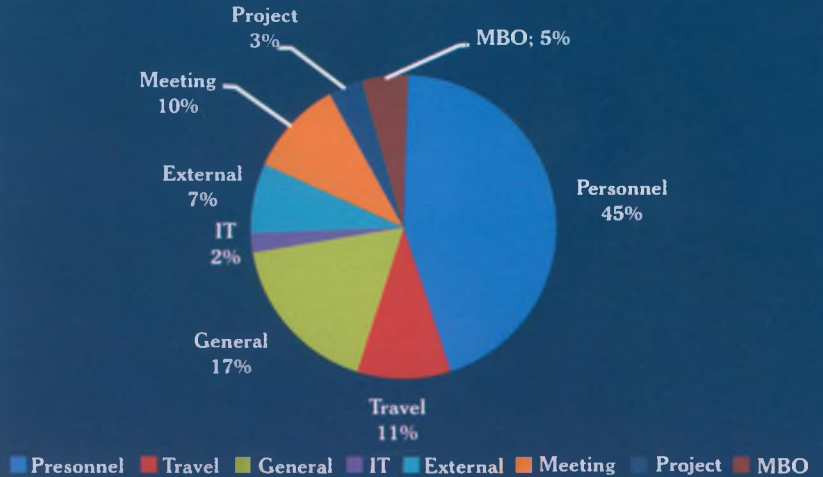
ICA-AP Income and Expenditure for 2014

The income for the Asia Pacific region comes from three sources – subscription redistribution, administrative contribution for projects and meeting registration income. In 2014, the total income for the region was \$458,538 of which \$341,529 was subscription, \$55,097 was administrative and \$61,912 meeting registration income.

Income



Expenditure



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Mr. Seungmin Lee	National Agricultural Cooperatives Federation, Republic of Korea	lee@icaroap.coop



Calendar of Events

ACTIVITY PLAN-2014

S.#	Title	Sponsoring Organization	Date	Venue	Staff Assigned
01	ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting ICA Global Board Meeting	ACFSMC-China	16-17 February	Beijing, China	Mr. Sethu Mr. Kukreja
02	Office- Bearers Meeting of ICA-AP Committee for Women.	JCCU-Japan	20-21 March	Manila, Philippines	Mrs. Savitri Singh
03	ICA-Japan Training Courses on "Fostering Core Leaders in Agricultural Cooperatives" (2 times)	MAFF-Japan	1 March-4 April 3 Sept-11 October	Thailand and Japan	Mr. Taneja
04	Workshop on Enhancing the Role of Women in Cooperative Business	JCCU-Japan	May	Tajikistan	Mrs. Savitri Singh
05	14th ICA-AP Regional Workshop For Managers on Management of Consumer Cooperatives	JCCU-Japan	23-26 June	Singapore	Ms. Yuki
06	ICA-ACFSMC Training Course on Agricultural Product Marketing and Logistics for Coops.	ACFSMC-China	23-28 June	Harbin, China	Mr. Ge
07	Management Capacity Building of Women for Gender Integration and Co-operative Development	JCCU-Japan	7-11 July	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Mrs. Savitri Singh
08	ICA-Japan Training Course on Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperatives.	MAFF-Japan	23 July-16 August	Tokyo, Japan	Mrs. Savitri Singh
09	Cooperative Banking Conference in Asia-Pacific (The 3rd MBO Council Meeting)	COOPBANK & ANGKASA-Malaysia	August	Kuala Lumpur Malaysia (MBO)	Mr. Lee
10	ICA-JCCU Training Programs for Managers of Consumer Cooperatives	JCCU-Japan	August	Miyagi, Japan	Ms. Yuki
11	The 11th ICA-AP Regional Assembly ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting The 8th Co-operative Forum ICA-AP Committees' Meetings	DEKOPIN-Indonesia	15-20 September	Bali, Indonesia	
12	ICA-AP-ILD joint Seminar on Middle-East Cooperatives	ICC- Iran	October	Tehran, Iran	Mrs. Savitri Singh
13	ICA-Japan Training Course on Improving Capacity of Rural Women.	MAFF-Japan	12 Nov-10 Dec	Tokyo, Japan	Mr. Sethu

S.#	Title	Sponsoring Organization	Date	Venue	Staff Assigned
14	ICA-AP/ NACF Joint Workshop on the Agricultural Coop System in Korea.	NACF-Korea	24-29 November	Seoul, Korea	Mr. Kukreja
15	Sub- Regional Workshop on Development of Consumer Cooperatives	JCCU- Japan	3-4 December	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Ms. Yuki
16	1st Asia-Pacific Conference of Credit and Banking Cooperatives	ANGKASA	2-4 December	Selangor, Malaysia	
17	Workshop on Enhancing the Role of Women in Cooperative Business.	JCCU-Japan	2-4 December	Hanoi, Vietnam	Mrs. Savitri Singh
18	Workshop on Development of Consumer Cooperatives	JCCU-Japan	3-4 December	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Ms. Yuki
19	Pilot Workshop on Financial Literacy for Youth Cooperation	ICA-AP	7 December	Kathmandu, Nepal	Mr. Santosh
20	Building up the ICA-AP Internet Portal at the Malaysian Business Office (MBO) - Cataloguing of Commodities Produced by ICA-AP Member Cooperatives.	ACFSMC-China	Jan-Dec.	ICA-AP (MBO)	
21	Improvement of the ICA-AP Website – Coop Laws, Members’ Data, ICA Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade, Internet Library.	ICA-AP	Jan-Dec.	ICA-AP New Delhi	
22	Publication of ICA-AP Newsletter and 2013 Annual Report.	ICA-AP	Jan.- Dec.	ICA-AP New Delhi	

- ACFSMC : All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Co-operatives
 ANKAKASA : Malaysian National Cooperative Movement
 COOPFED : Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Ltd.
 DECOPIN : Indonesian Cooperative Council
 ICAO : International Co-operative Agricultural Organization
 ICFO : International Co-operative Fisheries Organization
 ICC : Iran Central Chamber of Cooperatives
 JCCU : Japanese Consumers’ Cooperative Union
 NACF : National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (Korea)
 NCF : National Cooperative Federation (Nepal)
 MAFF : Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry, Japan

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ICA-AP Sectoral and Thematic Committees

S. No.	Name of the Committee	Name	Designation	Organisation/country
1.	ICA-AP Committee on Women	Ms. Mashako Shimbo	Chairperson	Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU), Japan
		Ms. Maria Elena Canda Limocon	Vice Chair	Women's representative to NATCCO board AWCF
		Ms. Savitri Singh	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific
2.	ICA-AP Committee on Youth	Dr. Sukesh Zamwar	Chairperson	Association Of Asian Confederation of credit unions(ACCU)
		Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur	Vice Chairperson	Karachi Cooperative housing Societies Union Ltd (KCHSU)
		Mr. Ukwaththa Liyanage Udaya Prabath	Vice Chairperson	Consumers Co-operatives Societies federation of Sri Lanka Ltd. (COOPFED)
		P. Santosh Kumar	Secretary	International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific
3.	ICA-AP Committee on Consumer	Mr. AMANO Haruyoshi	Chair person	Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU), Japan
		Mr. Poh Leong Sim	Vice Chairperson	NTUC FairPrice, Singapore
		Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana	Vice Chairperson	Consumer Cooperative Societies Federation of Sri Lanka Ltd
		Ms. Nishimoto Yuki	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance Asia and pacific (MBO)
4.	ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD)	Dr. Dinesh	Chairperson	National Cooperative Union of India(NCUI)
		Mr. Jose Romeo B. Ebron	Vice Chairperson	National Confederation of Cooperatives
		Mr. Sethu Madhavan	Secretary	International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific
5.	ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture	Mr. K.Srinivasa Gowda	Chairperson,	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd IFFCO Sadan
		Mr. Hajme Haguchi	Vice chairperson, Executive Director	Central Union of Agriculture Coops (JA-Zenchu)
		Mr. A.K. Taneja	Secretary	International Co-operatives Alliance Asia and pacific

S. No.	Name of the Committee	Name	Designation	Organisation/country
6.	ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus	Prof. Furuta MOTOO	Chairperson	National Federation of University Co-operative Association, Japan
		Prof. Park Chang Hun	Vice Chairperson	Korea University Cooperative federation(KUCF)
		Dr. Mohd. Azlan Yahya	Vice Chairperson	ANGKASA Malaysia
		P. Santosh Kumar	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific
		Prof. Zenaida S. Diola	Co-Secretary	Metro manlia Federation of Consumers Co-operatives, Philippines
		Prof. Yashwantha Dongre	Co-Secretary	University of Mysore, India
7.	ICA-AP Committee on Research	Dr. G.N. Saxena	Chairperson	IFFCO, India
		Mr. Akira Kurimoto	Vice Chairperson	Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan
		Mr. A.K.Taneja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific.
8.	ICA-AP Committee on Forestry	Mr. Shigeyoshi Satoh	Chairman, President	National Federation of forest owners' Co-operative Associations
		Mr. K.G. Wankhede	Vice Chairman	Indian farm Forestry Development Co-operatives Ltd(IFFDC)
		Mr. A.K. Taneja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific.
9.	ICA-AP Committee on Banking	Mr. Shivadasan Nair	Chairperson	National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd. (NACARDBF)
		Ms. Divina C. Quemi	Vice Chairperson	National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO), Philippines
		Mr. K. Kukreja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific





- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Israel
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Korea
- Kuwait
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
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- Sri Lanka
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- Vietnam

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Cooperative Principles

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so 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.

6. 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.

7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade

SUMMARY OF THE BLUEPRINT STRATEGY

The starting point for the strategy for a global co-operative future is the powerful claim which co-operatives make to the outside world that they have a way of doing business which is both better, and brings a more effective balance to the global economy than the dominance of one single model as now.

The starting point for the strategy for a global co-operative future is the powerful claim which co-operatives make to the outside world: that they have a way of doing business which is both better, and brings a more effective balance to the global economy than the dominance of one single model as now

Co-operatives are better because they give individuals participation⁴ through ownership, which makes them inherently more engaging, more productive, and both more useful and more relevant in the contemporary world. The aim is to elevate participation within membership and governance to a new level.

- Co-operatives are better because their business model creates greater economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- Co-operatives are better because they are a business model that puts people at the heart of economic decisionmaking and bring a greater sense of fair play to the global economy. The objective is to develop our external identity. Chapters 1 (Participation) and 2 (Sustainability) explain why co-operatives offer a better way of doing business. Chapter 3 then effectively sets out the co-operative proposition for today: what it means to be a co-operative and what are the defining characteristics or “irreducible core”.
- This is looked at through the lens of identity – which is defined by the core values and principles of co-operation, and needs to be communicated through a powerful and distinctive message to ensure that co-operatives are seen and understood by everybody from policy-makers to the general public. So the aim is to build the co-operative message and secure the co-operative identity. With the intrinsic and abiding value of the co-operative model clearly established, and a distinctive co-operative identity and proposition described, attention turns in chapters 4 and 5 to what facilitates or inhibits co-operatives.
- Co-operatives in every jurisdiction sit within a legal framework. This framework plays a critical role for the viability and existence of co-operatives. The Blueprint seeks to ensure supportive legal frameworks for co-operative growth.
- Co-operatives need access to capital if they are to be established, grow and flourish. The aim is to secure reliable co-operative capital while guaranteeing member control.
- These are the five interlinked and overlapping themes of the Blueprint strategy, which can be illustrated as follows:

