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Annual Report 1997

The year that was

1. Second part of 11th ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening the Management of Agricultural Co-ops, IDACA, Japan, 23 Feb to 20 April, 1997.
2. 3rd meeting of the ICA ROAP Executive Council, Chiangmai, Thailand, 18 March, 1997
3. 3rd Meeting of the University/College Co-ops, 14-15 March, 1997, Bangkok, Thailand
4. 4th Co-operative Ministers' Conference, Chiangmai, Thailand, 18-22 March, 1997
5. Meeting of Co-op Banking and Finance, Chiangmai, Thailand, 17 March, 1997.
6. 9th Meeting of the HRD Committee, Chiangmai, Thailand, 17 March, 1997.
7. 29th meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, Chiangmai, Thailand, 23 March, 1997.
8. Regional Conference on Women in Decision-Making in Co-operatives, 7-9 May, 1997, Tagatay City, Philippines.
9. 30th meeting of Agricultural Committee, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 14 August, 1997
10. Workshop on Co-operative Identity Statement - Theory to Practice, Jaipur, India, August 17-19 August, 1997.
11. Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal, 26 August, 1997.
12. Faculty Exchange Programme between Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune, India and School of Co-operation, Polgolla, Sri Lanka July-August, 1997.
13. Visit of Chinese delegation to Canada, 6-28 September, 1997.
14. First part of 12th ICA/Japan Management Training Course, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Pune, Oct.-Dec., 1997
15. 7th Training Course for Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives, Tokyo, Japan, Nov. 4 to Dec. 3, 1997.
16. 2nd Asian Top Leaders Conference of Women Farm Leaders, Tokyo, 4-10 November, 1997
17. Second phase of the ICA ROAP Strategic Planning Exercise, Delhi, 13-15 October, 1997.
18. 30th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific and the International Conference on Youth in Co-operatives, Tokyo, 24 October, 1997.
19. International Symposium on Co-operative Environmental Initiatives, Tokyo, October 25, 1997.
20. International Forum on the use of Subsidiaries by Co-operatives, Seoul, Korea, October 28-31, 1997.
21. Third Co-operative Summit of the Philippines, Cebu, Philippines, Nov. 5-7, 1997
22. ICA/ILO Coopnet Preparatory Workshop on Co-operative Leadership Training for Women, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9-11 December, 1997.

Participate at the ICA Regional Assembly and related meetings, Seoul, 25-31 October, 1998.

Calendar for 1998

Second Board Meeting of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation, New Delhi, 25 January.

ICA/NCUI/ILO Regional Workshop on Restructuring of Co-operative Support Services, New Delhi, 19 - 24 April

Meeting of the Steering Committee on preparation of Co-operative Leadership Training for Women, New Delhi, 4th May, 1998.

ICA/JCCU Regional Workshop on Joint Buying Strategies for Consumer Co-operatives, Bangkok, 5-8 August.

Regional Protem Women's Committee meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14 August.

ICA Global Seminar on Value Based Management, Pune, India, August/September.

Meeting of the Steering Committee to technically evaluate the Co-operative Leadership Training Manual, Bangkok, last week of September.

Regional Workshop on Co-operative Leadership Training for Women - Review/Validation of draft training manual, Indonesia, last week November.

Post-Ministerial Conference workshops, national and sub-regional.

Regional Women's Committee Meeting, Seoul, 25 October.

Regional Women's Forum, Seoul, 26 October.

Specialised Committee Meetings (Agriculture, Consumer, Fisheries, HRD, Banking), Seoul, 26 October

Special Workshop on Agriculture-Consumer-Fisheries Strategic Alliance, Seoul, 27 October

ICA Regional Assembly, Seoul, 28-29 October

ICA Global Forum, Seoul, 29-30 October.

Message from Mr. Yang Deshou, ICA Vice-President for Asia and the Pacific

At a time when the region of Asia and the Pacific is being possessed by the ill-effects of the financial crisis, ICA ROAP has made a number of important steps to strengthen its regional office as well as provide useful services to its member organizations. The Co-operative Ministers' Conference in Thailand, the Special Workshop on the ICA Co-op Identity Statement in India, and various sector-based activities such as in Agriculture, Consumers, Women, and Youth are just some examples.



Timely institutional adjustments made by and within ICA ROAP also helped to increase the confidence of member-organizations towards the ICA. It is apparent that the ICA ROAP is constantly aware of the prevailing regional realities and, under the leadership of the newly appointed Regional Director, has the capacity to tailor their development services accordingly.

The decision-making structure at the global level of ICA has also been more balanced with the addition of two more board members coming from the Asia Pacific region, including Senator Rahaiah Baهران from Malaysia as the first ever woman member from this region. The Standing Committee met in Thailand in March 1997, and has been instrumental in setting the basis for a better policy structure. It has also become a practice for ICA Board members from this region to have their meeting prior to the official Board meetings. A concerted effort has developed as a result of close coordination between the Vice President and the Regional Director in this region.

At the ICA ROAP itself a restructured office will promise more efficiency and effectiveness in meeting members' needs. This provides the needed impetus to tackle on-going challenges in the region. The Regional Assembly scheduled for October 1998 in Seoul, Korea, will be a good forum to take stock of the progress made and to adjust the structure of governance that best meet the challenges for the coming century.

I trust all ICA members in Asia and the Pacific join me in giving the Regional Office, under the Directorship of Mr. Robby Tulus, its well deserved stronger support to reach new heights in serving for co-operative development in all Asian and Pacific countries in the years to come.

Message from Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, Chairman of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific

Please accept my sincerest greetings and best wishes for the success for all our members in the ROAP region.

In our region, the Co-operative Movement has had a mixed pattern of experiences which differ according to time and place.

While the first half of the year seemed to offer everlasting green and sunny vistas, the second half saw the inception of what may be a rather cold, dark winter for many of our economies.

There are also wide differences between countries regarding the consequences of the economic crisis. Some have faced up to relatively mild problems with vigour while others have withered under the pressure of currency devaluation, inflation, trade imbalances and rising unemployment.

I am confident genuine co-operatives, whose membership loyalty is strong, will be resilient enough to meet these challenges. Others will have to re-examine their management, membership loyalty and short term objectives.

I look forward to meet colleagues at the Assembly in Seoul in October.



The new ICA President and Board Members during the last General Assembly

Message from Mr. Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific

The foregoing messages of ICA Vice President Yang Deshou, and ICA Regional Assembly Chair Prof. Aziz, need no further elaboration. Both have described ICA's policy and development issues in greater depth than breadth. Illustrative segments that follow in this more concise Annual Report are intended to cover the breadth of activities and events that will show ICA ROAP's keen efforts to serve its members better. We have also elicited news and views from members to be included in this report.

To add just briefly, a question worth asking is: What have we learned from the Asian Economic Crisis that has overwhelmed discussions all over the world these days? The Co-operative Think Tank Consortium (CTTC), for example, observed that the notion of state and the market-place deserve careful examination.

There are lessons to be learned from the current crisis that virtuous ideas such as democracy, autonomy, good governance, transparency, and popular participation, if remained unchecked, will cause great harm for the entire nation. The relentless quest for profit, risk taking, rent seeking, quick fixes have, in no uncertain terms, contributed largely to the economic crisis.

The negative factors listed above are exactly the ones co-operatives were asked to challenge and avoid when founders of member-driven co-operatives started their pioneering work. Why? Because these negative factors go against the co-operatives' very reason for being : to promote the social and economic self-reliance of members by way of democratic governance.

Successful co-operatives combine growth with equity. Government-sponsored co-operatives that cast-off the principle of autonomy and independence will almost certainly languish.



The Regional Office staff. Mr. W U Herath and Mr. Guo Yong Kang were away on tour when the photo was taken



The Regional Director discussing a point with Mr. H. Kohno, ICA Board Member and Managing Director of JA-Zenchu

It strikes as a happy note to know that while co-operatives are not immune to the onslaught of the current crisis, most have been able to withstand the pressures. Good co-operatives build equity during good times, hence a crisis can be weathered. We must therefore continue to become the conscience of best business practices because co-operatives do business with a heart.

Our newly elected ICA President, Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, repeatedly said that specialization of, and integration among, co-operative sectors are important. He also emphasized the need to communicate more to the outside world and international agencies that co-operatives are indeed doing better than many of their competitors.

These statements offer hope for us in 1998 to work more closely with members to realize our strength and to add more value to it. With my sincere wishes for a better 1998!

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Policy, Development and Legislation

The ICA Policy Development and Legislative Program (PDLP) continued to focus on increased dialogue between government and movement. While co-operative policy and legislative reform remained high on the agenda, the program was predicated on the need to develop co-operative competitive strength as well.

PDLP brought forward the co-operative legislative agenda addressed during the past three Ministerial Conferences in Asia and the Pacific region. Unlike the previous ones, however, the Fourth Co-operative Ministers' Conference held in Chiangmai, Thailand, in March 1997, was preceded in large part by intensive consultations and a critical study that provoked further thinking on the need to preserve the true identity of co-operatives. While policy reforms are important, these reforms must support the distinctive character of co-operatives and not be biased towards 'corporate' structures, practices, and culture. PDLP stresses that the co-operative is a unique sector by itself, bridging the corporate and public sectors. In short, the project was aimed at developing competitive



Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director General, ICA, speaking at the 4th Ministers' Conference in Chiangmai, Thailand

strength like any other business enterprise without compromising the true co-operative identity. This has led to the need at ICA ROAP to explore the concept of Value-based Management.

The extent to which the Co-operative Identity will be enjoyed by members at the primary level is supported by Resolution No. 1.4 of the Fourth Co-operative Ministers Conference. The strengthening of competitive position of co-operatives emanated from the results of two successive Symposia - Financial Intermediation and Agribusiness - held in 1996. Linkages have now been built between stronger co-operative movements such as Korea, Singapore, and Japan, with those in the developing nations. Canada (Saskatchewan Wheat Pool) also participated in the Agribusiness Symposium to seek a back-

ward link for future business opportunities. More specifically, a survey on trade potential among co-operatives in five developing countries have been conducted, and a proposal for setting up an International Co-operative Trade Network has been submitted for consideration by Canada and Australia.

An exhaustive critical study was also conducted by Messrs. Ibnoe Soedjono and Mariano Cordero on 'Co-operative Legislation and Competitive Strength', profiling strong and weak co-operatives in five selected countries in South East Asia. This study has further sharpened the focus of PDLP to strengthen autonomy and independence of co-operatives, while at the same time to build competitive strength in the changing socio-economic environment.

The Fourth Co-operative Ministers Conference was a grand success and ICA will closely monitor the implementation of its resolutions in 1998 towards greater reform conducive to the co-operative movement in this region. It was resolved that the Fifth Co-operative Ministers Conference will be held in Beijing in October 1999, mapping out ways to create co-operative readiness in entering the next millennium.



The Regional Director had discussions with President Ramos of Philippines, during a major co-operative seminar.

Agricultural Co-operative Development



The Chinese delegation which visited Canada with the Chairman of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool

Agriculture is still the major sector of the Asia-Pacific Co-operative Movements.

During 1997, the Agricultural Co-operative Development Project has been able to conduct various activities in the Region. One of the major activities was to organise a meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and the Pacific in Colombo on 14 August, 1997, where 15 delegates from China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended and approved the new constitution of the committee.

The committee also approved a proposal to hold a joint seminar of the agriculture and consumer committees in Seoul in October, 1998 during the Regional Assembly meetings.

Another important activity was the organisation of the second Asian/African Conference of Women Farm leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives, held jointly by the ICA ROAP, the IDACA, JA-Zenchu and the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) in Tokyo 5-9 November, 1997. 43 participants representing 21 countries and three international organisations attended the conference.

The conference recommended

that efforts be made by agricultural co-operatives and government agencies to help farm women organise in groups and associations for providing opportunities for empowering them, initiate, develop and expand literacy programmes for rural women, provide leadership development programmes, vocational training and facilities, provide reservation of quotas on boards and managing committees, provide more employment opportunities for women, etc.

A third important activity was the proposal for setting up an Interna-

tional Co-operative Trade Net Work (ICTN) in the Region.

A project proposal was submitted to the the international development partners, with whom the Project Advisor had several discussions.

An agreement is expected to be signed in 1998 confirming the funding of the project and setting up of the Trade Network.

The project also provided consultancy services on agro-processing and marketing management for the ex-participants of the ICA ROAP seminars and workshops.

The Regional Director and the Agricultural Co-operative Development Advisor participated at the Seminar on Co-operative Law in China.

It is expected that the first Chinese Co-operative Law will be enacted by the Peoples' Congress next year.

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) also organised the 2nd Asian Farmers Conference 9-12 December in Lucknow where the ICA was represented by the Agricultural Co-operative Development Advisor.

He also coordinated an Exchange programme between China and Canada, where a six member Chinese delegation visited Canadian Agricultural Co-operatives.



The Chinese delegation with the Vice -President of the CCA during their visit to a Farmers' Organisation. Mr. Guo Yong Kang is also seen in the picture.

Agricultural Co-operative Management Training

Agricultural Co-operative Management training has been a regular activity of the ICA in the Region for the last several years. This is a 6-months course, which aims at training middle level managers of agricultural co-operatives in Asia. Dr. Daman Prakash is the Project Director who coordinates this activity. A total of 15 participants from countries in the Region are selected through nominations from member organisations. The training programme is financially supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) of the Government of Japan.

The course normally starts in October/November and culminates with detailed training at IDACA, Japan and a final appraisal session of projects prepared by the participants. Several of the projects prepared by the past participants of this course are running successfully in different countries.

During the year 1997, study visits programme of the 11th course was held in Sri Lanka, where the participants visited several successful co-operatives and projects of past participants. Also the second part of the 11th course was held at IDACA, including study visits to Japanese agricultural co-operatives, exposing the participants to the Japanese technology in agriculture.



Inaugural session of the 12th ICA-Japan Management Training Course. H.E. S. Tanino, Ambassador of Japan to India inaugurated the Course.

A top leaders' conference on 'Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia' was held at Tokyo 14-19 April.

The conference was jointly organised by the ICA, JA-Zenchu and IDACA. Seven senior level leaders from China, Korea, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, apart from Japan, participated in the Conference. The participants of the 11th course were also able to attend this conference.

The first part of the 12th training course was inaugurated on 20th October, 1997 by H.E. Sakutarō Tanino,

Ambassador of Japan in India. After 10 days of regional review and visits to local co-operative organisations in Delhi, the participants moved to IRMA, Anand for the 5-week module on Management Principles, Methods and Techniques with special reference to Management Leadership Development in Agricultural Co-operatives. A workshop on case-writing organised during this period was also very useful to the participants.

Another programme conducted by the project was the 7th ICA/Japan Training Course for Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives from 10 November-03 December, 1997. The six participants from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan were also able to participate at the second Asian Conference of Women Farm Leaders in Tokyo. The Conference was jointly organised by the ICA-JA-Zenchu/AARRO and IDACA.

Dr. Daman Prakash has also been involved as a member in a Feasibility study on Integrated Development of Rural Co-operatives - KUDs, in Indonesia, conducted by the Japanese International Co-operation Agency and the JA-Zenchu in Indonesia.



Asian/African Women Farm Leaders' Conference in progress in Tokyo

Consumer Co-operative Development

Consumer co-operative development is another major activity of the ICA Regional Office. The Region has a very active Regional Committee on Consumer Co-operation.

During 1997, there were two meetings of the Committee, one at Chiangmai in Thailand, 23 March and the other at Tokyo, 24 October. The first one was attended by 27 members from 12 countries and the second one had 22 participants from 8 countries. The second meeting was held in conjunction with the International symposium on environment organized by the JCCU.

The project has been publishing an in-house bulletin 'Asian Consumer Co-op News' and also provides information on consumer co-operative movements and activities through the ICA Regional news bulletin 'Asia-Pacific Co-op News'.

Support was provided to member consumer co-op movements in the Region in different ways on their requests. Financial support and guidance was also provided to the Thai University Co-operative Federation in close collaboration with the JCCU and the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NFUCA), an affiliate of JCCU. Two university co-operative seminars for leaders in

Vietnam were facilitated during this period and assisted the Vietnamese member organisation in preparing a model university co-op law for Vietnam.

Support was also provided for a project to consolidate co-operatives in the educational institutions in India during the year, including the preparation of a comprehensive data-base and a convention held in Chennai, India during November.

A preliminary study on the consumer co-op situation in Myanmar was prepared. Another notable activity was a sub-regional seminar on Management of Self-Service Consumer Co-op Store Operations for South Asia, Mumbai, India, November 22-27, 1997.

During the year, 4 store managers from the Singapore consumer co-operative movement were given a 10-days training with the help of JCCU on modern techniques of super market management. Similarly, four store managers from Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Tonga and Philippines were attached



A view of the Sub-Regional Seminar on Self-Service Consumer Store Management, held at Mumbai, India

to FairPrice Co-op Consumer Store chain for 10 days' training in October 1997 in Singapore.

As a part of the special efforts to develop youth co-operators in the consumer co-operative sector, a Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific was functioning in the region.

This is a sub-committee of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific. The sub-committee met in Bangkok during March, 1997 and 28 participants and observers from India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan and Vietnam attended.

Financial and technical assistance were provided to India to conduct 5 state-level seminars to consolidate co-operatives in the educational institutions.

Health Care Co-operatives in the Region are served by the Consumer Co-operative Development Project. During August 1997, the Asia-Pacific Healthcare Co-operative Association (APHCO) was formed at a meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. Kato, the Chairperson of the International Health Co-op Organisation has been elected as the chairperson of APHCO and the ICA ROAP will function as the Secretary to the APHCO.



Dr. Shoji Kato, Chairperson of the International Health Co-operative Organisation inaugurating the Asia-Pacific Healthcare Co-op Association (APHCO) in Kathmandu

Human Resource Development

Human Resource Development is a priority for ICA globally and also for the Region. However, during the year the HRD activities suffered due to budgetary constraints.

The ICA Committee on Human Resource Development for Asia and the Pacific had its 9th meeting in Chiangmai, Thailand during March 1997. 35 delegates, observers and invitees from 8 countries, ILO and ICA participated at the meeting. The meeting was followed by a consultation between the Committee and the ILO-Coopnet Project on joint activities. As undertaken during the previous year, activities on leaders training and principals' conference have been agreed upon.

As a follow-up to the Regional Seminar held in Colombo during December, 1996, a training programme on Systematic Approach to Curriculum Designing was organised by the participants of the Colombo seminar in collaboration with the ILO Coopnet and Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune.

The HRD Advisor facilitated the workshop as a resource person at Pune, India in April 1997, in which a manual on curriculum development has been prepared and tested, which is pending publication.



Dr. Yehudah Paz, Vice Chairperson of the ICA Committee on HRD & Research, conducts the 9th meeting of the Committee at Chiangmai, Thailand, March, 1997

HRD Project continued to bear the responsibility of providing information to members of the ICA-ROAP. Four issues of Asia Pacific News Bulletin have been published and circulated. Three issues of the journal - Coop Dialogue and the Annual Report for 1996 have also been published in 1997.

During the year, the Canadian Co-operative Association was kind enough to send us an intern, Ms. Allie Irvine, who helped the project to review the quality of its information service. A readers' survey was conducted and the responses were encouraging. The respondents have

also suggested several ways of improving the service.

Under the Singapore Co-operative Technical Assistance Programme (SINCOTAP) four managers from Philippines, Thailand, and Sri Lanka were attached to co-operatives in Singapore for training in store management and insurance.

A faculty exchange programme between India and Sri Lanka was another HRD highlight during 1997. Senior trainers from the two countries were attached to national co-operative training colleges with guidance provided by the Project. The trainers were able to exchange experiences on curriculum designing, improvement on the content in the courses and new co-operative strategies of two countries.

A consultation with the NFUCA Japan has been undertaken to organize a joint activity on youth participation in co-operatives. A joint seminar on the subject will be held next year.

Research as a subject has been attached to the Project in 1996. Accordingly, few research activities have been undertaken during the year. Some studies were carried out in India on new forms of co-operatives within the disadvantaged groups, such as beggars' co-operatives and



ICA/ILO Coopnet Workshop on Curriculum Development in progress at Colombo, Sri Lanka, December, 1996

co-operatives among sex workers. Reports of these research studies were published in Co-op Dialogue.

Environmental activities in fishermen's co-operatives is another study, which will be published in future.

With extra financial support received from the SCC, the Project was able to carry out comprehensive surveys on youth participation in community based co-operatives. The Advisor prepared a research format and researchers from India, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have carried out the survey. The reports with a regional overview are still to be published.

The HRD Advisor supported the regional consultation on critical issues in co-operatives in Yangon, Myanmar and also presented a paper on sustainable development activities of co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific at the Co-operative Ministers' Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand in March 1997.

The HRD Project maintained cordial relations with relevant UN agencies and collaborated with the ILO Coopnet Project to conduct two activities and also organized a consultation to determine future directions.

The members of the HRD Committee have been active and contributed through subscriptions and bearing some local costs. However, new resources have to be generated to make the Project more active. The alliance with Japanese youth co-operatives has been a breakthrough in this direction.

Involve the women, half the world's 'workers' in the developmental efforts!

Gender Integration



Participants of the Regional Conference on Women in Decision Making in Co-operatives - Tagaytay City, Philippines, May, 1997

The Regional Office believes that Gender Integration and improved women's participation is of utmost importance to the development and sustainability of Co-operative movements and the society as a whole.

Towards this goal, the Regional Office has initiated and restructured all its activities.

During the year 1997, the major efforts were in activating a Co-operative Leadership Training for Women and organising national level women fora in member countries to precede a proposed Regional Women's Forum in Seoul, Korea in October, 1998.

The ICA Regional Office has been successful in its negotiations with the ILO Coopnet during March 1997 to involve them in joint activities in co-operative women leadership training.

The ILO collaborated and participated in the organisation of a Regional Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during December, 1997, to identify the needs and target groups and to chalk out a strategy to develop such activities.

The regional preparatory workshop in Kuala Lumpur identified the target groups, the needs and charted out a strategy to implement. The ICA hopes to appoint a consultant to prepare a



A group of women chalking out strategies for Women's Development in the Region



Participants of the ICA/ILO Coopnet Regional Preparatory Workshop on Co-operative Leadership Training for Women, Kuala Lumpur, December, 1997

Leadership Development Training Manual for Women Co-operative Leaders soon and the draft manual is expected to be ready by July/August 1998, when another Regional Workshop will be held to discuss and approve the draft.

The final manual will be published and sent to all ICA Regional member organisations by the end of next year. This is an equal-participation programme between ILO Coopnet and the ICA ROAP.

Earlier, during May 1997, the ICA was involved in a joint activity with the Asian Women in Co-operative Development Forum (AWCF) in organising a Regional Conference on Women in Decision Making in Co-operatives held at Tagaytay City, Philippines, which was a success.

More than 100 women and men from co-operatives and related organisations participated at this workshop. A declaration entitled, 'Tagaytay Declaration' and a 'Platform for Action' were drawn out.

It was one of the major recommendations of the Tagaytay Conference to conduct women leadership training in the Region.

The Gender Integration Project has also been active in persuading

national co-operative organisations in member countries to organise national women's fora.

It is expected that several national women's fora will be held and a few more will follow early 1998, prior to the Regional Women's Forum in Seoul in October, 1998.

Ms. Yukiko Yamamoto, the Gender Programme Advisor, is the Secretary to the ICA Regional Women's Com-

mittee and coordinates and supports the activities of that committee.

During the year, the Regional Women's Committee (Protem) has been able to draft out its Constitution, through efforts of its Chairperson Senator Hjh.Rahaiah Baharen of Malaysia, Ms. Leelavati Prasad of India (Vice Chairperson), Ms. Nargis Rashid of Pakistan (Vice Chairperson) and its current committee members, which was approved by the ICA Regional Executive Council.

The Committee will formally elect its office bearers in its meeting to be held in Seoul in October 1998.

ICA member organisations in the region are requested to nominate at least one member each to the Regional Women's Committee.

The Committee is actively involved in the preparations for the Regional Women's Forum in 1998.

The ANGKASA, Malaysia, the JCCU, and several other member organisations have been actively supporting the Gender Integration Project, especially on the Regional Women's Committee activities.

The project since its inception has been financially supported by the Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU).



Group discussions in progress at the Regional Preparatory Workshop on Co-operative Leadership Training for Women

CICOPA activities

During 1997, the CICOPA project has been very active in organising and supporting shoe makers' groups, handloom weavers' groups, and silk rearers' groups in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

An entrepreneurial skill development programme was conducted at Sausar and Sarangpur for the handloom weavers in January.



Women silk rearers attending Co-operative Awareness Workshop at Raipur, Madhya Pradesh (India)

Various co-operative trade exhibitions were also organised, including one held at Chiangmai, Thailand during March, 1997, which helped group members understand the business mechanism involving shadow pricing, better costing and proper display of products.

An awareness building campaign was organised for the shoe makers in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) during April, 1997. One trainer from FDDI sub-centre, Bhopal was sponsored for the Shoe Design course at the Shoe Design Centre, New Delhi, which has helped the shoe makers' group to improve the design quality of shoes they make.

An intensive co-operative awareness building drive was done for the silk rearers and reelers of various districts of Madhya Pradesh, which resulted in formation of fifteen primary co-operatives consisting of 1200 women members.

The project also provided consultancy services to the Silk Federation, which was finally registered during November, 1997 and the Government of Madhya Pradesh has invested a sum of Rs.7.5 million as share capital of the federation.

The project has also been able to increase the membership of SAMFED, which is a groupment of handloom weavers' co-operatives in

Rajasthan, to 22 with a primary membership of 750.

The project was also instrumental in forming a primary tourism co-operative with 34 members in Rajasthan, for low cost tourism.



Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director having discussions with Mr. Thanvi, Commissioner of Industries, Government of Rajasthan. Mr. Rajiv Mehta looks on.

Some Selected ICA Publications

Agricultural Co-operatives in Japan - The Dynamics of their Development, M.V. Madane, 1992, pp.250, Indian Rs.200/US\$30

Perspective Planning for Agricultural Development by Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia, 1994, pp.207, Indian Rs.460/US\$60

Managerial Decision-Making in Agricultural Co-operatives - Some Selected Cases, Prof. Ajit Kanitkar, 1995, pp.167, Indian Rs.300/US\$25

Environment and Co-operatives - A Report of the Asian Regional Study, G.C. Shrotriya and Daman Prakash, 1992, pp.215, Indian Rs.300/US\$25

Gender Planning in Co-operatives - Report of the Asia-Pacific Conference, 1993, pp.252, Indian Rs.300/US\$45

Co-operative Leadership Training for Women - Report of the Regional Preparatory Workshop, 1998, pp.110, Indian Rs.150/US\$15

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Library and Information Services

The ICA maintains one of the best and well-stocked co-operative library in the world. The library is recognised by the University Grants Commission of India and the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) for co-operative research.

Many Ph.D. students/research scholars within India and abroad make use of the library for their research and studies. Several overseas users are being provided with co-operative bibliographies, statistical information, reprographic services and information, which are appreciated by the recipients.



Ms. Carol Hunter, CCA Librarian and Information Officer, who resourced the one-day Expert Consultation on the proposed Information and Research Development Programme of ICA ROAP, with Ms. Sabitha Venkatesan, Librarian, ICA ROAP

Ms. Sabitha Venkatesan took over the charge as Librarian after the retirement of Mr. B.D. Pandey, who had served the library for almost thirty years.

Apart from the normal users of the library, a number of co-operative leaders, students and teachers of various co-operatives, co-operative training institutions and colleges visit the library every year, individually and in groups.

The ICA Regional Office and its information service has become one of the largest publishers of co-operative literature over the years. These publi-

cations are being disseminated to wider audiences both within and outside the co-operative circles in the region and globally.

The Library and Information Services has also been maintaining an ISBN system for its publications and an ISSN system for its periodicals.

One of the significant developments of the year has been the initiative to introduce a blue print and an action plan for an Asia-Pacific Co-operative Information and Resource Centre. Discussions and dialogues were held with several ICA member organisations and partners including

Library and Information Services and also set up the Asia-Pacific Co-operative Information and Resource Centre with the active support and co-operation of our members and partner organisations.

The ICA ROAP library has been much sought after and we have received encouraging feedback from our readers and users.

Some such remarks are worth mentioning: "Thanks to the excellent library, the Regional Office has been able to establish itself as a Centre for Research and Documentation on various aspects of Co-operative Development in the Region and globally"; "We appreciate the high standard of the ICA ROAP library, which certainly is a valuable asset for the members of the ICA or any one interested in co-operative development"; "The library should be given enough funds for procuring more co-operative publications and providing efficient and better services to members and readers."

the ILO Coopnet and the Canadian Co-operative Association.

An expert consultation on the proposed research and development programme was held during August, 1997, which provided various recommendations for the improvement of services and these are being implemented now.

The Library computerisation work which began in 1989 is progressing well. Documentation bulletins have also been published and circulated among member co-operative movements. We are hopeful that we will be able to improve the services of the

Members reflections on the impact of ICA's Regional activities in Asia and the Pacific

We have requested our member organisations in the Region to let us know the impact of our activities on their functioning and operations. A few of them have responded.

Federation. The Business Development Manager of NATCCO and a board member of an affiliate were trained in Supermarket Operations and Co-op Insurance in Singapore under the Consumer Co-op Develop-

erative Technical Assistance Programme (SINCOTAP) over the last few years for training co-operative managers and leaders from developing countries in various sectors like consumers, insurance, etc., a success.

With the support and technical guidance of the ICA, the SNCF has organised a National Women's Committee consisting of 10 members and the Committee will be organising a National Women's Forum during September, 1998. The Committee is also expected to be represented at the Regional Women's Forum to be held in Seoul during October, 1998.

The SNCF has representatives in the Global ICA Women's Committee and the Regional Women's Committee.

The SNCF and its affiliates are also very appreciative of the ICA's support and collaboration in organising the ICA/NFUCA/SNCF Regional Campus/Youth Seminar in Singapore during November, 1996.

The ICA has also collaborated and supported various other technical conferences and meetings organised by the SNCF and its affiliates.

The Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) felt that the ICA's collaboration and support has greatly helped them in drafting the Vietnam Co-operative Law.

The Vietnamese co-operators were also assisted by the ICA in exchange programmes and gained valuable experiences from co-operative movements in Thailand, Japan, etc. through these exchanges.

The VCA also hosted a meeting of the ICA Fisheries Committee for Asia and the Pacific and also sent their delegates to the ICA Regional University/Campus Sub-Committee meeting in Thailand and many other ICA sponsored meetings and seminars.



The Regional Director at the 3rd National Co-operative Summit at Cebu City, Philippines, November, 1997

The **National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO)** in the Philippines felt that the Regional Office and Mr. Robby Tulus, the Regional Director have contributed greatly for the Third Co-operative Summit organised by the Co-operative Development Authority (CDA) of the Philippines.

The ICA ROAP's participation in organising the Regional Seminar on Women in Decision Making in Co-operatives in collaboration with the Asian Women in Co-operative Development Forum (AWCF) and the NATCCO was also highly appreciated by the NATCCO and its members.

This was an important event which was attended by a large number of co-operative members from the Philippines and delegates from various parts of the world.

The NATCCO appreciated the SINCOTAP Programme organised by the ICA ROAP in collaboration with the Singapore National Co-operative

ment Project.

The National Co-operative Federation of Nepal (NCF) became a member of the ICA during 1997.

The Federation felt that they were immensely benefited by participating at various ICA-organised events including the Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, ICA General Assembly in Geneva, ICA/IDACA/JA-Zenchu Agricultural Co-operative Top leaders training, ICA/IDACA/JA-Zenchu Afro-Asian Co-operative Women Leaders Conference, ICA Regional workshops on gender integration in co-operatives, etc.

The NCF was also grateful to ICA for having supported a national workshop on Gender Integration in Co-operatives in Nepal and look forward to future collaboration in organising a national women's Forum in 1998.

The Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) appreciated the collaboration extended by ICA in making the Singapore Co-op-

OUR MEMBER-ORGANISATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. National Credit Union Association Inc., Australia
Brisbane, Australia
2. Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union (BJSU)
Dhaka, Bangladesh
3. All China Federation of Supply and Marketing
Co-operatives, Beijing China
4. Fiji Co-operative Union Ltd
Suva, Fiji
5. National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, India
6. National Co-op Consumers' Federation, New Delhi, India
7. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-op Ltd, New Delhi, India
8. National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation
9. National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural
Development Banks' Federation Ltd, Mumbai, India
10. National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd.
Mumbai, India
11. Krishak Bharati Co-operative Ltd. (KRIBHCO)
New Delhi, India
12. National Co-operative Dairy Federation of India Ltd
Anand, India
13. National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks
and Credit Societies , New Delhi, India
14. Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN)
Jakarta, Indonesia
15. Indonesian Workers' Co-operative Alliance (INKOPKAR)
Jakarta, Indonesia
16. Union of Indonesian Dairy Cooperatives (GKSI)
Jakarta, Indonesia
17. Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran
Tehran, Iran
18. Central Union of Rural Agricultural Co-ops of Iran
Tehran, Iran
19. Hevrat Ha'Ovdim (General Co-operative
Association of Labour in Israel Ltd), Tel Aviv, Israel
20. Union of Consumer Co-operatives
Herzlia, Israel
21. Central Union of Co-operative Societies, Israel
22. Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives
(JA-ZENCHU), Japan
23. Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU)
Tokyo, Japan
24. National Federation of Fisheries' Co-operatives
Associations (Zengyoren), Tokyo, Japan
25. National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-op
Associations (Zemori-ren), Tokyo 101, Japan
26. The Norinchukin Bank (Central Co-op Bank for
Agriculture & Forestry), Tokyo 100, Japan
27. National federation of agricultural Co-op Associations
(Zen-Noh), Tokyo 100, Japan
28. IE-NO-HIKARI ASSOCIATION (Association for Education &
Publications on Agricultural Co-ops), Tokyo, Japan
29. National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural
co-ops (ZENKYOREN), Tokyo 102, Japan
30. National Press & Information Federation of
Agricultural Co-operatives, Tokyo, Japan
31. Japanese Workers' Co-operative Union (JIGYODAN)
Tokyo 170, Japan
32. National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance
Co-operatives (ZENROSAI), Tokyo 151, Japan
33. Jordan Co-operative Organisation
Amman (Jordan)
34. Union of Consumer Societies
Almaty, Kazakhstan
35. National Agricultural Co-operative Federation
Seoul City 100 707, Republic of Korea
36. National Livestock Co-operative Federation
Seoul City 134 763, Rep. of Korea
37. National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives
Seoul 138-730, Rep. of Korea
38. National Credit Union Federation of Korea (NACUFOK)
Seoul 137-061, Rep. of Korea
39. Korean Federation of Community Credit
Co-operatives (KFCCC), Seoul 135-090, Rep. of Korea
40. National Forestry Co-operatives Federation (NFCF)
Seoul, Rep. of Korea
41. Union of Agricultural Products Co-operative Societies
Safat 13124, Kuwait
42. Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies
Safat 13019, Kuwait
43. Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies
Bishkek, Shaary, Kyrgystan
44. National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA),
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
45. Co-operative Union of Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
46. Malaysian Co-operative Insurance Society (MCIS)
Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
47. National Land Finance Co-operative Society Ltd
Kuala Lumpur 50768, Malaysia
48. Malaysian Co-operative Consumer Society Ltd
Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
49. Central union of Mongolian Consumers' Co-operatives
Ulaanbaator, Mongolida
50. Central Co-operative Society
Yangon, Myanmar
51. National Co-operative Federation of Nepal Ltd. (NCF)
Kathmandu, Nepal
52. National Co-operative Union of Pakistan
Islamabad, Pakistan
53. Sind Govt. Employees' Co-op Housing Society Ltd
Karachi 47 (Pakistan)
54. The Agricultural Co-operative Union
Palestine (Via Israel)
55. General Union of the Peasants & Agricultural Co-ops
Gaza, Palestine
56. Co-operative Union of the Philippines Inc.
Quezon City 1103, Philippines
57. National Confederation of Co-operatives Inc. (NATCCO)
Quezon City 1109, Philippines
58. Singapore National Co-operative Federation Ltd.
Singapore 298-135
59. National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka
Colombo 03, Sri Lanka
60. Federation of Thrift & Credit Co-op Societies Ltd. (SANASA),
Colombo 06, Sri Lanka
61. Consumer Co-operative Federation of Sri Lanka
Colombo 12, Sri Lanka
62. Co-operative League of Thailand
Bangkok 10300, Thailand
63. Tonga Co-operative Federation
Nuku'Alofa, Tonga
64. Union of Consumer Societies (TURKMENPOTREBSOYUZ)
Ashkhabad GSP-21, Turkmenistan
65. Uzbek Republican Union of Consumer Societies
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
66. Vietnam Co-operatives Union (VCL)
Hanoi, Vietnam
67. Association of Asian Confederation of credit Unions (ACCU),
Bangkok 10240, Thailand

Statement on the New Co-operative Identity

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

- FIRST PRINCIPLE* : *VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP*
- SECOND PRINCIPLE* : *DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL*
- THIRD PRINCIPLE* : *MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION*
- FOURTH PRINCIPLE* : *AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE*
- FIFTH PRINCIPLE* : *EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION*
- SIXTH PRINCIPLE* : *CO-OPERATION AMONG CO-OPERATIVES*
- SEVENTH PRINCIPLE* : *CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY*

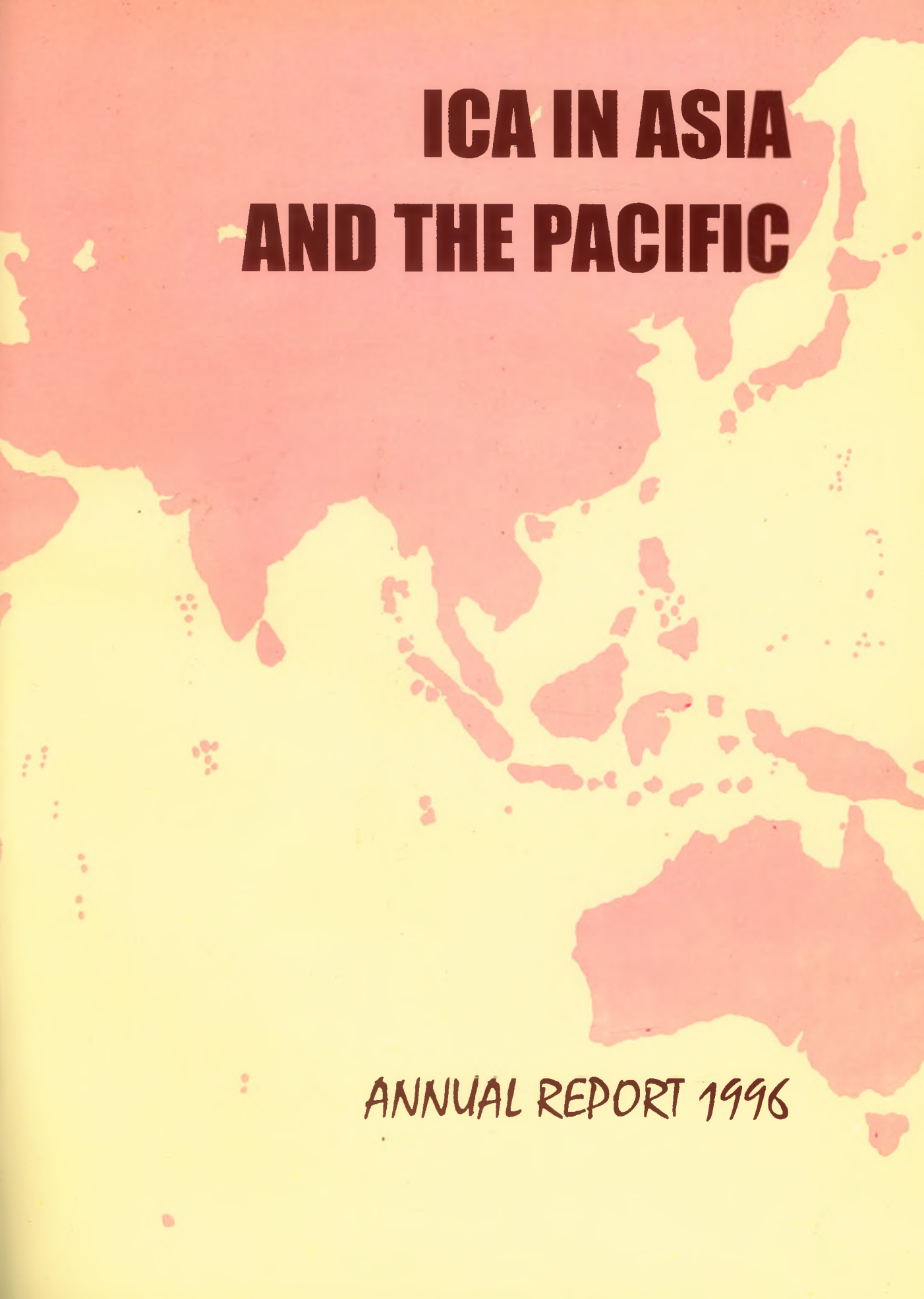


ICA IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC : REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 1997 (1200)

Published by the ICA Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific, New Delhi.

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer at the ICA ROAP

Printed at Document Press, H.S. 14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi 110 048. India



ICA IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT 1996



Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Our Vision

The International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-governmental association, which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide.

Our Mission

The ICA as a universal representative of co-operative organisations of all kinds, shall have the following objectives:

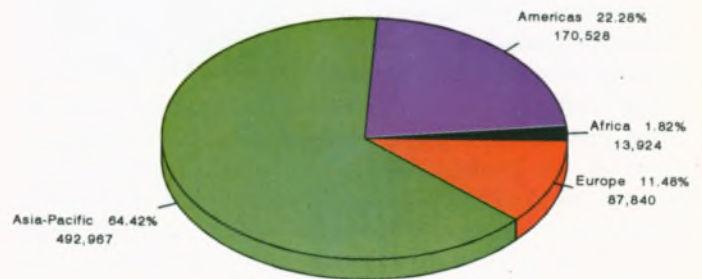
- a) to promote the world co-operative movement, based upon mutual self-help and democracy;
- b) to promote and protect co-operative values and principles;
- c) to further the economic and social progress of people, thereby contributing to international peace and security.

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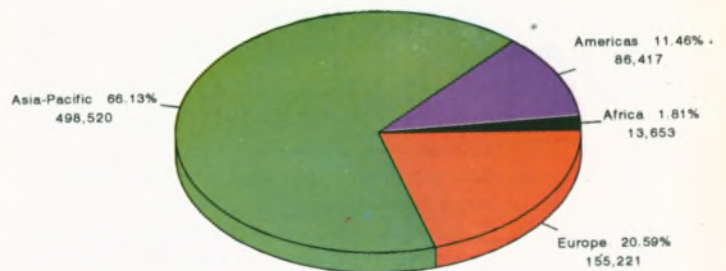
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Our Position in the Global Membership of the ICA

1996



1995



From the Chairperson of the Regional Assembly

Under the new presidency of Mr. Graham Melmoth, ICA itself and its members are entering a new era. Not only are they forming to a better identity of themselves but co-operation among ICA members, especially in the Asia and the Pacific Region, has greatly improved.



So far the realignment of the relationship between the various committees and the Regional Assembly has been given proper attention. The process of reformation has also managed to convince senior members at the level of the Executive Board that more attention and support needs to be given to Asia not only because it contains such a substantial number of co-operatives in a large number of countries, but also because it has the greatest potential for social and economic development for the co-operative

as well as the non-co-operative sectors. It is also realized that this Region deserves a fairer share of its financial contribution to the Centre.

In all humility, my advice to fellow co-operators and leaders of the Movement in the respective countries of the Region is that we should make fewer appeals while we pay positive regard to the new Principles so carefully accepted at Manchester in 1995.

We should also give equal attention to the expansion of the Movement among youths so that a second and third tier of leadership can be prepared to take over in the near future.

Let us not forget to acknowledge the efforts contributed by all the staff of our Regional office who make our Regional Movement at all possible.

Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz

Chairperson of ICA Regional Assembly for Asia & Pacific

Highlights of 1996

- | | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|---|
| January | - OECD announces the State of Singapore as a new developed nation in January, 1996. | | |
| | - UNDP launches a Strategic Planning Project on Co-operatives in Vietnam. | | |
| | - Thrift and Credit Co-operative Federation of Sri Lanka inaugurates the ICA Centenary Building on its education campus. | August | - Fisheries Committee of ICA ROAP meets in Kuala Lumpur. |
| February | - JICA launches a feasibility study of agricultural co-operatives in Indonesia. | | - ICA Symposium on Co-operative Banking and Finance, Goa, India. |
| | - VICTO, Philippines conducts a Regional Seminar on Youth in Co-operatives. | September | - ICA ROAP Regional Consultation on Gender Integration in Co-operatives, Bangkok, Thailand. |
| March | - Vietnam passes the first ever legislation on co-operatives. | | - Mr. Yves Regis, President, CICOPA passes way. |
| | - ICA Regional Seminar on Housing Co-operatives proposes to set up a Housing Committee. | October | - Vietnam organizes a workshop on Consumer Co-operative Development. |
| May | - NACF, Korea hosts an ICA ROAP Regional Seminar on Agri-business Co-operative Development. | | - Australian Co-operatives hold a Key Issues Conference. |
| June | - Mr. Malte Jonsson, Senior Development Advisor returns to SCC. | | - ICA holds Asian Regional Conference of Top Level Women Farm Leaders. |
| | - Regional Assembly meets in Kuala Lumpur and decides to appoint a permanent Advisory/ Standing Committee. | | - ICA/ICMIF Insurance Seminar is held in Japan. |
| | - Agricultural Committee of the ICA ROAP meets in Kuala Lumpur. | | - Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director retires and Mr. Robby Tulus takes over. |
| | - Consumer Committee of ICA ROAP meets in Kuala Lumpur. Mr. H. Tanaka is elected as the Chairperson of the Consumer Committee, while Mr. Ohya retires. | November | - Second Meeting of the Asian Healthcare Co-operatives decide to float an Asia-Pacific Health Organization. |
| | - HRD Committee of ICA ROAP meets in Kuala Lumpur, adopts the new Constitution and renames itself as the Committee on Human Resource Development and Research. | | - ICA ROAP adopts a new 4-year work plan for 1997-2000. |
| | | December | - ICA ROAP holds a Symposium on Co-operative Agri-business in Myanmar. |
| | | | - ICA holds a Regional Consultation in Myanmar, on the issues for the forthcoming Ministers' Conference. |
| | | | - ICA ROAP holds a Curriculum Development Workshop in Sri Lanka, after 1982. |
| | | | - Vietnam holds a National Workshop on Strategy for Co-operative Development. |

From the Regional Director

The year 1996 was instrumental in gathering moral strength of co-operatives and co-operators worldwide as they sought to put the **1995 ICA Statement on Co-operative Identity** into practice. Meanwhile, ICA ROAP conducted its second Meeting of the Regional Assembly on 13th and 14th June, 1996, in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. During this meeting, the importance of the Identity Statement was once again confirmed by members in the region as they made serious efforts to translate the Identify Statement into various local languages, initiated campaigns to familiarize members and the public about this new Identity, and consult governments to include this Identify Statement into their respective co-operative laws. The Regional Assembly made it evident that members are committed to fortify their operations by putting the new Co-operative Identify Statement into practice. It suggests, at the same time, their genuine support of the role of ICA as custodian of the co-operative values and principles.



Herath, who will continue to assume his role as the HRD Advisor as well. Mr. Malte Jonsson, Senior Development Advisor, has returned home to Sweden and assumes new duties at the Swedish Co-operative Centre.

Mr. G.K. Sharma, who served as Regional Director over a period of nine consecutive years since 1987, has been replaced by Mr. Robby Tulus with effect from October 01, 1996. A note of appreciation for the contribution and dedicated work of Mr. Sharma was conferred by Mr. Graham Melmoth, President of ICA, following the announcement. Mr. Tulus began assuming his new position as the Regional Director from October 01, 1996. With new challenges ahead, and with the number of senior management staff reduced, the call for greater efficiency and higher productivity becomes inevitable.

1996 was indeed a year where new grounds were broken. It was a year with the new Co-operative Identify Statement had inspired so many co-operators to advance the co-operative cause. It was a year when challenges to co-operatives from the globalized economy was countered by a forward-looking study on co-operative legislation and competitiveness, as well as relevant seminars and symposia, and subsequently debated upon at the ICA Regional Consultation towards the end of 1996 in Myanmar.

And as co-operatives in this region prepare to drive forward on the unfamiliar terrain that lies ahead, it becomes clear that co-operatives are going to require an innovative and renewed business development vehicle with some very different driving skills and a whole new sense of direction. But, even more fundamentally, we will need to challenge all our personal and managerial assumptions about the world we are heading into.

In short, we need to rethink the future. Since the future is so all encompassing, ICA ROAP needs to gather fresh views and insights from its members in order to identify their future needs, to map out our development strategy on that basis, and to refocus its efforts. We at ICA ROAP must do so by working together with our members, our international co-operative partners, bilateral and multilateral agencies, government as well as non-government organizations. We must renew our commitment to advance growth and development of co-operatives which has an impact on our precious owners at the very base : members of primary co-operatives!

It is our earnest hope that 1997 may just create the right impetus for these changes to actually take place.

The other important role ICA is expected to perform is to offer the best possible services to its members. In 1996, as well as in the past, ICA ROAP offered important development services in the field of Human Resource Development, Policy Development and Legislation, Gender Integration, Consumer Co-operatives, Agricultural Co-operatives, and Commercial co-operation and Trade. As external funding for development services are slowly being trimmed owing to cutbacks at various international partner agencies, ICA ROAP will have to look more carefully into providing better quality and value-added services that will strengthen its members, especially at a time when competition emerging from the globalized economy has narrowed down business opportunities to many co-operatives.

The Advisory Committee, established at the ICA ROAP First Regional Assembly in January 1995, reaffirmed the above perspective in its report on the policy direction of ICA ROAP at the Second Regional Assembly in June, 1996. Consequently, a Standing Committee of the Executive Council was formed at the Regional Assembly to replace the Advisory Committee, with the purpose of providing guidance and direction to the Executive Council for overseeing the work of ICA ROAP.

1996 also saw some important changes in the staffing of ICA ROAP. Mr. Pradit Machima reached his retirement age and has returned home to Thailand. His role as Consumer Co-op Advisor has been replaced by Mr. Upali

Robby Tulus
Regional Director

Members' Meeting

Regional Assembly Meeting

The Second Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, on 13th & 14th June, 1996. 166 delegates/observers from 22 countries viz. Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Sweden, England and Hungary attended the meeting. In addition, special invitees from IDACA and ILO Co-opnet Project also attended the meeting.

The inaugural session started with prayer followed by welcome address by Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, President of ANGKASA, and addresses by Mr. Graham Melmoth, President of ICA and Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairman, ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

The Meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. Hon'ble Datuk Osu Haji Sukam, Minister of Land and Co-operative Development, Government of Malaysia, and other senior officials were also present.

Royal Prof. Ungku Aziz, Malaysia, was elected as Chairman of the Regional Assembly for the next two years, who took the chair. Mr. Shahid Ullah, Bangladesh, was elected Vice-Chairman.

One of the debated issue was the creation of a continuing Standing Committee to oversee the working of the ICA ROAP. Some argued that it is not necessary to create more committees but to work at the field level. Reference was made to the modern communication systems, which would facilitate quick decision-making. However, there was a consensus to have a standing committee to lead the ICA ROAP for more focused activities and to work on the financial aspects. The Assembly agreed to have the following members in the committee:

1. Mr. H. Toyoda, Vice President, ICA
2. Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, Chairman, Regional Assembly
3. Mr. Yang Deshou, China, Member of Board
4. Mr. Y. Paz, Israel, Member of Board
5. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, India, Member of Board

The committee would decide on its terms of reference.

Some of the members wanted to strengthen the ICA ROAP by receiving a better share from member contributions and increasing the representation of the Region at the ICA board level.

ICA President, Graham Melmoth, who was also participating at the meeting, on his first visit to the Region, undertook to take up this issue with the ICA Board.

The Regional Assembly approved the 4-year work plan of the ICA ROAP, which would commence from 1997.

Another development at the Regional Assembly was the approval given to set up a Regional Women's Committee and a Housing Committee. These proposed committees would have working committees to formulate constitutions which would be presented at the next Regional Executive Committee meeting in Thailand in March 1997. The Regional Assembly also approved the adopted version of the constitution for two specialized committees - consumer committee and the HRD committee.



Hon. Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia addressing the ICA Regional Assembly. Also seen is Mr. Graham Melmoth, President, ICA

29th Meeting of the ICA Agricultural Committee

The 29th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and the Pacific was held in the premises of the Co-operative College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, on 12th June 1996. 17 members from 8 countries attended the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Virendra Kumar, Vice Chairman of the Committee, in the absence of Mr. Nai Soo Lee who was unable to attend the meeting.

Haji Mahmud Yusof, General Manager of ANGKASA, extended a warm and cordial welcome to the members on behalf of the Co-operative Movement of Malaysia. He informed the meeting that ANGKASA has already nominated a member for this Committee from this year onwards.



29th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and the Pacific presided over by Mr. V. Kumar, Vice Chairperson of the Committee

Mr. G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, welcomed all members of the Committee on behalf of ICA. He also extended his sincere thanks to ANGKASA and the Co-operative College of Malaysia for making all arrangements for the meeting. He said that more than 60% of the membership was from agriculture and most of them were small farmers. He also said that this Committee is the oldest Committee of the ICA Regional Office and four strong countries (China, India, Japan and Korea) were very active members of this Committee. Hence this Committee can be useful to bring all the agricultural co-operatives together.

The country papers on Recent Trends and Developments in the field of Agriculture were presented by the members followed by discussions.

A paper on "Food Security and Family Farming" which is one of the vital issues currently facing human kind was presented by Mr. Churil-Hee Won, Vice-President of International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation, ICA and Chairman and President of National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) of Korea.

The World Food Summit is scheduled to be held in Rome (Italy) in November 1996. The objective of the World Food Summit is to renew the commitment of world leaders at highest level to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the achievement of lasting food security for all. The ICA is among a selected member of NGOs which have since been given the opportunity by the FAO to present a paper for inclusion in the World Food Summit process. Therefore, the meeting discussed in detail some common concern with the food security issue and unanimously adopted the a Resolution on Food Security and World Food Summit

The member for Sri Lanka extended an invitation to hold the next meeting in Sri Lanka. The members unanimously accepted the invitation and agreed to hold the next meeting of Agricultural Committee sometime in May 1997 in Sri Lanka for 3 days.

28th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-op Development for Asia and the Pacific

The 28th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-op Development for Asia and the Pacific was held on 11 June, 1996 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

20 delegates from Bangladesh, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam participated at the meeting. The meeting was hosted by ANGKASA.

During the meeting, the Committee adopted the new model constitution for ICA Specialised Committees with special provisions for admitting co-op consumer organizations at different levels with the concurrence of the member organization or in the absence of such a member, the national co-op organization of the country. This would regulate and facilitate the admission of members to the Committee.

Mr. Masao Ohya, the Chairperson of the Committee, who served for 10 years in the Committee, resigned from the post at the meeting as a result of his retirement from the JCCU. Many speakers appreciated his services and wished him good health and a long life in the active service to the community.

Mr. Hiroshi Tanaka, Vice President of the JCCU, was elected as the Chairperson unanimously. The members elected Mr. Lim Ho Seng from Singapore, as the Vice Chairperson for another term.

Mr. Takemoto, the Chairperson of the JCCU, as well as the Co-op Kobe, made a speech to thank the co-operators who gave support during the Kobe earthquake and said that this provided a clear example of solidarity and the courage of the co-operators.



Mr. H. Tanaka, new Chairperson of the Consumer Committee speaking at the meeting

Resolution on Food Security and World Food Summit

"Considering that more than 800 million people are now suffering from hunger and malnutrition, we, the representatives of 500 million ICA-affiliated Asian and the Pacific farmers, are deeply concerned about the present food shortage and soaring grain prices in the world market.

In an effort to overcome the food crisis situation, we are willing to participate in FAO's efforts, in particular in drafting the Policy Statement and Plan of Action at the World Food Summit to solve the global food problems. We hope that the Summit meeting will be in a right track in working out an epoch-making solution to the world food insecurity and unsustainable development of agriculture for both present and future generations.

In the Asia-Pacific region with over sixty per cent of the world's population, food situation is being exacerbated by such factors as rapid increase of population and demand for more nutritious foods, and shrinkage of agricultural base caused by industrialisation and trade liberalisation. It is said, therefore, this region will be the core of global food problems in the near future.

In solving the food problems, it is essential to encourage the vital role of the family farms in food security and environmental conservation. The family farming which is a dominant farming mode in the region is the base of food security and also best suited to safeguard rural communities and environment while it has weak competitiveness in the market due to the small management scale.

Agricultural co-operatives as the policy partners of respective governments, have actively participated in formulating and implementing agricultural policies related to production, processing, distribution and consumption of food, and contributed to food security through organising small family farms, thus enhancing their competitiveness. Therefore, we urge that respective governments should expand their policies of providing the family farms and their organisations with incentives to promote their vital roles. And the various advantages of farming activities performed by the family farms should be fully realised.

Meanwhile, we must point out that the global food situation has been aggravated since the inauguration of the World Trade Organisation last year, which has weakened the economic viability of the small family farms in the region. We, however, firmly believe that the best way to achieve the global food security is to increase food production in each country through optimizing its available agricultural and natural resources, and that every measure for supporting food production and protecting food market should be fully allowed.

Finally, we, representing countries, strongly recommend that the vital roles of the family farms and agricultural co-operatives for the global food security should be fully reflected in the Policy Statement and Plan of Action at the World Food Summit."

He stated that Co-op Kobe not only recovered from its destruction, but achieved a substantial business and a surplus during the reconstruction period.

The Committee approved a new Four Year Work Plan covering the period up to year 2000. It has been noted that there are new developments in the consumer industry such as green consumerism, fair trading and strategic planning and business alliances that have been included in the new work plan.

The delegates from different countries shared their experiences in the changing consumer business and learned from each other. The country case study presented from Malaysia, by Dato Wahiduddin revealed several problems faced by consumer co-operatives in Malaysia, due to unhealthy competition with the private sector, inefficient management, and lack of resources.

The Committee also discussed the contents of the ICAROAP Advisory Committee Report and noted the references on economic relations. The Committee would wait for the decisions by the Regional Assembly.



Mr. S. Takemoto, President, JCCU speaking at the Consumer Committee meeting



Dato' Wahiduddin speaking at the 28th meeting of the Consumer Committee. Mr. G.K. Sharma, former Regional Director and Mr. M. Ohya, former chairperson of the Committee are also seen in the picture.

9th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development for Asia and the Pacific

The 9th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development for Asia and the Pacific was held on 12th June at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The meeting hosted by ANGKASA Malaysia was preceded by a Workshop on Co-operative Management Development. Dr. Peter Davis from Leicester University, United Kingdom, was the main guest speaker. He dealt with the new co-operative identity in application to co-operative management approaches. His speech was followed by the comments from Mr. K.K.Taimni, the



Mr. Graham Melmoth, President, ICA arriving at the HRD Committee meeting

Regional Coordinator, ILO/CO-OPNET Project.

The Workshop provided a useful learning experience for the committee members. The desire was to continue with the activity during future formal meetings of the Committee.

28 delegates from 11 countries participated at the meeting. Mr. Graham Melmoth, the President, ICA, too participated at the meeting and made a speech outlining the tasks ahead of the specialised committees and the ICA in general to realise susceptibility and gender equality of co-operative movements.

One of the most important decisions made at the meeting was to adopt a new constitution for the Committee. The subject of research has been incorporated into the constitution as it has been felt that the organization of a separate committee for research would not be cost effective.

Another development during the meeting was the presentation made by Mr. Kuriki on behalf of the Federation of University Co-operative Associations in Japan on the subject of strengthening HRD activities in the youth sector. He shared the experiences of the NFUCA and emphasised the need to have more closer collaboration with the HRD Project activities of the ICAROAP. The members welcomed the proposal and after discussions, it was decided to see the possibility of organizing joint activities in the future.

There were presentations of progress reports on the Gender and HRD activities of the Regional office. The members shared their experiences in the HRD activities conducted by their countries during the year.

Development Activities

Policy, Development and Legislation

The programme during the first half of 1996 focused on a critical study on 'Co-operative Legislation and Competitive Strength', undertaken by Messrs. Ibnoe Soedjono (Indonesia) and Mariano Cordero (Philippines) to assess in earnest the state of co-operative development in five selected South-East Asian countries, i.e. Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The study was intended to be a completely independent one that would transcend institutional biases, hence enhancing transparency in its presentation.

The study concluded that the most discernable impact of the ICA ROAP-sponsored Co-operative Ministers' Conference is the enactment of new co-operative laws designed to closely conform with the co-operative principles. Based on these new laws and stated policies, governments are seen to be shifting away from being interventionists and are taking on a more supportive (and passive) role in co-operative development.

Notwithstanding the present laws and policy statements, however, governments continue to pursue inappropriate development strategies and programmes on account of large development bureaucracies, inadequate power and mandate of co-operative authorities in that

country, the embodiment of co-operative development to broader government objectives, as well as the dichotomy between the socio-political agenda vis-a-vis co-operative development. The study also observed the pitfalls of co-operative growth and expansion in terms of its competitiveness.

Findings and recommendations from the above study was further presented and debated at two successive gatherings, the first one was the Symposium on Co-operative Banking and Financial Intermediation held in August 1996 in Goa, India, and the second one was a Symposium on Co-op Agri-Business held in November 1997 in Yangon, Myanmar.

While most findings and recommendations coming from the critical study were

positively acknowledged, participants at both Symposia were of the view that variables within the legislative and competitive issues in the region must be needed so that strategies in bringing about policy and legislative reforms must be left to each country movement to develop without losing the important context proposed by the study.

Parallel to the critical study and the two symposia mentioned above, ICA ROAP also conducted an intensive survey of member countries to ascertain the extent to which recommendations from the Third Co-operative Ministers' Conference have been followed up on.

The survey, conducted by Dr. R.C. Dwivedi, dealt with the question of the continuing importance of co-operatives, among others (a) to determine structural changes that have taken place within co-operative institutions to enhance competitiveness, (b) enactment of new laws, or amendments that have been adopted in existing co-operative laws, (c) the intensification of human resource development programmes, (d) the impact of economic reforms on co-operatives, (e) government support to co-operatives, and (f) measures taken for creating the conducive environment for the development of co-operatives.

Results of the two Symposia and the internal survey was further presented and addressed at the ICA Regional Consultation in Yangon, Myanmar, in early December of 1996, attended by Permanent Secretaries of Governments and Chief Executives of ICA Member organizations from 18 countries. To round up the deliberations at the Consul-

THE OBJECTIVE

PDLP is to promote a positive dialogue between government and the co-operative movement in an effort to make policies and legislation more conducive for co-operatives to run their business in an autonomous and independent manner.



U. Muan Thi, Director General, Co-operative Development with the ICA Regional Director at the opening of the Symposium



Hon. U. Than Muang, Minister for Co-operation, Myanmar, speaks at the Regional Consultation

tation meeting, two cross-cutting themes on Gender Integration and Sustainable Development were added to the agenda.

The resolution and recommendations from the Regional Consultation in Myanmar will be presented and reviewed at the Fourth Asia-Pacific Conference of Co-operative Ministers in Chiangmai, scheduled for March, 1997.

To sum up this PDLP report, it must be said that since policy development deals for the most part with qualitative results, the process that has ensued over the past year is as important as the written or-documented results themselves.

The search for a common perception on co-operative development and the right understanding that comes as a result can only be endeavoured through positive dialogue and meaningful deliberations.

With mutual understanding created, a more conducive environment will be fashioned by the authorities for co-operatives to run their business in a more autonomous and independent manner.

Development, Planning and Coordination

ICA ROAP Planning/Review Meetings

The ICA ROAP Annual Planning Meeting was held at NPC Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, on 16th and 17th June 1996 in conjunction with the 2nd ICA Regional Assembly Meeting.

The meeting was attended by all the technical officers of the Regional Office besides the representatives of the donor organisations, e.g. the Swedish Co-operative Centre (SCC), the Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU), and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA). The ICA Geneva was represented by its Director General, Deputy Director General and HRD Director.

The different Advisors presented the work plan and budget of their projects, which were discussed with the donors concerned. The meeting discussed in detail and finalised the 4-year (1997-2000) Regional Development Plan and Work Plan including Detailed Activity Sheets. The meeting also finalised the Budget for 1997 in consultation with the donors.

An ICA ROAP internal Planning Session was held at Bonow House from 5-7 November 1996. Mr. Claes Thorselius, Deputy Director-General and Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, HRD Director, ICA Geneva attended the Planning Session, in addition to ROAP staff. The meeting felt that there should be consistency in using the terminology and we have to conceptualise the understanding and for this purpose we should get an outsider to facilitate the planning process for deciding on the mission, goal and purpose. After that the respective Advisors will rewrite the 4-Year Plan.

Regional Seminar on Housing Co-operatives

A Regional Seminar on Housing Co-operatives organised by the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the ICA Housing Committee; National Co-operative Housing Federation of India; and ICA member organisations in Malaysia under the leadership of National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA) and Co-operative Union of Malaysia, was held from 25th to 29th March 1996 at Co-operative College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. In all 35 delegates from eight countries, viz. India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Sweden participated in the seminar.

The main objectives of the seminar were (a) To strengthen inter-regional and global collaboration in the field of housing co-operatives; (b) Preparation for setting up an ICA Regional Housing Committee for Asia and the Pacific; (c) To establish national co-operative housing organisations in the region; and (d) Study of Co-operative Housing Situation in Malaysia.



Mr Soejano presenting the critical study at the Regional Consultation

A proposed Regional Committee on Housing Co-operatives was set up for strengthening Co-operative Housing Movement in Asia and the Pacific. The main objective of the Committee shall be to promote, develop, strengthen and coordinate the activities of housing co-operatives in the Region.

The ICA ROAP was requested to get the formation of the above Committee ratified in the coming Regional Assembly Meeting in Malaysia in June 1996.

The interim Committee elected was authorised to finalise the Constitution of the Committee on Housing Co-operatives and initiate the activities.

After detailed deliberations during 5 days in various sessions and visits to co-operative housing projects, the following recommendations were made by the seminar.



Mr. Rolf Trodin, Chairperson of ICA Global Housing Committee speaks at the Regional Seminar

Consolidation of Housing Co-operatives

01. National Co-operative Housing Federation may be set up by each country of the Region. These National Federations may act as advisory bodies for their governments, promote housing co-operatives, provide necessary advice and guidance to their primaries and also keep in touch with the Regional Housing Committee and other international organisations dealing with housing.

02. The National Co-operative Housing Federations of various countries, where there is no national federation, local organisations, should join the membership of ICA Housing Committee and Regional Co-operative Housing Committee.

03. Long-term Action Plan, say for about 10 years, might be drawn for promoting and strengthening housing co-operatives in the countries of Asia and the Pacific.

04. The governments of Asia and Pacific countries should be requested to frame National Housing Federation and assign a definite role to housing co-operatives therein.

05. The Regional Committee should draw a develop-

ment plan for housing co-operatives in each country of the Region.

06. The Regional Committee/ICA Regional Office should identify the sources of funds available for housing co-operatives at international level and disseminate this information to housing co-operatives in the Region.

Training Programmes/Study Visits

07. ICA Regional Office/Regional Committee may organise training programmes and study visits to those countries where housing co-operatives have made good progress. The National Co-operative Housing Federations in India and Pakistan and the ICA Housing Committee should extend all possible support to this programme.

Research Studies

08. The Study on Housing Co-operatives in Asian countries, initiated by ICA ROAP, should be finalised by collecting data and other information from Registrars of Co-operative Societies for the benefit of housing co-operatives. Some more studies, highlighting achievements or success and weaknesses affecting this sector in Asian countries, compare and contrast their experience on co-operative housing, suggest policy changes and innovation and management practices, which may contribute in enlarging the existing knowledge-base on co-operative housing, should be undertaken.

09. The Regional Committee may bring out a Bulletin quarterly/ half-yearly or a separate section in ICA Newsletter may be added which may include success stories of housing co-operatives, latest technologies developed in house constructions and other informative articles or reports for the benefit of member countries.

10. The ICA ROAP may follow the implementation of this Seminar's recommendations and review its progress at regular intervals.

ICA ROAP Data Bank

During the year, the work to build up the ICA ROAP Regional Co-operative Data Bank has been progressing well. The Data Bank Unit which is now a separate activity in the DPCP with a Technical Officer in-charge of the operations, is now fully operational. The data bases in use at present are:

- General information concerning Member-Organisations;
- Sectoral information on Member-Organisations;
- Contribution of ICA Member-Organisations in Asia-Pacific for ROAP Administration and Project Activities;

Mr. Malte Jonsson, Senior Development Advisor, returned to Sweden on 23rd June 1996, after completion of his assignment with the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

- Basic socio-economic characteristics of ICA Member-Countries in Asia-Pacific.



ICA/NACF Agricultural Co-op Business Development Seminar in Progress

- Top Ten Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific Region, which includes largest membership of primary co-operatives, and highest business turnover.
- Basic Information on Co-op Trade of ICA Member Countries in Asia-Pacific Region.
- ICA Membership Subscription paid by ICA Member-Organisations Globally.

A revised edition of the Profile of ICA Member Countries in Asia-Pacific Region is under preparation for the use of ICA Projects, Member-Organisations, etc.

The Statistical Profile of ICA Member-Organisations in Asia-Pacific will be updated. The Profile will be sent to member-organisations and donor agencies. Sectoral Databases (Subject area) on Co-operatives will be undertaken on the demand of ICA Projects, and ICA member-organisations.

Data Bank is working in close collaboration with ICA Central Co-operative Data Bank and other ICA Regional Co-operative Data Banks by using common data entry system.

Data Bank would assist Member-Organisations in Asia-Pacific Region to establish National Co-operative Data Banks as well as Information Resource Services by organising meetings, workshops, study visits, etc. Data Bank would endeavour to develop close relationship with international organisations (UNOs and NGOs) in the Region and also support the member-organisations in the Region on such system for a co-operative data collection and exchange/ dissemination system.

Agricultural Co-operative Development

3rd ICA/NACF Regional Seminar on Agricultural Co-operative Business Development

The International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) in collaboration with the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation of

Korea (NACF) organised the 3rd ICA-NACF Regional Seminar on Agricultural Co-operative Business Development with Special Reference to Korean Experience. The seminar was held at the Central Training Institute of NACF in Seoul from 6th to 15th May 1996. 10 participants from seven countries, i.e. China, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam attended the seminar.

The objectives of the seminar were : (a) To understand the structure and business activities of agricultural co-operatives in Korea; (b) To learn modern computer system and advanced management in agricultural co-operative business development; (c) To discuss applicability of the Korean experience on business development to agricultural co-operatives of the participating countries; and (d) To formulate action proposals for the organisations/movements of the participants, keeping in view the experience gained.

The resource persons from NACF introduced Korean experience on supply of farm inputs and consumer goods, marketing, banking and credit business as well as development strategies of agricultural co-operatives. The participants presented country papers and exchanged information of co-operative development in Asian region.

Field visits were arranged to selected co-operatives to give the participants an opportunity to observe the functioning of agricultural co-operatives in Ohyang and Suanbo Region.

The participants felt the seminar was well organised and successfully achieved its objectives. The participants also formulated several proposals to introduce Korean experience to their co-operative organisations in order to improve co-operative business activities.

Regional Seminar on Agro-Processing

A Regional Seminar on Agro-Processing was organised by the International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) and the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) in Yi Xin Yuan Hotel, Dalian, in collaboration



ICA/ACFSMC Regional Seminar on Agro-processing in progress

with Dalian Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (DFSMC) from 12th to 21st November 1996. 17 participants from seven countries, i.e. China, India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Sri Lanka attended the seminar.

The objectives of the seminar were : (a) To observe the development of agro-processing co-operatives in China; (b) To understand the structure and activities of agro-processing co-operatives in China; (c) To observe women's participation in co-operatives in China; (d) To learn technology and management of agro-processing co-operatives; and (e) To identify potential areas for future co-operation on agro-processing among agricultural co-operatives in the region.

Field visits were arranged to the selected agro-processing co-operatives in Dalian City to give the participants an opportunity to see the agro-processing.

At the end of the seminar, the participants unanimously approved the following recommendations.

01. The Asia-Pacific region enjoys the considerable comparative advantage in production of several agricultural crops, fruits and vegetables. These have vast export potential. The areas of crops and those produce in which joint collaboration at international level is possible should be identified for development of processing of such agro-products in the co-operative sector. While demarcating the areas for specific agricultural activities, farmer preferences and need of raw material should be taken into account.

02. Scientific research should focus on bio-technology/bioengineering to enhance the agriculture productivity. Favourable working conditions are to be created for the scientists. They should have close mutual interaction with the farming community, so that the benefits of the research are reaped without loss of time.

The international regional research institutions may be established to promote research efforts of the participating countries depending upon the agro-produce dominance.

03. The Government should encourage only co-operatives in agro-processing sector. The tendency for allowing multinational/private sector to enter into agro-processing sector should be discouraged and stopped.

04. The benefits and concessions granted to the industry by Government should be also extended to manufacturing in co-operative sector. Tax concessions/benefits already available to the co-operatives should be continued. Agro-processing industry should be exempted from paying excise/custom duty on import of equipment.

05. Countries which have evolved more efficient technology in the products of seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides, water management, farm equipment should make it readily available to the co-operatives in other countries.

06. We should establish a co-operative network for trade, technology and economic co-operation among the Asia-Pacific countries to initiate and expand trade. For this purpose trade missions, trade fairs and exhibitions should be organised on rotational basis. It is necessary to have professional cadre of managers conversant with international trade in the apex organisations.

07. Encourage the co-operatives to work purely on democratic lines as per the guiding Statement of Identity of the ICA adopted at the Manchester Congress in September 1995.

08. An Asia-Pacific Regional Co-operative Development Bank should be established to support the infrastructure development in the participating countries for setting up strong agricultural processing base.

09. Data Banking System on trade and economic co-operation should be established.

10. The small farmers should have freedom of production. The Government should guarantee a fair price for farmers. Co-operatives should earmark certain part of their profit for stabilising the price of such crops where government support price is not available.

Asian Women Farm Leaders Conference

The Asian Regional Conference of Top Level Women Farm Leaders was jointly organised by the International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP); the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA ZENCHU); the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation Asia (IDACA); and the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) in Tokyo from 20th to 26th October 1996.

104 participants, from 24 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand and Vietnam); and five international organisations (FAO, ILO, AARRO, IFAP and ICA) attended



the Conference, which including 44 observers of JA Prefectural Women's Associations in Japan.

The main objectives of the Conference include exchange of views and experiences on the role of rural women in their participation in agricultural co-operatives, to protect their dignity and raising the living standards of rural women engaged in agricultural sector through income generating activities and better working environment.

The participants prepared a brief background paper on (a) their organisation, its involvement in women-related activities specifically of rural women; and (b) an outline of a suggested plan of action for enhancing the participation of women in better living activities aimed at improving their standards of living and involvement in development work of agricultural co-ops and distributed at the Conference.

Field visits were arranged on 24th Oct. to give the participants an opportunity to observe the functioning of agricultural co-ops in Kyoto Prefecture.

At the closing session of the Conference held on 23rd October, the participants unanimously approved a Resolution on Women's participation in agricultural co-operatives.

Promotion of Co-op Trade

The ICA ROAP conducted a survey on co-op trade among member organisations in the region and compiled a basic information on co-op trade in Asia-Pacific region which laid down the base for further development of regional data bank on co-op trade.

According to the recommendations made by the Regional Assembly, the proposal of establishing Co-op Network for Trade, Technology and Economic Co-operation was finalised.

Some initiatives were taken to hold the 1st Meeting of the Co-operative Network.

RESOLUTION OF REGIONAL WOMEN FARM LEADERS

We, leaders of Asian and African farm women in different positions, who belong to ICA and AARRO and who are engaged in activities to elevate the position of farm women have assembled here and discussed many problems.

We have assembled here to discuss how to implement at the local and state levels the action policy proposed at the Fourth World Conference on Women through solidarity of women and to exchange information.

Today, Asian and African farm women are faced with highly varied problems. There is no end to problems such as malnutrition and shortage of water and health facilities which cause high rate of infant mortality and care of pregnant women. Farm women in general are gasping under constant overwork by carrying on their back all household chores, child upbringing and production activities.

Women in Asia and Africa have been deprived of educational opportunities due to social and cultural constraints. The conditions in which Asian and African farm women are placed were reported to the Conference.

Because of the rapid increase in population, the farm women have been deprived of the minimum required services for bringing up their children.

It was reported that as development projects progress, natural environment is destroyed and farmers are deprived of land and production means. This sacrifice stemming from the growing disparity between the rich and the poor is burdening heavily on the shoulders of women.

1. Appeal to Government of All Countries

i. In order to resolve these problems, the governments of all countries are requested to recognise the importance of development of agriculture and farming villages to grasp accurately the conditions in which their farm women are placed and to enable them to display their abilities to the fullest extent. They have to recognise that this is an important common task which the governments of all countries have to grapple with for the sake of world peace.

ii. Based on this recognition, the governments of each country have to revise legal, structural and conventional contradictions in each policy area, such as agriculture, environment, education and medical care, give shape to plans to solve these problems, and make efforts to push drastic policy measures to resolve these problems.

iii. It is necessary for the governments to provide more support to co-operative system through appropriate policy and legislation so that various problems faced by women through co-operative organisations would be solved.

2. Appeal to Co-operatives

i. Women, whether an individual or an organisation, may take the initiative in planning and action. Particularly, they would proceed while taking part in the management of co-operatives on their own initiative.

ii. In farming villages, in particular, women have to strengthen their attitude to grapple with their immediate and urgent problems, such as equal opportunities for education, safe drinking water, upgrading of medical facilities, overcoming conventional contradictions and expansion of opportunities to obtain loans.

iii. It is necessary, at first and foremost, for co-operatives to try to develop a mechanism for excavating and accumulating proper and effective field-cases initiated by women farmers in order to exchange views among themselves at a positive way domestically and internationally.

iv. It is necessary for co-operatives to appeal the governments of their respective countries so that this Resolution would be put into practice at the earliest date.

Consumer Co-operative Development

The Focus

The development objective of the Project to contribute to improve performance of consumer co-operatives at primary, secondary and national as well as international levels for better serviced to individual consumer members and their communities remained unchanged during the year.

Exchange Programme

The Project organized an exchange programme of women leaders between Indonesia and Japan during the year. The objective of the Programme is to offer women leaders of Asia Pacific Region an opportunity to learn experiences of Japanese co-operatives and to arouse Japanese Co-operators' interest on the other countries and deepen the mutual understanding. Four women leaders who participated in the programme in July had an exposure to the store operations in consumer co-operatives in Tokyo and Kyoto and also exchanged their experiences in gender participation with co-op members through discussions.

This programme has created an image for the consumer development programme of the ICA and the JCCU in Japan.

Store Managers Training

While Singapore NTUC Fairprice assists other co-operatives in the Region, Fairprice is given an opportunity for further learning from Japan under the ICAROAP Consumer Co-operative Development programme. Four Supermarket Executives from NTUC Fairprice had a training in Kobe, in July, hosted by Co-op Kobe. The report prepared by participants highlights several new techniques in display, pricing, accounting and personnel management which they will implement in their consumer stores.



Dr. Aline Wong, Senior Minister of State for Health and Education delivers the inaugural address at the ICA/NFUCA/SNCF Regional Seminar on Campus/Youth Co-ops



A delegate from India speaking at the Health/Medical Co-ops meeting

Strategic Planning in Consumer Co-operatives

The Consumer Committee has identified that the absence of a strategic planning is causing problems in long range corporate development for consumer co-operatives and wiser investments. Therefore, initiatives have been made during the year to conduct some studies in consumer co-operatives in selected countries which will be the base for discussion at a Regional Seminar and formulate strategies.

Two preliminary studies have been undertaken jointly by the Consumer Project and the JCCU in Thailand and Myanmar. The activity will continue in the next year.

Development of University Co-operatives

During the year, the university co-operative sector had a major development in many ways. In the case of starting with new countries, India went ahead with the collection of data of widely scattered primary co-operatives which are hitherto unrelated. The Advisor facilitated a coordinators' meeting. The project to organize a national seminar is on the way.

Discussions have been in progress to introduce University Co-operatives to Vietnam.

The ICA University Co-operative Sub-committee initiated a Regional Youth Seminar hosted by SNCF Singapore which was held in November 1996. This was the first time in the Region to organize such an event.

185 participants participated at the 3 day Seminar. They were able to review the status of the university co-operatives in 9 countries and develop a long term strategy for further development. The participants have also created a vision for the future.

Development of Health Care Co-operatives

During the year, the Project undertook a survey of health care co-operatives in the Region in order to prepare a profile for the purpose of consolidation them into a regional organization. At least 12 countries in the Region are found to be having some form of healthcare co-



A section of the Healthcare Co-op Meeting. Dr. Kato, President of IHCO is seen (with spectacles)

operative either user based, provider based or both. The findings were circulated at a meeting of the delegates from 5 countries held in November, 1996.

The second meeting of the health co-operatives in the Region was held in Mumbai, India on the 1st November. The meeting was hosted by the Sushrusa Citizens Co-operative Hospital. 30 delegates from India, Nepal, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Japan participated at the meeting.

The delegates decided to form a regional organization and to launch an exchange programme. The Interim committee consisting of delegates from India, Sri Lanka and Japan was elected to draft the constitution and a work plan. The Consumer Advisor provided the model constitution and participated at the deliberations at the meetings. The interim committee met in Colombo in December to finalise the documents.

Consultancy Services

The Consumer Project provided a two weeks consultancy to consumer co-operative in Nepal and provided guidelines for future improvements. This was followed by a training seminar on store management.

The Project contributed to improve the conditions in consumer co-operatives in Vietnam through facilitating a national seminar on the development of consumer cooperatives in Vietnam organized by the Vietnam Co-operative Union. A study was also undertaken in Hue.

The Consumer Advisor prepared a discussion paper on Sustainable Development and Co-operatives for the forthcoming Ministers Conference and presented the document at a Regional Consultation held in Myanmar for the Chief Executives and the permanent Secretaries of the Ministries dealing with co-operatives. He also facilitated a Regional Workshop on Agribusiness Co-operatives and Competitiveness held in Myanmar.

Vision 2000 For Campus Youth Co-operatives

By the turn of the 21st Century, the Campus Youth Co-operatives will:

- Improve the quality of services to their members by developing retailing industry with technological applications in computer network, electronic data analysis, vending machines and tele-cards and introducing career development plans for members,
- Ensure the increase of membership by 50% from the current level by becoming more member-oriented and introducing awareness building programmes among student population.
- Expand the focus on wider services to the community by formulating long-term strategic planning for the development of youth co-operatives and the increased participation of youth in co-operatives, introducing co-operatives at the secondary schools, and promoting concerns such as environment, handicapped persons' welfare and services for the disadvantaged in campus youth co-operatives.
- Promote inter-co-operative and inter-country alliances through setting up of joint purchase systems and business alliances, youth exchange programmes, horizontal and vertical integration and networking.

Publications

The Project published following Regional Seminar Reports:

- * Regional Seminar on Development of Consumer Co-operatives held in India.
- * Regional Seminar on Campus/Youth Co-operatives held in Singapore.

In addition, one issue of Consumer Co-operative News has been published.

Perspective Planning

As the current planning period is ending in 1996, the Project undertook a survey of needs of the members through a questionnaire sent to all member organizations. Based on their responses, a four year plan was prepared in consultation with the development partner, JCCU. This plan has been approved by the Committee meeting held in Malaysia, in June.

Human Resource Development

Focus of the Project

The development objective of the Project - i.e. to contribute to realise member driven and community responsive co-operative movements of the Region in order to make them more efficient and sustainable - remained unchanged during the year. However, with the addition of the subject of research by the HRD Committee in June 1996, which has been ratified by the Regional Assembly, the focus of the Project widened to cover wide range of research activities.

The Manpower

With the increasing pressure on the manpower in the Regional Office, the Regional Advisor-HRD, has been transferred to the Consumer Co-operative Development Project in January, 1996 and was given additional charge of the HRD Project. Meanwhile, the Project Secretary attached to the HRD has been assigned to work for the Communication Department of the Head Office as well. The Regional Advisor, Consumer Co-operative Development, continued to work with the HRD activities, fulfilling the work plan to the schedule.



A group of participants interviewing Co-operative employees for need identification - Curriculum Development Seminar, Colombo, Sri Lanka, December, 1996

An attempt has been made to look into the future position of the HRD activity vis-a-vis the revised ICA structure. The Advisor prepared a working document on the subject for the discussion at the management level.

Enhancement of Member Participation in Co-operatives

With the reduced resource allocations, this activity has been conducted in collaboration with the SCC/NCC Co-operative Development Project in Sri Lanka, where 60 facilitators were trained in two seminars. The facilitators have had follow up village seminars with the change agents projects, environmental groups and youth groups. Some 25 village level self help project are in operation at present. The training was based on the revised manual on

Co-operative Member Participation Methodology prepared by the HRD Advisor.

Another attempt has been made to obtain resources for a Project on Leadership Development, but the Project has been shifted to Africa, based on the proposal made earlier by the HRD Advisor and a SCC consultant. The HRD Advisor, served as a facilitator for a project formulation workshop held in Kenya. Another request came from the NATCCO Philippines on which a design for a board manager relationship building programme has been prepared. However, the activity never materialised as there was a management change.

The Improvement of Co-operative Education and Training Systems

The activity has been conducted in collaboration with the SCC/NCC Co-operative Development Project in Sri Lanka. An Education and Training Policy has been evolved which has now been forwarded to the government.

A new foundation training course for operational level co-operative employees has been designed with a group of curriculum designers trained by the Advisor. The course consists of 7 core training manuals and 11 optional competency training manuals. The course has been validated.

The Project organized a Facilitators' Training Seminar with financial collaboration with the ILO/COOPNET Project. 26 senior level co-operative trainers were trained in curriculum designing. The Seminar was held in December, 1996 at Colombo. This activity was the first after 1983 on the subject. The participants would undertake follow up designing work in their own institutions to improve the curriculum design technology for better co-operative business training. The HRD Project will publish the validated manual later.

HRD Policy and Planning

Not much has been achieved on the subject, but the Project has responded to various requests came from 5 countries for the validated manual on Personnel Policy for adaptation.

As the Project cycle came to an end during the current year, a new attempt has been made to prepare a four year plan up to year 2000. The member organizations were consulted through a questionnaire for their needs, and the document has been finalised and submitted to the development partners.

Net Working

The faculty exchange programme was in the agenda during the year. The operational details have been worked out and the first exchange programme between India and Sri Lanka was to implement. As the involved national training institution had a management change in India, the activity has been suspended. However, fresh attempts will be made during the next year. The Project continued to send dispatches in form of net work information on

various developments in the HRD field. 7 dispatches have been sent to members.

Promotion of Co-operatives among Disadvantaged Groups

There have been two target groups mentioned: youth and indigenous people. The contribution to youth has been basically through facilitation. The HRD Advisor facilitated a Regional Youth Seminar in Philippines which has been organised by the NATCCO. In addition, the HRD Advisor provided consultancy services for the Project on Disadvantaged Youth in Sri Lanka, through training, designing programmes and monitoring of activities involving 3000 youth.

A survey format has been finalised to undertake a comprehensive regional study on youth participation in co-operatives, which will be undertaken during next year.

Research and Publications

The HRD Project initiated a research study on the impact of open economic policies on the co-operative movement in Sri Lanka, which has been published. The Project continued to publish Asia Pacific Co-operative News during the year, which had 3 issues. The COOP Dialogue, the journal which had three issues has become popular among the readers and the demand has been increasing.

The annual Report for 1995 has been published with an improved lay out.

Collaboration with other Projects and Consultancy Work

The HRD Advisor facilitated two strategy workshops for the Development Planning Project in Vietnam.

The HRD Project continued to work with other projects in the field of training. The HRD Advisor facilitated one Sub-Regional Gender Sensitivity and Planning Workshop and a Regional Gender Consultation.

The Project had collaboration with the ILO/COOPNET Project for one Regional activity during the year and



A view of the HRD Committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur, June, 1996



A Chinese participant at the Curriculum Development Seminar displays the certificate received. Mr. M. Ostergard, ILO Country Representative, Sri Lanka and Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe, President, NCC are also seen.

provided communication services on Personnel Policy. The Project contributed to the ILO/COOPNET Evaluation at a workshop and discussion with the team.

The HRD Advisor continued to provide consultancy services to the Swedish Co-operative Centre on their co-operative development projects.

The Future

With the decreasing external funding for the Project, the member organizations may have to provide more contributions and support funding, which, at the moment is increasing. Looking into the possibility of paid consultancy services too may generate income as well as development impact. The net working, facilitated by the Project too would bring more benefits for member organizations.

Gender Integration in Co-ops

Some Achievements in the field of Gender Integration in Co-operatives

The Gender Integration Project became independent from the Human Resource Development Project in 1993.

The overall objective of the Project is to promote co-operatives become gender responsive to contribute both women and men at all levels.

The Project has tried to encourage member organizations to incorporate gender and development concept into its co-operative planning and sensitize co-operative leaders and members on gender issues by conducting workshops and seminars.

It has also tried to collect information and experiences related gender issues and been disseminating among member organizations.

The most important meeting of the Gender Integration Project in 1996 was the Regional Consultation Meeting

on Gender Integration in Co-operatives organized from 16 -20 Sept. in Bangkok, Thailand, whose objectives was to identify the achievements and constraints since 1993.

The meeting concluded that even though it is not enough, some good results have been achieved by member organizations and ICA ROAP, such as increasing women members and leaders through training programmes for gender awareness and sensitization, production of materials, drafting gender responsive and sensitive policies and implementation of activities.



Group work at the Regional Gender Consultation meeting, Bangkok

Training programmes for gender awareness and sensitization have been conducted increasingly and training materials and other materials introducing gender issues are being produced.

Co-operative development planning and policies are gradually becoming more sensitive to gender issues. Some countries have units or committees whose task is to address women's interests and needs and to advocate gender issues to mainstream of co-operatives.

In the countries such as India, Malaysia, and Nepal, where it is relatively difficult to organize gender mixed co-operatives from the beginning, women only co-operatives have been encouraged to organize women into co-operatives, which we hope to promote women as good co-operators

who would be able to be ready to join or form gender mixed co-operatives in near future.

Constraints and some Future Activities proposed

There are still many constraints to achieve gender equality in the co-operatives, such as limited awareness among both women and men on the gender issues, insufficient education of co-operative values and principles and training for gender sensitivity, very limited women leadership training and materials, very limited or no gender disaggregated data, which is main cause of inappropriate gender

analysis in the countries and the region, etc.

The Consultation Meeting recommended some further activities at both national and international levels to achieve gender equality in the co-operative movements as follows:

- Setting up a gender -

disaggregated data base to analyze the real situation of women and men in co-operatives, which makes planning for member services and other programmes more precise and responsive for gender issues.

- Increasing the number and participation of women in membership in order to utilize women as potential resource for the development of co-operatives.
- Increasing of women leaders and strengthening women leadership to reflect women's voices in operation of co-operatives, since women and men have different views and ideas and it is difficult for one gender to represent the opposite gender's ideas.
- More co-operators to be gender sensitive by conducting more gen-

Calendar of Activities 1997

ICA/Committee Meetings

01. CICOPA Evaluation by European Union, 02-22 January, 1997.
02. Meeting-cum-workshop on Data Bank and Networking, New Delhi, 20-24 January, 1997.
03. Feasibility Study to set up University Co-ops in Vietnam, 10-16 Feb.
04. CCA/ICA Asian Community Enterprise Workshop, Bhopal, 19-27 Feb.
05. ICA Bonow Trust Meeting - 23 Jan.
06. ICA ROAP HRD Committee Meeting, Chiangmai, 17 March.
07. ICA ROAP Executive Council Meeting, Chiangmai, 18 March.
08. ICA ROAP Consumer Committee Meeting, Chiangmai, 23rd March.
09. ICA ROAP Development Review Meeting with International Partners, Chiangmai, 24 March.
10. Asia-Pacific Health Co-op Organisation inaugural meeting, June.
11. Co-op Trade Network Meeting, Australia, June.
12. ICA ROAP Agricultural Committee Meeting, Sri Lanka, July.
13. ICA ROAP Consumer Committee Meeting, Tokyo, November.

Workshops/Seminars/Conferences

01. Meeting-cum-Workshop on Data Bank and its Networking, Delhi, 20-24 Jan., 1997
02. CCA-ICA Asian Community Enterprise Workshop, Bhopal, 24-27 February, 1997
03. 2nd part of the 11th ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives, IDACA, Tokyo, 23 Feb. to 20 April.
04. 4th Co-operative Ministers' Conference, Chiangmai, 19-22 March.
05. Regional Conference/Workshop on Women in Decision-Making in Co-operatives, Philippines, 7-9 May.
06. ICA ROAP Fisheries Committee Meeting, Vietnam, May.
07. ICA/JA Zenchu/IDACA Regional Seminar/Conference, Tokyo, 10-29 Nov., 1997
08. 7th ICA/Japan Training Course of Rural Women in Asia, 13 Oct. to 9 Nov.
09. 1st part of the 12th ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives, India, November-December (2 months).
10. Regional Seminar on Strategic Planning in consumer Co-operatives, October, 1997



Prof. S.L. Tripathi speaking at the Sub-Regional Workshop on Gender Integration at VAMNICOM, Pune, India

der sensitivity training, production of case stories and training manuals.

- Modification of co-operative legislation, where there are some restrictions on women to become members such as provisions "head of household", 'holder of immovable properties' etc., by promoting each country to review the co-operative laws from the gender perspectives and lobbying with governments and co-operative authorities.

The ICA ROAP would work for gender equality in the region in the line of these recommendation.

Some other activities carried out in 1996 were as follows:

Sub-Regional Workshop on Gender Sensitization

A Sub-Regional Workshop on Gender Sensitization and Planning was organized from 15 to 20 April, 1996 in Pune, India. 14 participants from four countries (India, Israel, Nepal and Sri Lanka) attended the workshop. Co-operative leaders were exposed to the concept of gender and development approach and they prepared draft country action plan for gender integration.

Support to National Co-operative Organization

The ICA ROAP helped the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal to conduct a National Workshop on Gender Integration in Co-operatives in Nepal from 16 to 20 December, 1996 which was organized in Kathmandu, Nepal. 27 co-operative leaders from the national level co-operatives attended the workshop and drafted National Action Plan for Gender Integration in Nepal.

Advisory and Consultancy Services

The Gender Programme Advisor visited Myanmar, Korea and Singapore to study the situation of women's participation in co-operatives the respective country and had discussion with co-operative leaders on introduction of Gender and Development approach into the co-operative development. She also supported the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union to organize a gender study

tour to the Philippines and Thailand from 26 November to 4 December, 1996.

The Gender Programme Advisor prepared a Paper on Gender and Development for the Consultation Meeting for the Ministerial Conference in Myanmar, which was further proposed to the Fourth Ministerial Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand in March, 1997.

Agricultural Co-operative Management Training

Eleventh Management Training Course for Agricultural Co-operative Managers

The ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia, being held by the International Co-operative Alliance, for the last ten years with funding support from the Government of Japan, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) entered into its eleventh year during 1996-97.

The Eleventh Course was formally inaugurated at the Bonow House, ICA ROAP, on 4th November 1996 by H.E. Seiji Kojima, Minister in the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi.

Fifteen participants from ten countries from Asia, i.e. Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines Sri Lanka and Vietnam are attending the course. The Training Course will be held in India, Sri Lanka and Japan from 4th November 1996 to 20th April 1997.

The first part of the Training Course was held in the ICA ROAP Premises from 4th to 16th November, followed by a two-day workshop on Management of Processing and Marketing Co-operatives at the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune. On the spot study of the working of agricultural co-operatives in Maharashtra State India, was carried out from 20th to 26th November 1996.



The participants of the Eleventh course with the chief guest, H.E. Seiji Kojima, Minister at the Embassy of Japan in India and Mr. Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director

A five-week Management Module was conducted at the Institute of Rural Management at Anand with a final wrap up session at the ICA ROAP premises in New Delhi.

The Management Module emphasised on preparation of a viable Project Proposal and its appraisal along with other inputs on integrated co-operative system, marketing, communication, financial management, accounting, costing, executive effectiveness, etc. Study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Gujarat State were also arranged as a part of the programme at IRMA.

A Study Visits programme was conducted in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the ICA Member Organisation, the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, from 2nd to 9th January 1997.

Participants left for their Home Country Assignments to prepare co-operative development project proposals for their respective co-operatives. Preparation of project proposals is a skill development exercise.

The participants will reassemble at IDACA, in Tokyo, from 23rd February to 20th April, 1997 for the second part of the training course in Japan. The projects proposals prepared by the participants will be appraised by a team of resource persons and comments and suggestions for improvement will be given.

The participants will be exposed to the management techniques of the Japanese Agricultural Co-operative Movement during their two-month stay in Japan including visits to agricultural co-operatives and holding discussions with managers, members and co-operative leaders. The Course will conclude in Japan on 20th April 1997.

6th Training Course for Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Co-ops in Asia

The ICA/Japan Training Course for Rural Women Leaders of Co-operatives in Asia, sixth in the series, was held at the IDACA, Tokyo, Japan, from October 20 to November 26, 1996. Six women participants, two each from Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan attended the course.

The course participants were exposed to the management of agricultural co-operatives in Japan, role and participation of women in agricultural co-operatives through women's associations functioning at different levels, better living and cultural activities undertaken by these women's associations.

The participants also joined in the study visits organised. They have also stayed with farmers' families to see the actual life of co-operative farmers. Study visits to women's associations and agricultural co-operatives were arranged in Hyogo Prefecture of Japan.

Based on their training and experiences gained in Japan, the participants prepared follow-up programmes for implementation in their respective countries on the various practices and procedures that may be adopted. They also participated in the Asian Women Farm Leaders Con-

ference held in Tokyo - 21st October 1996. This Conference was organised jointly by the ICA/AARRO/JA-Zenchu and the IDACA.

Workers' and Artisans' Co-op Activities

CICOPA (The International Committee of Producers' and Artisans' Co-operatives) is an integral part of the ICA. In the year 1993, CICOPA launched a pilot project in India co-financed by European Union DG-8 office at Brussels. The project was aimed at strengthening management and marketing skills of producers' and artisans' co-operatives in India. The term of the pilot project was for a period for three years. Late Mr. Yves Regis, the then Chairman of CICOPA, was instrumental in arranging the needed financial assistance for the project.

The Year 1996 proved to be an year of intense activities and also of great misfortune. On one hand, CICOPA units in Delhi and Bangalore performed much in accordance with the stipulated targets and on the other hand lost Mr. Yves Regis, who died on the 9th September, 1996. Death of Mr. Regis created a vacuum for quite some time till the election of Mr. Marian Reybar for the post of Chairman, CICOPA.



We cherish the memory of late Mr. Yves Regis, who died on 9th September, 1996. He was the Chairperson of CICOPA, who initiated CICOPA activities in Asia

Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Advisor, CICOPA, Delhi Unit has been operating in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Following is the account of his activities during 1996:

Rajasthan

1. Groupment of Weavers' Co-operatives (SAMFED) was strengthened. Total number of primary co-operatives affiliated to SAMFED rose to 22.
2. Training Programme on Marketing Studies was organised for the managers and chairmen of primary weavers' co-operatives. It was attended by 30 participants.
3. SAMFED participated in the National Handloom Expo-



Mr. Rajiv I.D. Mehta speaking at the workshop of Artisans in Madhya Pradesh, India July/August, 1996

sitions held at Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Bombay, Jaipur and Bhopal during 1996. The sales touched 5 million rupees through these exhibitions.

4. Mobile Sales were organised at Jaipur as a part of 'Market Penetration' strategy.
5. Workshop on Product Development was organised for the weavers of the primary co-operatives. More than 200 weavers were benefited by this workshop.
6. Two new primary co-operatives of carpet weavers and spice grinders were formed at Beawar in Rajasthan. These co-operatives have given employment to 60 persons in the village. The members of the co-operatives are the retrenched employees of National Textile Mills which was closed in 1995.
7. Rs.251,738 was raised as contribution by the primary co-operatives for CICOPA programme.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Workshops on the Co-operative Business Management were held in Bilaspur, Bhopal and Ratanpur in Madhya Pradesh. More than 300 weavers and the managers of primary co-operatives attended these workshops.
2. Sales Exhibitions were organised locally to attract the rural clients and also to liquidate the inventory.
3. Special training programme was organised at Sarangpur to involve women into the weaving activity. 40 women were given intensive skill upgradation training at Ansar Weavers' Primary Co-operative in Sarangpur.
4. Product Development symposia were held at the primary co-operatives in Saunsar, Ratanpur, Sarangpur, Padana and Maheshwar.
5. Government/Co-operative relations were improved and strengthened.
6. A contribution of Rs.219,428 was raised for the CICOPA activities in Madhya Pradesh.

Exhibitions organised by CICOPA Co-operatives

1. February-March, 1997 - Exhibition of handicrafts products at Bombay, India.
2. March, 1997 - Exhibition of products at Chiangmai, in conjunction with the Ministers' Conference.
3. 13-15 April, Jaipur, India
4. June, 1997 - Bangalore, India.
5. July, 1997 - Indonesia
6. September, 1997 - Singapore (International Gift Fare)
7. October, 1997 (Singapore) - Indian Handicrafts Fare (proposed).

STAFF CHANGES

1. Mr. Malte Jonsson, Senior Development Adviser, with the ICA ROAP returned to Sweden on 23 June 1996 after completion of a 3-year term.
2. Mr. K.L. Nalwaya, on secondment from the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), worked as Membership Officer with the ICA for one year term and returned to NCUI on 4th July 1996.
3. Mr. G.K. Sharma, after serving the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific as its Regional Director for more than 9 years, relinquished his assignment on 7th October 1996. In December 1996, he took over the position of Senior Adviser to Director-General, posted at New Delhi.
4. Mr. Robby Tulus took over the Regional Director's position on the retirement of Mr. G.K. Sharma on 7th October 1996. Earlier, Mr. Tulus has been working with the ICA ROAP as Senior Policy Adviser since last three years.
5. The Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU), one of the member organisations of the ICA, has deputed Ms. Yukiko Yamamoto, a Japanese national, to work as Gender Programme Adviser at ICA ROAP for a period of three years in addition to the present Gender Adviser, Ms. Akiko Yamauchi.
6. Ms. Akiko Yamauchi will be completing her tenure with the ICA ROAP in May 1997 when Ms. Yukiko Yamamoto will take over charge from Ms. Akiko Yamauchi.
7. In pursuance of the policy to decentralise the work of ICA in Geneva, Mr. Ram Prakash was assigned to the Membership Department as well as Global Data Bank from 1st July 1996, in addition to his present work as Technical Officer, ICA ROAP Data Bank.

ICA ROAP Library and Information Services

ICA ROAP Library

The Regional Office has a well stocked library having over 20,000 books on co-operative and allied subjects and over 6000 booklets. During the year about 500 books were added. It receives about 200 journals. Efforts are being made to receive more journals on gratis/complementary exchange basis from various organisations dealing with subjects of readers interest. Regular updating on procurement of co-operative publications published all over the world is being done.

In response to our communication to member organisations and co-operative institutions to send latest information published by them covering recent trends and changes in the co-operative law, we have received literature from many organisations.

Computerisation of Library collection

Efforts are being made to computerize co-operative titles (1960 -1980) which have been catalogued earlier manually. On completion the library will have over 10,000 computerised titles, which means all co-operative titles will be computerised.

Two computerised documentation bulletins have been published consisting of 2000 co-op titles published from (1989-1995) which have been distributed among co-op libraries/researchers for their reference use.

Library use and its services to member organisations

The ICA ROAP library is recognised by the University Grants Commission of India and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for co-operative research. Presently many Ph.D. students/ research scholars are making use of the library.

Many overseas users are being provided with co-operative subject bibliographies and statistics and other information. It is being appreciated by the recipients.

Apart from the normal users of the library, over 100 co-operative leaders, students and teachers of various co-op colleges/ training institutions visited the library this year. The Librarian and Documentation Officer addressed them and provided information on the ROAP and its activities and on recent trends and changes on global co-operative movement.

Co-operative publications

One of the ICA's activities which tend to develop over the years is publishing of books on various co-operative subjects and sectors.

The ICA Regional Office for Asia-Pacific has become the world's largest publisher of co-operative literature. These publications are being disseminated to wider audiences both within and outside co-operative circles.

The ISBN and ISSN numbering system for ICA ROAP publications and co-operative journals, which was introduced in 1994 is being allotted respectively. This has boosted the sale of publications worldwide.

The sale of publications is being handled by the ICA DOMUS TRUST.

Future

A blue print and action plan on "Asia-Pacific Co-operative Information Resource Centre" had been circulated among ICA Regional member organisations and co-operative institutions, international organisations like ILO and to a few eminent co-operators to get their comments, suggestions and support for the implementation of this plan. Follow-up action is being taken on this.

Networking and E-mail facility : an Essential Tool for User Education

Computers are being used in our library for both housekeeping activities and information storage and reproduction functions. The information stored will be disseminated to users world wide through our E-mail services and through global networking facility.

This unique combination of computers and communication system will enable the users to avail the maximum data in minimum time.



Our Technical Team



*Robby Tulus
Regional Director*



*W U Herath, Regional
Advisor, Consumer &
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*Ms. Akiko
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Advisor*



*Ms. Yukiko
Yamamoto
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Programme
Advisor
1.2.97 onwards*

ICA ROAP Publications - 1997

1. Management of Consumer Co-operatives for South & South-East Asia - A Workshop Report 1995
ICA/ROAP, February, 1996; 227 pp
Price: Indian Rs.300-00/ US \$ 30-00
ISBN: 92-9054-036-2
2. Report of the ICA-ROAP Sub-Regional Workshops on Gender Integration in Co-operatives
ICA/ROAP, August, 1996
Price: Indian Rs.200-00 / US \$ 20-00
ISBN: 92-9054-037-0
3. Report of the Regional Seminar on Housing Co-operatives; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - March 25-29, 1996
ICA/ROAP, September, 1996 213 pp
Price: Indian Rs.300-00 / US \$ 30-00
ISBN : 92-9054-038-9
4. Report of the 3rd ICA-NACF Regional Seminar on Agricultural Co-operative Business Development with Special Reference to the Korean Experience - Seoul, (Republic of Korea): 6-15 May, 1996; ICA/ROAP, May, 1996; 167 pp
Price: Indian Rs.200/- US \$ 20-00
ISBN: 92-9054-034-6 (set) ; ISBN: 92-9054-039-7
5. Survival in the Open Market: A Critical Study on the Co-operative Movement of Sri Lanka within the Market Economy; R.B. Rajaguru, 1996; 114 pp +vii
ICA/ROAP

Price: Indian Rs.150-00/ US \$ 15-00
ISBN: 92-9054-040-0

6. Human Resource Development in Co-operatives: Focus on Education and Training in Asia-Pacific
Dr. Dharm Vir; 1996; 160 pages
ICA DOMUS TRUST/New Delhi, India
Price: Indian Rs.200/- US \$ 20-00
ISBN: 92-9054-100-8

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1. Foreign buyers will pay in US Dollars.
2. In India publications can be sent per VPP (Postage free)
3. Outside India publications are sent by Air Mail Registered Post (postage free)
4. All cheques/drafts should be payable to ICA DOMUS TRUST, New Delhi.
5. Postage is included in the published price.

List of ICA Member Organisations in Asia-Pacific Region

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union

CHINA

All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Co-ops

FIJI

Fiji Co-operative Union Limited

INDIA

National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.

National Co-operative Union of India

National Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.

National Co-op Consumers Federation of India Ltd.

National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd.

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd.

Krishak Bharti Co-operative Ltd.

National Co-operative Dairy Federation of India Ltd.

National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies

INDONESIA

Dewan Koperasi Indonesia

IRAN

Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran

Central Union of Rural Co-operatives

ISRAEL

Hevrat Ha' Ovdim (General Co-operative Association of Labour in Israel Ltd).

JAPAN

Central Union of Agricultural Co-ops (JA-ZENCHU)

National Federation of Fisheries Co-op Associations (Zengyo-ren)

National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-op Associations (Zenmori-ren)

The Norinchukin Bank - Central Co-operative Bank for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Ie-No-Hikari Association (Association for Education and Publications on Agricultural Co-operatives)

Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union

National Federation of Agricultural Co-op Associations

National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agri. Co-ops

National Press & Information Federation of Agri. Co-ops

National Fedn. of Workers and Consumers Insurance Co-operatives

The Japanese Workers' Co-operative Union

JORDAN

Jordan Co-operative Organization

KAZAKHSTAN

Union of Consumer Societies of the Republic of Kazakhstan

KOREA, Republic of

National Agricultural Co-operative Federation

National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives

National Livestock Co-operatives' Federation

National Credit Union Federation of Korea

Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives

National Forestry Co-operatives' Federation.

KUWAIT

Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies

Union of Agricultural Products Co-operative Societies

KYRGYZSTAN

Union of Consumer Societies

MALAYSIA

Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia (ANGKASA)

Co-operative Union of Malaysia

Malaysian Co-operative Insurance Society

National Land Finance Co-operative Society Ltd.

Malaysian Co-operative Consumer Society Ltd.

MONGOLIA

Central Union of Mongolian Consumers Co-operatives

MYANMAR

Central Co-operative Society

PAKISTAN

National Co-operative Union of Pakistan

Sind Govt. Employees' Co-op Housing Society Ltd.

PHILIPPINES

Co-operative Union of the Philippines

National-Confederation of Co-operatives Inc.

SINGAPORE

Singapore National Co-operative Federation Ltd

SRI LANKA

National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka

Federation of Thrift and Credit Co-op Societies Ltd.

Sri Lanka Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd.

Sri Lanka Consumer Co-op Societies' Federation Ltd.

THAILAND

Co-operative League of Thailand

TONGA

Tonga Co-operative Federation Ltd.

TURKMENISTAN

Union of Consumer Societies (TURKMEN-POTREBSOYUZ)

UZBEKISTAN

Uzbek Republican Union of Consumer Societies

(UZBEKBIRLASHUV)

VIETNAM

Vietnam Co-operatives' Unions

INTERNATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATION

Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU)

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ISSN: 0971-6998

ICA IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC : REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 1996 (1500)

Published by the ICA Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific
Edited by W.U. Herath, HRD Advisor and Typeset by P. Nair at the ICA ROAP
Printed in India at Document Press, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048