

4th
**ICA-Asia Pacific
REGIONAL CO-OPERATIVE FORUM**

**CAPACITY BUILDING:
The Priority for Co-operative Enterprises**

&
7th REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Colombo, Sri Lanka

August 14-19, 2006

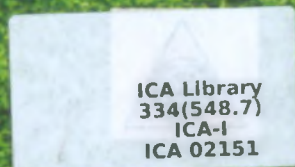
Organised by



**International Co-operative Alliance
Asia-Pacific, New Delhi**

Hosted by

The Sri Lankan Co-operative Movement



CAPACITY BUILDING: The Priority for Co-operative Enterprises

Co-operatives being member centric, democratically controlled and member-owned enterprises often face twin challenges in the form of competing globally by preserving their co-operative identity unlike investor centric enterprises. Co-operatives have to focus on provisions to cater to the needs of their members in a cost-effective manner rather than pure economic agenda of non co-op enterprises designed to cater to the needs of investors who anticipate maximum profits. Co-operatives have also to ensure sustainable business strategy aiming at modular capital formation. This way the co-operatives have to delicately balance co-operative values and competition. Therefore it becomes imperative for the co-operatives to acquire right knowledge and skills to manage the precious resources of the jointly owned co-operative enterprises.

Capacity building in co-operatives has a number of dimensions. Organizationally co-operatives belong to homogeneous group of members from resource deficient sector who in pursuit of their goals adopt co-operative way of functioning. Resource deficiency in a co-operative could reflect in the form of inadequate capital, insufficient human resource, weak input supply, lack of business knowledge, incomplete market information, uncompetitive skills and absence of right attitude.

The Co-operative Forum thus will deliberate on various pragmatic steps that may be adopted to build up strong capacity of co-ops in a competitive market.

**1st ICA-AP Regional Cooperative Forum
Singapore, 27-28 June, 2000**

**2nd ICA-AP Regional Cooperative Forum
Cebu, Philippines, 19-20 February, 2003**

**3rd ICA-AP Regional Cooperative Forum
Chiangmai, Thailand, 1-2 December, 2004**

Sub-themes of the Forum

1. Co-operative Values and Good Governance

The co-operative movement and its business are based on the values of self help, transparency, honesty, democracy, equality and solidarity proclaimed by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) in 1995. Each of the co-operative values contributes a very important significance to the co-operative movement. Taken together, the co-operative values define, and provide the parameters for, a co-op paradigm. The clear implication of these co-operative values is that human fulfillment and peace are the only ethically and morally justifiable goals for any society.

Each one of the co-operative values is a sophisticated and complex concept. Any brief definition of each of those values is not likely to adequately convey their complexity. Nonetheless, the following brief will convey enough of the meaning of each of the values to serve as a starting point for further thought and deliberation.

1. **SELF-HELP** - It is from this value that the idea flows that each individual member/owner of the co-operative shares the responsibility for the success of the co-operative.
2. **DEMOCRACY** - Democracy is a practice of governance in which the people are collectively the repository of authority. The exercise of that authority is democratically legitimate only if the people who will be affected by that exercise are consulted openly and freely.
3. **EQUALITY** - Equality as a value flows from the traditional wisdom that each



irrespective of talent, skill or appearance, possesses an intrinsic value and thus as a human is of no greater or lesser value than anyone else.

4. **EQUITY** - This value has two distinct but related meanings. One meaning of this value is as an END. The other meaning is that of a MEANS to that END.
5. **SOLIDARITY** - Solidarity as a value refers to the respect and dignity with which the individual persons of a community relate to one another. It is a relationship that grows out of each person seeing the other as valuable as the self.
6. **HONESTY** - This value has the quality of both End and Means. Honesty is a good in itself and is a means to other goods.
7. **OPENNESS** - This value refers to the structured and reasonable availability of information and knowledge relevant to the successful life of the co-operative to the membership.

Analytical argument and empirical research demonstrate the value of shifting from oligarchic corporate structures, where CEOs set the agenda and are paid 500 times the wages of their average employee, towards those which establish systems of accountability and encourage long-term participation by concerned shareholders and employees in corporate decision-making. The corporations that embrace such a dialogue are better equipped to create wealth, compete in global markets, and solve the highly complex problems of the 3rd millennium. Co-operatives are most legitimate institutions in imbibing values of good and effective governance and protecting the interests of their investors.

The presentations will attempt at articulating the practical implications and practices of each of the Co-operative Values, for the individual co-operator and for the Co-operative Movement.

2. The Co-operative Way of Management

Co-operative management is closely allied with collaborative management, participatory management, community management, joint management, and stakeholder management. Democratic control and professional management provide the co-operatives right blend of direction with intelligence. The co-operative management involves users, can improve enforcement, uses local knowledge in decision making, reduces enforcement costs, empowers local communities, emphasizes sustainability and builds trust between management and the stakeholders.

The presentations will derive set of guidelines for the co-operatives to blend conventional and indigenous practices with the modern corporate management practices so as to compete well in the globalize business world.

3. Strengthening HRD and Networking

Investing in people makes sense not just in human terms, but also in hard-headed economic terms. Although this truth might sound trivial to common people but in successful co-operative movements the subject is known since their foundation. The relevance of human resource development (HRD) that encompasses ways to train and educate members, leaders and the employees for the assured survival of co-operatives and as enshrined in ICA Co-operative Identity Statement requires effective networking among HRD institutions in co-op and corporate sector.

The importance of "intellectual capital" is today even recognized by important multi national companies. The challenge is to create an intelligent organization that is able to continually renew itself as the speed of changes in the environment accelerates.

To compete and survive, the co-operatives at the primary level need information from other forms of organizations and enterprises or from the co-operatives in other countries or regions. In the field of HRD the federative system might have to be replaced or at least to be supplemented by networking.

What are the elements of networking in co-operative HRD?

What are the advantages and what are the possibilities of external promotion?

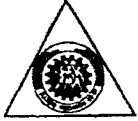
The presentations will help draw optional HRD practices to build a strong network of performing co-operatives globally.

Participants at the Forum

Participants from Co-operative Organisations, Research and Training Institutions and Co-operative practitioners from Asia-Pacific and other regions are expected to participate.

Objective of the Forum

The objective of the Forum is to have an open and frank discussion on issues facing the co-operatives and for the co-operative leaders and practitioners to come out with possible solutions and strategies for the overall development of the Co-operative Movement in the Region.



National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka

The National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka represents the Co-operative Movement of Sri Lanka. It started as the Co-operative Federation of Ceylon in 1955. By the Co-operative Law of Sri Lanka of 1972, the NCC has been re-organised and registered as the authorized spokesperson of the Co-operative Movement of Sri Lanka. The NCC covers the whole island of Sri Lanka. Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka is the President of NCC and Mr. M.G.S. Silva is the General Manager.

The Council has 13 directors, including the President to look after the affairs. The General body meets twice year and the term of office of directors is 3 years. The council also provides education, training, architectural support, banking, printing press, tax unit, etc.

The council's membership consists of 13 apex unions and 27 district councils, in the 27 geographical districts.

The objectives of the Council are to : (i) promote and development co-operative movement in Sri Lanka, (ii) educate, guide and assist members in their efforts to expand and strengthen the co-operative movement, (iv) to serve as an exponent of co-operative opinion in accordance with the ICA Co-operative principles, (v) to express the views of the co-operative movement and represent the co-operative movement, both nationally and internally.

The National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Federation of Thrift & Credit Co-operative Societies (SANASA), the Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies' Federation (COOPFED) and the National Institute of Co-operative Development (NICD) are hosting the ICA's Regional events in Colombo, during 14-19 August, 2006.



SANASA

The SANASA movement is the national Federation of Thrift and Credit Cooperatives Society. It was set up in 1906. It has a membership of 7,400 primary societies serving 20% of Sri Lanka's population, and is the only financial co-operative network which extends services to all provinces in the country. The 856,000 members of the movement are drawn from all ethnic communities. Given the average family size in Sri Lanka, one can extrapolate that SANASA services benefit a total population of over 3 million people. The SANASA group includes the SANASA Development Bank (SDB), All Lanka Mutual Assurance Organization (ALMAO), SANASA Producer Consumer Alliance (SANEEPA), SANASA Engineering and Development Company (SEDCO), and SANASA Educational Campus.

The vision of SANASA is to strengthen and develop communities it serves. Throughout its twenty year history, SANASA has been a unifying force for regions ravaged by ethnic conflict. In the immediate days following the Tsunami, SANASA was on the ground delivering basic aid, such as shelters, food and clothing; providing comfort to grieving families, and also assisting with burial. Society members in affected villages along Sri Lanka's coastline reached out to each other in the early hours of the disaster.

The Chairman of SANASA is Mr. Nilema Wanigasekara and its General Manager is Mr. L. Dassanayake. They are one of the hosts of the ICA regional events in Colombo. The SANASA movement had been led by Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, who was its Chairman.



CO-OPFED

The Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operatives' Federation was set up in 1989, to supply the consumer co-operative requirements of the Multi-purpose co-operative societies of the Island. It acts as a consumer agent and also as an importer. It has also opened consumer co-operative depots, supermarkets and groceries. All the MPCSSs are members of Co-opfed and the MPCSSs are federated into Co-opfed. The federation's operations so far has been very successful.

The Chairman of Co-opfed is Mr. UKD Palita Rohana and its General Manager is Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana. Alongwith the NCC, SANASA NICD, the Co-opfed are hosting the regional events in Sri Lanka, especially the meetings of the ICA Consumer Committee, the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives, the Regional Youth Conference and the meeting of the global Tourism organization (TICA).



NICD

The National Institute of Co-operative Development (NICD) is located in Polgolla, Kandy, Sri Lanka. Until a few years ago, the institute was known as the School of Co-operation, which was in existence for a period of 55 years. It has a large campus with both residential and educational facilities. The Institute provide training and education facilities of international standards and new methodology. The institute has the background and the capacity more conducive to achieving the objectives. The institutions is functioning as the Natational Training Institute, providing higher education and training in co-operative-related studies, for co-operative leaders and co-operative staff in addition to providing training to representatives of the ministry of co-operatives. The NICD has arrangements with co-operative development institutes in other countries to exchange staff, students and curricula.

Until recently, Mr. Udaya Seneviratne was the Director General of NICD and on his transfer to the Department of Treasury, Mr. Leselie Fonseca, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Co-operative Development, has taken over as the Director General.

The ICA-AP has been having very close collaboration with NICD and the current ICA Regional events are co-sponsored by the NICD.

PROGRAMME OF 4th ICA Regional Co-operative Forum Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 16-17, 2006

THEME : CAPACITY BUILDING – A Pivotal Issue for Co-operative Enterprises

Sub-themes:

1. Co-operative Values and Good Governance
2. The Co-operative Way of Management
3. Strengthening HRD and Networking

16 August, 2006

16:30~17:30 **Joint Opening of the 4th Regional Co-operative Forum and
7th ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.**

- Welcome address by **Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka**, President National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka
- Welcome address by **Mr. Najeeb Abdul Majeed**, Minister of Co-operatives, Government of Sri Lanka
- Welcome address by **Mr. Ivano Barberini**, President, ICA
- Inaugural address by **H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa**, President of Sri Lanka
- Presentation of Mementos
- Vote of thanks by **Mr. Shil Kwan Lee**, Regional Director, ICA A-P

17 August, 2006

09:00~09:30 Key Note Speech by **Mr. Lalith Weeratunga**,
Secretary to the President of Sri Lanka.

09:30~10:30 Presentations on **Co-operative Values and Good Governance**
Mr. Isami Miyata, President, JA-Zenchu, Japan
Mr. Mervyn Wilson, Principal, Co-operative College of UK

10:30~11:00 **Tea Break**

11:00~13:00 Presentations on the **Co-operative Way of Management**
Dato B. Sahadevan, CEO of Land Finance Co-op, Malaysia
Mr. Lyu Keon-Won, General Manager, Int'l Co-operation Office, NACF, Korea
Mr. Seah Kian Peng, Chairman, SNCF, Singapore
Mr. Alex Wright, President, New Zealand Co-operatives Association.

13:00~14:30 **Lunch Break**

14:30~16:00 Presentations on **Strengthening HRD and Networking**
Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, NCUI, India
Mr. T. Yamashita, Vice President, JCCU, Japan
Dr. Yehudah Paz, Israel

16:00~16:30 **Tea Break**

16:30~17:30 Summing up and Closing

Panelists:

1. Dr. Yehudah Paz, (former ICA Board member) Israel - Chair
2. Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Director (Development), ICA, Geneva
3. Mr. A.H. Gamage, Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives, Sri Lanka
4. Mr. Robby Tulus – Summarising.

Each of the sessions will have question/answer/interaction sessions where delegates will be able to pose queries and get responses.

Details of other Events in Colombo, Sri Lanka

14-19 August, 2006

14th Aug, Monday

09:30~17:00

09:30~13:00

14:30~17:30

09:00~17:00

Meeting of Regional Co-operative Banking Association
Meeting of Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College
Co-ops
University Consumer Co-operative Leaders' Workshop
Meeting of the TICA (Global Tourism Organisation)

15th Aug, Tuesday

09:30~13:00

08:00~18:00

08:00~18:30

09:00~17:00

14:30~18:00

Meeting of ICA Regional Women's Committee
3rd Regional Youth Seminar
4th Research Conference
HRD Seminar and HRD Committee Meeting
Meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for
Asia and the Pacific.

16th Aug, Wednesday

09:00~13:30

16:30~17:30

09:30~12:30

08:30~13:00

4th Research Conference (contd.)
Joint Opening of 4th Co-operative Forum
and 7th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly
Standing Committee Meeting
Consumer Committee Meeting

17th Aug, Thursday

09:00~17:30

4th Regional Co-operative Forum

18th Aug, Friday

09:00~16:00

7th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly

19th Aug, Saturday

Field Visits to Co-operatives

The Eminent Speakers



H.E. MAGINDA RAJAPAKSE – President of Sri Lanka

H.E. Maginda Rajapakse hails from a well known political family. President Mahinda Rajapaksa's father D.A. Rajapaksa was a well-known public figure and many have remarked on his integrity, courage and perseverance with which he carried out his duties. He succeeded his brother in the Hambantota district in the second State Council of Ceylon.

President Rajapaksa is married to Shiranthi Rajapaksa and has three sons.

Born in Weeraketiya, November 18, 1945, Rajapaksa schooled at Richmond College, Galle, later shifting to Nalanda College and Thurstan College Colombo. In 1974 he passed out as an Attorney-at-Law from the Colombo Law College and took his place at the bar, with a special interest in human rights. Throughout his parliamentary career, except for the period

from 1994-2001 when he was a minister, he continued his law practice in Tangalle, to whose development Rajapaksa has a great commitment.

Loyalty to principle and party has been the hallmark of Rajapaksa's political philosophy. When the SLFP's founder S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, left the UNP to form the SLFP in 1951, all his promised allies had abandoned him, but for D.A. Rajapaksa, who crossed over with him.

Mahinda Rajapaksa was first elected to Parliament as an SLFP member, from the Beliatta seat in 1970. At just 24 years of age at the time, he was the youngest member of the House. His father, D.A. Rajapaksa represented the same seat from 1947 to 1965. He lost his parliamentary seat in the landslide victory of the UNP in 1977. In 1989 he was re-elected to Parliament to represent Hambantota District under Proportional Representation. He adopted a centre-left political stance, identifying himself with labour rights and became a leading member of the Parliamentarians for Human Rights.

He came into prominence as a leader, together with Dr. Manorani Saravanamuttu, of the Mothers Front, which organized the mothers of the 'disappeared' in the white terror of 1988-90. The Visva Bharati University of Calcutta in India conferred on him the title Professor Emeritus for his record on human rights.

He has been the President of the Sri Lankan Committee for Solidarity with Palestine for the past 25 years and has always maintained a close interest in finding a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem within the framework of a sovereign Palestinian state.

Rajapaksa was Minister for Labour and for Fisheries in President Kumaratunga's Cabinet from 1994 to 2001. As the Minister of Fisheries he started a University for Oceanography and established a Coastal Guard Unit. As Minister of Labour he drafted and presented the Worker's Charter, the first in Sri Lanka, which was not implemented by the Kumaratunga administration. He also held the portfolio of the Ports and Shipping in addition to Fisheries, for three months and initiated work for the construction of a new harbour at Hambantota.

In March 2002 Rajapaksa was elected Leader of the Opposition. After the elections of April 2004 in which the United People's Freedom Alliance was victorious, President Chandrika Kumaratunga appointed Mahinda Rajapaksa as the country's 13th Prime Minister on April 6, 2004.

Mahinda Rajapaksa was chosen as the Presidential Candidate of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party for the election held on 17 November 2005, when his candidature was approved by 25 political parties and people's movements. He was sworn in as the fifth Executive President of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the 19th of November 2005, after being elected President with a majority that endorsed his manifesto in a closely contested and peaceful election.



IVANO BARBERINI – President, International Co-operative Alliance [ICA]

Mr Barberini was elected as ICA President by the General Assembly in Seoul in 2001 when he was President of Legacoop. He has over 40 years experience in the co-operative movement. He began his co-operative career in the consumer co-operative sector and held the position of President of Legacoop, a multisectoral organisation which represents over 10,000 co-operatives with more than 5 million members, from 1996 to 2002.

Mr Barberini has also been very active in working with European and international movements promoting co-operative values and principles, collaboration among co-operatives and has also been involved in solidarity actions for developing countries and emergency aid.

Ivano Barberini was elected unopposed for a second term at the Cartagena



HON'BLE LALITH WEERATUNGE – Secretary to the President

Mr. Lalith Weeratunga is currently Secretary to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka. He assumed this position in November 2005 when His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa was elected the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Prior to this, Mr. Weeratunga held the position of Secretary to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka from April 2004. Formerly, he was the Director, Re-engineering Government in the Information & Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka. He has also been a Senior Consultant at the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, teaching both the Masters in Business Administration and Masters in Public Administration programmes.

Mr. Weeratunga is a senior officer in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) and has held a number of senior positions in the public service as Acting Secretary to the Prime Minister, Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education & Higher Education, Director General, Tertiary & Vocational Education Commission, Vice Chairman, National Apprenticeship Board, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

He had also been Chief Technical Advisor/Vocational Training Specialist in the Regional Office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for Asia & Pacific, Thailand and had worked as a Consultant of the United Nations Development Programme for the Government of Maldives. In addition, he has conducted several consultancies for the ILO.

He holds a Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Colombo and a Bachelors degree in Natural Sciences from the same university. He is a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow of the Pennsylvania State University, USA.

Mr. Weeratunga is also the Chairman of the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka.

In addition to the public sector appointments Mr. Weeratunga holds, he is a Governor of the Marga Institute, a prestigious non-governmental think-tank.



DR. YEHUDAH PAZ

Dr Paz has served the ICA as a member of the Board since 1993, as chairman of the Global Human Resource Development Committee since 1995 and as a member of the Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific region. He is Chairperson of the Department of International Relations of the Central Union of Co-operative Societies in Israel and academic Director of the Co-operative College. Dr Paz is also a member of Kibbutz Kissufim (since 1951), of the secretariat of the United Kibbutz Movement and of the Presidium of the Israeli Co-operative Council.

Dr Paz is chairperson of the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED) - Negev College and Senior Consultant to the Peres Peace Center.



TOSHIFUMI YAMASHITA – JCCU

Mr. Toshifumi Yamashita is the Vice President of Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) and has been the Chairperson of Co-op Tokyo, which is one of the biggest and successful primary consumer co-operatives in Japan, since 2001. Mr. Yamashita started his career at University of Tokyo Co-op in 1967 and has almost 40-year experience in consumer co-op movement. He also takes on the position of Vice Chairperson of Consumer Co-operative International (CCI) of ICA since 2003. He is a member of ICA Governance Working Group and IAS (International Accounting Standard) Working Group as well.



ISAMI MIYATA – Japan

Isami Miyata is President of the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-Zenchu) and has worked in the co-operative movement since 1988. Mr Miyata has held the positions of President of Shinshinotsumura Agricultural Co-operative, President of Hokkaido Prefectural Union of Agricultural Co-operatives and Member of the Board of National Press & Information Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives. Mr Miyata was also an auditor with the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives and in May 2003 became President of the Japanese Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC).



Lyu, Keun-Won

Mr Lyu has much experience in the international cooperative movement with his long history of service for the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) of Korea starting in 1974. For over 32 years' service in the federation, he has served in various departments, including NACF Representative Office in USA, The Farmers' Newspaper, International Cooperation Office, etc. He is currently the General Manager of the International Cooperation Office of the NACF, and also the Secretary General of the International Cooperative Agricultural Organization (ICAO). He studied and procured a masters' degree in Economics at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea.



SEAH KIAN PENG – SNCF

Mr Seah Kian Peng is the Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), the apex body representing the Co-operative Movement in Singapore. He is also a member of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Board of Directors as well as the ICA Asia Pacific Standing Committee.

In the recent General Elections in Singapore in May 2006, he was elected and is now a Member of Parliament in the Marine Parade GRC.

Concurrently, Mr Seah is also the Deputy CEO and COO of NTUC FairPrice Co-operative and the Chairman of NTUC Media Co-operative. NTUC FairPrice is a leading retailer in Singapore, running a chain of over 130 supermarkets and convenience stores with a combined turnover of over US\$780 million and a staff

strength of over 5,000 employees. NTUC Media is in the radio broadcasting and publishing businesses.

Prior to his involvement in the Co-operative Movement, Mr Seah had worked in both the public and private sectors. He is Board Member of various subsidiaries with the NTUC Group and also serves various public and community organizations.



MERVYN WILSON

Mervyn Wilson is Chief Executive and Principal of the Co-operative College and has worked in the co-operative sector for over thirty years, primarily in the field of member education, co-operative identity and governance.

He has worked closely with all sectors of the co-operative movement including SME co-operatives, credit unions, food co-operatives and housing co-operatives, in addition to extensive work with consumer co-ops. He currently leads a three year curriculum development project working with specialist Business and Enterprise Colleges sponsored by the Co-operative Group.

He has also worked with co-operatives in Central and Eastern Europe on projects relating to governance and democratic member control. He is currently leading an EU Grundtvic project to develop a co-operative curriculum for member training with partners in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Italy and Lithuania. Mervyn is part of the College team working with the UK Department for International Development on ways that UK Co-operatives can contribute towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Since his appointment as Chief Executive and Principal at the College, Mervyn has overseen a significant expansion in its international work. In 2006 the College is delivering learning programmes with co-operative enterprises in Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe in addition to its extensive work in the UK, and partnerships with a range of organisations including the Ethical Trading Initiative and the Co-operatives branch of the International Labour Organisation.

Mervyn is a Director of the Robert Owen Society and a member of the Governance Review Group of the International Co-operative Alliance.



BHAGWATI PRASAD – Chief Executive, NCUI; Director General, NCCT and Director (VAMNICOM)

Mr Bhagwati Prasad holds a Post Graduate Degree in Public Administration and MBA from IGNOU. His technical qualification include 5 years training in Mechanical Engineering from System Technical School N.E. Railways, Gorakhpur.

He has vast experience on various aspects of “Cooperation” extending over a period of about 29 years.

In the field of cooperative sector, he has been Divisional Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies U.P. and subsequently held the position of Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies of U.P. He has been member of the Governing Council of

National Cooperative Union of India; Member National Council for Cooperative Training; Member of Cooperative Act Amendment Committee of U.P. etc.

He has participated in various National level seminars on Cooperative Management and Human Resource Management in cooperative organisations.

He has attended International Conferences on various aspects of cooperative sector. He attended a regional workshop organised by National Cooperative Association of South Africa - ICA - ILO Johannesburg (December, 2000); ILO Regional Conferences on Employment Generation and Cooperatives and Small Enterprises, Bangkok, Thailand May, 2001; ICA General Assembly in Seoul (South Korea) (ICA HRD Committee), October, 2001. ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperatives for Asia and Pacific at Hanoi, July, 2002; ICA Committee on HRD and Research September 2002, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia); ICA-ROAP-NCUI Regional Seminar on “Strategy for Image Building of Cooperatives : October 2002, New Delhi; ICA-ROAP-NCUI Seminar on HRD Best Practices II (Cooperative Management) October 2002, New Delhi. In these Conferences, he contributed articles on labour contracting cooperatives in India and Human Resource Development and Cooperative Management in India and Consumer Movement. He has also contributed a large number of articles.

Since August, 2000, Shri Bhagwati Prasad assumed the position of Chief Executive, NCUI and Director General, NCCT. He was also hold the additional charge of Managing Director, NCCF during the period from 30th October, 2001 to March, 2003. Also holding additional charge of Director, VAMNICOM from 28th September, 2002 onwards. He has widely travelled abroad in countries like Australia, Austria, China, Colombia, Demark, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Norway, Philippines, Paris, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, USA, Vietnam etc.

As Director General NCCT/Director,VAMNICOM he is taking initiatives in organising various training programmes for cooperative personnel.



ALEX WRIGHT – New Zealand

Alex is married to Joan and they live at Methven (a town of about 1,200 people which increases to about 3,000 during the skiing season), which is around 300 metres above sea level, 100km south west of Christchurch in the central South Island of New Zealand – about as far from the sea as you can get in New Zealand. They have three sons and 6 grandchildren.

Alex was a Foundation Director of the Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative, a Foundation Director of the South Island Barley Society, Chairman of the Mayfield-Hinds Irrigation Society and a Foundation Councillor of the New Zealand Agricultural Co-operative Association. Currently he is Chairman of the New Zealand Co-operatives Association and a Director of Ravensdown Fertiliser

Co-operative. Just so he doesn't lose touch with farming Alex has recently taken up an equity partnership in a large Dairy farm development of 800 hectares carrying 3,000 cows milked through an 80-cow rotary milking shed.

Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, ancient Taprobane, Officially Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, (2005 est. pop. 20,065,000), 25,332 sq mi (65,610 sq km), is in the Indian Ocean, just SE of India. It is an independent member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The capital is Sri Jayewardenapura Kotte. Colombo, the former

capital (and still the site of many government offices), is the commercial capital and largest city.

The pear-shaped island is 140 miles (225 km) across at its widest point and 270 miles



(435 km) long. The narrow northern end is almost linked to SE India by Adam's Bridge, a chain of limestone shoals that, although partly submerged, present an obstacle to navigation. About four fifths of the island is flat or gently rolling; mountains in the south central area include Adam's Peak (7,360 ft/2,243 m) and rise to Pidurutalagal (8,291 ft/2,527 m), the highest point on the island. Sri Lanka has a generally warm subtropical climate; the average lowland temperature is 80°F (27°C), but humidity is high. Rainfall, largely carried by monsoons, is adequate for agriculture, except in the sub-humid north. Administratively, the country is divided into nine provinces. In addition to Sri Jayewardenapura Kotte and Colombo, other important cities are Dehiwala–Mount Lavinia, Kandy, Galle, and Jaffna.

The population of Sri Lanka is composed mainly (about 75%) of Sinhalese, who are Theravada Buddhists; Hindu Tamils make up a large minority (some 18%), and there are smaller groups of Muslim Moors, Burghers (descendants of Dutch and Portuguese colonists), and Eurasians (descended from British colonists). The official language is Sinhalese (Sinhala); Tamil is a second national language, and English is commonly used in government. Education is free through the university level; the literacy rate is about 90%.

The country's economy is primarily agricultural; the emphasis is on export crops such as tea, rubber,

and coconut (all plantation-grown). Cocoa, coffee, cinnamon, cardamom, pepper, cloves, nutmeg, citronella, and tobacco are also exported. Rice, fruit, and vegetables are grown for local consumption. Sri Lanka is an exporter of amorphous graphite, its principal mineral industry. Petroleum refining is also important, and precious and semiprecious gems, mineral sands, clays, and lime stones are mined. The island's swift rivers have considerable hydro-electric potential.

Industry has been centered chiefly around the processing of agricultural products, especially the cash crops - tea, rubber, and coconut. A great variety of consumer goods are also manufactured.

Although coastal lagoons provide many sheltered harbors, only Sri Lanka lies on the



main world shipping routes. The port of Colombo, on which most of the country's railroads converge, handles most of the foreign trade. The United States, Japan, India, and the United Kingdom are the largest trading partners.

Sri Lanka is governed under the constitution of 1978. The president, who is popularly elected for a six-year term, is both the chief of state and head of government. Members of the 225-seat unicameral parliament are also elected by popular vote for six-year terms.



The Sri Lanka Currency is Sri Lankan Rupee (Rs). Electricity used is 230V 50Hz and the country dialing code is 94.

The people are friendly, the food is delicious and costs are low. Traditional art and architecture is predominantly Buddhist, and the country is dotted with stupas and sculptures of the Serene

One. Traditional dance is all about agility and symbolism. Food is often fiery hot, with hoppers (pancakes) to wrap it all up, and the tea is absolutely marvellous.



International Co-operative Alliance

The **International Co-operative Alliance [ICA]** is an independent non-governmental organisation that unites, represents and serves the co-operatives whole wide. Founded in London on 18th August 1895 by the International Co-operative Congress, the ICA, the largest non-governmental organisation, with its headquarters in Geneva. ICA is a member-based organisation with national and international co-operative organisations in 91 countries. ICA's five offices in Africa (2), the Americas, Asia & Pacific, and Europe, together, serve more than 226 member organisations, including five international organisations, representing well over 800 million co-operative members around the world.

The **ICA Asia & Pacific Office**, one of the five offices, serves 55 national level organisations from 22 countries, and one international organisation [ACCU]. Member countries in Asia-Pacific include: Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palestine, The Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Main activities are: Coordination of co-operative development efforts within the Region and promotion of exchange and experiences; Project identification, formulation and evaluation; Promotion of establishment and development of national co-operative apex organisations; and organisation of seminars, conferences and technical meetings on specific subjects including support for programmes aimed at the involvement of women and youth in co-operative activities.

Specialised bodies have been created by ICA to address specific development and technical issues in key sectors. ICA-A&P has 9 specialised committees and sub-committees, focusing on agriculture, banking/finance, consumer, fisheries, gender, health, housing, human resource development and research and university/college and youth. Committees for communications, energy, tourism and workers are co-ordinated by the Head Office.

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