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International Co-operative
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Annual Report

2011



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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE - ASIA AND PACIFIC (ICA-AP) ANNUAL REPORT-2011

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Message from the President, ICA-Asia and Pacific



Over half the century, the International Co-operative Alliance in Asia and Pacific has been making a consistent effort to unite and capacitate the co-operatives and mobilise the governments and stake holders to reenergise the movement for sustainable and holistic growth of the society at large through organised resources for taking on challenges of economic crises, conflicts and more over the challenges of natural disasters. As we continue in steady yet persistent way, I am happy to present the report for 2011.

The year has been an eventful year, starting with surprises and pain and concluded in excitement with historic launch of IYC-2012 in Cancun. Mr.S.K. Jhaxhar, ICA Board Member from IFFCO, India passed away. New Zealand, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines suffered a great deal due to natural calamities. As the dawn of UN International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) 2012 was unfolding gradually to unveil the launch in November 2011, the beginning of the year was marked with huge devastation in member countries and organisations. The loss of human life and material is irreparable. Yet co-operative spirit persisted as always and due to relentless efforts of co-operatives and members in their respective countries and help pouring in from international co-operative fraternity, the wounds could be caressed.

As the co-operative spirit reigns supreme, the ICA and members could never let the work be effected. It is remarkable on the part of the Japanese co-operative movement that ICA-Asia and Pacific could complete all the three big Training projects in the country as scheduled and same with Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines.

Suffering of co-operatives and members due to unexpected events such as natural calamities require serious consideration and calls for preparedness in terms of funds

and other resources. We pay our homage to all who lost their lives in these disasters. The ICA-Asia and Pacific has put in best efforts to address the needs of the co-operative members by extending resources for capacity building, advocacy, networking and lobbying, and by providing strategic leadership.

However, it is the overall support of members, governments and stakeholders from the region which enables us to implement projects and programs.

Significant achievements during the year could be listed as intensive follow up and coordination with members to launch and observe IYC 2012 country wise, increase in membership, MOU signed with the Government of Thailand for hosting the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, commencement of 4th Critical Study on Law and Policy and study of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia. Besides, integration of women and youth, ensuring gender mainstreaming and youth participation, management of consumer, fisheries, agriculture, banking, credit and rural sectors remained the priority.

The early next year 2012 will witness the 9th Asia –Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference which will deliberate upon the need of political will to create enabling legal and policy environment for co-operatives. In the wake of IYC-2012, several members/countries have already initiated discussion on revising the co-operative law and policies of their countries.

We are grateful to all our members, partners, stake holders and staff for their co-operation and support in achieving our goals.

Li Chunsheng
President

Regional Director's Report



In Asia-Pacific, the devastation by natural disaster could not keep the co-operatives grounded for a long time. The co-operatives faced the challenges with exemplary grit and courage and the spirit of solidarity and concern for community put the regular business back on the track soon.

Despite the challenges, we could successfully complete our projects as planned with the uninterrupted support of all the members and partners, especially from Japan, Thailand and Philippines who had experienced terrible loss of human life and property and it will take a long time to recover from the sufferings.

The UN has provided a life time opportunity to co-operative institution by decelerating International Year of Co-operatives—2012 and ICA has called upon all the co-operatives worldwide to take advantage of the opportunity by launching the IYC-2012 in Cancun in November-2011. The ICA-AP office is coordinating and following up with members for celebration of the year to generate awareness, creating and building enabling environment for growth and development of the co-operative model of business.

The coming year-2012 will be quite busy as we are preparing to organize several important events such as the 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference due to be held this year but will be organized in 2012 to mark the IYC-2012, 10th ICA –AP Regional Assembly, Co-operative Forum, Committee meetings and related events and Regional Board meetings. Besides the regional office programmes, a number of IYC-2012 celebratory events are being planned by members which will keep the region and regional office busy throughout the year.

We are grateful to our members, the concerned Governments and all stake holders and partners for their active support and co-operation and looking forward to continued partnership in future as well.

Dr.Chan Ho CHOI
Regional Director

Highlights of the Year

- 8 new members joined, 2 members left and now 77 member co-operatives from 25 countries.
- 30 programmes for capacity building, lobbying and advocacy held.
- 2965 individuals were reached out directly through programmes & several thousands more indirectly.
- MOU signed with Government of Thailand for organising the 9th Asia –Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference.
- Regional Board Meetings held .
- Critical Study on Law and Policy was commissioned to prepare background document for the forthcoming 9th Asia –Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference.
- Study on Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific commissioned.
- Study Paper on Promotion of Technical Cooperation among Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific prepared.
- Study Paper on Promotion of International Trade among Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific prepared.
- The communication system of the office revitalized, the newsletter, annual report, web site etc. revamped to make the communication interesting, useful and user friendly.
- Promotion of IYC-2012 by visiting members and participating in their meetings.
- Collection and Publicity of Coop stories through newsletter and website.
- Two short documentary films made on co-operatives in India.
- Help and solidarity with members in New Zealand, Japan and Thailand who suffered huge losses due to natural disaster.
- The office newsletter is now member centric and since wide coverage to members news and activities is given through the newsletter, a good response received.
- **ROCHDALE Pioneers Award to a co-operator from Asia ;**
Mr. Jong-Ku Lee, Chairperson of International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO) received the Rochdale Pioneer Award on 18 November, 2011 in Cancun, Mexico during the ICA General Assembly-2012.
- **New ICA Board member from the region**
Mr. Abolhassan Khalili, Chairperson of the Iran Oilseeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Co-operative (Farda Co-op) has been elected the Board Member of the ICA Global Board from the Asia-Pacific Region in Cancun General Assembly, Novemebr-2011.

The ICA-Asia and Pacific

The International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) is the Regional Office of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) that serves members from the Asia and Pacific region.

ICA Vision

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

ICA Mission

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

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

Objects

The ICA-AP will promote the Objects of the International Co-operative Alliance as stated in the Statutes of the International Co-operative Alliance at the regional level.

Structure

The ICA-AP is structured at the regional, sectoral and thematic levels and comprises the following:

- A regional office in New Delhi, India
- A sub-regional office in Singapore

The ICA-AP serves all ICA members in Asia and Pacific region.

The Regional Assembly is the highest authority of ICA-AP and all the decisions are monitored and supervised by the elected Regional Board.

The Regional Director through a team of technical staff implements the plans and actions approved by the Regional Assembly and the Regional Board.

Regional Authorities

The regional authorities of ICA-AP are: Regional Assembly, Regional Board and Regional Director.

Regional Assembly

The Regional Assembly for Asia and Pacific region, consists of representatives appointed by the ICA members in the region;

The Regional Assembly, being the highest authority within the ICA-AP, is stipulated in the Statutes of the International Co-operative Alliance with the following added provisions;

- a.) *The Regional Assembly further deals with the development of co-operatives in the region and formulates policies on major issues beneficial and relevant to the ICA-AP and the co-operative movements in the region;*

The Regional Assembly shall establish Sectoral and Thematic Committees at the regional level and approve their Constitutions.

Regional Board

There a Regional Board of 11 persons consisting of a Chairperson, two Vice Chairpersons and eight Members elected by the Regional Assembly. Not more than one person from one country can be elected to the Regional Board;

A Youth Representative shall be co-opted in the Regional Board. The Asia and Pacific members of the ICA Board who are not members of the Regional Board, shall have the right to attend and speak at the Regional Board.

Sectoral and Thematic Committees

The Regional Assembly may establish or dissolve Sectoral and Thematic Committees. Regional Sectoral Committees may be established in areas of economic and social activity of co-operatives as considered desirable. Regional Thematic Committees may be established based on requirements of the region and the sectoral and thematic committees will draw up rules for approval by the Regional Assembly. They will work within the Regional Strategic Plan and will submit annual work plans/budgets to the Regional Director.

Following sectoral and Thematic Committees are constituted and are active in the region:

ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture, Consumer, Credit Banking, University / Campus, Human Resource Development, Research, Women and Youth Co-operation. For details please visit ICA-AP Website : www.ica-ap.coop

Board of Directors

CHAIRPERSON

1. Mr. Li Chunsheng
Vice President, Board of Directors
All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Coops



Mr. Li Chunsheng

VICE CHAIRPERSONS

2. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh yadav
President
National Co-operative Union of India
3. Ms. Hitomi Tanaka
Board Member
Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union



Dr. Chandra Pal Singh yadav



Ms. Hitomi Tanaka

MEMBERS

4. Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid
President
DEKOPIN (The Indonesian Coop Council)
5. Mr. Won-Byung Choi
Chairman
National Agricultural Co-operative Federation of Korea
6. Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum
President
National Coop Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA)
7. Mr. Godofredo E. Lising
Vice Chairperson
National Confederation of Coops (NATCCO), Philippines
8. Mr. Chan Tee Seng
Chairman
Singapore National Co-operative Federation
9. Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka
President
National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka
10. Dr. Chalergpol Dulsamphant
Chairman
Co-operative League of Thailand
11. Dr. Nguyen Tien Quan
Ex. President
Vietnam Co-operative Alliance
12. Youth Representative (co-opted)
Ms. Tahmineh Kashani
Chairperson of Youth Committee
Central Union of Rural Agricultural Coops of Iran



Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid



Mr. Won-Byung Choi



Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum



Mr. Godofredo E. Lising



Mr. Chan Tee Seng



Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka



Dr. Chalergpol Dulsamphant



Dr. Nguyen Tien Quan



Ms. Tahmineh Kashani

Membership

The membership has been consolidated, existing members retained and the membership increased from 71 members from 25 countries in 2010 to 77 members from 25 countries in 2011.

Following are the new members:

1. The Mongolian National Cooperators' Association (MNCA) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
2. Central Union for Co-operative Initiative in Israel Tel Aviv, Israel.
3. Co-operative Investment Guarantee Fund (CIGF) Tehran, Iran.
4. Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH), Australia
5. National Federation of Rural Co-operatives (Induk KUD) from Indonesia joined ICA family from the region as an Associate Member.
6. Iran: Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank) of Iran as an Associate Member
7. Nepal: National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB) from Nepal has the ICA network as an Associate Member

8. Japanese Health and Welfare Co-operative Federation (Hew Coop Japan)

ICA Asia-Pacific region has 46 countries (UN members) and 16 independent states in the Pacific Islands region. Out of 62 countries in total, 25 countries represent the 77 organizations (including ACCU) to the ICA membership as on 31st December 2012. This accounts for less than 50% coverage of the countries. However, the fact that 37 countries still remaining as Non member provides a huge potential for ICA.

The Regional Director and other staff reached out to member organisations through various means of communication from time to time and as required, provided technical guidance and financial help in conducting capacity building programs for the members.

In order to promote co-operatives in non member countries such as Cambodia, Lao, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Maldives etc., participants were invited to attend trainings, conferences and other capacity building programs.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of Thailand



Dr. CHOI with Director General of CPD and other officials

Pursuant to the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand, to host the 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference in early 2012, the Regional Director of ICA-AP, Dr. Chan Ho CHOI visited Bangkok in February 2011 and held discussions with the officials of Co-operative Promotion Department (CPD) and the

Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT). The discussions revolved around various operational details and roles and responsibilities of various institutions, namely, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, the Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT) an ICA member and the ICA-Asia and Pacific to work towards a successful organization of the 9th

Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference.

It was agreed upon that the Conference will be held from 27th-29th February 2012 and the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand will host the Conference.

Recognizing that ICA is a member-based organisation, it was recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives may appropriately involve the CLT for the successful organization of the

Conference.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), mentioning the roles and responsibilities, including financial liability of partners namely, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand, ICA-Asia and Pacific and CLT was signed by the ICA-AP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand.

Natural calamity and Co-operative Solidarity

Concern for Community

The region was struck by natural disasters during the year and members from New Zealand, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand suffered huge losses. The ICA-AP office extended solidarity and appealed for help. The solidarity and help extended by members further strengthened the co-operatives claim as a specific values-based business model.

Havoc caused by natural crises continued to trouble people in Asia and as we reported, Japan was heavily damaged in March.

Japan Disaster

A powerful tsunami has swept across a large area of northern Japan causing major damage, flooding towns and sweeping away buildings. It was triggered by a 8.9-magnitude earthquake on 11 March 2011. As reported by the media about 10,000 persons have died, thousands are reported to be missing and a large numbers are seriously injured. ICA and many ICA members have sent letters of condolences and support to ICA members in Japan. In addition, on 16 March the ICA launched an appeal to collect donations for its Japan Disaster Recovery Fund. A number of Japanese members have already established special funds for those that wish to support both the



Once prosperous fishing town

immediate relief efforts and long term reconstruction.

There were reports of huge damage to co-operatives and co-operative members in the country. We have been in contact with our members and received regular updates about the damage and recovery measures. ICA made an appeal to the world to extend a helping hand. Due to their admirable grit and courage, Japanese people are on the fast track of recovery as Cherry Blossom in April filled the country with new hope. Dr. Choi visited members in Japan on a solidarity mission post Tsunami devastation.



ICA president in Japan

The ICA President Dame Pauline Green visited Tsunami affected areas of Japan during her visit to the country from 11 to 14 July-2011. The visit was to extend solidarity with the co-operative members who suffered loss due to the calamity.

She visited Miyagi Agricultural Co-operative and Strawberry Farm, Araham Port and a shop of Miyagi Consumer Co-operatives and met with the co-operators to share their grief.

She also met with representatives of agricultural, consumer and fishery co-operative in Miyagi prefecture and had meeting with the Japanese National Co-operative Organizations affiliated with ICA at JA-Zenchu.

Flood in Thailand



Some of the Victims with Disaster Relief Packages

The whole nation was devastated. However, 187 co-operatives societies were totally damaged and around 450,000 individual members were directly affected and remained in bad condition. To provide urgent relief to co-operative sector, CLT mobilised all fund and consumer goods from some of co-operative members in Bangkok area. They made the "Disaster Relief Packages" and gave away to the affected areas. All majority of the flood victims in the affected area had already been evacuated but they will wait for the water to go. For the long term rehabilitation program, CLT has launched the center as "CLT National Flood Relief Center" at CLT Central Office in Bangkok to provide emergency operation as a central point to help all co-operative members who were affected from floods, storm, and landslide. The main aims of the center are to act as a central point and communicate immediately with the floods victims in co-operative sector, providing and coordinating operational, and support needs of the co-operative members. It was also to assist in coordination and communication between donors and victims of the floods, storm, and landslide as emergency response and recovery operations. To achieve and provide relief to the flood victims in co-operative sector, CLT, which set up long term plan to relief and recovery of all victims in co-operatives sector are as follows:

1. CLT National Flood Relief Center

CLT allocated some own funds and donation as well, such as collection of necessary consumer goods to give away to co-operative members at remote areas. The center located at CLT Compound was to collect all donated items and

bring immediately directly to the co-operatives and set up the mobile team to assist urgently to the victims in the flood areas.

2. Relief and Recovery program

CLT will work closer with government agencies concerned to conduct the urgent needs survey, collect important data, and design long term plan to provide relief and recovery to the victims in co-operative sector such as co-operative office renovation, various training courses will be designed to relief to all business of the co-operative.

3. Rehabilitation plan

To provide the necessary education and training services focused on the flood affected areas. The scope of training are within two areas;

- Operational training – to increase skill, capacity and knowledge of co-operative staff and understanding of their responsibilities to do the daily operations.
- Strategic training – regarding short and long term planning of the organization's future direction and strategic areas.

In order to achieve the needs and goals to relief and recovery the flood victims in co-operative sector, still needed to mobilize a huge amount of fund. Since CLT is membership based organization, all extra activities to be done are only relied on annual membership fee. They request for financial assistance and support from the national and international co-operative organizations. For receiving help to assist or sponsor plan to relief and recovery of the floods victims in co-operatives sectors in Thailand, CLT has set up the "CLT Fund for Natural Disaster.

Influence

The ICA-AP Newsletter and other periodical and reports were sent out to exchange information. The knowledge sharing made faster through the improved website. Information/announcements from members were posted on the web-site for wider publicity.

The office provided technical support and coordination services to the members in organising their programmes.

The Regional Director and other staff represented the

office and participated in member activities to improve advocacy.

The UN agencies and other stake holders were also approached for sharing resources and technical partnership.

Following events were provided as platform to increase influence:

ICA General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico



President Dame Pauline Green at the Launch

Hosted by the Mexican Movement, the ICA General Assembly-2011 and the Launch of the UN International Year of Co-operatives 2012 was held in Cancun Mexico on 14th-18th November 2011. A total of 78 countries were represented and of the representatives, 1456 were male and 547 female. After Mexico, the largest contingents were from Columbia, India, Brazil, Japan, Argentina, Canada, Ukraine, Costa Rica and the United States. From the Asia-Pacific region, a total of 196 cooperators were delegated in this historical event.

During the days of 14th to 16th November, starting from the ICA Board meeting, ICA-AP Board meeting, ICA-Americas Board meeting, ICA-Africa Board meeting, such ICA sectoral organizations' and thematic Committee meetings and conferences of ICMIF, ICBA, ICFO, CICOPA, ICAO, ICA-Consumer, ICA-Housing, HRD, Gender Equality and Dot Coop meeting were held. On 17th, network meetings for the Youth and Gender Equality, Research and IHCO offered participants their thematic conferences.

On the day of General Assembly on 18th, chaired by the ICA President Dame Pauline Green, it was divided into two sessions as forenoon and afternoon. In the forenoon session, over 2,000 participants saw the video message from United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. He congratulated the co-operative movement for its

contribution to the global common good. The Honorable Mexican president Calderon promised his government's support in promoting the co-operative business model and embracing the UN International Year of Co-operatives. Both keynote speakers at the conference, Philippe Cousteau and the former Obama campaigner Sam Graham-Felsen, told cooperators that they needed to get out and tell their stories for the visibility of co-operatives worldwide.

In the statutory session of General Assembly, the two vacant seats of the ICA Board were filled by the election. Mr Albolhassan Khalili (Iran) and Mr Janusz Paszkowski (Poland) were elected for the period of next General Assembly in 2014. Mr Felice Scalvini's election as ICA Vice-President for Europe was ratified by acclamation, and the appointment of Mr. Charles Gould as Director General was also ratified. In memory of Mr Surinder Kumar Jakhar who passed away these last two years, Dame Pauline paid tribute to and asked a minute of silence in his memory. After the report from ICA Director General and financial report of ICA (2009-2010), the agenda continued to approve the revised Rules of ICA Europe, ICA Asia-Pacific and ICA Africa.

In continuation, delegates discussed the flowing motions on- a) Resolution to open consultative process and convene an Extraordinary General Assembly in Manchester in 2012, b) Amendment to Seventh Principle, c) Resolution to support the establishment of a Co-operative, d) Institute for the Promotion of Peace and Social Cohesion, e) Admission of Mutuals to Membership, f) Declaration of Rochdale as World Co-operative Capital, and g) Resolution on the use of sustainable timber & forest products. The agenda on the ICA 7th Principle and on the matter of admission of Mutuals to Members were debated and remained as the topic for further studies by adhoc working groups for the next General Assembly.

In the Gala Dinner, the Rochdale Award were presented to Mr. Jong-Koo Lee (Chairperson of ICFO, Korean) and to Professor Florencio Eguia Villasenor, the moral advisor to the Mexican co-operative movement.

International Co-operative Day-2011

The Day has been observed widely by members and the Regional Director of ICA-AP participated to show solidarity. The ICA issued message on the occasion. The theme of the International Co-operative Day-2011 was "Youth, the Future of Co-operative Enterprise". Following are the reports of celebrations by some members-

India: NCUI



Dr. C P S Yadav, President, NCUI speaking at the event

National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) organised a National Symposium on the occasion of International Co-operative Day on 2nd July, 2011 at New Delhi. The Symposium addressed the theme of this year celebration "Youth, the Future of Co-operative Enterprise" and was attended by more than 100 co-operators. The speakers and were Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director,

International Co-operative Alliance (ICA-AP), Shri R. K. Tiwari, Joint Secretary and Central Registrar, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, Joint Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India and Director General Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Assistant FAO Representative in India, Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations and Joint Commissioner, Kendriya Vidhyalaya Sangathan. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh, President, NCUI presided over the Symposium and Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive, NCUI, gave his presentation on "Youth, the Future of Co-operative Enterprise".

Chairman and Managing Directors of various National Co-operative Federations, officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation, Govt. of India, ICA, FAO, NCDC, ILO etc. were also present besides the student of different educational institutions in Delhi.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi shared international experiences i.e. working of youth and campus co-operative in Japan & Singapore and said that there is enough possibilities and scope for youth to participate in the co-operative movement.

Indonesia- DEKOPIN



The President of Indonesia awarding the excellent cooperators

In the presence of the President of Indonesia, Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his Co-operative Minister, Dr. Syarifuddin Hasan, the 64th National Co-operative Day Celebrations in Indonesia was held on 12 July 2011 at the Jakarta Convention Centre. In his inaugural speech, His

Excellency, the President Yudhoyono called for a strong government support for co-operative enterprises, especially in the occasions of coming International Year of Co-operatives 2012.

He also expressed his thanks for the attendance of Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director.

A series of activities have been organised to celebrate the co-operative day like seminar, workshop, social service, race and tournament, pilgrimage and holy meditations, cultural night show, youth jamboree, international expo, talk show and speech, co-operative leaders meeting etc. The DEKOPIN invited international co-operative participations for International Expo as a part of their effort to support the International Year of Co-operatives in 2012.



Delegates at the expo

Sri Lanka: NCC

The Sri Lanka Co-operative Movement celebrated the 89th International Co-operative day and completion of 100 years of its legal registration in Kurunegala, the capital of North Western Province from 28th June to 2nd July, 2011. Honourable President Mahinda Rajapaksa graced the function as the chief Guest on the final day of the ceremony.

Ministry of Co-operatives and Internal Trade, Department of Co-operative Development along with the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka made arrangements to implement several programmes to celebrate both the occasions.



Hon'ble President with President and General Manager of NCC

Japan: JCCU

This year the commemoration of 89th International Day of Co-operative-2011 was uniquely held on July 14, 2011 in Tokyo, Japan by JJC. In the backdrop of the earthquake and the tsunami followed by the Fukushima Nuclear crisis, this year's theme was decided as "What co-operative society can do for the earthquake disaster reconstruction". 550 representatives from 63 co-operative societies in Japan attended the event.

Mr. Katsuto Uchihashi, the steering committee chairman of IYC delivered opening address followed by a report from three panellists regarding updates from the disaster hit area. Based on these reports, the future work by co-operatives towards the reconstruction to overcome the challenge were discussed.

Professor Kobayashi Masaya, Chiba University Graduate School, Mr. Kumagai, chairperson of the Fukushima Prefecture Co-operative Union and Mr. Haga, managing director of JCCU were the other speakers.

It was a successful gathering and all the speakers gave the attendees lots of food for thought.



The delegates at the function

International Women's Day - 8 March 2011

The theme of International Women's Day-2011 was "Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women". On the occasion of International Women's Day, every year the President of ICA, Dame Pauline Green and Chairperson of ICA Gender Equality Committee Ms. Stefania Marcone issue a message to co-operative members.

As per tradition, the message jointly issued by the President of ICA and Chairperson of ICA Gender Equality Committee on the International Women's Day- 2011 had been circulated to all the members and members organised meetings and seminar etc. based on the message to mark the occasion and called to the co-operatives to provide equal opportunity to women.

The First "World Fisheries Co-operative Day"

The first World Fisheries Co-operative Day was commemorated by International Fisheries Co-operative Organisation (ICFO) and Korea National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives (KNFC) on 16 June, 2011 in Seoul, Korea with 258 participants ; ICA Director-General, ICFO representatives, minister of ministry of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, a national assembly member, government officials, experts of co-operative and presidents of member fisheries co-operatives in Korea, etc.

During the last international symposium-2010 held in Seoul, Korea, all the participants adopted the "Seoul Declaration" to seek the role of co-operatives for the sustainable development of fisheries in 21st century including "World Fisheries Co-operative Day" and marine environmental protection, etc. In order to give the shape to the Declaration all the representatives unanimously agreed to establish June 16 as "World Fisheries Co-operative Day".

The event became a great opportunity to strengthen relationship among ICFO members and to share expertise

and experience for the future fisheries at the time of a great change in fisheries. ICFO Representatives were convinced that it would lead to gather their will for the preparation for the future fisheries. It also is expected to raise a public awareness about co-operatives with the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives declared by United Nations.

At the event, Mr. Uemura shoji, president Aomori Prefectural Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations, was awarded the first "World Fisheries Co-operator Prize". ICFO and KNFC also adopted "The Fisheries Co-operators' Pledge to the Fishermen of the World" to improve the quality of fishermen's lives and to build a brighter future for fisheries worldwide. At the event, the prime minister of the Republic of Korea delivered a video message emphasizing the importance of fisheries as a life-saving industry for humankind and promising that the Korean government will actively support the development of fisheries and the cooperation of fishermen in the world with proper policies.



A Group Photo at the event

2nd BRICS Co-operative Leaders Meeting in Beijing



Meeting in Progress

Presidents and CEOs of ICA member organizations from BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries met on 14th June in Beijing, in the 2nd BRICS Co-operative Leaders meeting hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives. In his opening remarks, Mr. Li Chengyu, President of ACFSMC pointed out that with a 60% contribution to the world economic growth in 2010 alone, the BRICS has become a new engine of the global economic growth. He noted that in all the five countries, the co-operative movement has played an irreplaceable role in addressing the issues of poverty, unemployment, sustainable development of the vulnerable as well as balanced economic and social development. Li Chunsheng, Vice President of ACFSMC; Daniel Fontes Dias, CEO of the Conagro-Co-operativa

National Agroindustrial (Brazil); Liudmila Zaytseva, Chairperson of the Centrosojus of the Russian Federation; Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI); Natwarlal Pitamberdas Patel, Chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited (IFFCO); Bijender Singh, National Federation of State Co-operative Bank (NAFSCOB); and Ndwakhulu Lawrence Bale, President of the South African National Apex Co-operative headed the delegations of their respective countries on the occasion. An important outcome of the meeting was the MOU and signing contract ceremony that produced 11 sets of bilateral business MOUs between the CEOs of BRICS co-operatives.

Governance

Two Regional Board meetings were held during the year for periodic review of the governance. All the regional committees such as Agriculture, Gender, Youth, HRD, Research and Consumer have also held their Office Bearers Meeting.

The office collaborated with govt. departments and other stake holders and civil societies in member countries to seek significant funding from alternative sources.

The MAFF, Japan, JCCU, Japan, NCUI, India, ACFSMC, China, NACF, Korea etc. are providing funding and

support for implementation of ICA activities.

Preparations for organising 2 major events ; the 9th ICA-AP Co-operative Ministers Conference and Regional Assembly, Co-operative Forum and related events, in the coming year 2012 have been started. An agreement was signed with Government of Thailand to host the 9th ICA-AP Co-operative Ministers Conference and Japan Joint Committee for co-operatives (JJC) has offered to host the Regional Assembly-2012 in Kobe Japan and the offer was accepted.

First meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board



Mr. Li Chungsheng along with the Board Members

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held in Guangzhou on 2nd March 2011 and was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA-AP President and Chairman of the Regional Board. 22 persons including members, observers and ICA Officers attended the meeting. The meeting was hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC).

Dr. Choi gave a brief account of the activities carried out by ICA-AP during 2010. He also presented the financial report of ICA-AP for the year 2010. The members noted that there was a surplus of CHF 8,440 in Delhi office for the year 2010. All members expressed happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP.

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that there were 45 countries in Asia-Pacific region, but only 25 countries were members of ICA. He requested the board members to help him to increase the membership of ICA.

He further presented the ICA-AP Work Plan and Budget for 2011 and informed that in addition to routine activities the following four studies were included in the Work Plan –

- (a) Study on Consumer Co-operatives in Asia;
- (b) Study on Co-operative Trade among Co-operatives;
- (c) Study on Technical Cooperation among Co-operatives;
- (d) Study on Communication Strategy for Co-operatives.

Dr. Choi also talked about the resolution from the Americas region proposing an amendment to the 7th Co-operative Principle to strengthen environmental sustainability and requested the members for their reaction. All the members, except one, felt that the existing 7th Co-operative Principle (Concern for Community) very well covers environmental sustainability and there was no need to amend it at the moment.

Second meeting of ICA-AP Regional Board

The second meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at Moon Palace Hotel in Cancun on 15th November 2011. 25 persons including 10 board members, staff and observers were present.



The Board Members

The Chairperson, Mr. Li Chunsheng extended warm welcome to board members and introduced 2 new members, Mr. Vitoon Neawpanit, Chairman of CLT and Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, Vice Chairperson of NATCCO from Philippines. The member from Thailand was not present. The President further thanked all the co-operative movements of the region for their valuable contribution.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director presented the activity report, financial report and work plan and budget for 2012. All the reports and work plan were approved by members after discussion and minutes of the last meeting held in Guangzhou on 2nd March 2011 was confirmed.

Mr. H.A.M Halid, Secretary General [DEKOPIN] Indonesia and regional board member observed that ICA-AP should play an active role to convince governments and the cooperative movement to change the working environment and the co-operatives should be given more important role to play in their respective countries.

Dr. Choi also explained the membership situation in the region and the chairperson observed that the membership has grown substantially and members should support ICA in bringing in more co-operatives under the umbrella of ICA from the region.

Issues related to membership procedure were raised by some members and the Chairperson said that this could be brought up to the ICABoard.

The preparation of forth coming 9th Asia –Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, ICA Regional Assembly-2012, IYC-2012 and the ICA-AP Regional Assembly-2012 were also discussed. The 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference will be held in Thailand from 27th February to 1st March 2012. Dr. Choi explained about preparations. The office has commissioned Critical Study and has dispatched a set of questionnaires to all members

and governments to get feedback on output of the previous conference. Some members made suggestions on the conference agenda.

The Chairperson observed that the Ministers Conference is there for a long time. In order to get good advantage of the conference, members should send suggestions/questions to the Regional Office for making agenda.

The ICA-AP Regional Assembly- 2012 and Related Events will be held from 25-30 November 2012 in Kobe, Japan. President of JCCU introduced KOBE – Regional Assembly preparations and extended invitations to all. He thanked to all the co-operators and fraternity for helping and sending messages during the Tsunami disaster in March-2011. KOBE was devastated by earthquakes but a beautiful city now .

The Chairperson thanked Japan Coop for outstanding preparations and appealed to all the members to attend this Regional Assembly as elections will take place.

Regarding the celebrations of IYC-2012, Dr. Choi requested members to send their activities to be posted on the ICA-AP web for sharing. ICA-AP has prepared T-shirts, stickers etc. for showing visibility and solidarity.

Several members informed about their activities and also offered suggestions.

The VCA, Vietnam invited suggestions on co-operative law revision. Dr Choi thanked Vietnam for the initiative and said that the main UN recommendation is to create enabling environment by introducing new law and policy. This IYC-2012 is a good opportunity to revise/upgrade the co-operative law in member countries.

The Chairperson suggested that it is important that through IYC-2012, we would create awareness among common people, upscale lobbying with government and get resolved concerned legal and policy issues for co-operatives.

Development

In order to develop strong co-operative enterprises for social and economic progress, the office has organised a number of regional and national training programmes, workshops and seminars to improve the capacity of the co-operators as well as the co-operatives.

The programmes were organised in partnership and collaboration with member organisations which strengthened inter-co-operation.

The ICA-AP programmes provide a platform to the members for discussion and exchange of information which in turn help participants and their co-operatives in consolidating and building strategic alliances /networks among themselves.

The messages from ICA on the events such as International Co-operative Day and International

Women's Day provide guidance.

Publication of various documents, studies and research etc. helps in strengthening technical base.

As many as 30 activities conducted in the region during 2011 reaching out to more than 600 individual members, leaders and stake holders directly.

The activities included training, seminars, conferences and meetings which addressed all the sectors and segments such as agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, food security, environment, empowerment of women and inclusion of youth etc. The programmes focused on the specific target groups such as women and youth for advocacy of the co-operative model of business.

Several programmes have been held in following sectors to increase the capacity for development :

(A) Agriculture

Several programmes are being conducted for capacity building of staff working with agricultural co-operatives, farmers and government officials working with agriculture and related services. Following are the 3 major programmes being implemented by the office:

- **Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction Through Co-operatives**

This was a 5 year training project being implemented in collaboration with MAFF, Japan, JA-Zenchu and IDACA. The 5th and last training programme of the project was held from December, 2010-April, 2011. This was a long term programme held in 3 countries, India, Malaysia and Japan with focus on the strengthening of farm guidance method, joint collection, marketing, safety and improvement of quality of farm products.

12 participants from Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the training. The first part of the Indian segment of the training programme, IFFCO-FMDI Module on Review of Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia was hosted by IFFCO and held in Farmers Management Development Institute at Gurgaon and second part on Project Management at Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand (Gujarat), India, the third segment of comparative field study visits of Agriculture Co-operatives was hosted by National Co-



Award of certificate



Concluding session At IDACA

operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA) and final part was held at Institute for the Development of Agriculture Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo in Japan. The participants were received by various ICA member-organizations in India, Malaysia and Japan during the course of study visits.

The Training course was inaugurated by Mr. A. Roy, Marketing Director, IFFCO, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Mr. Manabu Suzuki, First Secretary in the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Ashikari Ikuo, Managing Director, IDACA, Mr. Nakashima Toru, Dy. Manager, IDACA, Tokyo, Mrs. Anita Manchanda, the then Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India, and Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants.

At the concluding session at IDACA, Mr. Kazuhiro SHIMANE, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, MAFF, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Mr. Akihiro Fujii manager of JA-ZENCHU, Mr. Ashikari Ikuo, M.D. IDACA and other officials were present to award the "Certificate of Participation" to the participants. Mr. Xu Mingfeng, participant from China, gave vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants.



Participants and guests at FMDI, India

• Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives

The ICA and MAFF, Japan have entered into agreement to implement a three year training project on “Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives” to be implemented from 2011-2013. The training will be conducted twice in a year, totalling to 6 in 3 years, with 12 participants in each course from Asian countries. The duration of each programme will be 55 days and 30 days out of that will be spent at IRMA, India and 25 days at IDACA, Japan.

Objectives

The overall objectives of the training program under this project will be to assist fostering of the core leaders who are expected to play the leading roles in agricultural co-operatives and farmers’ groups that will contribute to the improvement of agricultural production and income of the farmers in the LDCs of Mekong River countries, ASEAN and the South Asian Countries.

The participants will be able to ;

- learn the farm guidance methods aimed at increasing farmers’ income through the introduction and dissemination of new commodities which meet the needs of diversifying markets;
- learn diversifying joint collection and shipment which enables farmers’ income to be increased by responding to diversifying agricultural distribution;
- Study methods to safety and increase of quality of farm products;
- To study the latest methods on the integrated agricultural co-operative business management and Co-operative Entrepreneurship.

Methodology

Adult learning methods will be used which includes classroom lecture, group discussion, use of audio visual

aids, study visits to co-operatives and business facilities, interaction with farmers and officials and feedback etc. Also, the case studies will be used widely and there will be an End-of-the-Course-Evaluation at the conclusion of the training course.

The participants are also encouraged to prepare country/organization specific “Action Plan” which they will be able to implement back home after the training. The preparation of “Action Plan” is a very important component of the programme and a considerable time will be spent on individual participants to make them understand how they will use their learning back home.

The 1st Training Course on “Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2011(I)” was held in India and Japan. The Indian segment was held at New Delhi/IRMA, Gujarat from 23 September 2011 to 22 October 2011 and second part was in Japan at Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) from 23rd October to 17th November 2011. 12 participants including men and women both have been selected from among the candidates, nominated by the ICA member-organisations and Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries of non-members countries namely; Bhutan Cambodia India, Myanmar Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam.

Some of the key subjects covered during the training are - various aspects in the development of agricultural co-operatives in Japan, i.e. farm guidance, joint collection and shipment, business management method of agricultural co-operatives etc. Moreover, the participants are expected to finalize the action plans in Japan for improvement, based on the experience and the knowledge gained during the training course in India and Japan.



The Group of Participants at IDACA, Japan

2nd training of 2011 on Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives

The second training of the First Course-2011 will be organized by ICA-AP in India and Japan from 2nd February to 12th April 2012. The overall objective of the training program was to assist fostering of the core leaders who are expected to play the leading roles in agricultural co-operatives and farmers' groups that will contribute to improvement of agricultural production and income of the

farmers in the LDCs of Mekong River countries and the South Asian Countries. The participants attended Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) in India and Institute for the Development of Agriculture Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo, Japan. They were received and hosted by several other co-operatives in India and Japan during the course of the training.

• Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products

Perhaps due to poverty and large number of population, most of Asian countries focus more on increasing farm/food production and generally less attention is paid to safety and quality of the farm products/food resulting into health and environmental problems. Un informed/misinformed use of chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers and other farm inputs impact the quality of food and also affect the soil etc. Therefore, it has become necessary to ensure quality and safety management of farm products including meats, dairy and poultry etc. for better health of people, better value to farm products and conservation of soil and natural resources as well.

In order to address these concerns, the ICA-Japan Training Course on "Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products" was designed as a new training course commencing from the current year 2011 to 2013. This is a new project introduced jointly by ICA and MAFF, Japan in collaboration with JA-Zenchu and IDACA. Three courses of 25 days each will be conducted during the 3 years project period at IDACA in Japan and about 48 leaders, managers, farmers or government officials will be trained.

Objectives of the Course

The objective of the training course is to assist fostering of experts in distribution field who play the roles in the quality and safety management of farm products at an agricultural co-operative or farmers' group in order to increase income and agricultural production in the LDCs of Mekong River Countries and the South Asian Countries.

The first training course of this new project was held from July 11 to August 4, 2011 at IDACA in Japan which was implemented by ICA, based on an agreement among ICA, JAZENCHU, IDACA and MAFF.

16 persons including female and male middle level government officials and co-operative managers and leaders from 9

countries (South Asia and CLMV countries of Mekong River) attended the programme.

The training started in IDACA with classroom lectures and a week-long study visit to Nara prefecture. The entire programme was conducted by IDACA in close cooperation with ICA.

Following are the key subjects covered during the course:

- Introduction to Japan, Japanese society, Culture and Agriculture.
- Outline of JA Organisations.
- Presentation of Country Report and Drafting of Action Plan by the Participants.
- Participatory Rural Development Project Method.
- Agro Processing and Quality Control.
- Anzen/Anshin System at the Agricultural R&D Centre.
- Evaluation and Country Action Plan.

Therefore, during the 25 days schedule, the participants were expected to learn about GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), research and development of agricultural inputs, processing and marketing and also vital role played by co-operatives in promoting Safety and Quality of food products. The Program was co-ordinated jointly by Ms. Savitri Singh of ICA-AP and Mr. Yukio Abe of IDACA.



The Group of Participants at IDACA, Japan

• Management of Circular Economy Project Operations



The participants

The All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operative (ACFSMC), launched the New Rural Commodity Circulation and Service Network Project in May 2005 in China to upgrade its existing business network and to renew its vitality in market competition and also to improve its services to its members. The New Network Project falls into four major business scopes designed by ACFSMC:

- The supply and serving network for agricultural means of production
- The marketing network for farm produces
- The supply network for consumer goods
- The network for recycling renewable resources

To disseminate technical knowledge to co-operators in the region, ACFSMC designed its training programs for members of ICA Asia Pacific and is organizing 2 training programmes in a year in collaboration with ICA-AP office.

The overall objectives of the training programs are:

- To build the participants capacity on marketing farm produce and consumer goods as well as supplying agricultural inputs.
- To share and exchange the experience in co-operative management between Chinese Supply and Marketing Co-operatives and other Asian co-operatives.
- To strengthen the business connections between China and Asian countries co-operatives, especially in terms of farm produce, consumer goods and agricultural inputs.

Since 2010, four such Training Programs have successfully concluded at various sites in China with the International Training Centre of ACFSMC in Beijing as the nodal venue. This program has so far served over eighty

participants and concluded around fifty sessions of lectures by scholars and co-operative practitioners along with study visits in various provinces of China.

Operation and Management of Circular Economy

i. The 2nd Training Course on Circular economy was conducted jointly by ICA and China Co-op from 2 – March 10, 2011 in Guangzhou, Beijing and Qingyuan. 17 Participants from nine countries along with organisers from ACFSMC and ICA-AP were a part of the course that organised lectures and group discussions along with country reports from participants. The opening of the course was held at Shangri-La, Guangzhou. The Training Course was divided in two field visits in Huaqing RECYCLING INDUSTRIAL PARK and Beijing HuaJing Yuan RENEWABLE RESOURCE RECYCLING MARKET Ltd where the process of collection and recycling of wastes was demonstrated. There was Audio/Visual information shared as well. The first course was conducted in 2010 and 2 courses are scheduled for 2011.

The core part of the Training Course were the sessions taken by the Lecturers on Circular economy, the environment around the C.E. Concept and the management side of the topic. The Lecturers were from various strides such as economics, environment studies, Law and policy, International Relations amongst others. The Training session comprised of Country reports given by various participants who had joined from 9 countries representing their countries movement. They further took part in Group discussion and finished by giving their project proposals. They shared their experience at the end of the course by having a get together and bidding farewell.

• REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE

The 3rd ICA/CHINA Training Course on “Co-operative Management and Circular Economy Project Operations” was held from October 17–26, 2011 in Beijing, Changzhou and Shanghai under the aegis of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC). The Training Course was attended by twenty five participants who represented eleven countries of the Asia Pacific Region. The extensive week long training carried lectures by experts from Co-operative Guidance Department of ACFSMC, National Development and Reform Commission, China Resource Recycling and Utilization Association and professors and academicians from Beijing University, Renmin University. The Opening Ceremony was graced by Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP and Mr. Li Chunsheng, Vice President of ACFSMC and President of the ICA-AP Board along with Mr. Zhang Wangshu of the International Co-operative Department of ACFSMC and other delegates from its subsidiary recycling companies. The special resource person for the course was Mr. Huseyin Polat who retired from the International Labour Organisation and has worked closely with COPAC and ICA in his tenure. ICA-AP was represented by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar.

The participants were to make country-reports introducing their countries and their respective co-operative movements along with presenting a project proposal that involves wholesome development and utilizes the concept of Circular Economy. Mr. Polat educated the



The opening ceremony

participating co-operators about preparing large scale and effective project proposals. ICA-AP along with ACFSMC are to help the participants in the follow-up initiatives post the Course. The participants were then taken for field visits to the Beijing Hua Jing Yuan Renewable Resource Recycling Market Ltd and to Changzhou Recycling Resource Industry Pilot Park at Changzhou in the Jiangsu province where they witnessed the creation of synthetic cloth with the help of processing waste like plastic bottles apart from recycling of Steel and water. The Course concluded with distribution of certificates and congratulatory remarks by the guests at the valedictory.



Dr. Choi & Mr. Li Chunsheng with the Participants

• Exposure Programme for Agriculture Co-operative Development



The Participants with ICA-AP and NACF staff

Agriculture is still the main stay of economy in Asia-Pacific region. In order to provide exposure to members to best practices in the field of agriculture and related co-operative business in the region, the ICA-AP in collaboration with member organisation, NACF in Korea, organises a workshop and study visit every year.

The ICA-AP / National Agriculture Co-operative Federation (NACF) Korea Joint Workshop for Co-operative Leaders in Asia-Pacific was held from October 10-15, 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The participants represented seven countries of the Asia Pacific region. The Workshop was inaugurated on the 11th October, 2011 at the NACF Headquarters with the opening speech of Mr. Joon-Ho Kim, Executive Vice President, NACF thereafter Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-AP made his congratulatory speech and officially declared the workshop open.

The officials of NACF made presentations on "Korean Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operative", "NACF's

Extension Services for Members' Benefit", The Agricultural Machinery Banks and Agricultural Finance in Korea.

Post technical session, participants made country reports presentation introducing their country and their respective co-operative movements.

The participants received a good over-view of the development history of the Korean Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operatives at the Agricultural Museum in NACF which is a popular place for students and other visitors. The field visit and Farm-stay organised by NACF at Village Kanghwado had become more pleasant as it was coinciding with the harvest season and the participants gained knowledge about harvesting paddy and prepared traditional rice cakes and tofu with the help of the staff at the Farm-Stay Village at Kanghwado. The participants also visited the NH Group's then visited the Hanaro Club which is the NACF Marketing Super Center at Yangjae, Seoul.

(B) Consumer

Various trainings and workshops have been organized for the development of Managers and Board members of consumer co-operatives of member organisations.

Following are the activities held in 2011:

- **Regional Workshop**

11th ICA/SNCF Regional Workshop for Managers on Management of Consumer Co-ops was held in Singapore from 17 to 18 August 2011 at Fairprice Training Institute. 12 participants from 6 countries attended the workshop.

- **Conference on Strategic Business Alliances**

A Conference on Strategic Business Alliances among Co-operatives was organized in Vietnam which was hosted by Saigon Coop. It was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam from September 6-7, 2011. 27 foreign participants from India, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Singapore and INTERCOOP attended the conference, in addition to 23 participants from Vietnam.

The main objectives of the conference were:

- To develop strategic business alliances between consumer co-ops and other type of co-ops.
- To strengthen partnerships between consumers and producers.
- To promote co-operative trade (including "Fair Trade") and ethical consumption in Asia and the Pacific region.

The Conference was inaugurated by Ms. Nguyen Thi Hanh, C.E.O., Saigon Co-op. She welcomed all the delegates on behalf of Saigon Union of Trading Co-operatives (Saigon Coop) for coming to HCM City and gave a detailed description of the Conference. She believed that a broad range of mutual benefits will be

offered through this conference for not only enhancing solid relationships among international co-operatives but also gaining remarkable knowledge about strategic business alliances.

Following papers were presented at the Conference:

1. Introduction of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific and Strategic Business Alliances among Japanese Consumers' Co-operatives - by Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Chairperson, ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific.
2. The Story of NTUC Fair Price and collaboration with Saigon Coop - by Mr. Tan Kian Chew, Group CEO, NTUC Fair Price.
3. Introduction of Co-op Brand Product Development Policy by
 - Mr. Steven Ang, Group Category Manager (Fresh & Frozen – Purchasing & Merchandising) Fair Price, Singapore.
 - Ms. Tran Thi Kim Quyen, Vice General Director, Saigon Co.op.



Participants of the conference

- Mr. Kazuo Murakami, Manager of Product Policy Development, JCCU.
- 4. Presentations on Coop. Brand Products:
 - The challenges of iCOOP Brand Products and its development in South Korea - by Ms. Oh, Mi-Yea, Chairperson, iCOOP Association of Consumer Cooperatives.
 - Presentation of Intercoop (European Coop. buying Office) and Coop. Brand Products Development - by Mr. Alberto Marrassini, Business Development Manager, Interco-op Ltd.

Coop Brand Products were displayed at the venue of the Conference by Saigon Coop., FairPrice, Singapore, JCCU, Japan, iCOOP Korea and Interco-op.

In addition to the above presentation, an Open Discussion on "Strategies and Future Perspectives of Coop. Brand Products" took place. The panelists were: Representative from FairPrice, Singapore (Mr. Steven Ang, Group Category Manager-Fresh & Frozen-Purchasing & Merchandising; Saigon Co.op (Ms. Tran Thi Kim Quyen, Vice General Director); JCCU (Mr. Kazuo Murakami, Manager of Product Policy Department).

• ICA/SNCF Business Seminar



Participants with Dr. Choi and Dolly Goh

The 3rd ICA/SNCF Business Seminar for Cooperative Leaders, subtitled "Innovating Cooperative Business with Internet Technology", was held in RELC International Hotel in Singapore from 5th to 7th October. This seminar was held in collaboration with the Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF). The main objectives of the seminar were (a) to offer cooperative leaders and chief executive officers an ample opportunity to learn about new area of e-commerce for cooperative business; (b) to share about various models of e-commerce among chief executive officers; and (c) to share the best applications in the use of 'social media' for branding cooperative and service products. 19 participants from 5 countries (India, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore) attended the seminar. The seminar opened with the welcome speech by Ms. Dolly Goh, CEO of SNCF and the opening remarks by Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director

of ICA-AP. Ms. Dolly Goh emphasized in her speech that there is a rise of IT technology, and it will transform and give impact to the global business. SNCF's site provides educational videos and information on the co-operative movement. In addition, she introduced SNCF's 2 IYC programs which involve Internet Technology, i.e. the Children's Storybook Series on Co-op Values, adopted into mobile applications and the Viral Photography competition on Co-op Principles, helped on Facebook.

Mr. Nobuhisa Mogi, Manager of IT Business Planning Division, Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union, made a presentation on "E-Commerce and Social Network of Japanese Consumer Co-ops". He enlightened the participants by introducing the unique "home delivery business" of Japanese consumer co-ops, and its online shopping sites that include also mobile sites. Ms. Tan Huey Ling, Operation Manager, NTUC Fairprice Co-

operative Limited, made a presentation on the “Sales and strategy of Fairprice’s Online Shopping Site”. She also explained that Fairprice has to overcome several challenges, i.e.

- 1) Increasing operational costs,
- 2) High logistic cost,

- 3) Tight labor market and retention of staff,
- 4) Keeping up with the advancement in the social, internet and mobile media.

The participants enjoyed visiting Fairprice’s supermarket and hypermarket on the third day.

• Training for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives

ICA-JCCU Training Programme for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives was held from 22 Oct- 4 Nov 11, 2011 in Kobe, Japan.

The objective of the programme was to expose the participants to the professional management systems and practices of Japanese consumer co-operatives.

Initially, ICA-AP planned to organize 2 courses with 8 trainees. Due to the earthquake in Japan, the plan was changed and only Co-op Kobe/Co-op Net course was conducted with 6 trainees from 4 countries; India, Singapore, Vietnam and Korea.

Main feature of the training were:

- Brief explanation on Japanese Consumer Co-operative Movement.
- Lecture on store operation of Co-op Kobe/Co-op Net and visit to their stores.
- Visit to JA Ohya and JA Tajima to hear about the direct transaction of organic vegetables between consumer co-operatives and agricultural co-operatives.
- Visit Food Festival organized by Co-op Tokyo.
- Visit Co-op Net Eco-center (Recycling Center).



The Participants

• Regional Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives

ICA-AP Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives in the Philippines was held by ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operation, in collaboration with the National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO), Philippines at Quezon City from 12-13 December, 2011. 48 leaders and managers from co-operatives, including 24 foreign participants and one from the Philippine Co-operative Development Authority attended the Workshop.

The main objectives of the Workshop were

- To establish a network of Philippine consumer co-operative through dialogue
- To strengthen partnership and develop strategic alliances among Philippine consumer co-operatives so that they can work together and eventually unify the store format.

The Workshop started with the Welcome Speech of Ms.



The participants with Dr. Choi

Sylvia Okinlay Paraguya, CEO of NATCCO. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP made the Opening Remarks. Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Chairperson of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation made a Special Speech on “Introduction of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operatives”. He introduced the structure of ICA, Consumer Committee’s main objectives and presented the 2010-2011 Activity Report. He also summarized “How to better serve to the members (consumers)”, explaining the types of consumer co-operatives in the region.

The Workshop had four resource speakers with the following topics of presentations:

- “Current Status of Consumer Co-operatives in the Philippines and their Challenges” by Mr. Emmanuel Santiagué, Ph.D., Chairperson of Co-operative Development Authority.
- “Development of Coop Mart Stores in the Philippines and Challenges” by Ms. Cecilia M. dela Cruz, Development Officer, NATCCO.

- “iCOOP KOREA’s Store Business Strategy and Store Operation Policy” By Ms. Oh Mi-yea, Chairperson, iCOOP Association of Consumer Co-operatives.
- “Development of Consumer Co-operative in Indonesia through Co-op Mart Project” Mr. Budi Prasetyo, Retail Specialist for Co-op Mart Indonesia, LAPENKOP.

His speech was supported by comments of Ms. Anneli Leina, Country Director, Swedish Co-operative Center (SCC)-Philippines.

The Workshop concluded with the closing remarks by Mr. Raul M. Calayan Jr., Chief Operating Officer of NATCCO. Participants from the Philippine co-operatives were very much motivated by the workshop presentations and decided to organize a Forum to discuss future business collaborations beneficial to the consumer co-operative sector.

(C) Human Resource Development (HRD):

• Meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD



Meeting in progress

The 23rd meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) for Asia and Pacific was held on 4th July in Selangor, Malaysia. It was hosted by the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA). 28 participants from seven countries, namely, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the HRD Committee. He welcomed the members and participants and thanked them for attending

the meeting. He also gave a brief account of presentations scheduled to be made by various speakers during the seminar after the meeting on 4th and 5th July.

The opening session was attended and addressed by Hajah Armi Haji Zainudin, Vice President of the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA); ICA Board Member and Vice Chair of HRD Committee. She extended a warm welcome to the members on behalf of ANGKASA. She said that Malaysia is pioneered in “school co-operatives” which is a unique experience. Another

unique thing was compulsory training for board of directors. She appreciated the work being done by the HRD Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bhagwati Prasad. She also thanked ICA-AP for giving an opportunity to host the meeting and seminar in Malaysia.

Mr. Bhagwati Prasad made the presentation on Global HRD Networking Portal and explained in detail the various features of the portal. He said that the project was running successfully and about 66 HRD institutions and 4 experts have registered so far. However, for the last two years not much work has been done on this portal due to various reasons. Even registered members were not uploading their information on the portal. He requested all registered

organizations to upload all the information relating to them.

The presentation followed by discussions focused on the following issues:

- (a) Strengthening of portal by uploading all information required by registered members of the portal;
- (b) Making it more useful by updating the information from time to time;
- (c) Mobilization of advertisements from co-operatives to be posted on the portal on payment basis
- (d) Motivating HRD institutions and individual experts to register themselves with the portal to make it more broad based and useful.

• Regional Seminar on “Need and Importance of HRD in Co-operatives



The participants with the Chairperson

A Regional Seminar on “Need and Importance of HRD in Co-operatives with special reference to Training of Board of Directors” was organized by the International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) in collaboration with the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA) on 4th and 5th July 2011 in Subang, Selangor, Malaysia.

The objective of the seminar was to provide a platform to discuss various issues relating to human resource development of board of directors in co-operatives with main focus on good governance, role perception, desirability of training and identification of areas of relevance for training of board of directors. The seminar also discussed in detail the policy of mandatory training of board of directors adopted by Malaysian Cooperative

Movement and also explored the possibility of its adoption by other countries.

The seminar was inaugurated by Professor Dato Dr. Mohd Ali Hj. Baharum, President of ANGKASA and Board Member of ICA-AP. Dato’ HJ. Abdul Fattah HJ. Abdullah, Deputy President of ANGKASA was also present during the ceremony.

28 participants from seven countries, namely, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the seminar.

The following presentations were made by resource persons at the seminar:

- Need and Importance of HRD for Board of Directors in Coops by Mr. W.A.R. Wimalasiri, Polgolla, Sri Lanka.

- Need for Good Governance Practices in Co-operatives by Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive, National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi.
- Role Perception of Board of Directors vis-à-vis Executives in a Co-operative Organization by Mr. Yuzri Suhud, Corporate Secretary, INDUK-KUD (National Federation of Rural Coops), Jakarta.
- Role Perception of Board of Directors vis-à-vis Executives in a Co-operative Organization by Mr. K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director, National Coop Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai.
- Areas of Relevance for Training of Board of Directors of Coop by Dr. Jamilah Din, Lecturer, Co-operative College of Malaysia, Selangor.
- Scope of Mandatory Training of Board of Directors in Malaysia by Hajah Armi Zainudin, Vice President, ANGKASA; ICA Board Member and Vice Chair of HRD Committee.
- Problems and Issues Related with Networking of Co-operative HRD Institutions by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Vice Chairman, Coop House Building and Finance Corporation Limited, Lucknow and Chair of HRD Committee.

(D) Gender Mainstreaming

The ICA-AP and Regional Women Committee for Asia and Pacific in collaboration with other members such as JA-Zenchu and MAFF, Japan, NCUI, India and several others, have been implementing programmes for gender mainstreaming in the co-operatives of the region. The main emphasis is on training for skill development, advocacy and lobbying. Following programmes were held during the year-2011:

• Meeting of the Office Bearers

Annual Meeting of the office bearers of the Regional Women's Committee Meeting of the Office Bearer's of ICA Regional Women's Committee Meeting of the Office Bearer's of ICA Regional Women's Committee was held on 21 June, 2011, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the Committee chaired the meeting. The meeting was attended by 2 vice chairs, Ms. Emma Neiva and Ms. Kruewan from AWCF and Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Programme and Secretary to the committee. She convened the meeting and presented the progress report.

The members discussed usual business of the committee, work plan for 2011 and preparation for major activities coming up next year-2012 such as Regional Women Committee Meeting and Women Forum to be organized in conjunction with the ICA Regional Assembly-2012. Ms. Armi Zanudin, ICA Global Board member participated as observer. The Office bearers also visited women Co-operatives in the country and met with members and leaders of the coop.



Meeting in progress

• Workshop for Enhancing the role of women in co-operative business

The ICA-AP Workshop on "Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business" was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in collaboration with DEKOPIN, Indonesia from 18 -20 October 2011.

The 3 days programme included one day workshop followed by 2 days study visits to a few successful co-operative businesses in the country. The consultations

during the workshop focused upon co-operative endeavour to promote women's interests for gender mainstreaming in co-operatives.

The total number of 13 participants (10 women and 3 men) from 6 ICA member countries in Asia and 20 local participants from Indonesia including- Ministry of Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises Development



The participants of the workshop

Department and various cooperative attended the workshop to have an exposure of gender focused best practices in Indonesian co-operatives.

Mr. Ilhamnasai, Board Member of DEKOPIN and Chairperson of the Youth Committee of ICA opened the workshop with Inaugural speech. Mrs. Savitri Singh of ICA-AP extended warm welcome to participants on behalf of ICA and gave a brief introduction of the programme. All the participants made presentations and shared experiences about their Co-operatives during the business session.

Ms. Dina Latifah Chairperson of the DEKOPIN committee of women empowerment made presentation on the theme "Enhancing Women's Role in Co-operative Business". Mrs. Savitri Singh shared information about the "Gender Integration and Situation of Women in Co-operatives in Asia and Pacific".

Ms. Lilis Solehati, Chairperson of BKWK (Badan

Komunikasi Wanita Koperasi) also made a presentation and shared some interesting data.

Following participants from other countries shared and exchanged information:

ACFSMC, China, NATCOO and VICTO ,Philippines, NCUI,India,NCC,Sri Lanka, NCF, Nepal and ANGKASA, Malaysia.

The Workshop concluded with a panel discussion and open form.

During the second and third day of the program the participants visited to following co-operatives and exchanged information

- Indonesian Institute of Co-operative Management
- KOPWANTERA, Jakarta
- KOPPASKRANGGAN, Jakarta

Certificate of participation was awarded to all the participants.

• Training of Trainers for Management Capacity Building

The Training of Trainers Programme on Management Capacity Building of Women for Co-operative Development for women and men co-operative leaders and managers was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 19-23 December, 2011 in collaboration with National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL).

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Priyantha Mayadunna, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives for the Internal Trade of Sri Lanka followed by speeches by Mr. Bandu Ranawaka, Chairman, NCCSL and Dr. Chan Ho CHOI Regional Director of ICA-AP. The officials of NCCSL, ICA-AP and Ministry of Agriculture and

Cooperatives; Mr. Sunil Silva, General Manager, NCCSL, Mr. P H Annanda, Commissioner-Department of Co-operative Development of Sri Lanka, Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor, Gender Programme and Communication and Mr. Rangan Dutta, Sr. Consultant of ICA-AP were also present.

25 co-operators (women and men) from all over the country attended the programme. Some participants from the Trincomalee districts were also present. It was informed that due to the long years of armed conflict going on in these areas, the co-operatives of this part of the country could not participate in the co-operative activities of NCCSL for a long time. This was the first participation from these areas after a long time.

The main objective of the programme is to enhance management skills of co-operative leaders and managers, specially women to handle the day to day management of their co-operatives and understanding the importance of women's participation in coops.

The programme started with presentation of status paper on "Situation of co-operative movement and women's participation in Sri Lanka" by National Co-operative council of Sri Lanka and discussion on various aspects facilitated by resource persons. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI took keen interest in the training and conducted a session on contribution of women for the development of the society



The participants of the training

wherein he shared his experience from Korea where women are very active in co-operatives.

Experts from UN, ILO, FAO and local institutions and Savitri Singh from ICA-AP delivered lecture on various topics. The discussion led to creating a road map for education and training on various skills crucial for quality participation of women and men in co-operative business and management. Besides, social and developmental issues like awareness on climate change and economic recession impacting co-operatives and members were also addressed during the course. However, main focus remained on developing skills on co-operative business development.

• Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women



Women participants during co-op visit

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan and International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) agreed to jointly implement an umbrella Project on "Strengthening of Capacity Building in Developing Countries in Asia" for three years starting from 2011 which consists of three training courses one of which is being exclusively conducted for women.

During the project period from 2011-2013, total 3 courses,



The participants at a co-operative in Japan

one per year, will be held in 2 countries, Thailand and Japan.

The main objective of the Training Course is to assist fostering women coordinators who play important role in activating women in agricultural sector and rural community which will contribute in income-generation and poverty reduction in the Least Developed Countries of Mekong River countries and the South-Asian countries.

Under this Project, the 1st Training Course on "Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women" was held in Thailand and Japan from 18th September to 20th October 2011.

Seventeen women participants from 13 countries, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the Training Course.

The part-I of the program – field study visits with a focus on observation of the activities of co-operatives and social institutions - was held in Thailand from 18th to 24th September in collaboration with the Co-operative League of Thailand [CLT], a member organization of ICA.

The part-II of the program held at IDACA from 25th September to 20th October 2011 included extensive

classroom work and study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Saga Prefecture of Japan. Lecture-cum-practical field study visits assignments were combined to impart necessary knowledge to the participants on the working of women's associations and the general activities of agricultural co-operatives in Japan.

Certificate of Participation was awarded to participant at the concluding session held at IDACA in Tokyo. The concluding session was attended by Mr. Kenichi Tanimoto, Chief of International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department of MAFF; Mr. Keiji Hiraoka, Executive Director of IDACA; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA-Asia and Pacific; and other senior officers of IDAC.

(E) University/Campus Co-operative

In order to nurture the generation- next to join co-operatives, the young students in universities and other educational institutions are being organized and trained through development of University/Campus Co-operatives. Following programmes were held by the ICA-AP Committee on University/ Campus Co-operatives:

• SAARC Regional Workshop

The South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Regional Workshop on Campus Cooperatives and Youth Integration in Co-operatives was organized under the auspices of the ICA-AP Committee on University/ Campus Co-operatives on 23-25 March 2011, at Mangalore University, Mangalore, India.

About 70 participants from 11 countries Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Uganda, Iran, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan including representatives of the University/Campus Co-operatives attended the workshop.

The Workshop was organized in co-operation with National Co-operative Union of India, Karnataka State Co-operative Federation, Mangalore University Employees Credit Co-operative Society, Department of Business Administration, Mangalore University and supported by National Federation of University Co-operative



Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President NCUI inaugurated the Workshop



A group photo of the participants

Associations, Japan. The workshop initiative was aimed to provide an opportunity to the representatives of SAARC countries to learn about campus co-operatives and create a platform to exchange ideas and sharing experiences of promoting & strengthening campus co-operatives in SAARC countries.

Dr. C P S Yadav, President of NCUI inaugurated the workshop and eminent scholars like Dr. T.Y. Mallaiah, President Mangalore Co-op Society, Prof. T.C. Shivashankar Murthy, Vice Chancellor, Mangalore University and Mr. G.T. Devegowda, President, KSCF Bangalore joined in as speakers.

The 3 days workshop activities included presentations on Campus Cooperatives in India and Facilitating Youth Integration and presentation by Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia on University Co-operatives and Youth

Participation, School Cooperatives in Malaysia and Campus Co-operative in Indonesia and country wise group discussion on the issues of the ways and means of promoting campus co-operatives in their respective countries and each participant presented his/her country report. They also focused upon their expectations of the ICA-AP Committee on Univ./Campus Coop.

Prof. Mallikarjunappa from India gave exposure to participants by sharing information on how Mangalore University Co-operative is facilitating campus life and by arranging study visit to Mangalore Univ. coop., Govindadasa College Students Bank and NIT Karnataka Student Coop.

The workshop concluded by award of certificates to participants by the Vice Chair of University Co-op Committee.

• Meeting of the Office Bearers

Meeting of the Office Bearers of ICA Asia Pacific University/Campus Co-operative Committee was held on 23-26 May 2011, at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Six office bearers and three observers attended the meeting and discussed the operational policy and the operational responsibilities for the forthcoming 3rd Meeting of the Committee to be held in Manila, Philippines, from 28th Sep. to 2nd Oct. 2011.

Meeting began under the chairmanship of Prof. Madya Datuk Hj. Mohamad Ali Hasan, Vice President of the committee followed by with the opening address of Mr.

Toshiaki Wada, General Director & CEO, NFUCA.

The Office Bearers discussed various management issues related to functioning of the Committee. During the meeting all the members exchanged their views, impressions and opinions about the functioning of the committee. A round table meeting with the Malaysian Co-operators also held after the committee meeting. This was attended by a representative from National Co-operative Commission of Malaysia to discuss their action plans & policy for next 5 years.



Office bearers with ANGKASA Staff

• Committee Meeting



Meeting in Progress

The ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives meeting was held in Manila, Philippines, from September 29 – October 1, 2011, in conjunction with the 2011 International Conference on Student Co-operativism in Asia.

The participants exchanged information about the UN International Year of Co-operatives in 2012, had a special discussion on the development of university/campus co-operatives in the Philippines and shared the natural disaster and reconstruction efforts by university co-operatives in Japan. The highlight of the meeting was the planning of the 2012 Regional Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 1-5, 2011. It will include the first exchange program for high school co-operatives, as well a study of the management of business and services of co-operatives in higher education.

The participants also enjoyed study visit to the consumer co-operatives of Centro Escolar University and the University of the Philippines.



The Group of committee Members

• International Workshop in Philippines

The 2011 International Conference on Student Co-operativism in Asia was held at the University of St. Thomas on September 29-30, 2011. It was co-organized by the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives and the Philippine Student Services Co-operative (PSSCOOP), which was recently established to promote the student co-operatives in higher education across the Philippines. The theme of the conference was "Converging, Cooperating, Creating New Paradigm". It was designed for student leaders to learn and make plans for setting up student co-operatives in their universities/colleges. There were around 60 participants

comprising of student leaders, cooperators, professors, office employees, deans, and vice-presidents of various universities. A commissioner from the Commission on Higher Education, a training officer of the Co-operative Development Authority and the chairman of the biggest community co-operative were the resource persons. Foreign guests from 8 countries shared their university/campus co-operatives activities. The PSSCOOP will conduct a follow-up action to those who were affected by the typhoon and were not able to attend the conference.

(F) Catch them Young "empowerment and integration of youth"

The ICA Committee for Youth Co-operation in Asia Pacific has a mandate to mobilize youth population and enlighten them about the co-operative institution as attractive business model for socio-economic development and employment for youth.

The committee organized following programmes during the year:

• Electronic Meeting of the ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation in Asia-Pacific

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation in Asia-Pacific conducted its preparatory meeting through Skype to discuss the arrangements of the forthcoming plenary meeting at Cancun in November, 2011. The Skype meeting was attended by members from Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan. Members from India, Vietnam and Japan could not join the meeting but extended their support to the meeting. The agendas of the discussion were:

- Future course of action for the committee in view of the ongoing preparations on International Year of Co-operatives 2012 and the participation of youth at the

ICA General Assembly in November this year.

- During the discussion, the plenary meeting for youth to be held at Cancun was referred to with regards the issues that need to be addressed by the Youth of the Asia Pacific region.
- As future activities of the committee, a workshop on co-operative entrepreneurship was planned and was proposed to be held in India later this year. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the committee read out their messages and expressed their best wishes for the commencement of the activities for the year.

• Workshop on "Co-operative Entrepreneurship and Green Innovations"

A four-day Workshop on "Co-operative Entrepreneurship and Green Innovations" was held at the Institute of Co-operative Management (ICM), Kannur under the joint auspices of the ICA Committee for Youth Co-operation in Asia Pacific and the National Co-operative Union of India

(NCUI), from 20th- 23rd December, 2011 in the backdrop of observation of 2011 as the UN International Year of Youth and the UN International Year of Co-operatives 2012.



Workshop in progress



Dr. CHOI Planting a sapling

One of the core priorities of ICA is to encourage the young generation to understand the co-operative values and principles to take up the rein of the movement in future. Therefore, ICA Committee for Youth Co-operation in Asia and Pacific organises various programmes focusing on induction of co-operative philosophy in youth through educational institutions.

The Youth Workshop on “Co-operative Entrepreneurship and Green Innovations” was held at Institute of Co-operative Management, Kannur in Kerala from December 20-23, 2011..The program was jointly organized by ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation in Asia Pacific and National Co-operative Union of India. The workshop was organized while observing the recently completed UN International Year of Youth to discuss the role of Youth in the UN International Year of Co-operatives.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Mr. P.K. Michael Tharakan, Vice Chancellor of Kannur University and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Youth Liaison for the committee presided over the function. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-Asia Pacific graced the workshop by joining the

program on December 22, 2011. The workshop featured Sessions by specialist from the United Nations, Co-Secretary of the ICA University Campus Committee and the faculty of the institute. A delegation from the Ministry of Co-operatives and Small and Medium Enterprises comprising of two members, Mr. Henra and Mr. Roli Endravan also attended the workshop and gave an account of the Indonesian Co-operative movement during the workshop.

The members of the Youth Committee sent their video messages where they mentioned about the ICA General Assembly held in Cancun and the International year of Co-operatives.

The aim and objective of the workshop was to sensitise the youth involved in co-operatives on subjects such as co-operative entrepreneurship, green jobs and climate change. The idea of the workshop was to provide a platform for the young minds to interact with experts. Topics like, What is Co-operation, Co-operative Entrepreneurship, “Co-operative Law and Policy, Knowledge Platforms to share information, What are

Green Jobs etc. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI addressed the topic “Youth in the Co-operatives” and also mention that Co-operatives do require the youth but the Youth also requires co-operatives for a secure future.

“COOPATHON” – A series of events such as Panel discussion, Art competition, Debate and Quiz contest for college students were also facilitated by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Secretary of the committee. Around 10 teams from various colleges participated in the competition. Awards and certificates for winners were distributed by Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-Asia Pacific.

As part of exposure to co-operatives, the delegates visited to RUBCO, AK Gopalan Co-operative Hospital, Dinesh Beedi and Foods and the Co-operative Handloom centre.



Dr. CHOI addressing the workshop along with Dr. R.K. Jalan, Resource Person, UNDP

(G) Research and studies

Periodic study, data collection and research on topics of interest have been commissioned by the office regularly for development of the co-operative institutions in the region.

Following activities in this sphere of research have been initiated:

- **4th Critical Study of “Co-operative Law and Policy”**

Periodic 4th Critical Study of “Co-operative Law and Policy” in the region has been commissioned to study the legal environment in the region which will help creating a roadmap for future developments.

The 4th Critical Study on Co-operative Laws and Policies will be carried out in the backdrop of continuing global economic slowdown and the crisis in the Eurozone causing shrinking output and incomes and socio economic distress in most countries of Asia Pacific region. This and unprecedented natural calamities in the region – Tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan in March 2011 and the preceding Tsunami in 2005-6 affecting countries along the coasts of Indian Ocean posed new challenges before the co-operatives. These called for a fresh review of co-operative laws and policies to assess whether the legal and institutional reforms suggested in the last Co-operative Ministers Conference at Kuala Lumpur were in place and the capacity of the co-operatives to mobilise and support the poorer segments of the society to cope with the adverse and multi dimensional impact of globalisation. The terms of reference for the study laid stress on studying co-operative laws and policies on the criteria of ‘core’ co-operatives values and principles and practices as embodied in the ICA Principles of Co-operative Governance. The study will take stock of the measures taken by the member countries since the Kuala

Lumpur Declaration and their impact on functioning of co-operatives.

The Study will cover 17 member countries. In most of the target countries, most co-operative laws are not ICA Principles compliant, with varying degrees of non compliance and mismatches between policies and laws. These anomalies need to be removed specially the wide powers of the government reducing the autonomy and member driven nature of the co-operatives as a part of restructuring to make the co-operatives dynamic, capable of playing a strategic role in the economy balancing the corporate led market and societal needs of consumption and services based on fair trade and pricing, restraining speculative actions and ensuring protection of environment and people’s participation in economic decision making. To achieve this, attaining viability of co-operative at the primary level must be the prime objective which could be possible when these are made multipurpose ‘one stop shop’ facilities meeting all needs of the community especially credit and vital services.

The study will be completed by December, 2011 and the findings of the study will be presented at the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference to be held in Bangkok in February, 2012.

• Study on Consumer Co-operatives in Asia

A study on Consumer Co-operatives in Asia was conducted. The objectives of the study is to study and prepare reports on present status of Consumer Cooperative Movement in specific countries in the Asia-Pacific region including the information on Structure/administrative set up, membership, governing laws - major issues, nature of activity - promotional, commercial, nature and volume of business in last 3 years, problem areas/constraints and possible solutions, work program for future, government policy/support to the consumer cooperatives etc.

13 ICA member countries from Asia-Pacific region were selected for the study.

The main purpose of the study are (a) To use the inputs of successful countries to improve the working of the societies where they need help and assistance. (b) To prepare suitable plan of action/corrective steps to improve the working in the countries where they need such help including preparation of short-term and long-term work program.

• Promotion of Technical Cooperation among Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific

The term "Technical Co-operation" is a co-operation with an institution, nation or person For it's over all socio-economic growth and development by providing technology in the form of various resources such as skill development, finance, expertise, material and infrastructure etc.

For last several decades, the ICA in the region has been promoting technical co-operation among co-operatives in collaboration with the member co-operative organisations for socio-economic development of the individual as well

as the institutions. A number of training programs, exchange visits and lobbying and advocacy events are being held for economic and social development of co-operative members which in turn will contribute in the development of the respective countries.

In the context of recent global economic slowdown, the ICA-AP has commissioned a study to find out how to promote further the "Technical Co-operation among Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific region".

The study document will be available soon.

• Promotion of International Trade among Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific

The co-operative organisations in the region are contributing significantly in the national economy. A range of production and marketing businesses have been handled by the co-operative sector such as textiles, dairy, fisheries, agricultural products, fertilizer, consumer goods and services etc. However, instances of international trade among co-operatives in the region are negligible. This sector has tremendous potential in the region as co-operatives have a huge member base that could be a ready market.

The globalisation, open market, WTO and economic recession are equally affecting the co-operatives and co-operatives are working hard to retain their market. In such trying times, international trade among co-operatives could provide a stable market in tradition of upholding the Principle of Co-operation among Co-operatives.

Therefore, a study on "Promotion of International Trade among Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific" was commissioned to find out trade possibilities among the co-operatives in the region.

• Regional workshop on co-operative research

The ICA Committee on Co-operative Research for Asia-Pacific has organizing a Regional Research Seminar at Bhubaneswar in Odisha state of India during 23-24 July, 2011. Chairperson of the Committee, Dr. G.N. Saxena of Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Co-operative and Prof. L.K. Vaswani, Pro VC of the School of Rural Management of Kalinga University were the organizers and Dr. A. Samntha, founder Chairman of Kalinga Institute of Technology (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) inaugurated the seminar.

The theme of the seminar was Activities and Initiatives by

Co-operatives on Food Security and Climate change and Millennium Development Goals of the UN, with special reference to Empowering Women and Youth.

Several researchers made presentation on this occasion and very good discussions held. The seminar has been of the benefit to co-operatives and researchers in Asia-Pacific in identifying future course of action for co-operatives, especially in the back drop of UN International Year of Cooperative-2012. The proceeding of the Seminar was brought out in a book form and is a remarkable contribution of the research committee.

(H) Communication

This is the era of networking and connectivity through all kind of media which has changed the speed of exchange of information as never before. Thus, regular communication has become a crucial tool of networking for a member based organization like ICA. In order to improve and expand flow of information collection and dissemination to provide better networking services to members, the communication strategy of the office was reviewed and strengthened. Following activities implemented to maintain the flow of information and networking:

- **Newsletter**

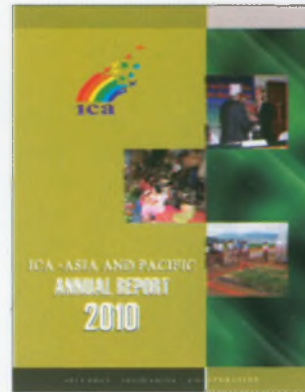


Six issues of the bimonthly office newsletter have been compiled, published and distributed electronically as well as by post.

However, the co-operatives in the region have been very busy with number of activities as seen from this issue-the ICA issued message on the eve of International Women's Day-2011, the Logo and slogan for the International Day of Co-operatives-2011 is announced and the UN has issued the Logo of the IYC-2012. We are interacting with members for preparations of the event. We have also conducted several activities to serve our members better, focusing on capacity building and have received news about their events as well. The COOPFED, Sri Lanka is making a mark by adding value to consumer co-operative services. We also cover news of interest from the region through other sources for the benefit of the readers such as decisions by the Governments which impacts co-operative institutions and the co-operative members as citizens of the country. We are happy to note that the members have started sharing their news gradually but their views about the news letter is awaited. Hope to hear from you.

- **Annual Report-2010**

The Annual Report of 2010 was compiled, published and distributed.



- **Website**

The office Website (www.ica-ap.coop) was re-designed and launched. The website is being updated regularly.

- **Collection and dissemination of information**

All the important news, messages circulars, notices and announcement etc. from the region, from central and other regions of ICA as well as from UN and other stake holders have been sent regularly to all members. The members were encouraged to share their news and information to be shared with others in the region through our newsletter, e-mail and website.

- **Collection and publicity of Coop Success Stories**

In the backdrop of IYC-2012, the communication division collected as many as 10 coop stories and uploaded on the website.

- **Documentary on Co-operatives**

The ICA-AP communication team visited to co-operatives in order to collect some success case stories. The team collected 2 stories from India and also made short films on these co-operatives. The films are available at the web site as well as on YouTube.

Reaching Out

Philippines

Coop-Leader's Symposium



A Group Photo taken on the occasion with Dr.Chan Ho CHOI

The VICTO National Co-operative Federation and Development Center (VICTO) organized its 2011 Co-op Leader's Symposium in Cebu, Philippines on 21 May at. It was a preliminary event for the various celebrations which will be organized during the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives in the country. In conjunction with the VICTO's General Meeting of primary co-operative members held in Visayas islands, the symposium came up with useful insights on the various issues like enabling policy & legal environment, government partnership, coop

bills, sectoral networking and national federations, advocacy and social media, standardization of education and climate change and disaster risk management. The interest which the symposium generated can be seen from the fact that it was well attended with over 550 participants representing various co-operative organizations. Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented a paper on "Enabling Policy Environment for Sectoral Networking among Co-operatives".

Sugar from Coconut Tree – Agrarian Reform Co-operative in Mindanao

Coconut sugar is made from sweet sap that drips from cut flower buds of coconut tree. To collect translucent sap, skilled farmers need to climb up to top of tree. Then in boiling, juicy sap starts to transform into a thick syrup known as "toddy", and further reduced to crystal powder. This organic sugar is considered to be healthier because

of its richness in minerals and vitamins, and safer for even diabetics because of its low glycemic index (GI=35). Earlier in 2003, coconut farmers became to know the price of coco-sugar was three times higher than ordinary sugar. Then they started to boil sap instead of fermenting to an alcoholic beverage called 'tuba'. The Linabu Agrarian



Dr. Chan Ho Choi attended a general meeting of the Linabu Agrarian Multipurpose Cooperative, Mismis Oriental, Mindanao

Multipurpose Co-operative (LAMPCO) produces 1,500Kg per month in their processing facility which was rebuilt October last year with 1.3 M peso provided by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). This village-based co-operative was established in 1997 with 172 members when Philippine government enacted the land transfer program (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program) in Mindanao for indigenous people to settle down peacefully in production on their communal lands. Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera who is Executive Director cum Region-10 Director of CDA said that "creation of those agrarian reform beneficiaries' co-operatives have contribute largely to region's peace and inclusiveness of endogenous peoples into a market economy through co-operatism. Isn't it wonderful?"



Vietnam

Seminar on Law of Co-operatives



Dr. Choi addressing Members of Government and Co-operators of Vietnam Co-operative Movement

The Seminar on 'Law of Co-operatives – International Experiences and Realities in Vietnam' was organised by VCA at Vinh Phuc from 3-4 June 2011.

The speakers of the Seminar were from Ministry of Planning and Investment, VCA, The Justice Department of Vietnam and International experts from Germany, Korea and ICA-AP. Many representatives from co-operatives and the government of Vietnam attended the seminar.

The discussion at the house was the newly developed co-operative law of Vietnam, if passed by the 11th Legislature would take effect amending the existing Law-2003. The 2011 draft law was circulated to all the participants along with other documents.

The core issues to be dealt with in the seminar were the aspects of co-operative Legislations in light of Social needs and Poverty reduction through co-operative Business.

The ICA-AP presented a paper on Co-operative Laws as Tools for development of co-operatives in Asia Pacific.

That was followed by Q/A where the Dr. CHOI, Regional Director answered questions from the participants. Thereafter the Ministry of Planning and investment made a presentation on co-operative Ideas - a core of Law on co-operatives followed by instances and issues raised by individual members of co-operatives attending the Seminar.

Questions raised Pertained to:

- Indivisible asset of a co-operative
- The importance of terms association, enterprise in the definition of co-operatives.
- The meaning of Producer Company.
- The relevance of International codes in national law.

Thereafter the amendments in the proposed drafts those have been mentioned in the document provided by VCA was debated upon through lengthy discussions and questions raised by the participants who where the members and in many cases the chairman and chief officers of co-operatives in Vietnam. The opinion was shared with Dr. CHOI, ICA-AP who answered them citing

his experiences in the region.

The International Experiences were shared by Experts from Germany and Korea on the final day of the Seminar. Mr. Lee from NACF made a detailed report upon the functioning of the NACF and the co-operative system in Korea. The concept of open and close membership was discussed in relation to its inclusion in the Vietnamese Co-operative Law.

The Vice – Chairman of VCA made recommendations to

India

Seminar on Social and Economic Development of Women

The National Co-operative Union of India, NCUI Women Co-operative Education Field Project, Bhopal and The Women Co-operative Bank of Bhopal jointly organised the seminar on “ Social and Economic Development of Women” at Bhopal on 27 June, 2011 which was very well attended by women co-operators and members of SHGs operating in Bhopal district, leaders, officials and representatives of state co-operative institutions, women cooperative banks and officers of co-operative department, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD.

It was inaugurated by Mr. Gourishankar Bisen, the Honourable Minister of Co-operation and Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI and Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific were also present as special guests.

On this occasion, the Minister said that the women segment of the society needs to be motivated to join the main stream of economic development. He also expressed that Self Help Groups play important role in managing efficient social services in rural areas and urban co-operative banks may play vital role in dispensing of micro credit in urban and rural areas as well.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav opined that co-operatives institutions should be allowed to grow on democratic principles and further emphasised on need of progress for women and informed about projects of NCUI for empowerment of women through co-operatives.

Regional Director of ICA-AP, Dr. Chan Ho Choi addressed the seminar and appreciated the Chairperson of the Women Co-operative Bank Ltd. for organising seminar on such an important subject which is focusing on social and economic development of the women through co-operative. He further said that women segment needs to be given equal opportunity to participate in the process of economic development of the society and informed about the projects and work of ICA Asia-Pacific in the region for gender mainstreaming . The work done by the Women Co-

the International community through ICA-AP as follows:

- Help collect new/revised Law and send them to VCA including the Korean amendment of 2011.
- More workshops in relation with Co-operative Law if possible. Exchange of more cases like Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia.
- ICA could organise a study visit at Vietnam for other participants from the regional members.

operative Bank Ltd. Could be a good example to other regions as a motivating factor.

An exhibition and sale of products by Women Self Help Group was also organised at the occasion and awards were given to women for their outstanding work for the welfare of the society.



ICA Regional Director Dr. Chan Ho Choi honouring Dr. Sarla Menon First Neurologist and Head of SCOPE (BHEL) for her outstanding contribution in social services in the seminar



Members of SHGs seen with their products

Nepal

Role of Co-operatives in Socio-economic Development



Honourable Minister, Mr. Yadav with delegates



Dr Choi delivering speech

The National Co-operative Federation of Nepal invited Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director to attend the seminar on Role of Co-operatives in Socio-economic Development at Kathmandu, Nepal on August 17, 2011.

The Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives of Nepal Mr. Hari Narayan Yadav formally inaugurated the seminar and said "In the Interim Constitution of Nepal -2006 has made a provision recognizing the co-operative economic sector for the national economic development as equal to the private and public sectors". Minister Yadav also highlighted that the Government of Nepal had given a high priority to the co-operative economic sector as one of the pillars of the national economic development in the plan, programme and budget.

Expressing his confidence he was also assured that the co-operative economic sector would join hands together with the Nepal Government for achieving the set objectives of the national economic development programmes in dealing with the cooperative sector development for the socio-economic upliftment of the people of Nepal.

Minister Yadav informed that the government of Nepal was going to constitute a national celebration committee for the observance of the International Year of Co-operatives-

2012 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Nepal soon as announced by UN for full year of 2012.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-AP expressed an immense pleasure to convey his greetings and congratulations to the delegates of the National Seminar on Role of Co-operatives in Socio-economic Development.

He expressed his happiness that the government of Nepal had recognized that the co-operative was one of the pillars of National economy while it is still facing many challenges for the development of co-operative movement.

He put emphasis on the importance of producer cooperatives, service co-operatives, marketing co-operatives, credit co-operatives, co-operative advantages for the socio-economic enhancement.

Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman chaired the opening ceremony while Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa, Former Governor presided in the working session.

In the seminar 68 participants including Ms. Savitri Singh, Gender Advisor, ICA-AP, Registrar of DoC Mr. Sudharsan Prasad Dhakal and Co-chairman of NCDB, Mr. Saroj Kumar Sharma were present.

Visitors

Delegates from Iran, students from university in India, scholars and co-operative members visited the office for interaction and for using the library and information centre.

Delegates from IDACA

Mr. Ikuo Ashikari, Managing Director & Mr. Toru Nakashima, Dy. Manager (Trg. Department) of IDACA, Japan visited office in January-2011 to have the planning meeting regarding implementation of the ICA-Japan Training Projects.

Mr. Ikuo Ashikari was interested in visiting to some co-operatives in India. Accordingly the ICA-AP office arranged his toure to the Indian town of Pravara Nagar in Januray 2011 to get a firsthand experience of the Co-operative of the State of Maharashtra. The visit included tours to co-operative farms where collective farming and joint- fertilizer use are practiced. The visit also included tours to Dairy and Sugar co-operative factories. Mr. P. Santosh Kumar from ICA-AP accompanied the Japanese Delegates.

The delegates also visited to some of the schools, colleges and institutions built and run by the Pravara Nagar sugar co-operative.



IDACA delegates during filed visit

Delegates from Iran

A delegation from the Iran Central Chamber of Co-operatives (ICC) HEADED BY Mr. Seyed Davood Salehi visited ICA-AP office in Delhi on 16th May,2011. The delegation discussed about development of co-operative movement in Iran, the activities of ICA-AP concerning member services and future co-operation between the organisations. Dr. CHOI welcomed the delegates and extended a warm welcome. He also briefed them about situation of member co-operatives in the region, role of ICA in providing technical co-operation, issues and challanges faced by the movement and how to take advantage of the opportunity of IYC-2012.

Further discussions were held on participation in the important event of 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Minister's Conference to be held in 2012. The delegates also visited NCUI for exchange of information with the co-operative movement of India.



Mr. Seyed Davood Salehi, Mr. Gholamhossein Deraei, Dr. Chan Ho Choi and Mr. Habibollah Bahrami (Left to Right)

Co-operators from Thailand



Dr. CHOI with Dr. Dulsamphant

A large delegation consisting of about 100 co-operators from the Co-operative League of Thailand, the ICA Member from Thailand visited New Delhi in May 2011. They were received by Dr. Chan ho CHOI, Regional Director. A joint meeting with National Co-operative Union of India was held to receive the delegates. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President- NCUI and Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive - NCUI addressed the delegates and briefed them about the ICA activities in Asia Pacific Region and the role of NCUI in the development of co-operative movement in India respectively.

Seen in the picture are Dr. CHOI and Dr. Dulsamphant, President of CLT who headed the delegation .

Participants of ICA-Japan Training course

The group of participants of ICA-Japan Training Course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives" visited the office for exchange of information about ICA and the role and activities of ICA-Asia and Pacific office. An introductory meeting with Dr. CHOI and other staff members was held. Dr. CHOI extended a warm welcome to the participants and discussed with them about their

work responsibilities and expectations from the course. Dr. CHOI showed keen interest in the work profile of the participants and discussed with them their role as future leaders and managers. He said that the training will enhance their capacity in serving their respective organisations and wished them success.



The participants at ICA-AP office

Partners

We collaborate and partner with all the members, governments, civil societies and United Nations offices to further the cause of co-operative development and expansion. All our members have supported generously in implementing various projects and programmes for capacity building to create enabling environment, generate awareness and inspire leadership.

As always, Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU) and National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) seconded staff to work at ICA-AP Office in Singapore and Delhi respectively. JCCU is also supporting the Gender and Consumer projects. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF), Japan and JA-Zenchu have been supporting the major capacity building training for enhancement of farmers' income and Poverty reduction, revitalization of local community by rural women and quality and safety management of farm products. ACFMSC have been collaborating for implementation of circular economy projects and NACF, Korea collaborates with ICA-AP for development of agricultural co-operatives in the region. Besides, all the members contribute generously by hosting our programmes in their countries and providing all the logistics and also sending their members and officials for attending the programmes.

We also invite UN offices such as FAO, ILO, UNAIDS and UNDP etc. for trainings and lectures and also for collecting resource material etc.

The ICA-AP organises as many as 25-30 activities in a year with its limited resources and staff. However, the credit goes to the members for their active support and assistance in the form of financial resources and deputing staff for local coordination. All the activities are held on self financing basis. We appreciate the keen interest and generosity of members as they always attend the events on their own expenses and make the event successful through their active involvement by making presentations and speeches etc. However, to reciprocate the contribution of members, ICA-AP is trying to provide need based programs for members, we always extend technical co-operation as well as financial assistance to some members to enable them to organise programs and also support the cost of their delegates to attend the programs.

In order to promote co-operatives in non-member countries, candidates from Lao, Cambodia, Maldives, Bhutan and Afghanistan are being invited to attend various capacity building programs. The ICA-AP pays the full cost of their participation.

Remembrance



Mr. Surinder Kumar Jakhar, Chairman of IFFCO, India passed away on January 17th, 2011. The co-operative movement of India lost a promising leader.

Mr. Jakhar was elected to the Global Board of ICA at the ICA General Assembly in Singapore in 2007, and also served as Chair of ICA Audit & Risk Committee and more recently to Governance Committee. He was a very active member from ICA-Asia and Pacific Region.

The ICA extends its sincere condolences to his family.

Glimpses from the region

The members in the region have been organising their own activities and sometimes the Regional Director and other staff are being invited to provide for technical inputs. In the backdrop of launch of IYC -2012, several members and also the governments in these countries have initiated discussions on law and policy issues which will leave tangible impact on the overall well being of the co-operative institution in respective countries and also some of the members reported about some major achievements in a particular sector.

Some of such happening in the region is produced below:

India

National Conference of Co-operative Ministers of States

A National Conference of Co-operative Ministers of States was held in New Delhi, on 20th April, 2011. The Conference was inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperation, Shri Sharad Pawar. The Conference was attended by the State Cooperation Ministers of 18 Indian States. The Conference noted the valuable contributions made by Co-operatives in different sectors of Indian economy particularly in rural credit, agriculture input and production, agro-processing, storage, marketing, consumer, fertilizer, dairy, fishery, housing etc. The widespread coverage and diversified business activities of co-operatives have made numerous success stories and provided immense possibilities and ample opportunities for the people, particularly those from the weaker sections in the hither to unserved areas.

Agriculture Minister addressing the Conference emphasized the co-operatives should develop their internal strengths in the form of professional management, enlightened and active membership, inspiring leadership and innovative vision.

The Conference unanimously resolved to take various actions to strengthen the co-operative movement in the country such as-

- Early passage of the Constitution (111th Amendment) Bill, 2009.
- Systemic reforms of co-operatives on the lines of recommendations made by High Powered Committee on Co-operatives.
- Implementation of revival package for short term co-operative credit structure for enhancing credit flow to the farmers.
- Appropriate institutional mechanism to facilitate revival and rehabilitation of sick co-operatives.
- To strengthen and revitalize the co-operative sector, take various measures and initiatives in the International Year of Co-operatives, 2012.

- Create conducive environment for facilitating growth of micro-finance institutions.
- To consider grant of exemption from income tax in respect of co-operative societies.

The Conference concluded with a pledge to restore the credibility and dignity of co-operatives so that the co-operatives become autonomous, self reliant, democratic, and accountable to members and fulfil the expectations of its members and other stakeholders.

FISHCOPFED

The FISHCOPFED is elected to the Executive Committee of Network for Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia (NEDAC) at its meeting held in Philippines.

NEDAC has representation from 12 countries in Asia. This was the first time that FISHCOPFED represented at NEDAC meeting and by getting elected to the Executive Committee, the Managing Director of FISHCOPFED feels that the Fishery Sector will be very well amalgamated into Agricultural Co-operatives in the Region.

Sri Lanka

Opening of the largest Super Market



A Coop Store

As the pilot project, Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation Ltd (Coopfed) of Sri Lanka had opened the largest Super Market at National Institute of Co-operative Development, Polgolla in the Central

Province in Sri Lanka. The COPFED has already opened 10 Super Market and have planned to develop around 25 super markets throughout the island.

The COPFED had organised training programmes for the coop stores managers and employees of Member coop society in order to develop their management skills for store keeping and the technical knowledge. The COPFED intends to popularize co-operatives business model through these training programs and in turn increasing the business of the consumer stores.

Bangladesh

Cabinet okays co-operative law changes



Meeting with the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Cabinet approved the draft Co-operatives (Amendment) Bill, 2011, aiming to expedite the 'Vision 2021' as the present law is not capable enough to achieve the target.

The cabinet took the decision at its regular weekly meeting held at the Cabinet Division with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting at PID conference room. He said the original Act was amended slightly in 2002. But the cabinet found the present Act not enough for them to achieve the Vision 2021 of the government.

In the draft the provision to enlistment was made easier, there is a provision to cancel the registration. It also turned 'registrar' post to 'Director General'.

Source: http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=29003

BJSU

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the function marking the 40th National Co-operatives Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on 19 Nov, 2011 in Dhaka.

The Prime Minister called upon the authorities concerned to work with utmost sincerity to gear up the co-operatives movement in the country to build a self-reliant and prosperous Bangladesh.

"If we can inspire people and put them on the right path providing them with all facilities and mechanism, Inshallah the economic scenario of the whole Bangladesh will be changed," she said.

The United Nations and the International Co-operative Alliance declared the year 2012 as the Co-operatives Year. Hasina said the co-operatives movement has to be integrated utilizing all potentials and available resources.

The PM expressed her hope that over 90,00,000 members of 1,77,000 co-operatives societies of the country could easily change the living standard of people if all work together.

Referring to the successes of co-operatives societies in various economic activities, including increasing agricultural production, marketing of products, cottage industry and insurance across the globe, the premier said the institutions run under co-operatives management in the country should be strengthened. She mentioned that her government waived the agriculture loan from each of the members of co-operatives society giving by funds in subsidies. She suggested the members to try to pay their loan timely.

"Every inch of fallow land in rural areas will be cultivated ones," she said, describing the strategy of the co-operative movement.

under the One House: One Farm Programme and the producers of these farms would be marketed through co-operatives-based organizations," she said, describing the strategy of the co-operative movement.

The Prime Minister also suggested to co-operatives to venture into areas of food processing and export as demand and cost of processed fod is high abroad.

Presided over by Co-operatives Division Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Mazumder, the function was addressed also by LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam, State Minister Adv Jahangir Kabir Nanak, and Sk. Nadir Hossain Lipu, Chairman Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union.

Later, the premier inaugurated the Co-operatives Fairs organised at district and upa zila levels across the country as well as the fair organised on the premises of Co-operatives Building in the city simultaneously.

She also inaugurated the Online Co-operatives Bazar pressing a computer button and presented National Co-operatives Award 2009 and 2010 to 18 individuals and 20 co-operatives societies.

Iran

New ICA Board Member Elected



Managing Director addressing the meeting

Mr. Abolhassan Khalili, Managing Director of Iran Oil Seeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Factories Cooperative was elected as a new ICA Board Member.

New Zealand

NZCA

The New Zealand Co-operative Association is organizing the first ever research conference on co-operatives to take place in June 21-23, 2012 at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. The newly founded, New Zealand Association for the Study of Co-operatives and Mutuals, is formally organizing this conference. The theme of the conference is "Building a Better World: The Role of Co-operatives and Mutuals in Society".

This will be an interdisciplinary conference and participants from around the world who have an interest in the study of co-operatives and mutuals are welcomed. conference website can be found at: <http://nzascm.coop>

Nepal

Tax exemption to women's co-operative in coming budget

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Bharat Mohan Adhikari has said the provision of entire exemption of tax would be made in the upcoming budget for women's co-operatives across the country.

At a special programme organised by the National Co-operatives' Association Limited Nepal on the occasion of 101st International Women Day in March, 2011, Deputy Prime Minister Adhikari said the arrangement of tax exemption would be made to enhance self-dependency and standards of co-operative organisations related to women.

He further said the present government is committed to specify proper arrangements in the constitution for the overall uplift and development of women and to establish the agenda of women empowerment.

ROCHDALE Pioneers Award



Mr. Jong-Koo Lee receiving the award from Dame Pauline Green and Charles Gould

Mr. Jong-Koo Lee, Chairperson of International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO) received the Rochdale Pioneer Award on 18 November, 2011 in Cancun, Mexico during the ICA General Assembly-2012.

In 2000, the ICA Board established the Rochdale Pioneers Award.

The purpose of this Award is to recognise a person or, under special circumstances a co-operative organisation, having contributed to innovative and financially sustainable co-operative activities that have significantly benefited their membership.

Mr. Lee became the chairman of ICFO in November, 2009. He established the World Fisheries Co-operative Day and held the 1st anniversary with "the Fisheries Co-operators' Pledge the Fishermen of the World" in Seoul, Korea. He realized the co-operative spirit by publishing the Korean Fisheries Co-operatives' Business Knowledge Sharing Program to share expertise and experiences of ICFO members which was highly appreciated by Mr. Charles Gould, Director-General of ICA.

He also donated personal computers and fishing equipment to ICFO members for the development of fisheries co-operatives.

He always asserts that the best way to raise fishermen's welfare is education. In order to realize his belief, he invited 12 fisheries co-operators and fishermen from the Philippines in 2011. They had a chance to learn about the experiences of the Korean fisheries co-operatives and fishing industry.

This prize means that ICA recognized his accomplishments and efforts for the co-operatives around the world. It will surely strengthen his contribution to ICFO.

Annexure

Member Organisations in Asia Pacific Region

AUSTRALIA

1. Capricon Society Ltd.
2. Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. (CBH Group)

BANGLADESH

3. Bangladesh National Co-operative Union [Bangladesh Jatiyo Samabaya Union]

CHINA

4. All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives [ACFSMC]
5. International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Co-operatives [ICCIC]
6. All China Federation of Handicraft & Industrial Co-operatives [ACFHIC]

FIJI

7. Fiji Co-operative Union Limited [FCUL]

INDIA

8. National Co-operative Union of India [NCUI]
9. National Co-operative Consumers' Federation Limited [NCCF]
10. Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited [IFFCO]
11. National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited [NAFED]
12. National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd. [NAFCARD]
13. National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Limited [NAFSCOB]
14. Krishak Bharati Co-operative Limited [KRIBHCO]
15. Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd. [IFFDC]
16. National Labour Co-operatives Federation of India Ltd. [NLCF]
17. National Co-operative Development Corporation [NCDC]
18. National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives Ltd.
19. Co-operative Housing Building & Finance Corporation Ltd. [Sahkari Awas Niwas Evam Vitt Nigam Ltd.]

INDONESIA

20. Dewan Koperasi Indonesia [DEKOPIN]
21. National Federation of Rural Co-operatives (Induk KUD) (Associated Member)

IRAN

22. Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran [CORC]
23. Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran [CURACI]
24. Iran Central Chamber of Co-operative [ICC]
25. Mollah Al-movahedin Credit Co-operative [MAMCC]
26. Farida Iran Oilseeds & Vegetable Processing Factories Co-operative Company
27. Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran (SCURA)
28. Co-operative Investment Guarantee Fund (CIGF)
29. Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank) (Associated Member)

ISRAEL

30. The KIBBUTZ Movement
31. Co-op Israel
32. Central Union For Co-operative Initiative In Israel

JAPAN

33. Central Union Of Agricultural Co-operatives [JAZENCHU]
34. Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union [JCCU]
35. National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations [ZENGYOREN]
36. National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-operative Associations [ZENMORIREN]
37. The Norinchukin Bank
38. National Federation of Agricultural Co-operative Association [ZEN-NOH]
39. Ie-No-Hikari Association
40. National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives [ZENKYOREN]
41. The Japan Agricultural News

42. Japan Workers Co-operative Union [JWCU]
43. National Federation of Workers' And Consumers' Insurance Co-operatives [ZENROSAI]
44. National Federation of University Co-operative Associations [NFUCA]
45. National Association of Labour Banks
46. Japanese Health and Welfare Co-operative Federation (Hew Coop Japan)

KAZAKHSTAN

47. Union of Consumer Societies of the Republic of Kazakhstan

KOREA

48. National Agricultural Co-operative Federation [NACF]
49. National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives [NFFC]
50. National Credit Union Federation of Korea [NACUFOK]
51. Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives [KFCCC]
52. National Forestry Co-operatives Federation [NFCF]
53. ICOOP Solidarity of Consumers' Co-operatives [ICOOP]
54. Korean Association of Social Economy Enterprises (KASEE)

KUWAIT

55. Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies

MALAYSIA

56. National co-operative Organisation of Malaysia [ANGKASA]
57. National Land Finance Co-operative Society Ltd. [NLFCS]
58. Co-operative College of Malaysia [CCM]

MONGOLIA

59. National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Co-operatives (NAMAC)
60. Mongolian National Cooperators' Association (MNCA)

MYANMAR

61. Central Co-operative Society Ltd.

NEPAL

62. National Co-operative Federation of Nepal Ltd. [NCF]
63. National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB) (Associated Member)

NEW ZEALAND

64. New Zealand Co-operatives Association Inc.

PAKISTAN

65. Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd.

PHILIPPINES

66. National Confederation of Co-operatives Inc. [NATCCO]
67. VICTO (National Co-operative Federation & Development Centre)

SINGAPORE

68. Singapore National Co-operative Federation Ltd. [SNCF]

SRI LANKA

69. National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka [NCC]
70. Federation of Thrift & Credit Co-operative Societies Ltd [SANASA]
71. Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation of Sri Lanka Ltd. [COOPFED]
72. National Institute of Co-operative Development [NICD]

TAJIKISTAN

73. Republican Union of Consumer Co-operatives Rudaki Ave 137

THAILAND

74. Co-operative League of Thailand [CLT]
75. Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions [ACCU]

UAE

76. The Sharjah Co-operative Society

VIETNAM

77. Vietnam Co-operative Alliance [VCA]

Statement on the 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.

1st Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership

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

2nd Principle: Democratic Member Control

Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

3rd Principle: Member Economic Participation

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

4th Principle: Autonomy and Independence

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

5th Principle: Education, Training and Information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6th Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7th Principle: Concern for Community

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

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