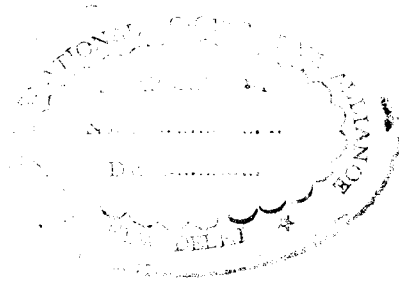


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ASIA-PACIFIC

COOPERATIVE NEWS

Issue No 1

January-March, 1992

International Cooperative Alliance

ICA Regional Office News

Cooperative Ministers' Conference - 1992 held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The second Conference of Ministers' responsible for Cooperative Development on "Cooperative Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Cooperatives" was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 18th to 21st February 1992. 17 Ministers responsible for cooperative development representing Afghanistan, Brunei, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Tonga participated in the Conference for its entire duration. In all 164 delegates from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, and Vietnam attended the Conference. In addition, representatives of International Organisations, namely AARRO, ACCU, ACO, CCA, CCD, DANIDA, FAO, FES, ILO, UNDP and UNESCO attended the Conference.

Conference Agenda

The following was the agenda of the Conference:

- a. Cooperative-Government collaborative strategies with special reference to
 - a1 Followup of the Sydney Conference Recommendations;
 - a2 Achievements
 - a3 Problem areas;
 - a4 Regional and national plans of action; and
 - a5 Laying down guidelines to evolve a practical system of adoption by the cooperative-government relationship to combine cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength.
- b. Basic Values in Cooperatives and Trends in Cooperative Development.
- c. Capital Formation in Cooperatives.
- d. Cooperatives and Environment.

The Conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Soehaito, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta. The inaugural session was also attended by Ambassadors of various countries in the region. The President in his speech emphasized that "we do not

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only need social justice at the national level in our respective countries, but also on a global level among the committee of nations". He further said that existing gap cause wide-ranging tensions and conflicts. The President appreciated the Conference plan to discuss the link between the fundamental value of cooperatives and current global trends and expressed "I am sure it will contribute significantly to the creation of a new world order that ensures greater peace, prosperity and common well being imbued with justice". At the inaugural function, the ICA President, Mr Lars Marcus, presented a Award to President Soeharto, the Award stated:

"This Award is presented by the International Cooperative Alliance, an International Association of Cooperative Movements, To his Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, in recognition and appreciation of his consistent commitment and significant contribution to the Indonesian Cooperative Movement."

Conclusions and recommendations of the Conference has been issued separately. A special supplement of ASCON covering this event has been brought out separately on the Conference and its copies are available with ICA ROAP.

34th Regional Council Meeting

The 34th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council for Asia & the Pacific was held at Jakarta, Indonesia, on 17th February, 1992 under the Chairmanship of Gen. A.S. Lozada.

The following were present :

1. Gen. A.S. Lozada, Chairman & Member for the Philippines
2. Mr. Ray Ison, Member for Australia
3. Mr. Geoff Ayres, Member for Australia
4. Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed, Member for Bangladesh
5. Mr. Shahid Ullah, Member for Bangladesh

6. Mr. Yang Deshou, Member for China
7. Mr. K.B. Matalau, Member for Fiji
8. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Member for India
9. Prof. Sri-Edi Swasono, Member for Indonesia
10. Mr. Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia
11. Mr. Asadollah Salehi, Member for Iran
12. Mr. Mashaalah Ayazi, Member for Iran
13. Mr. Y. Nakaoka, Alternate Member for Japan
14. Mr. Masao Ohya, Member for Japan
15. Mr. Chung, Ki-Woo, Member for Rep. of Korea
16. Mr. Won Ho Suh, Member for Rep. of Korea
17. Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan
18. Mr. Filomeno A. Bautista, Member for Philippines
19. Mr. Lim Ho Seng, Member for Singapore
20. Mr. Lionel Samarsinghe, Member for Sri Lanka
21. Mr. Anan Chamnankit, Member for Thailand
22. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Duc, Member for Vietnam

Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP attended the Regional Council alongwith Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Executive Director, ICA. Mr. Jan-Erik Imbsen, HRD Manager, ICA

Mr. Shiro Futagami, Managing Director, IDACA and Mr. Yves Regis, Chairman, CICOPA were special invitees.

Mr. Ramsamy Somanah, Mauritius, Mr. M.M. Vyas, India, Mr. A.P. Sharma, Fiji, Mr. Dudley Malalaseena, Sri

Lanka, Mr. Rong Jun, China, Ms. Nguyen Phuong Lan, Vietnam, Mr. Vincent M. Lubasi, RD, ICA ROEC-SA, Moshi also attended the meeting.

From ICA ROAP office Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Sr. Development Adviser, Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director-AGMT, Dr. Daman Prakash, Adviser-DPCP, Mr. W.U. Herath, Adviser-HRD, Mr. Pradit Machima, Adviser-CCDP, Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Adviser-ACDP, Mr. Prem Kumar, Manager (Admn) were present.

Inauguration

Prof. Edi-Sri Swasono, Chairman of the Indonesian Cooperative Council (Dekopin), welcomed the Regional Councillors and other guests to the meeting. He said : "Almost all over the world today, the democratic momentum occurs in political as well as in economic areas. Democratization is a world phenomena, it is a rational trend, it is a basic need and value, and also seemingly a world latest fashion too. We are facing at the moment a formation of a new universal paradigm. We are witnessing that the world has fully accepted the empirical facts that the most effective approach to development is the bottom-up one, that the socially and economically deprived have properly become the center of attention. The poor have respectably been treated as active and productive development participants. This is a great momentum for the cooperative movement of the world to take a leading role in the globalization process. We should not let the momentum proceed and disappear wastefully.....Another challenge is the environment and sustainable cooperative development. Production of cooperatives, in the areas of agricultural, small industry, handicraft etc, are increasingly related to environmental issues that may hamper production and marketing, which obviously affect income and welfare of members".

Gen. A.S. Lozada, Chairman, ICA Regional Council, said :

"We have seen a lot of success in the accomplishment in the field of planning, implementation and evaluation, cooperative policies, research, information, resource centre etc. This, to me, is historic. We have conducted the Central Committee of the ICA for the first time and held its meeting in India in 1989. Of course the forthcoming Congress of the ICA will be held in Tokyo in October 1992 - perhaps would be the Centenary Celebrations of the ICA. We have to be happy about this. This Regional Council is assisted by the specialized committees. The Regional Council has done a good job. The collaborative effort between government and the cooperative sector has brought some good results in the first Ministerial Conference in Sydney. The Sydney Declaration has provided us lot of strong foundation upon which we can really move towards a sustainable cooperative development. Several National workshops undertaken by ROAP which culminated in the ICA Consultation in Manila, has brought forth..perhaps the world will never be same again. We must change for the better. I remember pluralism is very important in the cooperative movement, but there seems to be strong role for cooperatives in pluralism."

Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA, said : Bruce and I represent the global organisation and it is proper to bring greetings from colleagues from the continents and they look to Asia with growing interest. They expect inspiration from your meetings here. I would like to add a few personal remarks for your consideration. It is easy to think of the cooperative world as a some kind of hierarchy where the ICA is on the top. ICA is not responsible leader for the world cooperative movement. ICA is just a network and you are a part of the network. It is you, the members, who should take advantage of the network. The present developments in the world, as was remarked by our friend from Indonesia, is in many way changing the climate and the environment for our movements, not only political chan-

ges; there are also very strong economic changes, regrouping of nations, and that has consequences to the ICA.....We are, as you know, entering into a new ICA structure. I think it will be decided in the Tokyo Congress. This is a structure that to me at the end will result in economic collaboration between the members of the ICA. Not inside the ICA structure; it has to be outside the ICA. ICA can never be a commercial organisation. We have not the money. We have not the resources, human resources in our secretariat. We must try to help and collaborate with each other as business is quite more difficult than to talk about basic values and about the meetings structure. That is what we should try to do, continental approach. We have members from all the continents and should meet every second year on global basis. It should be open to every one to take part, but in practice cooperatives should try to find their partners in the global meetings of their own. Political conflicts are still creating difficulty in collaboration between cooperative members of ICA. But this is changing. It would be a sad thing if the cooperatives do not anticipate what is going to happen later than others... This being said I think I have clarified from my side. This is your meeting."

The Secretary reported to the meeting about the non-attending members as well as about the observers present at the meeting.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director, ICA, informed the meeting about the collapse of Centrosoyus which was one of the largest long standing members of the ICA. He said that Centrosoyus no longer exists at present. The dispute of the property of Centrosyus still continues. In the meantime, the majority of the new republics have already applied for membership in the ICA. We expect that in the next Executive Committee meeting we will have seven membership applications from different parts of the former Soviet Union in addition to the three Baltic States. It is likely in the near future we will be

receiving membership application for Asia-Pacific region from different federations.

Formation of a Specialized Committee of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Cooperatives (CICOPA)

The Chairman said : "It must be based on the real need. Perhaps the approach here is to create more awareness and try to find out really the real need from each country. From the five countries listed, it is noticed that the interest is lukewarm. They are not ready to get this programme going on.

The Secretary said : "It is a fact that we have many artisans cooperatives in the region. They do need help. But the difficulty is before the committee is created they must have resources to participate in it and which at present these artisans cooperatives lack. If we have committee where only national level bodies are represented then the purpose will not be achieved. In the ROAP we have no project or financial provision which could support the meeting of this committee. Also, as was mentioned, response has been somewhat lukewarm because within the countries also these cooperatives of artisans of workers are not as active at national level. So there is no pressure from their side for its creation. It may take some time. Maybe another way out is for CICOPA to create a committee of its own in the region. Under the ICA Rules it is not debarred. The main committee can create its sub committee in the region. Once individual awareness is created, RC can approve formation of such a sub-committee.

Mr. Y. Regis Chairman of CICOPA, ICA, who was also present at the meeting, informed that steps have already been initiated to locate funding for a proposed technical assistance project in India. He wanted that an arrangement be established in the Region through ICA ROAP under which CICOPA could also play some role in this sector. He requested for the support of the ICA

ROAP and assured that main CICOPA would try to enlist some funding support from the West and other donor agencies.

Venue and date of next meeting

It was decided to hold the next meeting in China.

Meeting of the ICA Committee on Cooperative Finance for Asia & the Pacific Jakarta, Indonesia : 22 February 1992

The third meeting of the ICA Committee on Cooperative Finance for Asia and the Pacific was held at Jakarta, Indonesia, on 22 February, 1992 at 2.30 p.m. under the Chairmanship of :

Mr. M.M. Vyas, India, Mr. Geoff Ayres, Australia, Mr. Shahid Ullah, Bangladesh, Mr. Sura Patnaik, India Mr. P.V. Prabhu, India were present at the meeting. Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Senior Development Adviser, ICA ROAP, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director, ICA, Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director and Dr. Daman Prakash, Adviser-DPCP

Recent trends and developments in the field of cooperative finance in member countries

Australia

- The Australian Cooperative Development League Limited (ACDL) was established in June, 1991 as a community advancement cooperative.
- One of ACDL's major objectives was to examine the feasibility of establishing a cooperative bank to facilitate the provision of adequate and more affordable sources of debt capital for cooperatives generally and the rural and small industry sectors in particular."
- ACDL has set as its objective the submission of an application for a banking authority for the cooperative bank by mid 1992 and would welcome your support.
- The credit union movement already demonstrates many of the

early features of the European cooperative banking models and is moving rapidly to develop a stronger institutional "second tier".

- An application for new banking authority will need to satisfy the Reserve Bank and Treasury that the cooperative bank will have sufficient initial capital as well as continuing scope to attract additional capital. An initial capitalization of \$100 million is planned, providing strong evidence that the bank will be conservatively capitalised to attain or exceed one billion dollars in assets.
- To ensure that the cooperative nature of participation is preserved and that the bank reflects the service quality associated with cooperatives, expressions of interest to subscribe capital will be sought from, and priority given to, cooperative and mutually based organisations.
- To maximize direct participation from organisations and individuals within the cooperative, rural and small industry sectors, ACDL will encourage the establishment of special purpose cooperatives ("SPC") to co-ordinate the raising and subscription of capital.
- The organizational structure of the bank is designed to satisfy the following requirements:-
 - strong and clear share-holding responsibility and control- a major Reserve Bank and Treasury consideration.
 - Active representation of a broad range of shareholder and "customer" interests at a regional level
- The structure provides at least one directorship for each of the key share-holding groups as well as two directorships representing local regional interests.
- A unique feature, in keeping with the regional focus of the

bank, will be the provision for "Regional Advisory Councils" (RAC) to;

- Foster a regional identity for the bank
- Create and sustain an advocacy base
- Provide a mechanism for continuing dialogue between the bank and its customers.
- Through a strategic share-holding alliance from the cooperative movement, sectoral interests and the public, the mission of the bank is to provide a superior quality service tailored to meeting the financial needs of the Australian household, rural and small industry sectors on a regional basis, involving low cost operations and a commitment to community and customer participation.
- The cooperative bank will distribute its products and services through local branches of participating credit unions, building societies, mutual life company offices and representatives on an agency/referral basis with these activities being supported and administered from major regional branches of the bank.
- With particular regard to the special needs of rural producers and small industry in securing stable sources of long term capital, there is considerable scope and potential for the bank to develop a lending product which provides borrowers with:-
 - A secure and defined volume of debt capital
 - Reduced vulnerability to interest rate movements
 - The benefit of linking debt servicing and repayment costs to production and commodity prices
- The establishment of a rural and small industry investment trust with the potential for tax effec-

tive capital growth would appear to be an ideal fund raising and lending vehicle for the cooperative bank and it is proposed that its design, operation and market potential be further investigated prior to the establishment of the bank.

- The cooperative bank has the potential to provide effective and credible competition in meeting the special needs of regionally based communities in Australia.
- By establishing a strategic alliance involving existing cooperative financial institutions, rural and small industry sectors as well as the public, the bank will enable the cooperative movement to demonstrate its capabilities to a wider market and customer base, bringing an exciting new dimension to the provision of financial services in this country.

Bangladesh

- The Bangladesh Bank (Central Bank of the country) provides concessional credit facilities at below the bank rate to the Bank for lending to its members against Government Guarantee to the extent of 25% which is the main source of the fund of the Bank. The Bank also provides substantial credit to its members from its own fund.
- The government has allocated Taka 9,500 million for short term investments and Taka 300 million for mid term investments under agricultural credit programme for 1990-91 of which Taka 6,500 million as crop loan and amount allocated to Bangladesh Samabaya Ltd is Taka 210 Million as short term loans and Taka 90 million as mid term loans. The amount allotted for UCCA-KSS is Taka 590 million short term and Taka 400 million for mid term. But the problems of overdue and defaults have to be over come by

agricultural coops. to avail this credit facilities.

- District Cooperative Land Mortgage Banks established a National Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank in 1983 with a view to provide fund support to the District Cooperative Land Mortgage Banks for development of agricultural land by the individual farmers. This bank has been placed under liquidation since it could not built up its capital and receive any support from the Government for land developments but facts remain that the necessity and importance of the land Development Bank like neighbouring countries, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh should have national cooperative Land Development Bank for development of agricultural land and promotion of improved agricultural activities.
- The present democratic Government have already started to reorganize and revitalize the credit sector of the country. A proposal is under active consideration of the Government to start agricultural credit-flow through Bangladesh Cooperative Bank Ltd. (Apex Cooperative Bank) and the central cooperative Banks for augmenting agricultural production in the country.

India (Mr.P.V. Prabhu)

- Under the multi-agency approach, both the Cooperatives and Commercial Banks operate side by side in providing rural credit particularly for the agricultural sector.
- Presently there are about 90000 PACSs, 2800 PLDBs/branches of the State ARDBs, 21,540 branches of the Commercial Banks in the rural areas and 14,443 branches of RRBs operating to finance the rural borrowers. In the total loan outstanding under agriculture

and allied activities of all agencies, the share of cooperatives is about 40 per cent and the Commercial Banks and RRBs account for the remaining.

- The SAA became operational from 1st April 1989.
- Under the SAA the service area of a branch would normally comprise of 15-25 villages.
- Under the new approach about 6,00,000 villages have been allocated to about 42,000 branches of the Commercial and Regional Rural Banks in the rural and semi urban areas on the basis of certain criteria.
- Yet another innovation in rural credit planning is preparatory of Potential Linked Credit Plans for agriculture and rural development initiated by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. The main objective of the PLPs is to explore the potential could be exploited over a period of time.
- In 1985, Government of India for the first time introduced comprehensive crop insurance scheme covering major cereal crops, oil seeds and pulses. It is expected that the Crop Insurance Scheme will be properly modified making it more comprehensive and effective for implementation.
- The Government of India formulated a scheme known as Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief Scheme 1990 mainly to give relief to the indebted rural borrowers.
- The lending institutions also faced financial problems because of poor recoveries and non-receipt of full amount of debt relief extended to the borrowers.
- There are a number of programmes sponsored by the Government to provide credit support to the rural poor like the nationwide Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) which is a credit linked development

programme meant for the economically poorest of the rural poor. The focus in most of these programmes is the individual poor.

- There are several self-help groups in India which are mostly promoted by voluntary organisations and NGOs. In India, a decision has been taken by APRACA members on the initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (Central Bank) to constitute APRACA Country Trust and Development Fund (ACTDF) with contributions equivalent to US\$.1 million.
- With the recent revision in October 1991, the minimum rate has gone up from 10% to 11.5% and maximum from 14% to 15%. However, the banks are free to charge any rate on loans of over Rs. 2 lakhs (2,00,000) as the prescribed minimum rate is 15%.
- One of the major problems of the rural credit institutions in India has been the inadequate margin in their credit operations because of regulated lending rates and borrowing rates.
- Need of a National Cooperative Bank to bridge the existing systemic gap in the cooperative credit and banking system in India has been well established by several committees at various levels. However, for various reasons, such a Bank at the national level could not be established so far.
- In 1990, the National Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks Federation promoted and established a National Centre for Management Development in Agriculture and Rural Development Banking particularly to undertake management development programmes and Executive Development Programmes covering the rural credit and banking institutions in general and the cooperative agricultural

and rural development banks in particular.

- Needs of development - (1) democratic management, (2) resources, (3) cooperative law, (4) dependence on government, (5) National Cooperative Bank of India, (6) margin on loans, (7) overdue (8) manpower and training, and (9) innovations.

India (Mr. M.M. Vyas)

- Number of State Cooperative Banks had increased from 25 in 1970 to 28 in 1990, their branches increased from 169 to 651 during the same period.
- Aggregate deposits which amounted to Rs.16,752 million on 30th June 1981 rose to Rs.61,934 in 1990. Borrowing had increased from Rs.6,087 million in 1980-81 to Rs.36,461 million in 1990. Advances for short-term and medium-term agricultural operations increased from Rs.38,038 million in 1981-82 to Rs.1,14,048 million in 1990.
- Cooperative credit institutions account for more than 50% of the share in the institutional credit being provided for agricultural and rural development.
- Number of Urban Cooperative Banks in 1990 stood at 1,405 with deposits of Rs.64,306 million at the end of June 1990. Advances to their individual borrowers were to the tune of Rs. 1,00,461 million at the end of 1989-90, of which Rs.76,008 million pertain to short term loans and RS.24,453 million to medium term loans.
- There are 28 banks in the public sector accounting for over 90 per cent of banking business and 51 private sector banks including 21 foreign banks.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was set up by an Act of Parliament on 12th July 1982 - provides by way of refinance, all kinds of production and invest-

ment credit to agriculture, artisans, cottage and village industries, handicrafts, and other allied economic activities in rural areas.

- Establishment of a National Cooperative Bank of India with the basic objective to help the cooperative banking structure in India becoming a democratic, self-reliant, vibrant and growing system not dependent on external agencies.
- National Federation of State Cooperative Banks had already taken the initiative in setting up of the management training institute for secretaries of PACS, initially in Gujarat and Karnataka States, in collaboration with Rabo International Advisory Services.

17th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and Pacific

The 17th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and the Pacific was held at Hotel Atlet Century Park, Jakarta (Indonesia) on 22nd February 1992. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Eddiwan, Vice-Chairman of Dewan Koperasi Indonesia, attended by Salahuddin Ahmed, Member for Bangladesh,

Mr. Shahid Ullah, Member for Bangladesh, Mr. Subash Chandra, Member for India, Mr. Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia

Mr. Wibisono Wiyono, Member for Indonesia, Datuk Haji Aziz Mohd Ibrahim, Member for Malaysia, Mr. Anan Chamnankit, Member for Thailand, Mr. Karl Fogelstrom Senior Development Advisor, ICA ROAP, Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director, Dr. Daman Prakash, Development Planning & Coordination Advisor.

Mr. Subash Chandra, Member for India and Mr. Anan Chamnankit, Member for Thailand, were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and the Pacific respectively.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

The proposed Constitution was approved by the Committee.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON FISHERIES AMONG MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

FISHCOPFED has agreed to undertake the following activities :

- Issue of a yearly Bulletin on Fishery Cooperatives. For this purpose the Editorial Board will consist of (1) Mr. Karl Fogelstrom of ICA ROAP, (2) Dato Haji Aziz Mohd Ibrahim of Malaysia, (3) Mr. Shahid Ullah of Bangladesh, and (4) Mr. Subash Chandra of India.
- Publication of a newsletter along with data on fishery cooperatives. Members were requested to send the necessary data to FISHCOPFED.

COUNTRY PAPERS : RECENT TRENDS & DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF FISHERY COOPERATIVES.

Bangladesh

- The Bangladesh National Fishermen Cooperative Society Limited was established in the year 1960 to develop and cater to the needs and interests of the members of the primary fishermen coops through their Central Societies.
- At present there are 89 Central Societies and 3,332 Primary Societies functioning under its guidance services. The membership strength is about 0.4 million.
- Fishermen's cooperative societies helped change the lot of poor fishermen through supplying equipment, fish processing, organising the fishermen, and leasing jalmahals.
- Fishermen's cooperative introduced nylon net twine in the country.

- The National Fishermen Cooperative Society has also established factories to produce fishing equipment and for fish processing.

India

- India is the seventh largest fishing nation in the world and commands a very big potential in the fishery sector.
- Fish production increased from 0.75 million tons in 1950-51 to 3.83 million tons in 1990-91 while the earnings from exports of marine products increased from Rs.24.6 million to Rs.8,900 million during the same period.
- Development of brackishwater areas into culturable ponds was introduced as a centrally-sponsored scheme during the 6th Plan. 23 projects, covering 1,056 hectare, were sanctioned for development.
- There are over 970 reservoirs in the country with a total water spread of 3 million hectares.
- The NCDC has initiated inland Fisheries Project in the cooperative sector with EEC assistance for development of fisheries in over one million hectares in five selected states, at a cost of Rs.350 million.
- Group Accident Insurance Scheme was implemented covering most of the inland and marine states. A new scheme for assisting fishermen by way of constructing fishermen colonies with housing, sanitation, etc. was implemented.
- The objectives of FISHCOPFED being to facilitate fishing industry through cooperatives, are all pervading. Within a short period of about 10 years of its active functioning, it has entered a number of activities, both business and promotional.
- The premium of FISHCOPFED's Insurance Scheme was Rs.12 per fisherman per year, but it was

reduced by 25% and the premium is Rs.9 only. This scheme provides for an insurance cover of Rs.15,000 in case of an accidental death or total disability and Rs.7,500 in case of partial disability.

- The Scheme, which is being implemented by FISHCOPFED in collaboration with the United India Insurance Company has so far benefitted more than 1800 families of fishermen.
- The NCDC provided assistance to fishery cooperatives for operational inputs, establishment of processing units, boat building yards and service centres.
- FISHCOPFED has arranged net making machines for six States in India with CCA/ICA assistance. Six hand operated net making machines have already been provided to six primary fishery cooperative societies in six States.
- FISHCOPFED has implemented a project on health care and family welfare through 70 fishery cooperatives in the States of Rajasthan, U.P., Bihar and West Bengal.
- Fishery cooperatives need cooperation from other countries. Following areas have been identified for collaboration : Brackishwater prawn farming; Prawn feed and fish feed production; Consultancy in fish marketing; Fish drying; Consumer packing of fish & prawns; and Fish seed packing.

Indonesia

- Year 1981 was the uprising year of fisheries cooperative movement in Indonesia. There has been an increase of guidance to the traditional fishermen, reflecting the Presidential Instruction No.39/1980 which abolished the trawl fisheries. One important programme was motorization scheme for the fishermen.

- The Indonesian Government has given priority to achieve greater self-reliance of KUDs and other primary cooperatives. For that reason, the government extension programme was geared to set at least 2,000 KUDs and maximum 4,000 KUDs to be self-reliant cooperatives, including 128 fisheries cooperatives.

- There are three structure levels of Indonesian fisheries cooperatives - national levels, provincial level and village level - which has been changed for several times since 1947.

- The government has put great emphasis on supporting cooperatives, including fisheries cooperatives to become centres of economic activity.

- As a result of the continuing guidance and support to the fisheries cooperatives, by the end of 1991 there are 166 fisheries cooperatives which have received certificate of self-reliance.

- To develop the fisheries cooperative business and organization, efficiency and productivity should be enhanced as well as the technical/managerial skill of all parties in order to give best services to the members.

- To increase the business, fisheries cooperative should be modernized through intensification, extension, diversification, and to increase productivity which will lead to higher income.

Malaysia

- There are more than 90,000 fishermen in Malaysia to date. Out of this only 14 percent are members of fisheries cooperative societies.

- In 1975, there were 15,940 fishermen affiliated to 76 Fisheries Cooperative Societies in Malaysia. The number has since been reduced to 12,797 in 1990 with only 36 cooperative

societies left as a result of liquidation.

- The most common economic activities carried out by fisheries cooperative societies are diesel trading, followed by marketing and ice supply. Other isolated activities are credit facilities, commission on trawling, etc.

- The non-economic activities carried out by fisheries cooperatives include construction and repairs of jetties, welfare funds, education funds and kindergartens.

- The government is attempting to adopt a more rational approach to the management and development of the marine fisheries. The present focal point of the Government's attention and its main areas of concern are :

- the persistently high incidence of poverty among the fishermen;

- the threatened depletion of the inshore resources through overfishing;

- the underutilise offshore resources; and

- the projected shortfall between domestic food fish supply and demand.

- Within the framework of the National Agricultural Policy (NAP) and the New Economic Policy (NEP), the Malaysian Government has stated that the major goals are to maximize fishermen's income and increase fish production.

- For that reason Fisheries Act (1985) which governs fishing industry in the country is being revised. ANGKASA, as the apex organisation of cooperative societies in the country has recommended to the government that several provisions in the act be amended. The amendment proposal will be tabled in Parliament this year.

- The 8th General Assembly of Fisheries Functional Group of

ANGKASA was held in Kuala Lumpur on 2nd March 1991.

Thailand

- The first fishery cooperative was organized in 1949 in Pissanulok Province. The purpose of the cooperative was to allocate the land along the canal for fishing to 393 members. In 1970 the government granted utilization of this canal to the public.

- In 1952 the first marine fishery cooperative named "The Central Fishery Cooperative Limited" was established. The government set up, at the same time, the Bangkok Fishery Marketing Organisation to function as a central fishery market of both cooperative and non-cooperative fishing industry.

- The Central Fishery Cooperative Limited serves its members in seeking and maintaining the fishing ground and marketing their catches including supplying their requisites. Its membership was drawn from the fishermen who lived along the sea coast of 13 provinces.

- The Central Fishery Cooperative Limited has also provided loan to its members for construction of fishing boats, purchasing of fishing materials.

- Since 1959, the cooperative has suffered losses and shortage of working capital to provide loans to members. It was because of the bad debts and members do not sell their catches through the cooperative, the price of fish was always fluctuating. Due to small volume of business and strong influence of private fish merchants, the cooperative had stopped doing its business since 1968.

- Fishery cooperatives are organized among fishermen who deal with fresh water fish or sea water fish. At present, the government has the aim to promote the organisation of

- fishery cooperatives along the coastal and nearby areas.
- The cooperatives in Thailand are vertically organized at three levels : primary societies at the local level; secondary societies at the provincial level; and the apex societies at the national level.
- At present, there are 25 fishery cooperatives registered under the Cooperative Societies Act (1968), functioning at the primary level with a total membership of 5,931 families. Out of 25 fishery cooperatives, 24 are marine fishery cooperatives.
- The fishery cooperatives in Thailand are currently involved in the following major activities :
 - Receive deposit from the members;
 - Raise share capital from the members;
 - Extend credit to the members;
 - Supply inputs to the members;
 - Collect fish products and others from the members; and
 - Provide other services to the members.
- According to the auditing report of the Cooperative Audit Department, in 1990 there were 20 fishery cooperative societies audited.
- Most of fishing cooperatives are small societies with average membership of 237 member/society. The fund mobilized from among the members are not sufficient to provide services to the members.

VENUE AND DATES FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was informed by the Regional Director that he had a telephonic conversation this morning with Mr. Maasaki Sato, Secretary of ICA Fisheries Committee, and the next meeting of the Fisheries Committee will be held in Tokyo in October 1992. The meeting accepted the invitation. The exact dates will be decided later on.

HIGHLIGHT OF ROAP PROJECT ACTIVITIES DURING JAN-MARCH, 1992

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

China Mission on Waste Resource Recycling to Thailand and the Philippines

In last April ICA Regional Workshop on Waste Resource Recycling was conducted in Shanghai, China. The workshop adopted the recommendations which proposed to undertake several steps to effectively implement waste resource recycling project in the region. According to the recommendations, a five-member mission from Shanghai Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (SFSMC) led by Mr. Ye Zheng Sheng, Director of SFSMC, visited Thailand and Philippines during 5-19 January 1992 and carried out the feasibility study on waste recycling project. The mission had discussions with the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) and the Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP). It was recognised that the waste resource recycling project

has both social and economic benefits and impact particularly for the protection and betterment of environment as well as economic benefits for the cooperatives and the community. Based on the actual findings of the mission and the interest shown by CUP and Davao Fiber Producers Cooperatives, the putting up of a waste resource recycling plant for waste rubber in Davao is really feasible. It was agreed by the mission and CUP that 5 persons would be selected from CUP to visit Shanghai in China sometime in 1992 in order to make survey of the waste rubber recycling plants and SFSMC would meet the local costs for this study mission. At the same time CUP would conduct a local market survey to complete the baseline study already undertaken by Davao Fiber Producers Cooperative with the assistance of the RCU XI. Based on the discussions in Philippines SFSMC and CUP will sign the memorandum of agreement on waste rubber recycling project. Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agri. Coop Development Advisor, ICA ROAP,

organized and coordinated the Mission's visit to Thailand and the Philippines.

Chinese Delegation's Visit to Australia

An eight-member Chinese delegation from All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) led by Mr. Yang Deshou, Secretary-General of ACFSMC, visited Australia from 2nd to 14th February 1992. The main objective of the Chinese delegation was to explore and establish the potential for collaborative relations and joint ventures in the processing, manufacturing and marketing of primary products between Chinese cooperatives and Australian cooperatives. The Chinese delegation carried a list of 20 joint venture projects for discussion with Australian cooperatives. The visit was a major development following initiatives of the ICA ROAP Agricultural Project and the ICA Project Office in Australia to expand trade opportunities between the two movements. These efforts followed the establishment within

the international alliance of a 'cooptrade pact' requiring cooperatives in the region to make conscious efforts to trade with cooperative business organisations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Australian Association of Cooperatives (AAC) hosted and organized the Chinese delegation's visit in Victoria State. The delegation visited Victoria Artificial Breeders Cooperative Society, YCW Cooperative Society, Australian Wool Corporation, Seymour Meat Processing Cooperative, Victorian Producers Cooperative and Bonlac Food Limited and discussed the possibility of establishing joint ventures on dairy, rice wine, garments & furniture products.

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Victoria Government, Ian Baker, received the delegation in his office and exchanged the information of cooperative development in China and Victoria. The delegation also had discussions with Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Acting Deputy Registrar of Cooperatives, Victoria. Mr. Derek Heelan, Manager, International Trade, ACC, coordinated the above visit in Victoria. The Chinese delegation had final discussion with Mr. Geoff Ayres, General Manager of AAC and Mr. Derek Heelan in Sydney and it was agreed to pursue the project proposals which were discussed in Victoria and other trade opportunity.

Hon'ble Minister for Local Government and Cooperatives NSW Government, G.B. Peacocke and Australian Cooperative Development League (ACDL) hosted and organized the Chinese delegation's visit in New South Wales. The Minister and Mr. James McCall, Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister and Director of ACDL accompanied Mr. Yang Deshou and the Chinese delegation to visit Warren Cotton Marketing Cooperative, Coonamble Wool Cooperative and Coonamble Feolot and Beef Marketing Cooperative and to meet the Major of Dubbo City, President of Coonamble Shire and representatives in Warren,

Coonamble and Dubbo. The delegation had very comprehensive discussions with the above cooperatives on cotton, wool, cow hides, sheep skin value-adding processing and potential for joint ventures. Based on these discussions, a protocol between ACDL and ACFSMC on wool, cotton, cow hides, sheep skin processing and marketing and consumer retail store was signed in Sydney in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Cooperatives, G.B. Peacocke.

The visit drew great attention from public and news agencies and more than 10 newspapers published detailed report about this visit. As the Cooperative Minister, G.B. Peacocke pointed out that this kind of international cooperation also means that when the time improve rural industry will be in a fine position to take advantage of the increase in prosperity.

Mr. R. Mathimugan, Director of ICA Office in Australia and Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Coop Development Advisor, ICA ROAP, coordinated and accompanied the Chinese delegation's visit in Australia.

ICA/APCC Regional Seminar on Agricultural Coop Development

The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Asia Pacific Cooperative Centre for Research, Training and Development (APCC) jointly conducted a Regional Seminar on Agricultural Cooperative Development in Asia-Pacific with special reference to Australian Experience in Australia from 23rd February to 19th March 1992. The objectives of the seminar were :

- a. to understand the structure and functions of agricultural cooperatives in Australia;
- b. to learn cooperative management and advanced farming and agro-processing technology;
- c. to discuss possibilities of collaboration between the participants' organisations and

Australian agricultural cooperatives; and

- d. to formulate action proposals for the organisations/ movements of the participants, keeping in view the experience gained at the seminar.

14 participants from seven countries, i.e. China, India, Indonesia, Rep. of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand attended the seminar.

The official opening of the seminar and the Asia Pacific Cooperative Centre for Research, Training and Development took place on 24th February 1992 at Marcus Oldham Farm Management College, Geelong, Victoria. Hon'ble Deputy Premier of Victoria, J.W. Kennan, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Executive Director of ICA, Mr. Ray Ison, Chairman of AAC and APCC, Mr. Geoff Ayres, General Manager of AAC, Mr. R. Mathimugan, Director of ICA Office in Australia, Mr. Graham McConnel, Principal, Marcus Oldham College and about 60 cooperative leaders and government officers attended the opening ceremony.

In the first two weeks, the seminar was conducted at Marcus Oldham Farm Management College and the participants were organized to have lecture, classroom discussion and visit to the cooperative organisations which covered wool industry, cattle and dairy, egg and meat industry and goat industry. The participants were given lot of information about the social and economic structure of Australia and structure and functions of Australian cooperatives. The participants also presented their country papers and exchanged the views of recent cooperative development in their respective countries.

In the second two weeks, each participant was attached to one cooperative organisation on specific job training. Six participants were organized into three groups to attach Bonlac Food Limited, the Phosphate Cooperative of Australia and Victorian Producers Cooperative in Victoria State. Another eight participants

were organized to attach Australian Association of Cooperatives, Australian Cooperative Development League, Australian Federation of Credit Unions, Banana Growers Federation Cooperative, Brunswick Byron Fishermen's Cooperative, NSW Egg Producers Cooperative and NSW Sugar Milling Cooperative in New South Wales State. The participants were given the opportunities to observe advanced technology in farming, marketing and management and discussed with the host organisations about the potential areas for future cooperation between participants' organisations and Australian cooperatives, e.g. cooperative trade, joint venture, technology transfer, exchange programme and tourism. Some participants signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the host organisations.

On 17th March all the participants gathered together again in Sydney and presented the plans and project proposals for strengthening collaboration with Australian cooperatives and for improving management level of participants' organisations. All the participants expressed at the evaluation meeting that the seminar was well-organized and successfully achieved its objectives. Mr. Goeff Ayes, General Manager of AAC and Mr. G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director, attended the evaluation meeting.

The official closing ceremony took place on 18th March at Parliament House of NSW at the invitation of Hon'ble Minister for Local Government and Cooperatives, NSW Government, G.B. Peacocke. Mr. G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director; Mr. Ray Ison, Chairman of AAC and APCC; Mr. Berridge Hume-Philips, Assistant General Manager of AAC, Mr. R. Mathimugan, Director of ICA Office in Australia, attended the closing ceremony. Mr. James McCall, Senior Policy Advisor to the Cooperative Minister chaired the ceremony. Hon'ble Minister for Cooperatives, G.B. Peacocke expressed his appreciation about the successful seminar in his speech at

the closing ceremony. The Hon'ble Minister, G.B. Peacocke, also hosted a dinner for the participants at the Parliament House.

It was the first regional training programme in Australia since 1978. Australian cooperatives contributed the funds to cover all the local costs of the seminar.

Mr. R. Mathimugan, Director of ICA Office in Australia and Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Cooperative Development Advisor, ICA ROAP, coordinated the seminar.

Seminar/Workshop on Student University Coops

A self financed workshop on "Student Coops" was organized at Mangalore University, Mangalore, Karnataka State, India, between 21 and 23 January, 1992. Thirty five participants from 13 colleges and 2 universities attended the workshop. It opened up the eyes and the minds of Indian Professors, Lecturers and students on the new fronts and dimensions of university coops in India. It is expected that students and university coops and citizen consumer cooperatives in Mangalore and nearby districts will be upgraded and developed very soon.

The main subjects included: Role of Board of Directors and Executives in Management of Consumer Cooperative; Purchase management of consumer cooperatives; Manpower planning-motivation and incentives in consumer cooperatives; Minimum inventory with optimum turnover; Professional management and Communication techniques in consumer coop. development; Group discussions; Consumer Coop. Movement in Asia and the Pacific region.

Second Workshop on Management of Consumer Cooperatives in Maharashtra, India.

A two day self-financed workshop on "Management of Consumer Cooperatives" in Maharashtra was held in Aurangabad on 28 and 29 February 1992, where around 125 coop leaders, Executive Directors/Managers and government coopera-

tive officials of Maharashtra participated. The main objective of the workshop was to uplift the performance of consumer cooperatives through modern management.

At Jakarta Mr. Machima attended the 34th ICA Regional Council Meeting, 2nd Cooperative Ministers Conference and held discussions on several projects activities and training programmes of consumer cooperative development with representatives of member countries, such as Bangladesh, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Prepared follow-up activities of student/ university cooperatives with Cooperative Youth Organisation of Indonesia (KOPINDO).

The Regional Seminar on University Cooperatives in Indonesia was organized at Brawijaya University in Malang between 28 and 20 January, 1992. The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives. Forty-nine participants from all over Indonesia and 11 participants from foreign countries (2 each from Malaysia and Sri Lanka, 4 from Thailand and 3 from South Korea) attended the seminar. The Seminar was collaborated by ICA ROAP, NFUCA, DEKOPIN, Student Cooperative of Brawijaya University, Brawijaya University and Ministry of Cooperatives, Republic of Indonesia.

The objective of the seminar were to transfer technology, knowledge and experience of Japanese University Cooperatives to Asian countries, to exchange knowledge and experience of running University/ Students Cooperatives among participants, to encourage University of Cooperative Colleges or Cooperative Training Institutes to promote and play a bigger role in cooperative education and training in their own countries, to improve performance of University or Student Cooperatives.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE PROMOTION OF THE EXPORTS OF HANDLOOM COOPERATIVES PRODUCTS

Held on Monday the 16th and Tuesday the 17th March 1992 at NCU in col-

laboration with ICA ROAP, New Delhi.

Objectives

1. To make the participants aware of the relevant aspects of overseas trade in Handloom textile products through coops.
2. To impart necessary training to the participants to independently the export operations.

Subject Matter:

1. Trade Scenario and Trade in Textiles.
2. Import policy, licencing, benefits, BOP, Role of exports etc.
3. Export finance, pricing, insurance, bank procedures, RBI, Fedia rules, payments, terms, letter of credit, incoterms.
4. Identification of buyers, distribution channels, normal delivery periods, role of agents, other common information, trade mechanism, institutional infrastructure, inspection,
5. Case study on export costing, pricing, finance.
6. Market research, trade disputes, arbitration.
7. Workshop on documentation/procedures.
8. Case Cooperative vs Private sector.

Fifty persons participated

Feedforward

The Workshop was inaugurated by Mr. G.K. Sharma, the Regional Director of ICA ROAP. His inaugural address was focussed on the concept of trade and he defined international trade as an extension of domestic trade which applies trade mechanisms. In his words the overseas trade can never be seasonal and needs constant involvement despite inordinately long teething troubles. Quality and Commitment are the key to the success in overseas trade. The workshop was coordinated by Mr.

Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Technical Consultant of ICA ROAP.

Recommendations

- primary cooperatives to join/federate for overseas trade.
- input/raw material availability at concessional/subsidized rates for cooperatives.
- uniform pricing policy in order to avoid internal competition.
- textile commissioner to decide and organize distribution of the raw material to primary cooperatives.
- market research and intelligence by ICA/NCUI
- need of a central coordination body at apex level and it should work as export promotion council for cooperatives.
- ICA or NCUI should conduct a feasibility study for such a coordinating body.

JAPANESE COOPERATION DELEGATION VISITS INDIA

A Delegation from Japan visited India from 30th January to 15th February, 1992.

ICA HEAD OFFICE NEWS

In the world of 1992, the 700 million members of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) are no different to the rest of Earth's Population when it comes to subduing the consequences of Environmental destruction. But as cooperators they are unique in that cooperators as individuals and as members of a larger global movement can and are making a universal contribution of safeguarding the Environment.

Cooperatives are local organisations. The fundamental aim of a cooperatives is to improve the live of its members/owners. Cooperatives have no boundaries. They exist in the North and in the South. In many

They visited ICA ROAP, National Cooperative Union of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India ; Embassy of Japan ; The Ministry of Agriculture; Government of India. Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO); National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, Discussions took place with Commissioner and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra, Kolar Budruk Primary Agrl. Coop Society, Pravara Nagar Coop Sugar Factory. They also visited poultry, lift-irrigation project and educational institutions at Pravara Nagar, Katraj Dairy of Pune District, Milk Producers Cooperative Union, Bhagini Nivedita Urban Coop Bank, Rupee Cooperative Bank, Maharashtra State Cooperative Union and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

Besides cooperatives they also visited places of historical and cultural importance.

cases cooperative development in developing countries is facilitated by assistance from cooperative organisations in industrialized countries. But what makes them unique is that because cooperatives are local organisations, their members and their members families are the first to suffer the consequences if the cooperative operates in an Environmentally unfriendly manner. Considering the size of the international cooperative movement, if follows that this represents a very strong player in the global arena of Environmental protection.

June 1992 will witness United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.

This conference, known as the Earth Summit, will be a unique event in that all the governments of the world will gather to find a common basis for action on issues of universal concern to all humanity. In conjunction

with the Earth Summit a Global Forum will be held, which will provide a series of meetings and events to be organized by the non-governmental sector. The ICA will be amongst the non-governmental organisations present at Rio and join forces with the governments of the world and hundreds of other organisations from the independent sector in this unique, universal and gigantic attempt to reverse the state of our Environment.

The ICA Congress in Tokyo in October will have Environment as one main theme on its agenda which gives the ICA a splendid opportunity to follow-up decisions agreed upon in Rio.

ICA Schedule May-October, 1992

May

- 14 FIIG Assembly-Geneva (Melena)
- 15 Audit & Control Committee (Geneva)
- 18-20 ICA Exco Meeting-Florence-(Bruce, Claes + Sasha)
- 25-6/5 SID + Environment Seminar-RIO - (Bruce)
- 26-29 Agr. Exec.COM - Oslo, Norway (Lajos)

June

- 9-12 ECEC Consultation Meetings, Stockholm (Bruce + Sasha)
- 15-16 CIEIEC presentation, Valencia (Bruce)
- 22-26 ROESCA Regional Council Meeting- Uganda
- 27 Mailing of Congress documentation

September

- 7-8 Seminar on Coop Property & Privatisation-Geneva
- 9-10 CCA Annual Meeting (Bruce)
- 10-16 COPAC Mtg-Madison and New York (Bruce + Melena)

October

- 15-24 Pre ICA Congress meetings of Specialised Organisations and Working Parties—Tokyo, Japan
- 26 ICA Central Committee Meeting—Tokyo, Japan
- 27-30 ICA Congress -Tokyo, Japan.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union

The New Managing Committee of the BJSU has designated the following as the new nominations to different sub)committee of the ICA ROAP

- a) Regional Councillors for Asia and Pacific Region:
 1. Md. Salahuddin Ahmmed, Member of Parliament, Chairman
 2. Md. Shahidullah, General Secretary.
- b) Sub Committee:
 1. Agricultural Sub-committee - Md. Afsar Ahmed Siddiqui
 2. Human Resource Sub-committee - Md. Shahidullah
 3. Banking Sub-committee -Md. Mokaddem Hussain.
 4. Fisheries sub)committee - Md. Salahuddin Ahmmed.
 5. Consumer Sub-committee - Md. Shahidullah
 6. Trade & Commerce Sub-committee - Md. Salahuddin Ahmmed.

INDIA

Priority to Co-ops in Setting up FPS

Consumer cooperatives will henceforth be given preference in setting up fair price shops (FPS) all over the country.

This follows the Centre's directive to the states and union territories that in

future, preference should be given to the cooperatives in their respective areas to open retail fair price outlets.

Role of Co-operatives in Industrial growth recognised

The new industrial policy statement to boost economic situation of the country recognizes the important role of the workers and workers' co-operatives in the total industrial growth of the economy.

The government has decided to hand over a part of the share of the public enterprises to them and at the same time is thinking in terms of handling over some of the public sector companies to the workers' co-operatives.

Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award to IFFCO sponsored forestry society

Rakhawal Primary Farm Forestry Cooperatives Society, Udaipur (Raj.), sponsored by IFFCO has been awarded Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award for the year 1990 instituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India. The award was presented by Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The award has been given in recognition of exceptional contribution in the field of afforestation and wasteland development and carries medallion, a scroll of honour and cash component of Rs.50,000/-

The Rakhyawal Primary Farm Forestry Cooperative Society Ltd. Tehsil Movli, District Udaipur, Rajasthan was formed in 1987-88 with the objective of afforesting and regenerating the wasteland in the area.

Located in a dry and hilly region, having degraded and unproductive terrain and low rainfall, the leadership of this IFFCO & NWDB promoted Society, decided to take charge of their own future, through dynamic and sustained initiative, the Society launched a mass awareness campaign to involve all members in the afforestation programme.

In a short period, the Society established 14 decentralized nurseries, raised about 8 million seedlings and through soil and moisture conservation measures made the bare hills hospitable for plantations. The Society has planted a total of 4.12 million plants in about 266 ha of wastelands. At present Rakhyawal village is surrounded by a circle of green hills, interspersed with tall, nutritious fodder and grasses.

The society has raised Rs.14.91 million, provided 79,000 man days of employment, reduced considerably the problem of fuel and fodder shortage for the people of the village and is an example to other neighbouring villages on how the lives of their people can be changed through afforestation and cooperative effort.

In its endeavour to contribute its mite in maintaining ecological balance, IFFCO launched Farm Forestry Project in association with Govt. Organisations like National Wasteland Development Board, Deptt. of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and State Govts. in 1987. IFFCO has so far promoted 33 forestry cooperatives in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to implement the programme.

The programme, aimed at generating employment and providing fodder and fuel-wood to the rural people, has converted over 4,000 ha of wasteland into profitable forestry.

S.M. Jain appointed IFFCO'S finance director

Shri. S.M. Jain has taken over as Finance Director in Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)

Prior to his joining IFFCO, Mr. Jain had been serving as Chairman & Managing Director of fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) since 1990.

NDDB board reconstituted

The Centre has reconstituted the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) with Dr. V. Kurien as its Chairman.

According to a press release here on Tuesday, the Board of Directors, who would hold office till November 4, 1993, include Mr. P.G. Muralidharan, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and dairying, New Delhi, Mr. Balister Singh Mann Chairman, Punjab State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Chandigarh, Dr. Amrita Patel, Managing director, NDDB, Anand, Dr. M.P. G. Kurup, Executive Director (Bio-technology) NDDB, Anand.

Record Performance By NAFED during 1990-1991

Union Agriculture Minister, Balram Jakhar, emphasised the role of Cooperatives in the marketing of agricultural produce and providing protection to the farmers. "Marketing Cooperatives have to evolve a programme by which the small farmers can get the benefits of Cooperative Marketing through their village level societies". Lauding the achievements of the cooperative marketing sector in achieving the turnover of Rs.6200 crores during the year 1989-90, he said the efforts should be made to assist the primary societies in the preparation of the business development plans and to set up adequate storage facilities, food processing and agro processing units. The Eighth Five Year Plan envisages a growth rate of 3.5% in agriculture he informed.

Y.P. Nishad Elected President

Shri. Y.P. Nishad, a dedicated cooperator and a leader of fishermen community has been unanimously elected as president of National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Ltd. Shri Nishad belongs to Bihar and has been associated with

FISHCOPFED since its inception. He was the President of the Federation from 1984 to 1989. He was also a member of General Council of National Cooperative Development Corporation, Central Board of Fisheries and Governing Council of National Cooperative Union of India and a member of Board of National Film and Fine Arts Cooperatives.

New MD of NFIC

Sh. Ajay N. Jha, I.A.S. has taken over the charge of the office of the Managing Director, National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Ltd. New Delhi w.e.f. 1.1.92.

The address of the Federation is as follows:

Sh. Ajay N. Jha, I.A.S.
Managing Director
National Federation of
Industrial Cooperatives Ltd;
4th Floor, Jawaharlal Nehru
National Cooperative Complex
3, Siri Institutional Area
Khel Gaon Marg
New Delhi 16

Bidi workers discover banks

-Role of Women Workers

It is a wednesday morning. The place, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, a group of women can be seen entering the extension counter of the UCO Bank situated in a large shopping complex building. From their appearance it is clear that they are poor and illiterate, belonging to a very low income group. Yet this does not seem to deter them. Self-confident and poised they go to the counter, make their deposits and withdrawals and move away making way for the next batch.

More than a 100 women collect their wages and deposit their savings here every week. For it is pay-day at Jabalpur Women Bidi Workers' Cooperative Society. It is a sign of positive change in the lives of the poor women.

But it was not always like this. The majority of workers engaged in bidi rolling are women, a home-based in-

dustry providing employment to almost a lakh of bidi workers in the district.

Considered largely as a part-time, supplementary activity, it was however in many cases found to be the main support of the family. A survey among 100 women workers revealed that 22 per cent were dependent on the bidi industry for their survival and for another 49 per cent the contribution of bidi income to the total family income was substantial.

Work in the bidi industry is organised through contractors. With few employment opportunities, the women are dependent on the contractors for their livelihood. Taking advantage of this, as well as the unorganized and dispersed nature of work, the industry developed into an exploitative one, the workers being losers on all fronts.

Not only do they not get the Minimum Wage, they lose in many ways such as arbitrary deductions and rejections of bidis (which are sold by the contractors to the manufacturers), penalization for short falls in production resulting from poor quality or less quantity of raw materials distributed and so on, ending up with barely 50 per cent of the due wage. "Even government welfare benefits (from the Ministry of labour's Bidi Workers' Welfare Fund) are denied to us, as the contractors and manufacturers are unwilling to certify that we are "bidi workers on the prescribed forms", says Shakila Bi, a bidi worker of Jabalpur. "They are afraid that if they give us an identity, we may demand all our legal rights".

As early as 1966, the Bidi and Cigar Act was brought into force, to protect the interests of bidi workers. This Act provides for various employment benefits to the workers, such as Provident Fund, bonus, maternity benefit, gratuity, leave wages etc. Manufacturers, however, managed to circumvent this Act quite successfully.

Fed up with their wretched condition and not knowing where their next

meal would come from some of the women bidi workers of Jabalpur decided to organise themselves into an independent production unit based on cooperative principles. The Jabalpur Women Bidi Workers cooperative came into existence from SEWA.

A great deal of paper-work had to be done to organise and register the cooperative, obtain licenses and permits, arrange for space and raw materials. For a small, 20 member society, as many as 600 signatures had to be collected on various forms! It was a frustrating experience of delays and redtapism, complicated procedures and corruption - a prolonged nightmare for the project staff and a challenge to the faith of the worker-members ultimately it paid off and the unit went into action in early 1988.

The members, both Hindus and Muslims, work together in a centralized location throughout the week. "We get our full wages, almost double of what we received from the contractors for the same work", says a member, Sevatabai.

In real terms, working outside their homes in a well-ventilated workshop, has to some extent reduced the health hazard from inhalation of tobacco dust. It has also made their home environment cleaner and tobacco free. They now have access to clean drinking water, sanitary toilet facilities, immunization and child care facilities and a regular health care service, run by the government's Labour Welfare Department.

Each of the members has a bank account into which her weekly wages are directly credited.

It was not so easy. The women initially refused to open bank accounts. The concept was new, an area of which they knew nothing. The bank officials were all men, how could these illiterate women possibly talk to them, or so they feared.

One day Urmila came weeping. her lifetime's savings of about Rs.1500,

kept for building a house had been gambled away by her husband. The women all consulted each other. Fearing that the same could happen to them made them gradually realize that the bank may be a safer place for their savings.

One by one they started coming with dirty little cloth bags, stuffed with coins and crumpled notes. Their savings were considerable but they were not even aware of it. The very awareness of such a support gave them the confidence to bear their economic hardships.

It gave them economic security-a control over their own money.

Saraswathibai's husband used to snatch her earnings and spend it on alcohol, leaving her and the children to starve. Now she never takes any cash home. It is safe in her account. Whenever her household stores are over, she withdraws some money and purchases the goods required.

Kureshabi planned for her daughter's wedding two years in advance, opening an account in which she deposited Rs.50 every month from her savings. She didn't have to borrow from the moneylender for the girl's jewellery and clothes. This was a major achievement. The rates of interest charged by moneylenders and exorbitant-10 per cent a month -and rarely can a woman, who has once borrowed money, extricate herself from the clutches of the moneylender.

Control over their earnings, which were regular, and savings, enhanced their self-confidence. The women were given more respect by the menfolk within their families, and allowed to move freely.

The women in turn wanted to learn more, to strength their position of independence. To read their passbooks, deposit and withdraw money, fill up forms, they had to learn to read and write first, and this they did with gusto.

The recognition of themselves as "Workers" also led to the breaking down of caste and community barriers and has cleared the path for fur-

ther organisation around economic issues. By Nitya Rao who had worked with SEWA in organising the bidi workers.

INDONESIA

IKPN's commercial bank

The Civil Servants Cooperatives' Organization (IKPN) will soon operate a commercial bank named Bank Kesejahteraan Ekoomi. The share holders of the bank would include PT(Persero) Taspen (the state-owned civil servants saving and insurance company) and the pension fund foundations of state-owned PT Asuransi Jasa Raharja and PT Asuransi Ekspor Indonesia. The bank would have an authorized capital of Rp 50 billion (US \$ 25 million) (1 US \$= Rp 2000) Source: JAKARTA POST Dt:24-2-92

Zen-Noh of Japan buys LPG from RI

Pertamina signed a three-year contract agreement yesterday with Zen-Noh of Japan on the sale of 25,000 tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) per annum*. The agreement brings the state oil company's total export commitments to 2.52 million tons a year.

Zen-Noh is Japan's National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives Associations, which has a total turnover of about US \$ 60 million per annum.

JAPAN

Environment Agency Preparing for New Environmental Basic Law

The Director-General of the Environment Agency, Shozaburo Nakamura, has requested the Central Council of Environmental Pollution Control and the Nature Conservation Council to provide him with reports on what kind of environmental policies are needed in the age of globalization. Nakamura made the request to deal with worldwide environmental and pollution issues such as global warming and acid rain. Prior to the United Nations Council for Environmental Development (Global Summit) Con-

ference to be held in Brazil in June this year, the agency aims to conduct drastic reviews of the Basic Law for Environmental Pollution Control, the fundamental law to cope with the international Global Warming Prevention Treaty and Bio-diversity Conservation Treaty that are expected to be signed, and to help in the expansion of environmental cooperation to developing countries.

The current Basic Law for Environmental Pollution Control, enacted in 1967, deals with antipollution measures and nature conservation as two major objectives for the domestic environmental administration. However, as the result of increased economic activity, global environmental issues such as ecological destruction and pollution of the atmosphere and water have become prominent. As an industrialized nation, Japan has a pressing need to review the objectives not only of its environmental policies but also of its social economic policies from the perspective of making an international contribution to environmental protection efforts.

To respond to this need, the agency is also considering establishing an environment Basic Law (a tentative name) to cover various aspects, from antipollution measures to the creation of lifestyle guidelines for using energy.

Following the request from the agency's director-general, the two councils have formed a joint committee to discuss the matter. Items under discussion include: (1) the compilation of national and regional plans to prevent global warming; (2) the introduction of economic measures, such as an environmental tax on the use of fossil fuels; (3) a fund supply system in Japan aimed at supporting environmental measures in developing countries; (4) the expansion of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the environment and participation in liability swaps aimed at nature conservation; and (5) legislation on an environmental impact assessment system.

The agency is seeking the options of both councils concerning organizational reform, including the promotion of the agency to ministry status, said Director-General Nakamura.

Japanese Government Proposes New Environment Centre in Asia

At the International Conference on Coal, the Environment and Development held in Sydney at the end of November 1991, the Japanese government proposed the establishment of an Environmental Technology Centre in Asia. The Conference was organized by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The proposed centre would acquire technological information to help suppress sulfur oxide and nitric oxide emissions and would operate as a technology transfer institution for developing nations that are lagging in pollution control measures.

Demand for energy is rising every year in developing nations, and consumption of coal, mainly for thermal power generation, is forecast to increase further. However, developing countries focus primarily on economic development and lack the technology necessary for environmental protection, such as equipment to eliminate sulfur-laden smoke emissions. It is hoped that the Environmental Technology Centre will contribute to improved awareness of environmental conservation in countries such as the People's Republic of China, where demand for coal is rising rapidly.

Sumitomo Forestry Announces Reforestation Project in Indonesia

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. recently announced that it has launched a reforestation project for tropical timber in East Kalimantan on the Indonesian island of Borneo. The project commences with research on suitable tree varieties for reforestation. The company has allocated an initial budget of Y250 million (\$ 2.0 million) over a period of five years to

plant 100 hectares (247.1 acres) of forest, with a final target of 3,000 hectares (7,413.3 acres).

The project is being carried out on about 500,000 square meters (598,000 square yards) of forest from which the company cut down red lauan for import to Japan during the 1970s.

The company will plant three types of trees during the trial stages of the project: ditterocarps such as red lauan and kapor that can be cut down for use for low-priced products such as wood chips; and fruit trees that are useful in persuading farmers to settle the land and discontinue slash-and-burn methods. The project will also involve research to determine which trees are suitable for various kinds of soils, slopes and altitudes.

The company is sending two researchers to the area; they will work with Professor Satohiko Sasaki of the University of Tokyo's agriculture faculty.

Diagnosing the Global Environment

The Science and Technology Agency of the Prime Minister's Office decided at the end of 1991 to begin measuring global warming and tropical rain forest destruction using satellites and to create a "Global Diagnosis System" to help determine global environmental problems. Following the decision, the agency requested the Council for Aeronautics, Electronics and other Advanced Technologies, an advisory body to the agency's director-general, to submit a report concerning ways and means of implementing the necessary technological development.

The council aims to complete a report in a year's time on the direction that Japan's research and development in this area should take over the next 10 years. The Science and Technology Agency will incorporate the council's spring 1992 interim report guidelines in its forthcoming policy and hopes to make a report to the United Nations Council for Environmental Development (Global Summit) Conference in June this year.

The council will analyze trends in global environmental problems and improve existing systems, such as global observation technology and the dissemination of data thus collected. The council will then create a "global observation scenario." Based on this scenario, the agency will develop an integrated observation technology that uses satellites, ships, aircraft and land-based observation facilities, and a system to promote data communications and review the way in which Japan carries out its international contributions.

The government already compiled "Plans for Research and Development on Science and Technology" in August 1990 and an "Action Program to Arrest Global Warming" in October of the same year. The new Global Diagnosis System is indispensable to the implementation of these plans.

Tree Surgeons Appointed

On December 1, 1991, the Japan Greenery Research and Development Center, an external organization of the Forestry Agency, appointed 76 tree surgeons. A total of 376 people applied for the positions, designed to aid in the protection of treasured giant and ancient trees. Tree surgeons will be registered in each prefecture and will diagnose the condition of and damage to old trees and give guidance on treatment and restoration.

The tree surgeons include landscape gardeners, forestry and greenery officials from local governments and teachers at high schools and universities. All the surgeons have more than seven years of practical experience in tree preservation and research.

ENVIRONMENT: CONSERVATION OF ENERGY THROUGH FUEL EFFICIENCY:

some tips for Motorists

1. Driving at a sensible speed can make a big difference to motorists' petrol costs.

2. It's a misconception to think that speeding will get you to your destination sooner. Tests carried out by the car manufacturers, showed that aggressive drivers took roughly the same time as defensive drivers to reach the same destination, but the trip costs the aggressive drivers almost 40 per cent more fuel.

3. Don't speed: At 110 KM/HR, your car uses up to 25 per cent more fuel than it would when cruising at 90 KM/HR.

4. Avoid bottlenecks and driving in peak-hour traffic. A car moving freely on the road uses less fuel than one caught in stop-go traffic.

5. Try not to make several short trips in your car when one would do. Plan your driving.

6. Select the right gear. Driving in a gear lower than you need is a waste of fuel.

7. It is a fallacy that driving at night with headlights switched off leaving parklights on prolongs battery life. It may, in fact, shorten your precious life. Save energy but not by risking your life.

ZEN-CHU seeks to reduce number of Agricultural Cooperatives

The number of agricultural cooperatives throughout the country will be integrated to about 800, just over one-quarter of the present number. This is less than the original target number, according to the Central Union of Agricultural cooperatives (ZEN-CHU), which has compiled the results of an agricultural cooperative merger concept planned by prefectural unions of agricultural cooperatives in 45 of the country's 47 prefectures-kyoto and kagawa were not included.

At the earliest opportunity, ZEN-CHU hopes to achieve its plan to amalgamate the approximately 3,500 agricultural cooperatives to 1,000, but the plan disclosed by the prefectural unions of agricultural products. Prefectural unions of agricultural cooperatives have been working on

their own merger plans to comply with the ZEN-CHU concept.

MAFF Launches Extensive Review of Food Labeling

The MAFF has begun an extensive review of how food products should be labeled, including the way in which packing dates and preserving methods should be displayed on processed food. Requests from consumers for indications of the ingredients used in food products and the country of origin have been made. There have also been some cases in which both consumers and retailers, seeking very fresh products, have returned products with older packing dates. The review will be a comprehensive study that takes these points into account. The ministry plans shortly to establish a Food issues study Committee made up of about 20 scholars and other experts as well as consumer representatives, select issues to be discussed and decide on the direction that improvements should take. Based on the results of the committee's studies, MAFF plans to draw its final conclusions by about March 1993.

MHW to Conduct Follow-up survey on Postharvest Agricultural Chemicals

The Ministry of Health and Welfare (MHW) has decided to conduct a follow-up survey nationwide from spring this year on five residual postharvest agricultural chemicals, including the insecticide malathion. The ministry set new residual standards on 34 agricultural products. The decision to carry out the survey was made in response to complaints by citizen's groups that the standards are inappropriate. MHW will compare residual standards with actual levels found and will consider cutting standards back even further to match the actual residual levels.

The chemicals in question include malathion and fenitrothion, both used for wheat, and chloropham, used for potatoes. Chemicals selected are for those products of which consumption is high in Japan.

Samples for analysis will be requested from MHW quarantine stations and prefectural governments throughout the country.

MHW has never undertaken any practical survey on these residual chemicals, and it established the new standards in line with international standards such as those set up by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States. The new standards are much more lenient than Japan's previous standards, the criticism has been leveled at the government from consumer groups, consumer cooperatives and the Tokyo Bar Association that the new standards are a step backward for the nation's food safety administration.

MHW Planning to Establish More Residual Agricultural Chemical Standards

MHW, which is working to establish residual agricultural chemical standards, has requested the Food Sanitation investigation Council to examine 20 agricultural chemicals for which new residual standards are being considered. The ministry embarked on revisions of standards last year for the first time in 13 years, and it has already requested the council to examine 41 agricultural chemicals that are currently used on 129 kinds of farm products. The council's joint Committee on Residual Agrichemicals and Toxicity has compiled proposed new residual standards for 34 of these chemicals. The chemicals for which residual standards are to be established in this additional examination by the council bring the total to 81. The 20 agricultural chemicals subject to the council's examinations this time are all used in Japan and include the plant growth adjuster inabenfide, the herbicide esprocalb and the postharvest agricultural chemical etrimfos, an organic phosphorous insecticide used for rapeseed.

Standards have currently been established for 26 agricultural chemicals on 53 kinds of farm produce. The ministry will establish residual standards for about 100 more

agricultural chemicals during this fiscal year.

Group Proposes increasing Food Self-Sufficiency Rate to 60% Recently, the Agricultural Policy Council for the people, a nongovernmental group, proposed to the government and related organizations the following measures: (1) rejection of rice market opening; (2) the raising of the food self-sufficiency rate 60% from the current 48%, on a calorie base; and (3) the setting up of policies to enable the production and consumption of a large variety of foodstuff items. The Council also raised as one of the focuses of agricultural reform a shift in emphasis from sellers' profits to consumers' welfare.

In January 1991, the Agricultural Policy Council for the People, a group of scholars and consumer activists, launched the Safe Food from the Earth in Japan National Movement Promotion Conference, which comprises 48 organizations, including the Japan Federation of Consumer Cooperatives and the Consumers Union of Japan. The conference consists of five members, including Professor Mitsushige Miyamura of Japan Women's University, consumer movement leader Shigeo Oshima and nutritionist Takatoshi Ezashi, and has been studying several major points, including achieving suitable production and supply of rice and ensuring food safety.

ZEN-NOH begins publication of English-Language Quarterly

In February 1992, the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations (ZEN-NOH) began to publish a quarterly newsletter in English, entitled "News and Views -ZEN-NOH." The newsletter is an attempt to strengthen overseas public relations activities.

The English-language newsletter will introduce Japan's agriculture as well as report on business activities conducted by agricultural cooperative members of ZEN-NOH and on ZEN-NOH's activities in general.

Each quarter, 2,000 copies of the newsletter will be published and distributed to government-related institutions overseas, International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) members, the mass media and opinion makers. It will also be used by ZENNOH's overseas offices and related companies.

UNIVERSITY CO-OPS: A driving force for on campus welfare

There are at present, co-ops at 182 universities in Japan, and about 1.05 million students, faculty, and staff are members. They use co-ops in various aspects of campus life, and the co-ops provide them with diversified services to meet their demands, based on the concept that a university is a place for study, education, and research, as well as a place to live. Now, they have become indispensable for university as the driving force for on-campus welfare.

Grown to be indispensable

There were student consumer co-ops, the predecessor of university co-ops, before World War II, but they were dismantled by the government with the progress of militarism in Japan. Immediately after the war, when everything including food, was scarce, many university co-ops came into being. During that period, it was said that learning was eating, and these co-ops began to provide food and notebooks, both essential items for students. Later, in 1953, the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations was organized, and since then many university co-ops have been established throughout Japan. During the seventies and eighties, the number of university co-ops increased and their quality of activities improved through the expansion of co-op facilities and operations, intensified member activities, and building a constructive relationship with universities authorities and regional collaboration among university co-ops. One of the reasons the university co-ops developed in Japan is that the government's budget for education was relatively small and on-campus

welfare was meager. As a result, students, faculty, and staff themselves had to demand welfare and work for it. And as the only organization that includes everyone at a university, university co-ops play an important role in a university's autonomy from viewpoint of improvement of on-campus welfare.

It is also an important aspect of the Japanese co-op movement that many young people, having experienced coop activities during university, took part in the creation of local co-ops after graduation and greatly contributed to their present growth.

For Democratic Control

University co-ops include students, faculty, and staff as members; everybody that makes up a campus community. At present, the organizational ratio is 90 percent student and 10 percent faculty and staff. Generally speaking, students become members by buying share capital when they enter the university. When they leave, after graduation, their payments is returned to them, without interest. As with local consumer co-ops, the supreme decision-making body is the general assembly held once or twice a year. Co-ops with more than, 1,000 members adopt a representative system, and delegates elected from classes and working places attend the general representative assembly bringing with them the requests and views of members. Directors and auditors are elected at the general (representative) assembly. The board of directors is made up of students, faculty, and staff, and either one or two full-time officials. From this group, the chairman of the board and managing and executive directors are elected. In most cases, professors or associate professors act as the chairman and a full time official takes responsibility as managing director. The managing and executive directors make up the executive board. Usually, the board of directors meets once a month, and the executive board, once a week. There are also sectional member committees: the

student committee, faculty and staff committee, and the graduate student committee. They support the board of directors and promote member activities.

Diversified Business Operations

University co-ops are engaged in wide-ranging business activities to support the members' study, educational and research activities, and to improve their working conditions. They are five major divisions of university co-op business:

Books Division

providing stationery, teaching materials, Computers, and other research and study items, as well as furniture, electrical appliances, food, and general merchandise;

Commodity Division

providing stationery, teaching materials, Computers and other research and study items, as well as furniture, electrical appliances, food, and general merchandise;

Service & Travel Division

arranging tours, providing movie and theater tickets, and introducing various vocational schools and driving schools, etc.:

Restaurant Division

managing the cafeteria

Mutual Aid Division

providing insurance in case of accident or sickness. Store and cafeteria facilities required for these businesses are, in most cases, free-rent by the university free of charge. There are suggestion boxes at stores and cafeterias so that members can directly express their opinions and requests. Many improvements have been made based on these suggestions.

By concentrating the purchasing powers of university co-ops from all over Japan, co-ops develop and provide original products that are better in quality, and lower priced. These include basic stationery, pocket com-

puters, and notebooks made from recycled paper.

With a few exceptions, since most university co-ops are small, they have set up federations owned and run by university co-ops in the same region. At present, there are nine regional federations. They make joint purchases of goods, and manage such activities as, accounting, EDP systems operation, staff training, and surveys, for the member co-ops.

Member activities are mainly promoted by the earlier mentioned member committees; one befitting university coops is the reading promotion campaign. This campaign was started in the eighties when faculty members had grave misgivings about how little students were reading books. It was an effort to convey to the student the pleasure and importance of reading. Specifically, the co-ops publish books reviews and hold reading seminars. They also give nutritional guidance and cooking lessons to member students who live alone. Member meetings are held to help prevent automobile and motorcycle accidents, and illnesses and to promote sports and recreational activities. Other activities concern the world outside the campus, such as UNICEF donations, conservation activities including recycling, and the peace movement.

For our Green Earth: JCCU'S Environment 21 project starts JCCU'S Environment 21 Project aims to map out specific activities for the period until the year 2000 for Japanese co-ops, to create an environment-friendly society towards the twenty-first century "global environment-oriented age." These activities include products, members activities, and business endeavors. The project is to create an action plan for realizing the "Co-op's Environmental Conservation Movement, its concept and Guide lines, "the environmental strategy for Japanese Co-ops adopted in March 1991. The planning period is until fiscal 1993 and the years until 2000 are designated as

the implementation period, but plans which are possible to put into effect will be carried out as they come up during the planning period.

With "safety and reliability" as the corporate image, Japanese co-ops have taken the initiative in the field of food safety for many years and the environment21 Project is expected to help the co-op movement to again take the leadership in environmental issues in the ten years until the twenty-first century. The plans for the project will not be confined to co-op circles alone. The administration and concerned corporations will be asked to co-operate as well as the general public, not to mention co-op members; the implementation of the plans will involve many people and organizations.

JCCU has set up the Environment 21 Secretariat in October 1991 for drawing up plans. Also, a consulting contract has been concluded with Japan Eco-Life Center, one of the groups that organize environmental activities involving government, corporations, and citizens. This group, together with the secretariat, forms a task force to coordinate the project as a whole. In December 1991, the Environment 21 Project Committee, made up of scholars and specialists in environmental issues and administrative officials from the Environment Agency and Ministry of Intentional Trade and Industry, was organized in order to discuss details of the plan. The Environment 21 Project Council, an advisory committee to the JCCU Managing Director, made up of noted scholars and specialists on environmental issues and member co-ops' officials in charge of environmental activities, is to be organized during March 1992 to advise on the direction the plans are to take.

Plans will be made separately for (a) products, (b) business operations, (c) reviewing members' lifestyles, and (d) recycling. Project teams have been organized with four eminent Japanese think tanks as consultants to address each field. Investigations and research are underway at

present in order to complete all plans by the end of fiscal 1993 (March 1994).

Consumers' Viewpoint: Safe Food is Consumers' Deepest Wish

At the Food Safety sectional meeting of the 30th National Consumers Congress held in Tokyo in November 1991, the international harmonization of food safety standards, talked about at the GATT Uruguay Round, became the focus of discussion.

The International harmonization of food safety standards has been a topic of discussion since 1981, and was an issue in the negotiations between Japan and America, and Japan and Europe. In 1983, the Japanese government, in an effort to comply with demands to open up the Japanese market, permitted eleven items as food additives for the first time in more than ten years. These included Isopropyl citrate that has never been used in Japan, showing that the measure was clearly in consideration of imported foods. Nationwide movements arose against the relaxation of regulations yielding to pressure from other countries. Consumer groups collected more than eight million signatures, and petitions against regulation relaxation were submitted by more than four hundred municipalities. Promoted by this movement, the JCCU organized the Committee for the Reduction of the Use of Food Additives, and started to demand, from the consumers' standpoint, that certain food additives should be crossed off the list. Efforts were made to remove these additives from co-op products.

News Flash

Four co-operative Federations Present New Year's Appeal on the Environmental Issue

On January 1, 1992, JCCU President Takamura, the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives Chairman Horiuchi, the National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations Chairman Ikejiri, and the National Federation of Forest

Owner's Co-operative Associations chairman Sato announced a joint new-year appeal entitled, "In the First Year of Japanese Co-operative's Environmental Actions."

This appeal demonstrates the recognition that this year's fundamental issue, common to all humankind, is the global environment, as evidenced by the fact that the Earth Summit will be held in June this year in Brazil. The appeal also said, "In conserving the environment, people are urged to work as human beings, transcending national boundaries and ethnic groups, and to seek new ties among themselves." The upcoming ICA Congress, to be held in October, will adopt an ICA Tokyo Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development and Japanese co-ops will announce their environmental action plan. The appeal calls for each of the 25 million co-op members affiliated with the four organizations mentioned above and their officials and staff to implement this action plan. At the same time, it declares the basic stance of the four organizations: to make the best use of their unique characteristics, unite, and take part in the joint environmental conservation movement, based in communities.

Co-ops' Efforts to Maintain Peace

Beginning with the Gulf War and ending with the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States, brought about by the disintegration of the Soviet Union, 1991 was a year of historical events. With the world situation as it is, the PKO (Peace Keeping Operation) Co-operatives Bill was proposed at the Diet as one of Japan's international contribution measures. It proposes to dispatch the Self-Defense Forces of Japan to join with United Nations Peace Keeping Forces. We aroused public opinion against the bill, because it violates Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan: the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

Japanese co-ops protested in many ways, too: (a) announcement of a statement against the PKO Co-operative Bill, (b) discussion meeting about the bill, (c) protest telegrams sent to the Diet, (d) signature campaign against the bill, (e) protest actions in the streets, (f) protest meetings, and (g) protest marches. These were backed up by strong feelings not to send husbands and sons to battlefields and to preserve a peaceful future for our children.

Due to the nationwide protest, the deliberation of the Bill was carried over to the next session. We must observe the Japanese Constitution and contribute to the world in non-military ways. This year we've started peace activities from a global standpoint that deal with the poverty, famine, and environmental issues plaguing the earth. The Japanese Co-operators sincerely hope to work towards preserving this dear and peaceful planet for future generations by networking with the people of the world.

The 25th National Consumer Co-op Congress Held

On November 13, 1991, the 25th National Consumer Coop Congress was held in Tokyo. The theme was "Let's Take a Close Look at Living and the Earth" and 1,300 members gathered to exchange views. Member co-ops reported on their own activities and there were product exhibits as well. The convention began with a keynote report introducing coop environment conservation activities through slides, followed with activity reports for six co-ops. The subjects were: "A survey on acid rain should be conducted nationwide," "What is an environmentally friendly way of life?" and "Report on the waste and recycling survey on all municipalities within the prefecture," etc. Then seven co-ops were officially awarded for expanding membership, promoting steady business undertakings, and contributing to society over the past year. (SOURCE: Japan Agrinfo News Letter

Vol.9 No.6/February 1992)

ZENCHU

With effect from May 15th 1992 Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan has been renamed as JA ZENCHU in short form for purpose of future correspondence. New FAX NO. of CUAC-JAPAN is 81-3-52557358

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

National Agricultural Cooperative Federation

NACF - Suh-Kim exchange positions. Mr. Won-Ho Suh, has taken over as Director General of Research Department of NACF Head office from Yong-Jin Kim who replaced Mr. Suh. ASPACON wishes both success in their respective positions.

NACF

The NACF began to sell a new "Farm Machinery Insurance" policy in January of this year. This new insurance policy was designed to compensate policyholders for physical damage and bodily injuries caused by the operation of farm machinery. The new policy covers only power tillers, and insures the policyholder, family members, and one designated employee, who operate the power tiller.

Though only power tillers are covered by the new policy, the possibility of expanding that coverage to combines and tractors is under consideration at this time.

A special feature of the policy is the free safety check services for insured tillers at the Farm Machinery Service Centres of the agricultural cooperatives.

The new policy was introduced because farmers are exposed to a growing risk of accident due to the increased use of farm machinery to cover the shortage of farm labour. As it is very difficult for farmers to recover from the financial burden stemming from machinery related accident, the new policy will alleviate much of the financial burden associated with related medical and machinery repair cost.

PHILIPPINES

NATCCO PRIMARIES AS ENVIRONMENTALISTS

To pave the way for greater involvement of cooperatives, especially the NATCCO affiliates, in fighting ecological decay, a workshop held during the 14th NATCCO General Assembly in May this year posed two questions to the delegates.

The questions were:

1. What measures/activities are coops doing right now to address the problem of our environment?
2. What measures/activities can coops do to contribute to the solution of the problems of the environment?

The following ideas surfaced from the group:

1. What are coops doing now?
 - a. Saving trees by cutting branches only, and thereby also preventing soil erosion.
 - b. Including teachings in the ecological situation, the values of cleanliness and the use of organic instead of chemical fertilizers in the pre-membership seminar.
 - c. Tree planting in lots owned by members.
 - d. Tree planting as a condition for the approval of membership in some coops.
 - e. Members encouraged to use organic fertilizers
 - f. Campaigning for less use of chemicals and pesticides.
2. What can coops do further?
 - a. Tackle more environmental issues in educational programs.
 - b. give health and sanitation teachings to the community

- c. information sharing on environmental issues through newsletters.
- d. require tree planting for coop membership
- e. provide garbage cans in strategic places
- f. implementation of Bantay-Gubat (Forest Guard) and Bantay-Dagar (sea-Guard) Program in which private citizens or groups help in looking after forests and seas.
- g. setting up of artificial coral reefs.
- h. planting of mangrove trees along coastal areas.
- i. promote greater use of organic fertilizers instead of chemicals and pesticides
- j. formation of task force to link with other organizations
- k. finding sources of funds for environmental protection programs

As a whole, the discussion among the coops during the workshop brought home very good points on how the cooperatives can best become environmentalists. First, with their direct involvement in communities, cooperatives have that advantage of knowing first-hand what environmental measures would suit to their own localities. The coops would also know well how to best implement these measures and to mobilize the members of the coops and communities. Second, the coops

validated their need to work with other groups not only for information-sharing but also to support each other's efforts.

Some of the cooperators present at the assembly were not very optimistic about accomplishing much in the face of certain hindrances. But the more positive attitude prevailed. That is, the environmental task may seem awesome; however, great things start small. And it is certainly better to start environmentalism with one's self, one's coop, one's community, rather than doing nothing at all.

The challenge of the Network

The grim ecological scenario has been presented to the NATCCO Assembly and the cooperators have earnestly responded to the call for action with proposals on what they can do. Some have, in fact, already started way back with their own pitch for the environment.

The seed has been planted for the ecological awareness of cooperators. The different cooperatives may pursue different strategies to take care of nature. It is important, however, to maintain open lines of communication among cooperatives, to conscientiously implement follow-up activities and to sustain to the highest level the determination to never let the Earth go into ruins.

SOURCE: THE COOP SECTOR, Vol. 3 No.4

NEWS FROM OTHER REGION

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE USA

Over the past year Nationwide agents have donated more than 600 high technology alcohol detectors to the law enforcement agencies of 19 states of the USA. Experience to date indicate that the detector is effective. Arrests and convictions of drunken drivers have increased substantially - in some areas the number of arrests

has doubled. Another result which has been reported is that court time has been halved because defendants are pleading guilty after seeking the results of the detector test rather than fighting the charges against them.

It takes less than one minute to test a driver during routine testing. Nor-

mally alcohol contents measured while the driver is talking although a sample of breath can also be taken by asking the driver to blow into a tube attached to the unit. Research has shown that only one drunken driver in 2,000 is actually arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Detectors are expected to increase police identification of drunken drivers by 20 per cent.

Insurance fraud is estimated to cost US insurers \$ 17 billion every year. Nationwide has 73 investigators who are trained to identify and pursue fraudulent claims. Last year more than \$ 14 million of fraudulent claims were identified and stopped.

In May the alleged leader of an automobile insurance claims fraud ring was arrested the authorities were alerted by Nationwide. The ring, believed to consist of 10 to 12 people, had operated for more than

four years in Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina and Georgia. It was extremely difficult to detect because its members possessed fictitious identification cards, birth certificates, driver's licenses and other official documents. They had their own stationery as well as invoices for medical claims. One member used as many as 10 different names.

Nationwide became suspicious when they discovered they had handled two collision claims on the same car under two separate auto insurance policies - one issued to a North Carolina and Georgia resident. Although two different claimants were involved, the reported circumstances of the alleged crash and the damage were the same except for different locations of the "accidents".

This was the third time since October last year that Nationwide inves-

tigators have helped authorities to arrest alleged members of auto claims fraud rings. The previous two operated in Los Angeles. Fifty one people were arrested in the first case and nearly 40 in the second.

SOURCE: International Cooperative Insurance Federation.

ECHO ECHO ECHO
No.2 Nov. 1991

OBITUARY

Mr. K.H. Patil, a veteran cooperative leader, died of heart attack at the time of his kidney transplantation. He was chairman of All India Federation of Cooperative Spinning Mills. He was also associated with ICA. Mr. Patil, was Minister of Cooperation, Rural Development and Panchayatiraj in Karnataka State of India.

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Cooperatives**

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Tree Cooperatives

"The present social forestry programmes often tend to be Govt. forestry for the people, rather than people's own forestry for meeting their needs. The choice of tree species, their propagation, planting, protection and post-harvest utilisation should all be under community control either through village organisations or Tree Cooperatives or under any other acceptable and socio-culturally compatible method of management"

—Dr. M.S. Swaminathan .

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of Dr. Mauritz Bonow)

The ICA DOMUS TRUST, registered in November 1988, was created in the memory of Dr. Karl Daniel Mauritz Bonow (of Sweden), former President of the International Cooperative Alliance (1962-1975). He was one of the pioneers in visualising the essentiality for international aid for the development of the Cooperative Movement as an instrument of socio-economic transformation and development of economy in the developing countries in general, and, for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society in particular. Dr. Mauritz Bonow dedicated his whole life for this cause. He initiated and introduced the idea of Swedish international assistance for cooperatives known as the **Fund Without Boundaries**. He was responsible for the establishment of the ICA Regional Office in Asia and for creating a permanent work-place for the ICA in the Asia-Pacific Region. In recognition of the work and contribution made by him, the present building housing the offices of the ICA Regional office in New Delhi was named **Bonow House** in 1975. And now, the ICA DOMUS TRUST has been established in his memory.

The main objectives of the ICA DOMUS TRUST are, among others, propagation of Cooperative Principles ; promotion of cooperatives ; assist cooperative organisations/movements in encouraging genuine, self-supporting and technically sound cooperative organisations; bringing out publications for the promotion of teaching and study of Cooperation ; undertaking cooperative education and training activities and promoting collaboration between Cooperatives and the State, etc.

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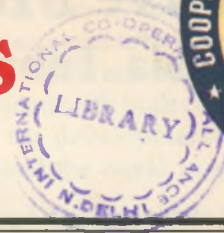
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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

ASIA-PACIFIC COOP NEWS

Special Supplement
January - March 1992



Participating ministers responsible for cooperative development at the inaugural session of the ICA Cooperative Ministers' Conference, Jakarta.

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Second ICA Asia-Pacific Conference of Cooperative Ministers

Jakarta, Indonesia. February 1992

- A REPORT



The second Conference of Ministers Responsible for Cooperative Development on "Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Cooperatives" was held in Jakarta (Indonesia) from 18th to 21st February 1992. 17 ministers responsible for cooperative development representing Afghanistan, Brunei, China, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Tonga participated in the Conference for its entire duration. In all 164 delegates from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and Vietnam attended the Conference. In addition, representatives of international organisations, namely, AARRO, ACCU, ACO, CCA, CCD, DANIDA, FAO, FES, ILO, UNDP and UNESCO attended the Conference.

The Agenda

The following was the agenda of the Conference :

- a. Cooperative-government collaborative strategies with special reference to:
 - a.1 Follow-up of the Sydney Conference Recommendations;
 - a.2 Achievements;
 - a.3 Problem areas;
 - a.4 Regional and national plans of action; and
 - a.5 Laying down guidelines to evolve a practical system of adoption by the cooperative-government relationship to combine cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength.
- b. Basic Values in Cooperatives and Trends in Cooperative Development.
- c. Capital Formation in Cooperatives.
- d. Cooperatives and Environment.



Distinguished participants and guests at the opening session of the Conference at the Merdeka Palace in Jakarta.

President Soeharto Inaugurates the Conference

The Conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, at Presidential Palace. The inaugural session was also attended by Ambassadors of various countries in the region. The President in his speech emphasised that "we do not only need social justice on the national level in our respective countries, but also on a global level among the comity of nations". He further said that existing gap cause wide ranging tensions and conflicts. The President appreciated the Conference plan to discuss the link between the fundamental value of cooperatives and current global trends and expressed "I am sure it will contribute significantly to the creation of a new world order that ensures greater peace, prosperity and common well-being imbued with justice". In his speech President Soeharto made the following points :

"First of all, may I avail myself to this opportunity to extend my warmest welcome to Indonesia to Your Excellencies and Honoured Guests. I do hope that the current Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference will benefit our countries, individually and collectively, because cooperative is indeed an important means in our effort to create the people's prosperity and economic justice. It is precisely the effort to improve the people's well-being which is the main challenge of the majority of nations we are now representing in this conference. Whereas economic justice is increasingly becoming a universal issue.

"Consequently, let us seize this valuable opportunity like this conference to exchange our experience on various issues related to the development of cooperative in our respective countries. Let us also avail ourselves on this occasion to exchange ideas on steps to be taken with view to developing cooperatives in the future. We can feel from today that the future will be filled with both challenges and opportunities, on account of the developments taking place in the Asia-Pacific region and the world in general.

"Cooperative's development as a vehicle of promoting the national economy is a noble mandate of our nation. It is especially provided for in our constitution. One of the articles of our Constitution states that: the economy is managed as a mutual effort based on the familial spirit. Moreover, it goes further that the most suitable form is the cooperative.

"We are well aware that we need diligence, resolve and hard work if we have to develop cooperative. Especially in today's situation where there is such a tough economic competition. Therefore, our founding fathers, since the very outset, have firmly laid down the principle that cooperative constitutes one of the main pillars of our nation's economy, beside the other two, namely state-owned companies and the private sector.

"We hope that we can provide a channel for the people's economic aspirations and potentials through cooperative. Thus, economic growth and its equitable distribution will be



His Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, receiving the ICA Award from Mr. Lars Marcus, President of the ICA at the Merdeka Palace in Jakarta.

more balanced and complementary in nature. We must, consequently, try to see to it that cooperatives grow and develop as the people's movement. Cooperative is from, by and for the people. The first thing that we have to do, therefore, is to raise the people's awareness and confidence that through cooperative they will achieve greater progress in business, they will have a higher income, they will be able to meet their basic needs and they will lead a better life.

"Our nation is seriously striving together with other nations in the various international fora with a view to abolishing the economic gap in the comity of nations. This is the reason why I pay great attention to the holding of this conference which will discuss, among other things, the issue of the fundamental value of cooperative and the global tendencies. I am sure that it will contribute significantly to the creation of a new world order that will ensure greater peace, prosperity and common well-being imbued with justice.

"Evidently we are demanded to translate the fundamental values and principles of cooperative in our respective national economies. Because the realization of social justice cannot be delayed. Growth and equity must go hand-in-hand. We must work even harder to lift up the small people from the abyss of poverty.

"As far as our country is concerned, where the majority of its people live in the villages, the development of cooperative is centralized on the rural areas. Through the village cooperative,

we are trying to facilitate the provision of goods in order to raise the people's productivity and to ensure the distribution of the products to the market. In the meantime, we are also encouraging our sound private enterprises to sell some of its shares to well-run cooperatives. This will undoubtedly strengthen the latter's assets. We believe that these steps are necessary in order to bridge the gap between private enterprises and state-owned companies with strong capital and cooperative with weak capital.

"In conclusion, and by praying to Almighty God for His continued deviance blessings on our endeavours, I hereby declare the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference 1992 officially opened".

At the inaugural function, the ICA President, Mr. Lars Marcus, presented an Award to President Soeharto. The Award stated :

"This award is presented by the International Cooperative Alliance, an International Association of Cooperative Movements, to His Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, in recognition and appreciation of his consistent commitment and significant contribution to the Indonesian Cooperative Movement".

Preceding the inaugural address by the President, Mr. Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives of the Republic of Indonesia, gave a brief account of performance of the Conference. In his report Mr. Arifin said :



President Soeharto having an informal chat with the ICA President, Mr. Lars Marcus, and the participating ministers after the inauguration of the Conference at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta.

"We the delegates of government institutions and several Cooperative Movements in the Asia-Pacific region are gathered here to attend the 2nd Cooperative Ministers Conference hosted by Indonesia. The 1st Cooperative Ministers Conference was held in Sydney Australia in February 1990 under the sponsorship of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

"The theme of this 2nd Conference is "Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Cooperatives during 1990s". We hope that cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region would some day be strong and self-reliant.

"The Conference will be held at Gedung Manggala Wanabakti from the 18th to 21st February 1992. A total of 220 participants will take part in this Conference. Some of the delegates are Ministers and high ranking government officials involved in cooperative development and Cooperative Movements' leaders from 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. 4 countries from Africa are also attending this conference.

"In addition, there will be a Trade Exhibition at Manggala Wanabakti in conjunction with this Conference to promote cooperative trade. On the third day of the Conference, the participants will have a study tour to East Java to visit some of our cooperative institutions.

"Several activities have been conducted in Indonesia in conjunction with the Cooperative Conference. As a follow-up of the 1st Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Sydney, Australia, a cooperative workshop was held in Semarang in July, 1991. This workshop was also in connection with the 44th Cooperative Day Commemoration. During this workshop, several recommendations were made concerning the role of the government, the role of Cooperative Movements, and cooperative network in developing cooperatives. This workshop concluded that the 1st Conference Recommendation concerning cooperation between government and cooperative movements have been an integral part of cooperative development in Indonesia, although we realized that there are still some improvements needed.

"Furthermore, a preparatory Consultation meeting of the 2nd conference attended by 10 countries namely: Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and 5 international organisations namely: ICA ROAP, AARRO, ILO, FAO, CCA and SCC was held in Manila on the 20th to 22nd November 1991.

"The result of this Jakarta Conference will contribute greatly to the world Cooperative Congress to be held in Tokyo in October 1992.

"This Jakarta Conference will have a great influence on cooperative development in Indonesia in particular, and the Asia-Pacific region in general. This Conference is also a good chance to show to the international delegates, the development of cooperatives in Indonesia.



President Soeharto with the participating Ministers and Cooperative Leaders at the Merdeka Palace.



Mr. Bruce Thordason, Executive Director of the ICA greeting President Soeharto.



Mr. Ahmed A. Khalil, Secretary-General of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation greeting President Soeharto.

"May I now request the pleasure of His Excellency President Soeharto, to deliver his inaugural address and officially open this Conference".

Cooperative Trade Exhibition

Mr. Lars Marcus expressed his appreciation of the excellent arrangements made by the Government and the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN) to host the Conference. He also mentioned the progress which the Cooperative Movement has made in the region since the Sydney Conference.

Upon arrival at the Manggala Wanabakti Building, the participants witnessed the opening ceremony of a Cooperative Trade Exhibition. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Ms. Shailaja Acharya, Minister of Agriculture, Nepal, and witnessed by Mr. Bustanil Arifin and Mr. Lars Marcus, President of ICA. An impressive display of products by 45 cooperative institutions in Indonesia and Sri Lanka was arranged by the Conference organizers in the corridors of the Manggala Wanabakti Building.

After the inaugural function, the Conference held its business sessions at the Manggala Wanabakti Building.

Mr. Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives of the Republic of Indonesia, was unanimously elected the Chairman of the Conference.

DEKOPIN President Welcomes the Delegates

Welcoming the delegates on behalf of the Indonesian Cooperative Movement, Dr. Sri Edi Swasono, President of the Dekopin, made the following points:

"I am indeed honoured to welcome you and to address this distinguished Conference of Ministers and high-ranking officials of Governments and top-level leaders of the Cooperative Movements of Asian and Pacific countries.

This conference is the first of its kind to be held in Indonesia, where policy-makers of Governments and Cooperative Movements of this part of the world assembled for the sake of millions of people who are striving for a better tomorrow through the cooperative way.

"As far as Indonesia is concerned, the collaboration of the Government and the Cooperative Movement is, since the beginning of the independence, a must and an unavoidable requirement towards aiming the goals of the Republic.

"The Cooperative Council of Indonesia, DEKOPIN, which is the reflection of the Cooperative Movement, is even of the opinion that Government and the Movement is one in striving for the common ideals of cooperatives, since both are committed to the national consensus as prescribed by the Constitution of the Republic. Even cooperatives and their role may also be mentioned in the constitution of other countries (like the Philippines), probably Indonesia is the only country in the world that have stated in its Constitution that "The economy shall be organised as a mutual endeavour based upon the principle of brotherhood" (Article 33). I further quote: "In this article is laid down the basis of economic democracy, production by all for all, under the leadership or control of the members of the society. It is the prosperity of the individual..... The Cooperative is the form of enterprise in harmony with this".

"Thus the Constitution recognised the Cooperative as the most appropriate form of enterprise for the accomplishment of economic democracy in Indonesia.

"Indonesian Government, under the leadership of President Soeharto, has taken full commitment to this constitutional message. The establishment of Ministry of Cooperatives is under his leadership, to promote and enhance the development of cooperatives in a harmonious partnership with the Indonesian Cooperative Movement. Consequently, the



Delegation from India attending the Conference



Delegation from China attending the Conference

**Hon'ble Shailaja
Acharya
Inaugurates
Cooperative Trade
Exhibition**

An impressive and richly well-designed exhibition of cooperative products was laid out at the venue of the Conference by the Indonesian hosts. 45 cooperative institutions in Indonesia consisting of village level cooperatives, cooperative bank, insurance cooperative organisation, batik cooperatives, and other institutions displayed their products and services. The exhibition also had a well-equipped and well-stocked stall which displayed the products of Sri Lankan cooperatives.

At the invitation of Cooperative Minister of Indonesia, Hon'ble Ms. Shailaja Acharya, Minister of Agriculture of Nepal, inaugurated the Cooperative Trade Exhibition in the presence of ICA President, Mr. Lars Marcus and other distinguished guests.



Hon'ble Ms Shailja Acharya, Minister of Agriculture of Nepal inaugurating the Cooperative Trade Exhibition



A view of a display stall put up at the Cooperative Trade Exhibition



Hon'ble Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi, Minister of Food and Cooperatives, Sri Lanka, seen presenting a gift to Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives of Indonesia.

existence of a Ministry of Cooperatives in Indonesia is a reflection of the legitimacy of the implementation of the constitutional message and at the same time, the prevalence of a solid Cooperative Movement is a necessity and a must.

"The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is already almost 100 years old (one of oldest international institutions of the world), and has successfully accomplished its outstanding mission so far as well. It has become now an even stronger world organisation. It is now the task of us, all members of the ICA, to revitalize and strengthen our ICA to be in a continuous position capable of facing the new emerging challenges and tasks of the fast changing world. In this occasion I would only mention some of the many challenges it is facing, among others:

1. *The democratic momentum that occurs today almost all over the world*

"The world is now witnessing that the democratization has become a necessity, not only in the world's political life but also in economic affairs as well. The world has been made convinced, through the lessons and empirical experiences, that the most desirable approach to development is "to put the people first", the "bottom-up" one, and that the most appropriate development strategy is the "people-centered" or "people-based" strategy, that development is for the people. The respectable criteria for the success of development is not only the economic value-added constituted in the growth of GDP, but the betterment and improvement of the welfare of all people i.e., the social-cultural value-added as well. The new development paradigm is moving toward this, humanity and emancipation and degree of democracy are taken into account, meaning that it is getting closer and closer to our cooperative idealism and concern.

"In Indonesia, President Soeharto, based on the principle of economic democracy of the Indonesian Constitution, and along side with this world trend, had introduced a democratic momentum into the fast growing economy, through an appeal to the private companies to sell up to 25% of their total outstanding shares to cooperatives. The Indonesian Cooperative Movement through the Indonesian Cooperative Council (DEKOPIN) had launched the "partnership pattern" or the "linkage pattern" to foster this momentum neatly. The cooperatives be entitled for purchasing shares in private enterprises are those that have (or could have) business linkages with the respective private enterprise, be it a production linkage (in terms of supply of raw materials), a distribution linkage (in terms of marketing of commodities produced by the enterprise), a territorial linkage (in terms of local community supports and services) or a vocational linkage (in terms of the role of workers' contribution and support to the enterprise, as has been developed successfully in the Western ESOP system). Without a linkage, the ownership of shares by the cooperatives will lose its rational justification as mean to democratise the economy, it could become a case of charity which is contrary to the cooperative values.



Delegates representing the Philippines at the Conference.



A view of the Iranian delegates attending the Conference.



Delegates from the ILO attending the Conference, Mr Jurgens Von Muralt, Director ILO is on the right.

Democratization of the private company is relevant to the position of workers as legitimate participants in the production. They are not factors of production only but partners in production, so that according to cooperative principle or basic cooperative values, the surplus should be distributed justly according to the deed or transactions among both parties. This economic democratization would become an ideal and in the same time pragmatical model to avoid cooperatives from being called utopia.

2. *The globalization in economy*

"The other relevant response is the globalisation in economy. Many cooperators indicated this as dangers or threats to cooperatives and tend to exclude themselves from this going process. The DEKOPIN, on the contrary, considers this new era as a momentum too, as an opportunity to participate in the global process, through an active role in global management and decision making. Our main effort should be to deter globalisation becoming a process of domination of the economically strong upon the weak, which may result the economically weak depending on the strong. The concern of the Cooperative Movement is how to manage the rapid process of economic globalisation into a process of a just and prosperous economic interdependency among nations, not a dependency. Big, efficient and strong corporations are sometimes considered necessary to win the globalisation. If this is true, our concern is then how to introduce harmoniously the system of co-ownership and co-determination of big corporations for our cooperative favour. The Cooperative Movement should respond positively to this by offering a system of co-responsibility to give soul to the partnership.

3. *The position of the Cooperative Sector in national economy*

"The third challenge the Cooperative Sector is facing today is its position in economy, whereas cooperative system should play its role as an integral part of the national economy and not appear as a subordinated economic entity.

"In this regard, we would seek an answer on how dairy farmers could gain and share the progress of big dairy industries; and how coconut planters could benefit from the progress of cooking oil industries, and how fishermen could benefit and take part in the development of fish canning industries; and how tobacco growers could earn more economic value-added from cigarette factories; and how sugarcane planters could share high margin from the profits of big sugar factories etc.

"The ICA and the distinguished Ministers and the other top-level government officials, through this conference could play their role in finding ways and providing policy recommendations to make people's economy a solid, progressive and strong integral part of national economy. In this regard it becomes necessary to implement the restructuring programme through reallocation of development funds and other infrastructural resources in favour of the economically weak.

Consistent commitment and significant contribution of President Soeharto to the Indonesian Cooperative Movement recognised

President Soeharto has been an ardent supporter of cooperatives. Through his actions and deeds, President Soeharto has tried to spread the concept of Cooperation and strengthen the cooperative structure in Indonesia. In recognition of his valuable contribution to the Cooperative Movement in Indonesia, the International Cooperative Alliance, presented an Award to him at the time of the inauguration of the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference. The Award, presented to him by ICA President, Mr Lars Marcus, stated:

"This Award is presented by the International Cooperative Alliance, an international association of cooperative movements, to His Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, in recognition and appreciation of his consistent commitment and significant contribution to the Indonesian Cooperative Movement".

The Award was presented to the President at Merdeka Palace in the presence of Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives, and the distinguished delegates attending the Conference.

"Stronger and more action-oriented cooperations among ICA members, with the supports of governments of our countries, should be the answer to face the challenges of globalisation. Economic and business potentials of our cooperatives should urgently be identified into economic and business matrices, in order to enable us to draw out cooperative economic and business networks. This is what DEKOPIN is now doing with the Japanese ZEN-NOH, and soon, in a more continuous pattern, with the Canadian, Denmark, Australian and Singaporean Cooperative Movements. I am sure that this conference will respond to this idea and will provide all of us with framework to foster "coop to coop trade" among the members within and outside this region.

"Based on our cooperative values, let us realise that our competitive strength is very much dependent upon our ability to exercise mutuality and cooperation into practices. We have to realise how that before we could perform meaningful cooperation, we have to master the method, the approach and most important of all, the skill to cooperate. We have to develop this skill together.

"I wish your excellencies and leaders of Cooperative Movements and other participants every success in your deliberations".

After adoption of the formal agenda and methodology of the Conference, the Ministers, representatives of cooperatives and international organisations made their statements.

ICA Regional Director's Report

Presenting his report to the Conference the ICA Regional Director, Mr. G.K. Sharma, made the following points:

"The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, which was established in 1960, presently covers 55 national level cooperative organisations from 18 countries. The countries covered are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, People's Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Democratic Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. In this Conference, in addition to members from the Region, we have delegates from Brunei, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Nepal and Tonga also. We have also delegates from international organisations like FAO, AARRO, ILO, UNDP, Asian Confederation of Credit Unions as also Canadian Cooperative Association, Danish Cooperative Centre and FES-Germany.

"I am happy to report that since the Sydney Conference the Recommendations of the Conference have been well followed up in most countries. The Regional Office had planned 5 follow-up national workshops in collaboration with the concerned governments and national organisations in Fiji, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. They all have been held as planned in which the follow-up of the Sydney



Hon'ble M. Ramachandran, Minister of State for Agriculture & Cooperation, India, addressing the Conference.



Hon'ble Ms Shailaja Acharya, Minister of Agriculture, Nepal and Hon'ble Kinikinilau Totoatasi Fakafanua, Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industries of the Kingdom of Tonga attending the Conference.



Hon'ble Jagdishwar Goburdhun, Minister of Cooperatives and Handicrafts, Mauritius, addressing the Conference.

Recommendations were reviewed. In addition, we have also received follow-up reports from Governments and National Cooperative Organisations (NCOs) from many other countries.

"The main objectives of the ICA Regional Office is to help in the development of a strong, self-reliant, democratic Cooperative Movement in the Region. Historically, the Asian Cooperative Movements have been joint efforts of governments and cooperative leaders. Cooperative Movement did not develop as a member-based peoples' movement as had happened in the West. Even where the initiative came from people it had to work under specific Government Regulations. Governments in most countries provided liberal financial assistance. This assistance along with guidance and direction from cooperative departments changed the basic character of cooperatives in the Region. Not only people at large, but also the members of cooperatives started treating cooperatives as Government organisations rather than the institutions of their own. Cooperative initiatives also looked more towards governments than to their members and did not make enough efforts to be self-reliant and autonomous which are the necessary ingredients for genuine cooperatives. To create the spirit of self-reliance and make them autonomous organisations is a challenge now faced by the cooperative leadership in which government support is essential and important.

"Cooperatives are basically economic organisations but they have to follow certain basic values. The belief in these basic values make them different from other types of commercial organisations. Mr. Lars Marcus, President of the ICA, will speak tomorrow on the subject of Basic Values to you.

"Further, cooperatives must work as instruments of change - change in the life of its members and change in the society at large - a change for the good, a forward-looking change. If cooperatives cannot be forward looking and adapt to the changes, they will lose relevance and acceptability by the people.

"The ICA has been making efforts to make cooperatives realize and foresee these coming changes through exchanges, workshops, conferences etc. In these efforts the ICA has been fortunate in getting support from its development partners, which include governments, international and national agencies and stronger Cooperative Movements. Particular mention can be made of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (CUAC) and the Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union (JCCU) of Japan, Australian Association of Cooperatives and Government of Australia from the Region and Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) and Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA) from outside our region. With the ILO, FAO and AARRO also we have good collaboration.



Hon'ble Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi, Minister of Food and Cooperatives, Sri Lanka, addressing the Conference.



Gen A.S. Lozada, Chairman of the ICA Regional Council in conversation with Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin.



The Delegation from Malaysia with the Chairman of the Conference.

"I am also happy to report that our member-organisations have realized the need to help each other in exchange of their successful experiences. Australia, China, India, Republic of Korea and Singapore have agreed to support and meet the local costs of Regional Workshops to be held in these countries on the specific subject which are of relevance to other countries of the Region. This is a very encouraging development.

"Realizing the strong involvement of cooperative institutions in national development programmes in Asia and the Pacific, greater cooperative membership of this Region in the ICA structure, the relevance of cooperative institutions in the economies of this Region, the ICA had for the first time in its history, in Asia held its Central Committee in New Delhi, India, in October 1989 and now the 30th International Cooperative Congress is planned to be held in Japan in October 1992. With the assistance of its member organisations, governments and its development partners, the ICA ROAP carries out a number of technical assistance programmes aimed at strengthening the Cooperative infra-structure.

"In the Regional Office, we have a very competent team of professionals coming from People's Republic of China, India, Sri Lanka, Finland and Thailand. They have been working very hard and with a strong commitment. They are responsible for planned project activities in their respective sectors of the Cooperative Movement in the Region.

"While concluding, I would like to say that the Asian Pacific Cooperative Movement now stands at a crucial point. It represents two-third of the global cooperative membership. If Asian Movement can be strong and adapt to the changing needs of the time it can help in bringing stability, peace and prosperity not only to its members but to the people at large. Let all of us work hard and contribute our best for this worthy cause".

Mr. Lars Marcus presented his address on "Basic Values in Cooperatives and Trends in Cooperative Development". The subject of "Capital Formation in Cooperatives" was introduced by Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Executive Director, ICA. On "Cooperatives and Environment" a detailed review was presented by Mr. Tadafumi Yoshida and Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki from Japan.

The Conference inter-alia considered the recommendations of the Manila Consultation of Permanent Secretaries of Cooperatives held at Manila (Philippines) from 20 to 22 November 1991.



Mr. Chung Ki Soo, Dy Chairman and Mr. Won Ho Suh, Director-General of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of the Republic of Korea attending the Conference.



Delegates from Bangladesh at the Conference : Mr Salahuddin Ahmed MP (r) and Mr. Sahid Ullah.



Chairman of the Conference, Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin together with Mr G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

-1992 Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference - Indonesia

Now Available from :

ICA DOMUS TRUST, New Delhi

Conference Observations & Recommendations

The following are the observations and recommendations of the Conference:

General Observations

01. The Conference expressed gratitude to His Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, for inaugurating the Conference and extending hospitality to the delegates.

02. The Conference appreciated the follow-up action taken by the ICA ROAP as a follow-up of the Sydney Conference recommendations and Action Plan for 1990s in holding workshops in Fiji, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand as per the mandate of the Sydney Conference.

03. The Conference appreciated the excellent arrangements made by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN) and the key role played by the Minister of Cooperatives of Indonesia in facilitating the work of the Conference in Jakarta.

Guidelines to Evolve a Practical System of Cooperative-Government Relationships

04. The Conference considered and endorsed the guidelines formulated by the ICA ROAP in regard to integration of cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength. The Conference identified and recommended the following role for the government, cooperatives and international organisations :

Role of the Government

05. Governments collaboration in cooperative development is vital to strengthen cooperative values in several ways, particularly providing appropriate cooperative legislation and administrative policies.

06. The cooperative values need to be safeguarded while extending government financial and other assistance to the cooperatives.

07. The Conference took note of the governments objectives of cooperative development in various countries.

08. The Conference took note of the various approaches developed in different countries to achieve the socio-economic objectives. The Conference recommended that a planned combination of various approaches be evolved in various countries according to local situation and requirements for the extension of Cooperative Principles and greater absorption of cooperative values.

09. The Conference recognised the role of the government in the creation of a conducive environment for the implementation of various programmes allowing cooperatives



Hon'ble Takao Jinnouchi, Parliamentary Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Government of Japan addressing the Conference.



Hon'ble Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan, Minister of State for Cooperatives and Forestry of Pakistan addressing the Conference.



Delegates from Thailand. In the centre is Mr Anan Chamnankit, President of the Cooperative League of Thailand.

to diversify so as to achieve the projected objectives and goals. The conference recommended the following measures in this regard :-

- a) to support the publicity campaigns undertaken by the cooperatives to develop understanding about cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength in the cooperatives.
- b) continuing dialogue with the cooperatives to secure support and reaffirm faith of the executive heads of the government in the potentials of cooperatives.
- c) to encourage extensive mass media coverage of the role played by cooperatives in the socio-economic development for the purpose of educating the general public as to the potential of cooperatives.

10. The Conference recognised the role of government in enhancing competitive strength in the cooperatives so as to withstand competition in the market. It recommended that the governments in respective countries formulate suitable fiscal and other policies more supportive of cooperatives which may be required for greater competitive strength.

11. The Conference felt that to ensure greater functional efficiency, it was essential to promote professional management in cooperatives. It recommended that adequate measures should be taken by the movement with the support of the government to strengthen human resource development.

12. The Conference took note of the financial strains faced by cooperatives in some countries. It recommended that the governments support measures taken by cooperatives to ensure their sustainability at all levels.

13. The Conference took note of the increasing trend towards privatisation and de-regulation in the policies of the governments. The Conference recommended that the cooperatives be given the advantage accruing from each policies and also to ensure that the new economic environment does not impair the progress of cooperatives in any manner.

14. The Conference further recommended that de-regulation also be extended to cooperatives.

15. The Conference considered adoption of modern technology necessary to enhance the competitive strength of cooperatives. It recommended that the government facilitates its adoption by cooperatives at all levels.

16. The Conference acknowledged that planning should be the primary responsibility of each cooperative. The government's technical and other assistance be made available as required.

Role of Cooperatives

17. Cooperatives have to play a conscious role in the propagation, promotion and strengthening of values. It is an important responsibility of each cooperative to educate its members about the concept and essentiality of cooperative



Delegates from Australia in conversation with the Chairman of Conference.



Dr R.C. Dwivedi, ICA Consultant with Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin.



Delegates from Indonesia attending the Conference.

values. The working of cooperatives ought to reflect the values. The bye-laws should specifically provide for value-oriented operations of cooperatives. The education and training courses for various categories of office-bearers and employees include discussion on cooperative values.

18. Cooperative values need to be safeguarded and maintained while accepting government financial and other assistance.

19. Cooperatives need to undertake education, publicity and intensive campaigning to educate the members and general public about the socio-economic objectives of cooperatives.

20. The projection and realization of long-term objective depend to a great extent upon the performance of promotional unions or federations within the cooperative structure itself. The conference noted that these were weak organizationally, financially, and professionally. In many cases they depended upon government financing. The conference recommended that due support be given to make them strong.

21. In order to develop competitive strength cooperatives need to avoid and kind of financial/material waste.

22. The Conference recognised that the competitive strength of cooperatives depended upon integrated working of the cooperatives both horizontally and vertically and recommended that the principle of cooperation among cooperatives be operationally strengthened.

Areas of Emphasis

23. Keeping in view the national objectives of cooperative development, the conference recommended greater diversification of cooperatives to various fields of economic activities particularly in the direction of alleviation of poverty in the rural and urban areas and promotion of consumers welfare.

24. The conference recommended that greater attention be given to the production of value-added goods to ensure better prices to the farmers. It further recommended in this context that the cooperatives should adopt modern technology.

25. The Conference took note of the various approaches developed in the different countries for economic development such as general scheme approach, project approach, area approach, group target approach, etc. It recommended that a planned combination for various approaches may be evolved.

26. The Conference recommended that steps should be taken by cooperatives to promote and develop international trade on cooperative to cooperative basis within and outside the countries of the region.

27. The Conference took note of various models in different countries in regard to relationships between the cooperatives and the private sector enterprises, including participation of



Hon'ble Pehin Dato Haji bin Ibrahim, Minister of Home Affairs of Brunei addressing the Conference.



A section of the distinguished participants at the Conference.



Delegates from Vietnam attending the Conference.

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cooperatives in the equity capital of joint-stock companies as provided in Indonesia. The conference, however, was of the view that cooperatives may subscribe to the equity capital of private enterprises, but the latter should not be allowed to subscribe to the equity capital of cooperatives without proper safeguards. It was further suggested that in the context of the international trade developments, cooperatives may consider to set up joint-ventures in collaboration with private enterprises to develop their competitive strength and to better service their members.

28. The Conference recommended that cooperation should be integrated at various levels in the syllabi of general educational system.

29. The Conference recognised that there need be no compulsion on cooperatives to invest their funds outside cooperative enterprises to facilitate availability of funds within the cooperative framework. This will also promote independence and autonomy of the cooperatives.

30. The Conference took note of the steps taken by the various governments to amend their cooperative legislation, keeping in view the spirit of Sydney Recommendation. The conference recommended that needed legislative changes be carried out expeditiously.

31. The Conference took note of a weak condition of many primary cooperative societies and recognizing that primaries being the base of the entire cooperative structure, the conference recommended that adequate measures be taken to strengthen them.

32. The Conference emphasised that education of members and general public in the concept and potential of cooperatives is vital for the success of cooperatives. It, therefore, recommended that cooperative education programmes be strengthened at all levels. In pursuance of the efforts in cooperative education the ACO group proposed the setting up of centres of excellence, with the assistance of the international agencies, in the various cooperative institutions in the Asean Region. The Conference emphasised that special education programmes be developed and promoted for women and youth.

33. Agriculture is the dominating sector of economy of most of the developing countries of the Asia and the Pacific region. The conference recommended that development and strengthening of agricultural cooperatives be given due attention.

34. The Conference recommended that cooperatives have both economic and social objectives. It recommended that the progress of these objectives of cooperatives be assessed from time to time, in order to project the image of cooperatives and set new directions. The conference also recognised the need of cooperatives to organise activities for the promotion of the social welfare of the community at large within the area of their operation, such as building of educational and

The Conference meets again in Sri Lanka

The next Conference of Cooperative Ministers will now be held in Sri Lanka. A number of invitations were extended by the participating countries to hold the next Conference. The Conference took note of these offers with great appreciation. The Conference, after a brief discussion, decided to accept with thanks the invitation extended by Hon'ble Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi, Minister of Food and Cooperatives, Sri Lanka, to hold the next Conference in Sri Lanka.

It was left to the ICA ROAP secretariat to discuss with the Sri Lankan authorities and Cooperative Movement to decide on the venue and timing of the Conference.

"... cooperative is indeed an important means in our effort to create the people's prosperity and economic justice".

- President Soeharto

ASIA - PACIFIC COOP NEWS

- Special Supplement

Jan. - March, 1992

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medical facilities, organisation of cultural activities, education in social hygiene, promotion of functional literacy, rural sanitation and environment protection, etc. In this context the conference also took note of the social costs and benefit analysis being adopted in some countries.

35. The Conference recommended that programmes for a greater involvement of youth and women in the management and operations of cooperatives be formulated.

Infrastructure to facilitate Cooperative Development

36. The Conference observed that in order to implement various programmes/shares for the development of cooperatives, adequate and efficient infrastructure was necessary and measures be taken in this direction.

37. In order to meet the financial needs of cooperatives, national cooperative financing institutions be allowed to be established by cooperatives within the monetary framework of the country concerned.

38. The Conference recommended that a data bank be built up by government/movement or jointly by both.

39. The Conference emphasised the need to build/strengthen research in the cooperative sector. It recommended that necessary infrastructure be built for this purpose.

Role of International Organisations

40. The need of more international assistance was emphasised. In view of this, the Conference suggested that international organisations and donor agencies assist cooperatives in the region in the transfer and building of technology and know-how. The services of the ICA ROAP be available to cooperatives as well as international organizations for this purpose.

41. The Conference noted that international organisations at times insist on certain structural changes as a condition when providing assistance to cooperatives, and that these conditions create certain problems and difficulties. The conference recommended that international organisations be flexible in their approach by taking into account the local situation, environment and other factors while providing assistance.

42. The Conference appreciated the steps taken by the ILO to review its recommendation No.127 in view of various changes and developments in the cooperative field and government policies.

43. The Conference recommended that a Committee of the Ministers of Cooperatives of Asean countries may be set up to foster greater coordination among the cooperatives of Asean countries.

Fund for Cooperative Ministers' Conference

44. The Conference recognised the importance of the



Terima Kasih Indonesia - ICA President Lars Marcus conveys the thanks of the ICA to Indonesian hosts by presenting a bouquet to one of the participants of the Indonesia Cultural Night Programme.

Terima Kasih Gerakan Koperasi Indonesia ...

Thank you, Cooperative Movement of Indonesia, as they would say. The arrangements made by the Indonesian hosts for the Conference and its delegates were complete, comprehensive and foolproof. The team spirit and sense of dedication exhibited by the cooperative staff of the Ministry and cooperative organisations in looking after the comfort of the delegates was simply wonderful. The arrangements made at the airport for the reception of delegates and lodging them in various hotels in the town were flawless. The decor of the Conference hall was fantastic, and the spread of cultural events abundant. Special arrangements made for transporting the delegates from their respective hotels to the Conference venue were as if a royal caravan was on the move to a special ceremony. The ministers participating in the Conference were provided with comfortable chauffer-driven vehicles with security and protocol facilities.

The prime mover of practical arrangements was the Ministry Secretary-General, Professor Dr Wagiono Ismangil, and his staff which was adequately supported by volunteers from the DEKOPIN and other cooperative institutions.

The rainbow flag was fluttering gracefully and with pride all over the Senayan and Manggala Wanabakit complex. The secretariat of the Conference worked day and night, looking after all sorts of petty and big matters, and of course, with a smile! When the Conference concluded on Friday, February 21, 1992, the delegates had nothing on their lips and thoughts, except Terimakasih Indonesia, Terimakasih Gerakan Koperasi Indonesia.

Everyone left Indonesia happily and with a lot of pleasant memories and with a world of appreciation for Bapak Bustanil Arifin for his invitation well accomplished.

Ministers' Conference as its recommendations greatly helped the governments and the national cooperative organisations in building conducive environment for the development of cooperatives.

45. The Conference felt the need of meeting of the ministers periodically for the review of the development of cooperatives.

46. The Conference accepted the need to build financial resources to follow-up and continue conference activities. It recommended that the governments and cooperatives in the region contribute to meet the required finance. The ICA ROAP was asked to work out modalities of the Fund.

47. The Conference further clarified that the contribution will be on voluntary basis.

48. The Conference noted with high appreciation the announcements of voluntary contributions to the Fund by Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, a sum of US\$25,000 and by Hon'ble Dato Khalid Yunus, Deputy Minister for Lands and Cooperative Development of the Government of Malaysia, a sum of US\$20,000.

Capital Formation in Cooperatives

49. The Conference noted the various examples on capital formation by cooperatives and looked forward to the discussions at the ensuing ICA Tokyo Congress.

Cooperatives and Environment

50. The Conference took note of the importance being given by the cooperatives in regard to protection of environment and promotion of ecological plans by cooperatives in various ways. The Conference appreciated such activities in view of the present situation of environmental degradation. The Conference recommended to develop more intensive environment-related awareness activities by cooperatives.

Venue of Next Conference

51. A number of invitations were extended by the participating countries to hold the next Conference. The Conference took note of these offers with great appreciation. The Conference, after a brief discussion, decided to accept with thanks the invitation extended by Hon'ble Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi, Minister of Food and Cooperatives, Sri Lanka, to hold the next Conference in Sri Lanka.

Vote of Thanks to Indonesian Hosts

52. The Conference expressed its high appreciation, thanks and deep gratitude to Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives, Indonesia, Chairman of the Conference, and the host Cooperative Movement of Indonesia, for making elaborate arrangements for the participants and work of the Conference held in Jakarta, February 18-21, 1992.

Fund established to Institutionalize the Ministers' Forum - Voluntary Contributions Announced

The Jakarta Conference recognised the importance of the Ministers' Conference as its recommendations greatly helped the government and the national cooperative organisations in building conducive environment for the development of cooperatives. The 1990 Sydney Conference had made a set of comprehensive recommendations for national follow-up. The Jakarta Conference felt the need of meeting of the ministers periodically for the review of the development of cooperatives.

The 1992 Conference accepted the need to build financial resources to follow-up and continue Conference activities. It recommended that the governments and cooperatives in the Region contribute to meet the required finances. These contributions would be on voluntary basis.

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The announcement of contributions on the floor of the Conference and at the time of the discussions on the agenda itself, goes to strengthen the fact that the efforts of the ICA in the process of cooperative development in the Region are held in high esteems.

From Sydney to Jakarta and now on way to Sri Lanka

The first Conference of Cooperative Ministers was held by the ICA in Sydney (Australia) in February 1990 in collaboration with the Australian Association of Cooperatives and with the active support of the Federal Government of Australia. It was attended by 11 ministers in-charge of cooperative development and 85 senior level representatives of cooperative organisations and international agencies. 18 countries and 10 international organisations took part in the Sydney Conference.

The Sydney Conference had adopted and released a Declaration known as "Sydney Declaration of Cooperative Development". In addition, the Conference had also made a set of recommendations including an Action Plan for 1990s.

In order to follow-up the recommendations of the Sydney Conference, the ICA ROAP developed a strategy of an intensive inter-action with its member-organisations and the governments concerned in the Region. The strategy included: i) organisation of five national level follow-up workshops on the subject in Fiji, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand; ii) contacts with senior level government officials and cooperative leaders; iii) inviting written follow-up reports; and iv) review of general documents and correspondence. A comprehensive regional paper was prepared by the ICA ROAP on the basis of the above follow-up activities and

presented at the Regional Consultation that was held in Manila, November 1991. The Regional Consultation, a preparatory forum for the Ministers' Conference, made comprehensive recommendations for the consideration of the Jakarta 1992-Conference.

The Jakarta Conference held exactly after two years was attended by 17 ministers responsible for cooperative development representing 16 countries. In all 164 delegates representing cooperative institutions in 23 countries and 11 international organisations participated in the 1992 Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference, Jakarta, February 18-21, 1992. The Conference was held by the ICA ROAP in collaboration with the National Cooperative Council of Indonesia-Dekopin, and the Ministry of Cooperatives of the Government of Indonesia at the specific invitation of Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives. The invitation was extended by him at Sydney.

Jakarta Conference recommendations, by and large, have endorsed the line of thinking of the Sydney Conference and impressed upon the Movements and the Governments to accelerate the process of development of genuine cooperative institutions. The forthcoming Sri Lanka Conference will, of course, take stock of the follow-up action now to be taken by Cooperative Movements and Governments.

"The first thing that we have to do, therefore, is to raise the people's awareness and confidence that through cooperatives they will achieve greater progress in business, they will have a higher income, they will be able to meet their basic needs and they will lead a better life".

- President Soeharto

"I am sure that it (the Conference) will contribute significantly to the creation of a new world order that ensures greater peace, prosperity and common well-being imbued with justice".

- President Soeharto



YOUR LIFE IN YOUR HANDS

* Raw materials are being used at a vast rate to make the things we buy. The earth's resources cannot last forever. Oil is formed over millions of years yet we are using it so fast that one day it will run out. Without oil, we will have to think of new ways of making fuel for cars and of making plastics. Not only do we need to cut down on the amount of resources we use so that they last longer but we must also reduce pollution.

* Pollution is caused every time we use things. Driving a car or even using a coal or electric fire results in the formation of gases. Some of which can damage health, the ozone layer, cause acid rain ... By cutting down on the amount of energy we all use and the chemicals used at home and work, we can reduce the amount of pollution finding its way into our air, rivers and food.

* Human welfare can be best protected by looking after the environment. We also need to ensure that the food and water we consume is fresh and wholesome.

* Animal welfare is often infringed by humans looking after their own welfare, be it as food or in the process of clearing rain forests to make land available for farming.



ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

Issue No 2

April - June, 1992

International Cooperative Alliance

70th International Cooperative Day Message from the International Cooperative Alliance Basic Values and Global Solidarity

Over 600 million individuals around the world make up the international cooperative movement, which is now more pluralistic and international than ever before. But, despite their large number, cooperatives cannot be strong moral force and a powerful movement for economic and social change without their own well-formulated and consistent value system.

As the cooperative movement prepares to enter the 21st century it has been looking within itself to reassess its system of values and to analyze its working principles in response to the new challenges facing cooperatives today.

Following four years of extensive research and consultations with cooperative leaders worldwide, our report on "Basic Values in a Changing World" will be presented to the ICA Congress in Tokyo in October.

The report emphasizes the values of equality and equity, voluntary and mutual self-help

and economic and social emancipation.

Although it concedes that these values will be interpreted differently in various part of the world on the basis of specific political, economic and cultural conditions, it stresses that cooperative ideals have always been motivated by basic ethics of honesty, caring, democracy and constructiveness.

The report concludes that cooperatives should consider themselves as organisations for meeting economic needs, participatory democracy, human resource development, social responsibility and national and international cooperation.

These characteristics are the essence of the cooperative way.

The International Cooperative Alliance calls on its 600 million individual cooperative members to reaffirm their commitment to the Basic Values of Cooperation, and especially to the common denominator of cooperatives worldwide-global solidarity.

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Support ASPACON, feeding with news and events in your country and organisation. We also invite your suggestions and opinion to further improve ASPACON.
—Editor

Highlights of ROAP Project Activities

1. ICA-India Regional Seminar on Integrated Cooperative Development through Agro-Processing.

An ICA-INDIA Regional Seminar on Integrated Cooperative Development Through Agro-Processing was organised by the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VMNICM) in Pune in collaboration with Government of India; National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Centre for International Cooperation and Training in Agricultural Banking (CICTAB) from 13th to 30th April 1992. 13 participants from six countries, i.e. China, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam attended the seminar. Mr. Chamras Ungkarpla-ong, Deputy Director-General of Cooperative Promotion Department, Government of Thailand, attended the seminar for one week as observer. The objectives of the seminar were :-

- (a) To understand the structure of the Indian Cooperative Movement with special reference to the Agricultural Cooperatives with particular exposure to their Marketing and Agro-Processing Activities.
- (b) To understand the processes of the evolution of the

Agro-Processing Cooperatives in India - the crucial factors and the critical phases of their development.

- (c) To understand the importance of vertical and horizontal integration in Agro-Processing Cooperatives Structures.
- (d) To learn and understand the socio-economic impact of Integrated Cooperative Development on rural community.
- (e) To be able to apply the concept of Integrated Cooperative Development Approach to rural and cooperative development.

Inaugurating the seminar Mr. K.C. Srivastava, Director of VMNICM emphasised the importance of value addition activities of the cooperatives in marketing and processing of agricultural commodities.

Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Senior Development Advisor, ICA ROAP, and Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Cooperative Development Advisor, ICA ROAP provided academic guidance for the conduct of the seminar. Resource persons from National Cooperative Development Corporation; National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development; National Dairy Development Board and National Federations in the cooperative agro processing sectors like milk, sugar, oil

seeds, cotton, fruits and vegetables gave an overview of the organisation and management of these sectors in India.

The faculty members of the VMNICM had prepared field based cases studies of selected agro-processing cooperatives in Kolhapur District in Maharashtra State and Baroda and Anand in Gujarat State to give the participants an opportunity to see the agro processing.

Number of films on the activities of agro-processing cooperatives were screened for the benefit on the participants. The penultimate day of the seminar a workshop on Replication of the relevant Indian Cooperative Agro-Processing models in the participating countries was held which brought out action programmes for implementation.

ICA/ACFSMC Regional Seminar on Agro-Processing

An ICA/ACFSMC Regional Seminar on Agro-Processing was organised by the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) and the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives in collaboration with Jiangsu Provincial Union of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (JPUSMC) from 8th to 20th June 1992. Eleven participants from seven countries, i.e. India, Indonesia,

Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the seminar.

The objectives of the seminar were :-

To observe the development of agro-processing cooperatives in rural areas in China; to understand the structure and activities of agro processing cooperatives in China; to learn management of agro-processing cooperatives; to identify potential areas for future cooperation on agro processing among agricultural cooperatives in the region; and to formulate action plans for the participants organisations.

The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Zhou Xiu De, Director, Jiangsu Provincial Union of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives. Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Senior Development Advisor, ICA ROAP, gave a brief account of the background and methodology of the seminar. The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. Liu Xing, Chief of International Department, ACFSMC, and Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Cooperative Development Advisor, ICA ROAP.

Fied visits were arranged to selected agro-processing cooperatives in Jiangsu Province to give the participants an opportunity to see the agro-processing. Number of films on the activities of agro-processing cooperatives were screened for the benefit to the participants.

The closing ceremony of the seminar held on 19th June 1992. It was addressed by Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, Mr. Yang Deshou, Secretary-General, ACFSMC; and Mr. Zhou Xiu De, Director, JPUSMC. Mr. Yang Deshou, Deshou gave away certificates to the participants. The participants felt the seminar had successfully achieved its objectives and the experience learnt from the seminar was very useful for their organisations.

Australian delegation's visit

A four member Australian delegation led by Hon'ble G.B. Peacocke, Minister for Local Government and Cooperative, NSW Government, visited China during 12-16 June. The delegation visited agro processing cooperatives in Xiang He country, Hebei Province and had further discussions with Mr. Yang Deshou, Secretary-General, ACFSMC on the plans for economic cooperation particularly cooperative joint ventures. It was agreed to systematically implement these projects with the coordination of ICA ROAP. Mr Guo Yong Kang accompanied the delegation's from the ICA ROAP.

Cooperative Union of the Philippines Mission's Visit

A five member CUP mission visited Shanghai, China, during 2-10 June, to study the waste resource recycling project. The CUP mission observed processing units of waste resource recycling in Shanghai and had discussions on technol-

ogy transfer of waste rubber recycling. The letter of intent on this regard was signed between SFSMC and CUP Mission and SFSMC has agreed to extend all support to CUP for the successful implementation of the rubber waste recycling project with the coordination of ICA ROAP.

Present Status of Cooptrade

The Cooptrade Project has been in operation within ICA for more than six years. The basic objective of the project was to promote trade relationship between the European and Asian Coops. It was in the background of bulk buying by European Coops from the Asian countries. But the project could not succeed mainly because of the notions of European Coops that Trade relationship is a matter of trust and confidence between buyer and seller and it cannot be changed at the risk of new experiments. Consequently, the schedule of the activities anticipated before had to be revised so as to cater to the requirements of the member cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region who were genuinely interested in overseas trade. Spade work was done to ascertain the scope of trade in the region and cooperative trade and industry became the forum to exchange ideas and brought closeness among the cooperatives in the region. Currently following countries are the members of Cooperative Trade & Industry Committee :

Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea,

Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Now the major task before the CTI is to help and assist the really interested Coops in the region dealing in overseas trade (imports or Exports) on the behest of ICA. The process has already began and the countries like Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Singapore & Thailand have identified the Apex Trading Coops to undertake overseas trade operations on behalf of the member cooperatives in the respective countries. The results are also encouraging.

Australia : The AAC has organised exports of 1500 mt Cheese to Japan; products made from kangaroo leather to USA and Japan; possibility of having joint venture with China on export of lamb wool.

China : CHINA COOP (China Supply & Marketing Cooperative Foreign Trade Corporation) a body of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives has been launched to enhance mutual understanding between cooperatives. The joint venture with Australian lamb wool is being finalised.

Japan : Cooptrade Japan Ltd., has done leg-

dary performance in setting up joint ventures with Indonesian Shrimp Supplying Coop and CCFT (Consumer Cooperative Federation of Thailand Ltd.). An overseas office in California, USA has been opened to do joint buying with INTERCOOP.

Thailand : Coop Foods (Thailand) Ltd. a joint venture between CCFT and Cooptrade Japan has exported worth 41 million Baht processed marine products to Japan, USA and in Europe in 1991. They have an ambitious target of 890 million Baht in the ensuing year. The proposal to export Thai Fragrant Bananas to TOTOH Consumer Coop Society is in Final stage.

Sixth ICA/Japan Management Training Course Completed

The Second Part of the Sixth ICA Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia was completed with study visits in China on 10th May 1992. The Second Part of the Course was held in IDACA premises in Tokyo from 1st March to 24th April, whereupon the 15 participants from 12 countries of Asia proceeded to

China for the study visits programme. Concluding Session at IDACA was addressed among others by G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director. The programme in China was arranged in collaboration with the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives.

Mr. Yang Deshou, Secretary General of the All China Federation, addressed the participants and gave away certificates of attendance. The entire course was directed by Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director.

MAFF to continue assistance for management and women's training courses

The Ministry of agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan, have intimated to the ICA Headquarters in Geneva; their willingness to continue the financial assistance for the ICA Japan Management Training Project for the year 1992/93 also. The Seventh Training Course for managers of agricultural cooperatives in Asia is expected to start in the 4th quarter of 1992 and the total number of seats and member countries to be invited to send participants will be the same as the sixth training course.

MAFF has also communicated to the ICA HQ continuation of its assistance for holding the Second ICA Japan Training course for Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia during the period August/September 1992. Two

participants each from India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka will be trained this year.

Madane Visits Donor Agencies

M.V. Madane, Project Director, visited USA and Europe during June 1992 to explore possibilities of getting donor assistance for at least some of the development projects prepared by participants of the last Six ICA Japan Management Training Courses held so far. The agencies visited by him included the UNDP Headquarters in New York, the Agricultural Cooperative Development International (ACDI) in Washington, the Swedish Cooperative Centre, Stockholm; the Finnish Cooperative Centre and the Finnish International and the Finnish International Development Authority (FINNIDA), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN in Rome. Mr. Madane also visited the ICA Headquarters in Geneva for finalising reports and financial statements of the Sixth Course.

20th meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific

The above meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur on 6th May 1992. Ten participants and 4 observers from 7 countries attended the meeting. The meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Commerce Affairs, Dato Abd. Kadir Hj. Sheikh Fadzir, chaired by Mr.

M. Ohya, Chairman of the Committee. Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, was also present.

The main topics of the meeting were presentation of a country paper by members; report on ICA activities by ICA Regional Director; Progress report of the Consumer Committee; Report on the activities of NFUCA; Presentation and discussion of the draft of Consumer Cooperative Development Project 1992-93; Report on the preparation for ICA Tokyo Congress; JCCU invitation to member organisations to join the joint meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation.

Environmental Workshop in Yokohama, Japan

An environmental workshop was jointly organised by ICA and JCCU at Yokohama on 22-24 May, 1992 was attended by 29 participants from 10 countries, viz Japan, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Kuwait, Denmark, Norway and Sweden and about 60 observers from Japan. Besides, there were 2 project officers from ICA ROAP (Mr. Daman Prakash and Mr. Pradit Machima) and two women from ICA Consumer Committee (Mrs T Strom and Mrs Finola Marras).

Main topics of the workshop were: report on environmental activity programme of the Japanese Cooperatives; Government Environmental activities in Japan; Environmental Conservation

activities of Asian Coops; Activity reports from various countries; discussions on conservation action; befitting coops; wrapping & containers of products and recycling.

Survey on women's cooperatives in Bangladesh

Mr. Pradit Machima, visited Dhaka, Mimensingh and Rajshahi between 30th May and 3rd June, 1992. The main objective of the visit was to conduct a survey on women's cooperatives in Bangladesh - their socio-economic background, organisational structure, objective, business activities, cooperative performances, problems faced and needs for help and assistance. He found that these women's cooperatives are extremely doing well despite shortage of funds and lack of education among their members. If adequate assistance (technical & financial support) can be given to them they can definitely help to uplift the standard of living of poor women in Bangladesh in a short period of time.

Most of Women's Coop. societies visited have similar objectives. They are to create employment opportunity for members; to raise, income among members and to improve standard of living of coop. members and the community; to promote adult education; to propagate the idea of family planning; to promote savings and deposits among members; to supply raw materials to members for farm production, cloth

making and handicraft production; and to educate and train members for a better living.

Main activities of women's cooperative societies are sewing, embroidery, cottage industry (handicrafts), cloth making, adult education and skill training, family planning, sanitation, savings and marketing.

General problems faced by women in the country were landlessness, low education or no education at all, (Only 4-6% of women in the community can read and write) lack of employment because of lack of land, education, skills and funds, very low income level ranging from TK160 to 300 per month (\$ 4-8), lack of food, milk, clothing and decent living conditions, lack of clean drinking water and sanitation; marrying at a very young age from 7-15 years, large family size etc.

General conditions of women's cooperative societies were: small number of membership ranging from 20-50 members, members are poor. Most of them (80-90%) were landless, uneducated or poorly educated, unskilled, ill health and get married at the young age from 7-16 years, shortage of working capital and equipments, low production and small volume of business due to shortage of funds, equipment and skilled members, poor products because of lack of equipments and lack of skills in production, offices and working spaces are too small, over-crowded and unsanitary.

Needs for help and assistance are funds, sewing and embroidery machines, education and training and vocational training, marketing outlet, office and working spaces, encouragement from Government or outsiders.

A cooperative is a main source of learning and earning of poor women in rural Bangladesh. And a cooperative is a modern tool to uplift the standard of living of young, uneducated and poor women of Bangladesh. The few women's cooperatives visited, have done extremely well to promote education, skill, training, income generating activities and to improve quality of life among the members and the community. However, these societies could not do well enough because of lack of funds, equipments, working spaces, education, skills and marketing outlets. It needs more help from the Government, international agencies and donors from foreign countries. ICA ROAP can play a significant role in providing technical assistance to these women cooperatives as well as to coordinate these networks with donors and foreign agencies.

Consultation - cum - Workshop

Mr. Pradit Machima and Mr. S.C. Mishra, a senior Consultant of Bombay branch of the National Consumers Cooperative Federation of India Ltd., (NCCF) visited Sri Lanka and 3 States of India - Kerala, Kar-

nataka and Goa - between 14 and 28 June 1992. The main objectives were (1) to provide consultancy services and necessary advice to 3 primary consumer cooperatives in Sri Lanka, (2) to collect information on women's cooperatives and women's activities in cooperative business in Colombo, Cochin and Mangalore, and (3) to arrange a self-financed workshop on Management of Consumer Cooperatives in Goa. The team visited the Goa Rajya Sahakari Maryadit, Berdez Consumer Coop, Mabusa, Bagayatdar Consumer Cooperative Society, Ponda.

In Sri Lanka consultancy services were provided to three primary consumer cooperatives in and around Colombo during 15 and 21 June 1992. The 3 societies were Homagama MPCs, Polonnawa MPCs and Katana. Collection information on women's cooperative activities in and around Colombo.

In India relevant information on consumer cooperatives and women's cooperatives in Cochin, Mangalore and Goa were collected. Consultancy services were provided to Mangalore University Cooperatives and Janatha Bazar Super Market in Mangalore and advice on financial management and self service shop operations to 2 primary consumer cooperatives in Goa (Berdez and Bagayatdar) was provided. A self financed workshop on Management of Consumer Cooperative Societies was also held in Goa.

Findings

In Sri Lanka it was found that the leaders, managers and staff of the 3 primary consumer cooperatives do not know their own problems concerning consumer cooperative operations. Main problems are :

Shop Layout : Shop arrangements are not systematically done. They just simply do the way they do. They need more training on this matter.

Financial Management : Financial management is not economically sound. They borrowed too much beyond their ability to pay. Board of Directors, Managers and staff are required to understand the very basic principles of financial management.

Over Staffing : Number of employees of the 3 societies are rather big. In fact, they could have reduced them provided they can re-structure the organisations, shop layout and improve recordings and financial management techniques.

India

In Cochin Consumer Cooperatives in Cochin, in general, are doing quite well. However, they can be improved provided proper advice is given to them. It needs more survey, more analysis and more guidance from ICA and NCCF.

In Mangalore, most of consumer cooperatives including women's cooperatives, except Janatha Bazar, are too small to operate effectively and economically. Many of them operate on the rationed items controlled by the Government

such as rice, sugar, dal, etc which is not viable. Besides, member participation is low because of poor shop arrangement and poor quality of goods sold. It is recommended that basic training on consumer cooperatives in the region be arranged.

The Janatha Bazar is doing very well compared to others. So, after careful study, we decided to give advice to them (Board of Directors and Managing Director) as to how to improve its operations. This include organisation, shop layout, financial management, supervision, training and member-participation. The Managing Director promised us to follow the advice faithfully and enthusiastically.

In Goa, in general, Consumer Cooperative Societies are doing better than Kerala and Karnataka. This is probably because of the high percentage of urban population (34%), high literacy and income among local population and close cooperation between agricultural cooperatives and consumer cooperatives within the State. Because of this, we decided to give intensive advice (consultancy services) to consumer cooperative movement in Goa in order to make it as a learning centre for nearby States-Karnataka, Kerala and Southern part of Maharashtra.

A Self-Financed Workshop on Management of Consumer Cooperatives in Goa

The above workshop was jointly organised by ICA ROAP and the State Cooperative Supp-

ly and Marketing Federation Ltd., of Goa and the office of Registrar of Cooperative Societies of Goa. Around 110 members of Board of Directors, Managers and key personnel of cooperatives in Goa attended the workshop on 27-28 June 1992. The outcome was very good. This was the first workshop on a self financing basis ever organised in Goa. Because of the good results and the good arrangement of the workshop, it was agreed to hold a "National Workshop on Management of Consumer Cooperatives in India" in Goa around March/April, 1993.

ICA-ROAP Regional Cooperative Data Bank

The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has setup a Regional Cooperative Data Bank in January 1991 to provide statistical information on cooperative development for member organisations and cooperative institutions in the region to monitor cooperative development trends with a view to know the overall regional performance and the performance of individual cooperative movement. To formulate cooperative policies for promoting co-operative development in the Region. To make suggestions to individual co-operative movement in regard to cooperative development. To disseminate the information collected among the cooperatives/cooperators. In order to strengthen the Data Bank and to acquire the knowledge and ex-

perience available in the Region, Ram Prakash Technical Officer (Data Bank) visited Singapore and studied and observed the data collection services and systems in various institutions in Singapore.

Head Office News

CICOPA Reports

Within the ICA it is currently the industrial and artisan's production cooperatives which are developing most rapidly; with many weaknesses and inequalities, and with an immense diversity worldwide. What we have in common are our values and our practices. It is these which we plan to discuss at Tokyo.

The ICA Congress - which is likely to be the last in its present form - confronts us with this: the theme of "Cooperative values" is central and the examination of our practices, in particular of our "solidarities", is of utmost importance to our credibility and our future.

Values and Doctrines

Strictness and Opening

- 1) A suicidal discourse : To me this so called "sociological" argument seems to be suicidal for any Cooperative Movement (that of the production cooperatives, in particular). Normally cooperation defines itself as an "enterprise working in the interest of its members". Its practices should, thus,

adapt themselves to those interests and the "orthodoxy" of eternal values should cease to obscure the question. To stick like a limpet to the values of our "great predecessors", whilst practice is growing further and further away from them, would be archaic and hypocritical.

- 2) A necessary distinction : This type of reasoning seems to me to result in a confusion between values and structures, or even to a false competition between strict adherence to doctrine and the necessary *accommodation* of new creativity, rules of organisation.

— this first point is evident: one has never deduced lasting values from temporary practices. The fact that numerous Judeo-Christians may have violated this or that commandment through out the centuries does not make it necessary to change the ten commandments received by Moses. More simply, one does not relieve a fever by breaking the thermometer.

— Secondly: Although the first legal structures and the word "Cooperation" belong to the 19th century, the fundamental values to which cooperators refer themselves are valid for all times and in all countries. These are humanism (through its economic development the cooperative seeks to enable each of its members to realise

their full potential); democracy (the legitimacy of its power); solidarity (within each business; between cooperative enterprises; locally and internationally), through example.

- Finally : which industrial or commercial society would not see in itself the definition of cooperative enterprise "ordained to the service, and in the interest, of its members". To which members does this refer ? Only to its capital investor(s), as in the classic limited company, or to all the citizens of the "Community of the Business"? Without lasting values it is evident that cooperation would lose its uniqueness, and would soon be reduced to the status of a private society.

- 3) The ICA and its universal values

For more than a century, the ICA has always had its mission to affirm a certain universality of cooperative values.

- In the Developing Countries, particularly in Asia, the cooperative explosion of the past 40 years, is linked to the affirmation of constant values and principles usually most enthusiastically adopted by the youngest peoples (in terms of independence or democracy).
- In the worst moments of the cold war, the maintenance of these values, as much in

Eastern as in Western Europe, permitted the movement to uphold, these aspirations despite pressure from centralised power and, even more than one admits today, of veritable cooperative islets in the middle of state controlled state-dependant enterprises.

- The search for a new formulation of these essential values is thus, indeed, a priority task for the ICA, and the impact of the preparatory work, prior to the next Congress at Tokyo, entrusted to Professor Book, in the majority of countries and of cooperative movements, are sufficient proof.

Strictness and opening

Far from there being a contradiction between strictness

and opening, it is, on the contrary, from the sound basis of a fundamental code of ethics that it will be possible to embrace new legal structures, new participatory research, new practices. Included therein are mixed or embryo forms of cooperation- starting from the optimistic principle that a half-empty glass is already half-full.

In saying to our Basque friends of the S.A.L (Sociedades Anonimas Laborales), whose statue demands that their workers contribute over 50% of their firms capital-but keeps the classic rule, on share: one vote that their practice of having, for all their workers, the same number of shares is a step in the right direction we can envisage, with the generalisation of this rule, their entrance into the coopera-

tive family. The same applies to the democratic ESOPS (Employees Stock Ownership Plans) which are beginning to proliferate throughout the United Kingdom and in other European Countries, following the United States of America with the practice slowly rediscovered at their hart: one man one vote.

Structures cannot ossify and the cooperators of industrial and artisan production know this better than anyone: to make them evolve, modernise, dynamise is to strengthen our movements-from there our lasting and living values are simultaneously a judgement of our practices and a guide for the future.

Regional News

INDIA

Sarin Elected President of NAFED

At the Special General Body Meeting of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., (NAFED) held on June 4, 1992 at New Delhi, Mr. B.M. Sarin was unanimously elected as the new Chairman.

Mr. Sarin has been Director of NAFED since 1981. He is closely associated with Bharat Krishak Samaj and also Director of various other organisations.

Speaking after his election, Shri Sarin said that he would make all efforts to strengthen NAFED so that the interests of the farming community are well protected by this organisation. He added that his priority would be to serve the farmers of the country in the best possible manner through the Cooperative structure.

Shri N.P. Patel of Gujarat and Shri K.S. Gowda of Karnataka were elected Vice-Chairman in the meeting. Shri Patel is Chairman of GUJCOMASOL,

Gujarat Consumer Federation, and Gujarat State Cooperative Oil Industries Ltd.

Shri Gowda is President of Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd., Bangalore.

IFFCO Pays Dividend to the Government

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) paid Rs. 173.7 million as dividend for the year 1990-91 to the Government of India

towards their equity participation.

Chairman, IFFCO presented the dividend cheque to the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fertilisers and Chemicals, Dr. Chinte Mohan. IFFCO has so far paid Rs. 657.5 million as dividend to the Government. Starting with a membership of 52 cooperative societies, IFFCO has blossomed as the largest fertiliser cooperative with a membership of 30,514 cooperative societies from village to national level.

IFFCO has so far contributed Rs. 5640 million to the exchequer by way of sales-tax, excise-duty, custom-duty etc between 1974-75 and 1990-91. It has also made a total contribution of Rs. 1330 million to the cooperative system and farmers by way of dividend, patronage rebate, quantity rebate etc.

NPC Award for IFFCO

The Phulpur Unit of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) bagged the Second Best Productivity Award instituted by National Productivity Council in the Fertiliser Industry Group for the year 1990-91.

The award was given to the Phulpur Unit in recognition of its excellent production performance by achieving a record production of 590,000 tonnes of urea with the highest ever capacity utilisation of 119 per cent and lowest ever energy consumption. The plant reduced its energy consumption

by 24 per cent in urea plant and 18.6 per cent in ammonia plant.

Since the commencement of its commercial production in March 1981 the plant has been consistently showing all round good performance in the fields of productivity, safety, energy conservation and technical innovation etc.

"Cooperative" Ideology of Shri Rajiv Gandhi on the eve of the First Death Anniversary of the Leader on 21st May 1992

In the untimely end of the charismatic National leader of International repute and former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the cooperative movement lost one National Leader who always supported the cooperative attitude and cooperative movement of our country like his Illustrious Grand Father, Pandit Jawaharlal and Ablest Mother/National Leader, Smt. Indira Gandhi. He always extended support to the cooperative movement in all fronts whenever required in any form during his tenure of office. His sudden demise is a blow to the movement.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi called upon cooperative to end the exploitation of weaker sections and take corrective steps. He harped upon the need for adopting new technology for the augmentation of working of the different sectors of the movement. He held the views that growth cannot be true development if it entails environmental degradation.

Some important excerpts from his speeches expressing his impressions on the working of the cooperative movement, are given below, for the information of the cooperators of the country.

Why Cooperative Movement?

"India banked a lot upon the cooperative movement to bring about change and development in our rural areas....to break the feudal structure right down to the grass root level.

We choose the cooperative movement as our major weapon, as it was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who gave this thrust to the cooperative movement in India."

Need to Strengthen the Movement :

"Cooperation has been the basic tenet of our developmental efforts for the weaker sections of the society. The cooperative movement has two great advantages of ENSURING PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT AND DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE."

"To strengthen our democracy, it was necessary for us to build and strengthen the movement."

India observed the first death anniversary of Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi on the 19th May, 1992. In this context his statement on Cooperative Movement is given below :-

Important role assigned to coops :

"Jawaharlal Nehru has said that WHILE PANCHAYAT WILL REPRESENT THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECT OF VILLAGE LEVEL, THE COOPEATIVE WILL REPRESENT THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE VILLAGE. This is exactly when we have been trying to do with cooperatives in India. The Green Revolution has helped very much by science and technology. It was helped by external work but it could not have taken place, if the cooperative movement was not there to give it the thrust it required".

Coops to be basic method of changing old times :

In the old days, there was a nexus to the landlord, the landholder and the middlemen that controlled credit and the marketing mechanism. the Cooperatives were given the task of breaking this unholy tie and allowing the poorer and the weaker people of India to break out from under these shackles and to take full advantage of freedom that they had won. Although the legal framework of feudalism was dismantled with independence, the repercussions and left. overs continued and perhaps in some parts of the country, they still continue and the COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT HAS TO BE THE BASIC METHOD OF CHANGING THESE SYSTEMS IN OUR COUNTRY.

Growth cannot be true development if it entails environmental degradation:

"Growth cannot be true development, if it entails en-

vironmental degradation. The early stages of industrialisation everywhere produced serious dislocation. Some of the damage was repaired with the acquisition of new scientific insights. The developing countries by the very fact that they have started later, can avoid some these hazards."

"The main lesson that I would draw in Indian experience is, that external assistance can play a valuable role in promoting development, provided it is deve-tailed with a well-designed and well-implemented developmental strategy. These strategies may vary from country to country but essentially they should stress self-reliance. External assistance can play a supportive role. This is our experience".

Need to adopt new technology in cooperative sector :

" I know some people criticised my stress on adopting New technology but development and new technology go hand in hand and it is not confined only to sophisticated industries or armament factories. With new Technology, farmers could bring about a change in their condition, besides increasing out-put You have done it for Milk. We want it in all spheres of production in the country. Progress and development were vital for all spheres. The real strength of the country like ours, lies in the rural areas and that is to be improved with new technology".

Duty of trained personnel in coops :

"Much would depend upon the trained people. They should utilise their knowledge and expertise for educating more farmers. They had to face many challenges and hurdles when they face the world, as there were vested interests everywhere who did not want farmers to adopt new technologies and did not want them and the country to prosper. The next generation would have to take up these challenges. These students would have to impart new concept of management to farmers and rural people and the benefits to farmers. Amul Pattern has to be extended to such areas as vegetables and fruits. This was important as farmers and cultivators who grow agricultural produce generally do not get the nutritious diet. This gap has to be filled up. Operatiton of oil seeds and pulses would soon be launched on the lines of Operation Flood".

We have started a process of democratic devolution. When we looked political devolution, immediately, the question of the stronger sections of the society exploiting the weaker sections at the grass-root level had to be tackled and the only way we can balance is to equally strengthen the cooperative movement at the grass root level, so that the weaker sections get an opportunity to fight for what they are right."

Shri Rajiv Gandhi felt "Cooperative must today con-

sider with seriousness the weaknesses and obsessions that have crept into the movement and corrective steps that must be taken".

Hence cooperators in the country may have to try to aim for excellence in the working of the movement in the interest of its effective working.

National Federation of Labour Cooperatives seeks collaborators.

The NFLC has sought assistance of ICA to find a German Collaborator to manufacture cement from flyash. The Executive Director of NFLC has sought the assistance of ICA ROAP assistance/collaboration of some German Coop. As per the revised policy of the Government no licencins/permission would be required and such collaboration could be possible. A project of 2.3 million has been approved by the Ministry of Health for family welfare programme for Haryana district. Another project of 12 lakhs is likely to be approved for organising family welfare camps in 6 states."

Kerala Cooperatives Enter Commerce Trade Sectors

The Seventy Five Year Old Cooperative Movement in Kerala has gone from success to success, entered the capital intensive commerce and trade sectors.

They have been receiving surplus deposits from overen-

thusiastic investors country to the government sector which has been busy devising ways and means to tap funds for its projects. This was the impression gained by a team of Vijayawada-based journalists which recently visited different parts of Kerala to study the cooperative movement.

The non-banking cooperative engaged in traditional labour intensive operations like coir making were, however in distress.

The state cooperative registrar said that the sector had planned to obtain a licence from the Reserve Bank of India to open a "foreign exchange dealership counter" to tap non-resident Keralites.

Move to woo US farm cooperatives for investment

Agriculture Minister Balam Jakkhar met senior officials of American cooperatives in an effort to attract collaborations and investment in agro-products in India.

The visit has been arranged by Rober Scherer, President of the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA). the largest organisations of cooperatives in the US known in India by its previous name of Cooperative League of the USA (CLUSA).

American cooperatives buy products and services valued t over \$ 15 million a year from India, but most of it is sourced domestically through private corporations.

Sultan Reza, Director of Marketing and South Asian Programmes with Cooperatives Business International, a subsidiary of NCBA who was the main organiser of the visit, said interest in India had grown again with the liberalisation, and especially allowing foreign companies to hold 51 per cent equity.

Cooperatives in the US work differently from those in India. The cooperatives are a collective or wealthy and interdependent producers, farmers and orchard owners, many of them millionaires that come together under one brand name to market a product or a group of products.

JAPAN

Tokyo Declaration on Creation of Funds for Global Environment Released

The Eminent Persons Meeting on Financing Global Environment and Development, held in Tokyo in mid-April, released the Tokyo Declaration on the Creation of Funds for Global Environment and Development. The declaration proposes the introduction of a "Green Tax" to provide funds for worldwide environmental conservation. At a news conference, the meeting's honorary chairman, former prime minister Noboru Takeshita advocated the creation of a joint-public and private sector environmental fund for the conservation and creation of global greenery. He also said that since there are also said that since there are limits to

international military contributions by Japan, environmental aid could become part of Japan's international contribution. He also emphasised the nation's intention of playing a leading role in conservation of the global environment.

The main points of the Tokyo Declaration to be presented at the Earth summit in June are: (1) study of a special tax and other levies for environmental conservation; (2) an increase in the amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) by developed nations, to 0.7% of a nation's GNP; (3) the appropriation of an annual \$125 billion in aid to developing nations; (4) the revision and strengthening of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which provides funds to developing nations, and the ensuring of fairness in aid; and (5) the necessity for Japan to take a leadership role in global environment issues.

Japan to Increase Environmental ODA

The Environment Agency recently presented preliminary proposal on Japan's International environmental cooperation to both the Central Council for Environmental Pollution Control and the Nature Conservation Council. The proposal points out the need for Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to be at the forefront of the government's international environmental cooperation and advocates the creation of a new framework for ODA that is

centered on financial grants and technical cooperation. The proposal recommends that the current amount of ODA devoted to environmental protection be more than doubled.

The proposal also urges the establishment of a private-sector, volunteer "Green Peacekeeping Operations" organisation to strengthen dialogue with countries receiving ODA and to aid in the restoration of areas in which the environment has been destroyed. The proposal also recommends the setting up of human resource bank to register the names of experts engaged in environmental conservation.

The two councils that received the preliminary proposal will now carry out further studies and will present an interim opinion to the director-general of the Environment Agency, Shozaburo Nakamura, before the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in June this year.

Environmental Conservation Requirements Attached to Loans to China

The Japanese and Chinese governments recently reached an agreement over the terms of the third resource development loan of approximately Yen 700 billion (\$5.2 billion) that the Export-Import Bank of Japan will extend to the People's Republic of China from this year. Under

the agree, China will conduct a prior assessment of the environmental impact of development and explain the preventative measures it plans to take. The country will establish a consultative body consisting of both Chinese and Japanese representatives.

New Logo, New Name

To symbolise the theme "Challenge and Reform Toward the 21st Century," the 19th National Conference of Agricultural Cooperatives approved a new corporate logo to go into use April 1, 1992. The triangular shape of the new logo alludes to the go-ahead nature of this organisation by suggesting that cooperation between man and nature provides bountiful harvests. For the same reason, the commonly used nohkyo has been replaced with Japan Agriculture, abbreviated to JA, making ZENCHU (Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives) JAZENCHU.

Today's JCCU and Zengyoren

JCCU and worldwide cooperation with friends Worldwide

Since joining the ICA in 1952, JCCU has learned much from the experiences of other advanced movements through international exchange. Wishing to contribute to Asia's consumer cooperative movement, 1988 it started to provide various technical support to Asian coops. Moreover since

1983 it donated a total of Yen 1.3 billion to UNICEF to help the world's children.

To support international solidarity, JCCU undertakes joint business with overseas coops, including active imports of products. Cooptrade Japan Ltd., a subsidiary established in 1956 trades with 27 nations. In additions, 13 coops are involved in exchange with more than 17 overseas coops based on friendship agreements.

JCCU as a National Organisation

JCCU is devoted to the Japanese consumer's cooperative movement. Today, 669 primary level coops are affiliated with JCCU through 45 prefectural unions. Most JCCU members are retail or medical coops. University, insurance and housing coops have their own national federations, which are affiliated with JCCU. Five regional councils assure democratic control.

JCCU acts both as a national union and as a wholesale society. As a national union it formulates policies coordinates member activities at the national level, and represents cooperatives nationally and internationally. As a wholesale society, it supplies member coops, with COOP brand products through seven regional branches. These supply activities accounted for 60 per cent of JCCU's Yen 414 billion annual turnover for fiscal 1990.

Since member cooperatives can now develop and supply their own products, JCCU is reconsidering its role. In the future, it will concentrate on the development of competitive COOP brand products. and the mail order, publishing, and insurance fields. JCCU is making every effort to increase efficiency as it serves member coops.

For Future Development

The core of Japanese coops is democratic management based on member participation. However, with the growing size of the coops and the increase in working women, HAN-based member participation must diversify to accord with changing lifestyles.

Japanese consumer cooperatives plan to eventually decentralise power by switching from a vertical organisation to a horizontal network of small groups. The goal is to have a community movement of women and men, and young and old a truly democratic culture in which men a women participate equally.

The two most important business issues are strengthening product competitiveness and increasing store size. Along these lines, 11 major coops joined together in 1990 and set up the Japanese Cooperative Store Modernising Organisation, aiming to promote large stores, the joint development and purchase of products, and the study of small to medium-scale store management.

Japanese consumer coops are integrating business functions at the regional level to strengthen competitiveness. In many prefectures, coops have consolidated, and joint operations between coops in adjoining prefectures are common, since the Consumer Cooperative Law prohibits cooperatives from extending over prefectural boundaries.

ZENGYOREN'S UNIQUE ACTIVITIES

Established in 1952, Zengyoren is a multipurpose national federation of fishermen's cooperatives. The activities of Zengyoren include guidance and policy formulation, supply of fishing materials such as fuel oil and engines, and fish processing and marketing.

Zengyoren Safeguards the Interests of Fishermen

Zengyoren helps to secure government support for fishermen, environmental protection, and fisheries resource conservation. Since 1983, Zengyoren has held a National Congress of Fisheries Coops every three years. The congress objectives are to agree on fishermen's cooperative policies and measures for the next three years and to call for government support for these policies and measures.

Two examples of Zengyoren's activities are the Fishermen's Pension Scheme initiated in 1981 and the Shipwreck Orphans Scholarship Society established in 1969.

Regarding environmental issues, Zengyoren promotes the replacement of synthetic detergents with natural soap. To conserve vital fisheries resources, it encourages community based fisheries management movements. It also organises related seminars, workshops, and presentation meetings.

Zengyoren is also a steady supplier of fuel oil at reasonable prices to members to help stabilise their economic performance. Zengyoren committed cooperators have made it a price leader in fuel oil for Japan's fishing vessels.

Fisheries Coop Sponsors Youth Organisation

Building on decisions made at the 3rd National Congress of Fisheries Cooperatives in 1989, National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations sponsored the first general meeting of the Fisheries Coop Youth Associations of Japan on March 4, 1992. The objectives of this organisation are to promote the development of fisheries coops, improve fishing techniques, research the activities of cooperatives, raise the cultural level of fishing villages, protect the environment, and promote dialogue with other organisations. At present, 23,000 young cooperative members from 23 prefectural level organisations are enrolled.

JCCU Sponsors Youth Trip to Hiroshima

Representing 30 primary level cooperatives from all over

Japan, 360 sons and daughters of coop members participated in the JCCU sponsored Fifth Youth Trip to Hiroshima from March 30 to April 1, 1992. JCCU has become involved in a variety of activities to promote peace and planned the trip to the atom-bombed city of Hiroshima in order to acquaint even children with the importance of peace. After visiting the Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima, listening to the recollections of atom bomb survivors, and discussing the meaning of peace, the children drafted their own peace declaration.

ZEZ-NOH Celebrates 20th Birthday

When ZEZ-NOH was born of the union of Japan purchasing and sales federation on March 30, 1972, the world was quite different. It was a period of high growth and optimism and there were plans to restructure the entire country. Now, the world has changed. To exert more influence it is imperative for ZEN-NOH to consolidate its production and marketing networks. Cooperatives and their members look forward to this move and hope it will lead to a rebirth of ZEN-NOH itself.

Following the wishes of its members and inspired by its founding principles, ZEN-NOH has recorded a string of successes over the past twenty years. It has achieved the direct enrollment of virtually all agricultural cooperatives, reinforced its direction and organisation, strengthened and stabilised the

supply of critical agricultural materials such as fertiliser and oil, increased the distribution of rice through Nohkyo's channels and improved direct sales of agricultural products. Turnover has roughly tripled, from Yen 2.5 trillion to Yen 7.37 trillion is fiscal 1990.

Nonetheless, a range of issues loom ahead, including rice import liberalisation, the Uruguay Round of the GATT talks, and the rapid aging of Japanese farmers. This is why affiliated cooperatives approved a forward looking agricultural programme - Nohkyo Challenge and Reform Toward the 21st Century - at the 19th National Congress of Agricultural Cooperatives held October 8, 1991 in Tokyo. There, new concepts formed the basis for concrete targets and reforms, designed to further strengthen and streamline business operations. Not content to rest on its early achievements, ZEN-NOH expects to continue reforming and refashioning its operations, organisations, and image as it approaches its 25th and 30th birthdays.

Young Farmers in Action

Young farmers throughout Japan are looking to the 21st century, which promises to be an era of advancement and prosperity. The following report focuses on the activities of a typical farming community.

This community development program focuses on improving the quality of farming,

teaching farmers how to use high technology, and cultivating the next generation of farm leaders. Goals include training young farmers, spreading the benefits of high technology throughout agriculture, and bringing producers (farmers and agricoops) schools (universities agricultural colleges and schools) and government organisations closer together. The ultimate aim is to usher in future-oriented agriculture and more comfortable rural lifestyles.

PAKISTAN

Change of Address

The mailing address of Mr Ihsanul Haq Piracha, Managing Director, Mercantile Coop. Finance Corp. Ltd., has been changed as :

Mr. Ihsanul Haq Piracha,
Managing Director
Mercantile Cooperative
Finance Corp. Ltd.,
House No 79-A, St-54
F-7/4, Islamabad, Pakistan

PHILIPPINES

Coop Federation holds Congress

The National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) a federation of over a thousand Phillippine cooperatives, held its first congress on May 28-29, 1992. Hon. Christian Monsod of the Commission on Elections Keynoted.

With the theme Coops into the future : Setting the Agenda for the Decade, the Congress participants sought to map out a common course of action which NATCCO as a network could take in resolving urgent issues affecting the future of cooperatives and their development. The participants identified four major concerns to this and active political involvement participation in local governance as cited in the new Local Government Code; promotion of environment consciousness, including its conservation and protection and the use of Filipino Values as tools for coop development. Resource persons for the congress were Renato Constantino, F. Landa, Jocano and Cesar Liporadà.

The congress was also the occasion to present NATCCO's first Community Service Award the recipient of which is the Palompon Community Multi Purpose Cooperative, Inc (PACCI) based in Palompon, Leyte. PACCI was cited for its active participation in local and community affairs, and its tremendous impact on the socio-economic life of the people, especially of the low income group. Four other cooperatives cited during the awarding ceremonies were; Angono Credit and Development Cooperative (Rizal); Gubat Saint Anthony Credit Cooperative (Sorsogon); Bagona Siana 2 Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Cavite) and Tagudin Multipurpose Cooperative (Ilocos Sur).

Visayas Cooperative Development Center

Visayas Cooperative Development Center, or VICTO, is a non-stock, non-profit cooperative organisation with the broadest spectrum of cooperative membership in the Phillippines. For 22 years, VICTO has significantly increased the awareness of cooperatives a vehicle for change by training, educating and assisting cooperatives and creating linkages between cooperatives and other public and private institutions. And by implementing modern business management principles to cooperative management, VICTO has achieved tremendous growth both in its geographical coverage and its services.

SRI LANKA

Newly Elected Board of Nations Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka

The Triennial General Assembly of the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka, held in May 1992, elected a new Board of Directors comprising of Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe as President, Mr. Mhiepala Herath and Mr. S. Subramanium both as vice President, Mr. Dharmasena Yayinna, Mr. Jayasiri Hathnagoda, Mr. G.D. Thilakakusau, Mr. V.M. Karunasena, Mr. P.B. Ekanayake, Mr. M.D. Siripala, Mr. Dayawansa Perera, Mr. Karunaratne Wijesuncara, Mr.

George Perera, Mr. Sethyapala Karandeniya as directors.

VIETNAM

Promotion of Coop Tourism. Open Letter from CCSMC, Hanoi Addressed to RD ICA ROAP

I am happy to write this letter to you on behalf of the leadership of CCSMC as well as of myself.

As you know the cooperative movement in Vietnam presently is experiencing the substantial changes. With the comprehensive assistance of ICA and other coop. movements much has been done for Vietnamese cooperators. Your efforts and contributions are highly appreciated.

By this letter I would like to remind our previous talks that we have repeatedly mentioned during our meetings. That is the organisation and development of cooperative tourism. As you know recently the CCSMC has established the "Centre of Coop-Trade, Investment Consultation and Tourism". I have been given the full changes not only of international affairs but also of this Centre as its Director. From now onwards the CCSMC has the official function of organisation and development of Coop tourism. We think that without collaboration and coordination of ICA/ROAP there would be not any success in this matter. Thus, I am seeking your personal aid and collaboration as

well as of ICA ROAP in coordination; organisation of cooptourism amongst members-organisations. We are ready to receive cooperators from any country in the world. They can come to see how people and cooperators live here; to see many places of interest; and to see the country so much heard of in the world but not visited by many.

I would like to request you to publish this our news and invitation in "Asian Consumer Coop News" and "Asian Coop News" as well as to make it clear for other coop organisations in the region. I also would like to request you to include this question (question of tourism) into agenda of ICA Cooptrade and Industry Committee Meeting and ICA Regional Seminar on Cooptrade and Consumer Cooperative Development at Ho Chi Minh City between 8-12 September, 1992.

It would be very useful for all cooperators in the region if ICA/ROAP will have the master plan of development of Coop. tourism and ICA/ROAP will act as the coordinating agency in multi and bilateral collaboration between its members organisations in tourism."

What Our Readers Say

Dear. Mr. Pandey,

Thanks for the recent issues of Asia-Pacific Cooperative News. The Special Supplement looks really good. ROAP publications are getting better and

better. Congratulations to all those involved.

Best wishes to all in Delhi.
Yours Sincerely,

Mery Treacy
Director Communication
ICA Head Office.

OBITUARY

ASPACON regrets to learn about the sad demise of Mrs Margarata Bonow wife of late Dr M. Bonow. May God rest her soul in eternal peace. ASICON offers condolence to the bereaved family.

Mr. Arvind Ganesh Kulkarni, veteran Congress member of the Rajya Sabha who died in Pune on Monday at the age of 75, had been the prime force behind the cooperative movement in Maharashtra, his home state.

A senior member who was first elected to the Rajya Sabha in April, 1967, and had been a member of the Upper House continuously except, for two short breaks from 1976 to 1978 and, from 1984 to 1986, Mr. Kulkarni had begun his career as a social worker and small-scale entrepreneur.

He was involved with the cooperative organisations, holding the posts of president, chairman and vice-chairman of various cooperative bodies.

ICA DOMUS TRUST

(Established in the memory
of Dr. Mauritz Bonow)

The ICA DOMUS TRUST, registered in November 1988, was created in the memory of Dr. Karl Daniel Mauritz Bonow (of Sweden), former President of the International Cooperative Alliance (1962-1975). He was one of the pioneers in visualising the essentiality of international aid for the development of the Cooperative Movement as an instrument of socio-economic transformation and development of economy in the developing countries in general, and, for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society in particular. Dr. Mauritz Bonow dedicated his whole life for this cause. He initiated and introduced the idea of Swedish international assistance for cooperatives known as the Fund Without Boundaries. He was responsible for the establishment of the ICA Regional Office in Asia and for creating a permanent work-place for the ICA in the Asia-Pacific Region. In recognition of the work and contribution made by him, the present building housing the offices of the ICA Regional office in New Delhi was named Bonow House in 1975. And now, the ICA DOMUS TRUST has been established in his memory.

The main objectives of the ICA DOMUS TRUST are, among others, propagation of Cooperative Principles; promotion of cooperatives; assist cooperative organisations/movements in encouraging genuine, self-supporting and technically sound cooperative organisations; bringing out publications for the promotion of teaching and study of cooperation; undertaking cooperative education and training activities and promoting collaboration between Cooperatives and the State, etc.

Any contributions made to the ICA DOMUS TRUST by way of donations and purchase of cooperative publications, would provide strength and acceleration to the process of achievement of the objectives of the Trust.

ICA DOMUS TRUST

"Bonow House", 43 Friends Colony
P.O Box 7011, New Delhi - 110 065, India
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Some more Publications of ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific..

1. Short essays on Member Development in consumer cooperatives.
By Pradit Machima, W.U. Herath, Daman Prakash
Published in October 1991
Price : Rs. 60-00/USD 10-00
2. Principles of Supermarket operation.
Published in 1991 By ICAROAP
pp. 28 (Based on Japanese supermarkets experience) Price : Rs. 50-00/USD 8-00
3. Co-operatives in the year 2000 (CEMAS publication)
3rd Reprinted Edition 1991 pp. 98
Price ; Rs. 150-00/USD 20-00
4. Co-operative legislation in Asia - A study
Part ONE - Cooperative laws in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
Published in May 1991 pp. 276
Part TWO-Analysis made by National Consultants from India Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
Published in May 1991 pp. 235
Price of 1 set : Rs. 400-00/USD 60-00
5. University Cooperatives in India; A report of the ICA/NFUCA/VMNICM National seminar, Nov. 1990
Published in April 1991 By ICAROAP pp. 49
Price : Rs. 100-00/USD 15-00
6. ICA/SNCF Regional seminar on New Technology for Co-operative education Singapore 02-05 April, 1990.
Seminar Report, By Mr. W.U. Herath
Published in 1991 pp. 88
Price : Rs. 100-00/USD 15-00
7. CHINA : Perspective and Project planning for Agricultural cooperative sector - (Gansu Province)
Report of ICA study mission. Compiled by Mr. Guo Yong Kang Published in 1991 :
pp. 121 Price : Rs. 150-00/USD 25-00
8. Member Participation through business planning : A Japanese experience- Report of the ICA-CUAC-IDACA Seminar 1989
Published in 1991 : pp. 188
Price : Rs. 200-00/USD 30-00
9. Methodology for cooperative member participation - Report of the ICA Regional Seminar Compiled by Mr. Terry Bergdall and Mr. W.U. Herath
Published in 1990 pp. 119
Price : Rs. 100-00/USD 15-00
10. ICA Working Party on Co-operative research planning and development : Cooperative Values and Relations between Cooperatives and the State (working papers and a seminar in New Delhi ; October 3-6, 1989
Published in 1990 ; pp. 262
Price : Rs. 200-00/USD 30-00
11. Facilitators manual on Co-operative member participation methodology HRD series 02 By Mr. W.U. Herath Published in 1990 ; pp 11-02,
Price : Rs. 300-00/ USD 45-00
12. Present situation, problems & future tasks of Agricultural Co-operatives, study reports from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Philippines & Sri Lanka.
Published in 1990 ; pp. 296
Price : Rs.300-00 / USD 45-00
13. Facilitation of effective cooperative legislation in Selected Countries of Asia : A study report.
By Mr. V.P. Singh
Published in 1990 ; pp. 83
Price : Rs. 100-00/USD 15-00
14. Development of Consumer cooperative movement in Bangladesh Follow-up national Workshop Report.
Dhaka, June 25-27
Published in 1990 ; pp. 60
Price : Rs. 50-00/USD 8-00
15. Women in Development through Fishery Coops in Asia, Report of the Joint ICA-CCA-SDID Planning Mission on Bangladesh, India and Philippines.
Edited and Compiled by M.M.K. Wali ;
Published in 1990 ; pp. 147
Price : Rs. 150-00/USD 25-00
16. Asia in ICA By R.C. Dwivedi Published in 1989 pp. 320
Price Paper Back Rs. 300-00/USD 45-00
Hard Bound Rs. 400-00/USD 60-00
17. Fishing Industry and Fishery Cooperatives in Selected Asian countries - A Regional Review paper
By Mr. Daman Prakash
Published in April 1989 pp. 52
Price : Rs. 50-00/USD 8-00
18. Housewives in Consumer Coops. The Report of the ICA Regional Follow-up workshop in Housewives - Involvement in Consumer Cooperatives Osaka-Japan, By Mr. W.U. Herath 12-18 April, 1989
Published in 1989 ; pp. 141
Price : Rs. 100-00/USD 15-00

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ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

Issue No.3 & 4

July-December 1992

International Cooperative Alliance

ICA REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

30th Congress of the ICA - First-time ever held in Asia

For the first time in the history of the International Cooperative Alliance, the 30th Congress of the ICA was held in Asia in Tokyo, 27-30 October 1992. The Tokyo Congress was hosted by ICA's ten member-organisations in Japan viz., JAZENCHU, Central Union of Agricultural Cooperative; JCCU, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union; ZEN-NOH, National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations; ZENKYOREN, National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives; Norinchukin Bank, Central Cooperative Bank for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; le-No-Hikari, National Publishing Federation for Agricultural Cooperatives; SHIMBUNREN, National Press and Information Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives; ZENG-YOREN, National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations; ZENMORI-REN, National Federation of Forest Owners Cooperative Association; and ZENROSAI, National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Cooperatives.

The Congress was declared open by

His Excellency Kiichi Miyazawa, Prime Minister of Japan at the Kieo Plaza Hotel in Shinjuku, Tokyo in the presence of the President of the ICA, Mr. Lars Marcus and over 1,500 delegates and observers from all over the world.

The main topics discussed by the Congress included, inter-alia, Cooperative values in a Changing World, Environment and Sustainable Development, internal restructuring of the ICA and taking note of the working of ICA specialised organisations and the ICA secretariat. On the question of revised structure of the ICA, the Congress approved the following rules for implementation with effect from January 1993:

- an amalgamation of the functions of Congress and Central Committee into a new governing body, the ICA General Assembly. Maximum representation per country will be 20 delegates;
- creation of four new Regional Assemblies - for Asia-Pacific; Africa; the Americas; and Europe - which will meet on alternate years from the General Assembly;

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Support ASPACON, feeding with news and events in your country and organisation. We also invite your suggestions and opinion to further improve ASPACON.

- Editor

- provision for the regional nomination of Vice-Presidents in order to ensure effective regional representation on the ICA Board (current Executive Committee);
- clarification of the relationship between ICA and the Specialised (sectoral) Organisations, which shall all self-finance their own activities in the future; and
- gradual increase in the maximum and minimum membership subscription fees.

The benefits of a regionalised approach have also been recognised by the majority of ICA's Specialised Organisations, most of which are also developing regional committees, often in association with ICA's regional offices. This combining of forces can be expected to increase, and produce good results, in future years.

Implementation of the new ICA structure will require close consultation with ICA members in all regions. ICA plans to hold consultation meetings in its four regions between December 1992 and June 1993 in preparation for the holding of the first General Assembly in the second half of 1993. The new Regional Assemblies themselves will meet in 1994.

The direct result of the revision of the structure will be the reallocation of countries for the four regional offices. In the case of the ICA ROAP, the following additional countries will be covered:

- **Iraq:** General Cooperative Union.
- **Israel :** HEVRAT HA'OVDIM (General Coop Association of Labour in Israel Limited).
- **Jordan :** Jordan Cooperative Organisation
- **Kazakhstan:** Union of Consumer Societies.
- **Kuwait :** Union of Agricultural Products Cooperative Societies. Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies.

- **Mongolia :** Central Union of Mongolian Consumers Coops.
- **Turkey:** Central Union of Turkish Agricultural Credit Cooperatives. Kent-Koop (Union of Housing Cooperatives in Batikent). Pankobirlik (Union of Sugar Beet Growers Production Coops). Turk Kooperatifcilik Kurumu (Turkish Coop Association). Yol-Coop (Union of Turkish Cooperative Societies of the Road Construction and Building Workers).
- **Uzbekistan :** Uzbek Republican Union of Consumer Societies.

In general, the ICA's work plan for the coming years will be focused on the five priorities identified in last year's Structure Committee report:

- promoting and defending values shared by ICA members;
- stimulating interchange of ideas and collaboration;
- spreading information about the cooperative system;
- acting as a catalyst for cooperative development; and
- speaking on behalf of its members with international organisations and governmental authorities.

Highlights of Project Activities

7th ICA/Japan Management Training Course

The First part of the Seventh ICA Japan Training Course for strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia was formally inaugurated in New Delhi on 9th November 1992 by His Excellency Shuji Kobayashi, Ambassador of Japan in India.

The Training Course is being attended by 15 participants, from 11 countries, viz. Bangalore, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The first part of the Training Course was held in the ICA ROAP premises from 09th November 1992 to 04th January 1993 including a two-day workshop at the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management at Pune, study visits to agricultural cooperatives in Maharashtra and Gujarat State of India and one-week module on Project Preparation at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Following the first part of the training course in India, the participants will leave for Thailand for a ten-day study visits to agricultural cooperatives in Thailand from 5th to 13th January and will return to their respective countries for their home country assignments.

The participants will reassemble in Tokyo on 21st February '93 for a two-month study of the Japanese agricultural cooperatives followed by study visits to agricultural cooperatives in the Republic of Korea from 25th April to 7th May 1993. The Participants will return to their respective countries, after completion of the course on 8th May 1993.

2nd ICA/Japan Training Course for Women Leaders

The Second ICA /Japan Training Course for Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia was held in IDACA, Tokyo, from 25th August to 19th September 1992. Six participants, two each from India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, attended this year's course.

The participants were exposed to the role of women in agricultural cooperatives in Japan and studied the activities of women's associations of

agricultural cooperatives. They also prepared actions plan for improving the involvement of women in cooperatives activities in the participating countries.

MAFF to continue funding assistance for Management Training Projects

The Government of Japan, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) have indicated to the ICA the continuation of their funding assistance for the two management training projects for the year 1993.

The Third ICA Japan Training Course for Women Leaders will be held in Tokyo from June 12 to July 09, 1993. Participants will be invited from agricultural cooperative movements of Thailand, Vietnam and Bangladesh for the third course.

Madane completes assignment and Daman Prakash takes over

Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director for the ICA-Japan Management Training Project from 1986 onwards completed his assignment on 31st October 1992 and formally retired from the services of ICA.

At a function held at the ICA Regional Office, Mr. Madane was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his services. The momento was presented by Mr. G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director.

Dr. Daman Prakash, Regional Cooperative Adviser with the Development planning and Coordination Project of the ICAROAP, has taken over as Project Director of the ICA Japan Management Training Project effective from 1st July 1992. Dr. Daman Prakash has been in the service of the ICA since 1962. During this tenure he had also worked with the UNDP and ILO (International Labour Organisation) in Jakarta, Indonesia and with the ICA-SCC Project in Sri Lanka.

Regional Seminar on Agricultural Cooperative Business Development

An ICA-NACF Regional Seminar on Agricultural Cooperative Business Development with Special Reference to Korean Experience was organised by the International Cooperative Alliance, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICAROAP) in collaboration with the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF). The seminar was held at the Agricultural Cooperative College of NACF in Seoul from 6th to 15th October, 1992. 15 participants from nine countries. i.e. Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the seminar.

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

The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Yong-Jin Kim, Director-General, International Cooperation Department of NACF. He hoped that this seminar, first of its kind, would help the participants to prepare an action plan for replication in their own countries. Welcoming the participants, Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Cooperative Development Advisor, ICA ROAP, gave a brief account of the background and methodology of the seminar. The resource persons from NACF introduced Korean experience on supply of farm inputs and consumer goods, marketing, banking and credit business as well as development

strategies of agricultural cooperatives. The participants presented country papers and exchanged information of cooperative development in Asia-Pacific region.

Field visits were arranged to the selected cooperatives to give the participants an opportunity to observe the functioning of agricultural cooperatives in Pochun, Kangwon Province, Chunan city and Seoul city.

The participants assessed the seminar as well organised and successfully achieved its objectives. The participants also formulated several proposals to introduce Korean experience to their cooperative organisations in order to improve cooperative business activities.

The closing ceremony of the seminar was held on 15th October 1992. It was addressed by Mr. Yong-Jin Kim, Director-General, International Cooperation Department of NACF, Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Senior Development advisor, and Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Cooperative Development Advisor, ICA ROAP.

It was agreed with NACF that the 2nd ICA/NACF regional seminar would be organised in 1993.

26th Meeting of the ICA Agricultural Committee

26th Meeting of ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and the Pacific was held at IDACA, Japan, on 21st October 1992. 17 members from 10 countries, e.g. Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam attended the meeting. A number of invitees representing various cooperative organisations from Japan also attended the meeting. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr.

Sadayuki Tamoto, Managing Director of JA ZENCHU. The inaugural function was also addressed by Mr. G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director, Mr. Won Ho Suh, Chairman of the Committee. An important agenda on coop. to coop. trade was discussed at the meeting. Mr. Y. Tamura, Secretary-General, National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations of Japan (ZEN-NOH) and Mr. S. Kuwazaza, Director-General, Manager of Planning Department, UNICOOP JAPAN, presented papers on coop to coop trade. The Committee recommended that coop. trade should be given high priority in Agricultural Cooperative Development Project and ICA ROAP would coordinate information exchange, coop. trade and commercial collaboration among the member organisations. The Committee decided to hold its next meeting in Vietnam in 1993 at the invitation of the Central Council of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives of Vietnam.

Mission Report of Mr. W.U. Herath, Advisor, HRD Project on his visit to Thailand - 19 August to 04 Sept 1992

Purpose of the visit was to conduct a facilitators' seminar on CMPP Methodology, and to discuss with the ILO Co-operative Branch at Bangkok on future collaboration.

At present it is not possible to work jointly other than exchanging experiences and attending each other's meetings.

CMPP Methodology Seminar: The facilitators national seminar on CMPP Methodology was carried out in 2 steps. Firstly, Mr. Herath had a trainers' training in the CLT office in Bangkok. 5 trainers from the CLT and CPD participated. Language was a problem factor. However, the manual has already been translated into Thai language.

The second phase was conducted in Nakorn Ratchsima province at Kovat Cooperative Training Centre. 25 participants from the CPD (mainly field officers in charge of member education) and CLT participated at the seminar. The village seminar was conducted at Non-Tai village - 60 KMs away from Kovat.

Language is a barrier of transferring technology. Much distortion occurs when the participants interpret the technologies used. As an example, Thai trainers still could not find an appropriate Thai word for 'Vision' or 'Obstacle'.

Blending of culture into the process like CMPP is another factor unavoidable. Presentation of the themes, sitting arrangements and even pattern of discussions in the groups may vary from culture to culture. Although an attempt was made to bring equality to the trainees irrespective of their age and the levels, it could not be achieved. Ice-breakers too differ from place to place. In the village, the facilitators used the parables from Buddhist literature which is familiar. In the Philippines, songs were used. This is a very positive sign of integrating new techniques to different cultural situations.

The structure of co-operatives adopted in the manual appears to be suitable to Thailand as the agricultural co-operatives in Thailand have several villages under each co-operatives. The village seminars should result in Co-operative Society seminars as mentioned in the manual. However, it appears that it is necessary to add some sessions on how to conduct a business feasibility study to the next edition of the manual. The problem as mentioned in the manual remains same in Thailand. The village where the test seminar was held, has a high literacy rate but landlessness, subsistent living and lack of basic community needs such as school, irrigation for paddy, etc. remain the same.

The village seminar was conducted quite satisfactorily, where the 3 groups identified some self-help projects to be carried out in the future. However, the process has to be introduced to the co-operative society officials. The co-operative has about 73 informal groups and about 3500 individual members. The CMPP programme in this co-operative would be completed after carrying out 73 village seminar and are co-operative society seminar.

The trainers, who participated at the seminar were confident as to the adoption of the approach in their daily functions. They were asked to send their action plans to CPD and CLT respectively. This needs to be followed up. The CLP would adopt the CMPP approaching their women's programmes for which they would make financial allocations next year.

The investment made on the introduction of CMPP approach in Thailand by the ICA, CLT and CPD has been about Baht 300,000. The cost benefits of this involvement has to be assessed in the future in terms of its socio-economic impact in co-operatives and also the strength on the part of the self-help groups involved.

Mission Report of Mr. W.U. Herath on his visit to Japan, Singapore and Sri Lanka - 18 Oct. to 09 Nov. 1992

Mr. Herath participated at the International Youth Seminar held at Kyoto, Japan prior to the ICA Congress. 65 delegates from 16 countries participated at the seminar. The seminar discussed the issues on peace and environment as main themes. The delegates made a peace tree based on their reflections on the subjects. They also prepared a declaration for the solidarity of youth, which was read by a delegate at the Congress.

The women's committee executive committee meeting was held on 22

Oct. where a warm appreciation was given to Ms. Muriel Russel who was retiring as the Secretary to the Committee. The women's committee also discussed the draft ICA Policy on women and they resolved to consider its former.

Mr. Herath participated at the INCOTEC executive committee and the general meeting. Prof. Nojiri was coopted as the vice-Chairperson of the committee. Mr. Mora was coopted as a member of the executive committee. Hereafter the INCOTEC will function as a specialised committee of the ICA.

Negotiations were made with the JCCU for financing the gender programme of the ICA ROAP. They agreed to provide finances for next three years according to the proposal made by the ICA ROAP. They too will send a woman officer after one year. The JCCU also agreed to bear the local costs of the gender planning seminar to be held during the next year.

After long discussions, the SCC confirmed their support to the gender programme of the ICA ROAP. They will contribute for 3 years at the first instance.

Mission Report of Mr. Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor, on his visit to Bangladesh - 20-27 July 1992

ICA/BJSU Workshop on Women's Participation in Women's Cooperatives in Bangladesh

A two-day Workshop on Women's Participation in Women's Cooperatives in Bangladesh was jointly organized by ICA and the Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union (BJSU) at Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, on 22 and 23 July '92. Forty-six (46) women's coop. leaders and 4 observers from International Organizations attended the workshop. Mr. M. Ohya, Chairman of the ICA Committee on Consumer

Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific also joined as a resource person. The workshop was inaugurated and closed by Mr. Addus Salam Talukdar, the Hon'ble Minister of Local Govt., Rural Development and Cooperatives.

Objectives

The main objective of the workshop were to promote and develop women's coops in Bangladesh in general and to emphasize the role of women in economic and social development in the country and the community in particular. Other objectives were:

- To present situations and relevant facts on women's participation in women's cooperatives and its impact on economic and social development.
- To exchange knowledge, experience and problems encountered and solution found among participants in running women's cooperatives.
- To identify problems, needs and solutions for improvement of women's cooperatives.
- To prepare strategic plans for women's cooperative operations in the future.

There were 46 women leaders from women's coops, women's council, Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Development and Cooperatives but mainly from women's cooperatives and four observers from ILO, DANIDA & CIRDAP who attended the workshop. Most of them were of middle ages - between 30 and 40.

The main topics presented at the workshop were:

1. Government Policy and Plans for developing and strengthening women's cooperatives in Bangladesh - by Kazi Rouisur Rahman, Deputy Registrar, Coop. Department.
2. Presentation on Women's Cooperative in Bangladesh - by Mrs. Shaheli Haque.

3. The experiences of Japanese Consumer Coop. Movement - by Mr. Masao Ohya, Chairman, ICA Consumer Committee.
4. Member Participation - by Mr. Pradit Machima.
5. Action Plan and exercise - by Mr. Pradit Machima.

The topics of group-discussion were:

1. How to increase member participation in women's cooperatives in Bangladesh?
2. Strategies and techniques of promoting and improving women's cooperatives and cooperatives management in Bangladesh.
3. Roles of women's coops in enhancing women's education and training for economic and social development in Bangladesh (strategies and techniques).
4. How to organize and promote a pilot project on income generating schemes for women's coops in Bangladesh?
5. How to develop confidence of members in the management of women coops.?

The result of the workshop was very encouraging. It seemed that the participants have learned a great deal. Many of them have expressed their courage and confidence that they will and can do something for their societies and community. However, since they are weak and poor, they need more help (financial and technical) from ICA, BJSU, Cooperative Department, etc.

Problems of Women's Cooperatives in Bangladesh

There are 4,000 women's coops operating in Bangladesh, but only few are running well. The rest are facing various difficulties because of:

- Small Membership;
- Members' poverty;
- Shortage of funds & equipments;
- Ignorance & shyness among members;

- Low education standard or no education at all;
- Lack of skilled trainers, designers & coop. leaders;
- Lack of supply of inputs to members for their production;
- Lack of marketing outlet;
- High interest rates;
- Lack of support from Central Women's Cooperative;
- Low production and small volume of business;
- Poor quality of products because of lack of equipments and lack of skills in production; and
- Un-healthy working places.

The meeting recommended that:

1. This kind of workshop be organized at district and division (province) level;
2. Coop. leaders and key personnel need more training in adult education, skilled training and coop. management;
3. Govt. and central women coops should try to help market their products;
4. Govt. and the National Cooperative Union should try harder to develop women's cooperatives, especially for providing loans to coops at reasonable rates; and
5. Need more training in foreign countries.

Other activities

Other activities besides the workshop were:

Field visit

On 24th of July, Mr. Ohya, Chairman of ICA Consumer Committee, Mr. Salauddin Ahmed, Chairman and Mr. Shahid ullah, General Secretary of BJSU and Mr. Machima visited two women's coops in Narayanganj in order to observe the working conditions of women's coops in the area.

Field visit-cum-consultancy

On 26th July, Mr. Shahid ullah, General Secretary of BJSU and Mr. Dududdin, Coop. Officer of Chittagong and Mr. Machima visited 5 consumer coops and a central union of women's coop in Chittagong. The objectives of the visit were to collect relevant information on cooperatives operations and to give advice to them as to how to improve their operations. From the visit, it was found out that they were doing quite well but not good enough. They could have done better had they been trained properly, especially in store management and financial management. So, it was decided to arrange some small scale training for consumer coop. leaders and key personnel at Chittagong next year.

Mission Report of Mr. Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor, on his visit to Vietnam - 4-20 September 1992

A regional seminar on Cooptrade and Consumer Cooperative Development was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam between 9 and 12 September 1992. The main objectives of the seminar were to promote coop. trade and tourism within the Asia and the Pacific region and to develop consumer cooperatives in Vietnam. The seminar was divided into two parts - (1) Coop. trade and tourism, and (2) Consumer Coop. Development. The seminar was attended by 14 participants from foreign countries, namely Australia (2), China (4), Japan (3), Singapore (1), Sweden (2), Thailand (2) and 35 from Vietnam. The results were quite good.

The main subjects for discussion included: Report on ICA Study Mission to Vietnam in July 1992; Coop. tourism; Report on International Trade; Consumer Coop. Development with special reference to Japan; Roles of NTUC Fairprice in Asia in Consumer

Coop. Development; Consumer Coop. in Vietnam; Basic features of a Cooperative Society.

The seminar on consumer coop. development was attended by coop. leaders and key figures from North, Central and South Vietnam. It was the first seminar ever organized by Saigon Cooperatives. The result of the seminar was quite good. It helped to clear the ideas and concept of cooperation in free society to Vietnamese coop. leaders for the first time because earlier they mis-understood that cooperative was the same as "collective farm" or "State enterprise" where government directed & controlled the cooperative business.

Mission Report of Mr. Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor, for his visit to Japan - 13 October - 3 Nov. 1992

Between 13 October and 3 November, 1992, Mr. Pradit Machima participated in four (4) important activities in Japan - (i) International Symposium on "Roles of Cooperatives and UNICEF" in Fukuoka and Hiroshima; (ii) Joint Meeting of ICA Consumer Committee and ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific; (iii) ICA Tokyo Congress; and (iv) Cultural Exchange Programme in Nagoya. The results were very good and interesting.

Joint Meeting of the ICA Consumer Committee and ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific Tokyo (Japan): 22nd October 1992

In addition to various specialised organisation meetings, a joint meeting of the ICA Consumer Committee and the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific was held in Tokyo on the eve of XXX ICA Congress on 22nd October, 1992 at 11.00 a.m.

Mr. M. Ohya chaired the meeting and

Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, General A.S. Lozada, Chairman of ICA Regional Council, Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Sr. Development advisor, ICA ROAP and Dr. Daman Prakash, Project Director, ICA ROAP, attended the meeting as special invitees.

In the meeting, interalia, the draft of Consumer Coop Development Project for 1993-94 was adopted.

Mr. Lim Ho Seng was elected as second Vice-Chairman of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific; and it was decided to hold the next meeting of the committee in Fiji in May '93.

"Open Conference on Consumer Cooperatives towards the 21st Century" was organized at Keio Plaza Hotel on 23 October, 1992. Around 250 consumer cooperative leaders throughout the world attended the conference. The main speakers were: Mr. Ivano Barberin, President Euro-Coop; Mr. Roland Svensson, Chief Executive, KF; Mr. P.A. Kambli, Apna Bazar Coop., India; Mr. D. Lloyd Wilkinson, Chief Executive and General Secretary, Coop. Union, UK.

Cultural Exchange Programme

The Nagoya Coop. invited consumers observers of the ICA Congress from China, Indonesia, S. Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam under Exchange Programme between 29 October and 3rd November. Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, Mr. M. Ohya, Chairman of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Pradit Machima and Mr. Taneja from ICA ROAP were also invited. The observers stayed with the host families for a couple of days and observed their living style minutely, which has further strengthened the roots of cooperation among the host and guest countries.

This exchange programme was

initiated by Mr. Tanabe, Chairman of International Committee of JCCU.

Mission Report of Mr. Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor, on his visit to Bhopal, Indore and Anand (India), 3-11 December 1992

Meeting in Bhopal and Symposium on Management of Rural Cooperatives in Anand: The main objectives of this mission were (i) to prepare a

programme for organizing a self-financed workshop on Consumer Cooperative Development in Madhya Pradesh, a State in India, (2) to attend a symposium on Management of Rural Cooperatives at the Institute of Rural Management at Anand, and (3) to discuss activities and programmes of consumer cooperative development with local authorities in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The first two objectives were fulfilled. But the last one was not fulfilled due to unavoidable circumstances.

ICA HEAD OFFICE NEWS

ICA Membership Increases

The following co-operative organizations have been admitted into ICA membership.

- * BELARUS
BELORUSSIAN REPUBLICAN UNION OF CONSUMER SOCIETIES (BELKOOPSOYUZ)
220611 17, Prospect Masherova
MINSK, Belarus
tel. (+7) 017/226.95.47 : fax. (+7) 017/223.09.69
Mr. Grigorij Z. GRISCHENKOV, Chairman
- * GEORGIA
CENTRAL UNION OF CONSUMER SOCIETIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA (TSEKAVSHIRI)
380077 Pl. Svobody 7, TBILISI, Georgia
tel. (+7) 883/299.95.29 : fax. (+7) 883/299.90.77
Mr. Resan H. KONTSELIDZE, Chairman of the Board
- * GERMANY
DEUTSCHER GENOSSENSCHAFTS - UND RAIFFEISENBERBAND E.v.
Adenauerallee 127
Postfach 19 01 41
D - 5300 BONN 1
Tel. (+49) 228/10.62.21/22 : Fax. (+49) 228/10.62.66
Mr. Wolfgang GRUGER, President
Dr. Hans-Detlef WULKER, Chief Executive
- * JAPAN
THE JAPANESE WORKERS' COOPERATIVE UNION (JIGYODAN)
Zoshigaya 3-22-10, Toshima-ku
TOKYO, Japan.
tel. (+ 81) 3/3987-5919 : fax. (+ 81) 3/3987-1807
Mr. Goshu NAKANISHI, President
Mr. Soichiro NAKATA, Executive Director

- * POLAND NATIONAL SUPERVISION UNION OF "SPOLEM"
CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES
13, Grazyńy Street, 02-548 WARSAW, Poland.
Tel. (+4822) 45.59.22 : Fax. (+4822) 45.25.81
Mr. Edmund Bogdan BUBAK, President.
- * REP. OF KOREA NATIONAL CREDIT UNION FEDERATION OF
KOREA (NACUFOK)
874-1 Pangbae-dong, Socho-gu
SEOUL 137-061, Rep. of Korea
Tel. (+822) 590-5626 / 5600 : Fax. (+822) 532-2818 / 2813
Mr. Lee HAN-WOONG, President
Mr. Lee KYUNG-KOOK, Chief Executive Officer
- * UKRAINE UNION OF CONSUMER SOCIETIES
(details to be confirmed later)
- * UZBEKISTAN UZBEK REPUBLICAN UNION OF CONSUMER
SOCIETIES
700115 45, Uzbekistansky Prospect
TASHKENT, Uzbekistan
tel. (+7) 371 / 45.71.43-45.71.36 : fax. (+7) 371 / 45.66.58
Mr. Gennady G. VOLKOV, Chairman of the Board

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

ASIAN CONFEDERATION OF CREDIT UNIONS
36/2 Moo 3, Soi Malee-Suanson
Ramkhamhaang Road, Bangkok
P.O. Box 24-171, BANGKOK 10240, Thailand.
Tel. & Fax. (+662) 374-5321
Mr. Somchit SUPABANPOT, General Manager.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CONSUMER
CO-OPERATION (CONSUMINTER)
41, Prospect Vernadskogo, 117981 MOSCOW, Russia.
Tel. (+7) 095 / 432.05.82 : Fax. (+7) 095 / 230.28.19
Mr. Alexandre STARYCH, Vice-Chairman

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Mitsugu HORIUCHI, President of JA-ZENCHU,
Japan has become Vice-President.

The new Members of the Executive Committee are:

Mr. Graham John MELMOTH
CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD.
United Kingdom.

Mr. Roberto RODRIGUES
ORGANIZATION OF COOPERATIVES OF BRAZIL.

SUBSTITUTES

Mr. Leroy LARSEN, President, CCA.
Substitute to Mr. Ian McPherson
(until 1993 General Assembly).

Mr. Etienne PFLIMLIN, Credit Mutuel, France.
Substitute to Mr. Jacques Moreau
(until 1993 General Assembly)

COOP BROTHERHOOD SYMBOLS

The ICA has been working to promote the principles of cooperation in the routine of daily life of the peoples of the world community. The Rainbow flag is the emblem of cooperatives everywhere. It symbolizes the fading of political divisions and the union of peoples. Composed of the primary shades of the rainbow, the Rainbow flag contains all the colours of the flags of the world. All peoples merged under this colourful pennant are united into one international brotherhood, irrespective of the class, caste, community and the regional disparities.

In order to strengthen the bonds of cooperative brotherhood, ICA has developed the Cooperative Necktie made of handloom silk. The personnel of cooperatives should consider to put on the Cooperative Tie on formal cooperative gatherings and give the feeling of distinct international brotherhood. In order to share the cost of the Necktie, ICA DOMUSTRUST charges Rs.135/- for each tie. The stocks are readily available with ICA ROAP. Please enclose the demand draft favouring ICA DOMUSTRUST, New Delhi, at the above rate while ordering to send the tie(s).

CICOPA News

Within the ICA it is currently the industrial and artisan's production co-operatives which are developing the most rapidly: with many weaknesses and inequalities, and with an immense diversity worldwide. What we have in common are our values and our practices. It is these which have been discussed at Tokyo. (For details: CICOPA Newsletter 003/1992.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

INDIA

Office Bearers of the National Cooperative Agricultural & Rural Development Banks' Federation

At the 63rd meeting of the Board of Management of the National Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks' Federation, held at Pondicherry on 17 July 1992, Shri Vishwasrao Balkrishna Ghuikhedkar, was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Federation Shri B.B. Mondal, and Shri Mithu Iqbal Singh, were also elected unanimously as First and Second Vice-Chairmen respectively.

Coop Policy will help Movement

The Agriculture Minister, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, has said that the formulation of the National Cooperation Policy would help in developing a healthy and genuine co-operative movement in the country.

Inaugurating the Conference of State Ministers of Cooperation, Dr. Jakhar said the policy has been formulated in conformity with the spirit of the Sydney Declaration, Jakarta recommendations and the International Cooperative Principles.

The Minister further said the co-operatives could justify their existence if they were competitive and efficient. He added that in the age of liberalisation and globalisation, they would have to keep pace with the changes.

Dr. Jakhar suggested that a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach should be adopted while running the cooperative institutions.

Dr. Jakhar urges to strengthen cooperative marketing

The Agriculture Minister Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar has urged to strengthen the capacity of the cooperative marketing structure to efficiently market the increasing output so that the farmer gets the benefit of the increased production. He also suggested to adopt value addition for Indian agricultural products and to find markets abroad. Dr. Jakhar was addressing the meeting of the newly constituted Board of Directors of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED).

He lauded the role of NAFED for achieving a record turnover of Rs.480 crores and exports of Rs.244 crores during 1991-92. It earned the highest profit of Rs.7.5 crores during the year. Dr. Jakhar suggested to prepare a time bound programme for streamlining the primary marketing societies in their States.

The new Chairman Shri B.M. Sarin said that NAFED started with a share capital of the order to Rs.16,000 in the year 1958. It has since constructed its own building and has offices in 34 locations spread throughout the country. At present its turnover is of the order to Rs.460 crores.

He said that emphasis is being laid in the Eighth Plan for development of Horticulture. NAFED is prepared to play a bigger role in marketing and processing of horticultural produce.

National Productivity Council's Award to NAFED BIO-FERTILIZER

NAFED BIO-FERTILIZER Indore, a Unit of National Agricultural

Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has been awarded prestigious award of National Productivity Council for the year 1990-91 for best performance in Bio-Fertilizer Producers.

The Award was presented by Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, to Shri B.M. Sarin, the Chairman of NAFED at a function held in New Delhi today.

NAFED BIO-FERTILIZER, which has been producing different quality bio-fertilizers since 1984, achieved almost 100% capacity utilization by producing 146.20 MTs bio-fertilizers during the year under reference. In addition to its generic products like NAFED RHIZOBIUM, NAFED AZOTO-BARCTOR and NAFED SUPER CULTURE which are for the benefits of the farming community, it has also come out with another set of revolutionary products like NAFED FLOWER CARE and NAFED VEGETABLE CARE after intensive Research & Development efforts for the urban households maintaining kitchen gardens. In the year ended now i.e. 1991-92 the Unit has performed even better than the last year and produced 170 MTs bio-fertilizers.

Regional Seminar on Women Cooperatives

The Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VMNICM) Pune, conducted a Regional Seminar on Women Cooperatives from 10th to 14th August 1992. 64 delegates from Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra participated. The objectives of the Seminar was to review the present position of women participation in Cooperative Movement to bring awareness about the role of women in cooperative development and to identify meaningful schemes.

Ladies Cooperative Launched

Grihasthali Cooperative Stores Limited run exclusively by ladies, was inaugurated by the Chairman of Calcutta Port Trust, Dr. A.C. Ray at Fortland Park.

The consumer cooperative was formed by Calcutta Port Trust Officers' Wives Association.

Women Coop Bank to be set up soon

Two thousand women are getting together to form the northern region's first women Co-operative Bank managed "by women for women".

Women entrepreneurs are now moving into more areas. These are agro-based industry pharmaceutical, magneto-coils, plastics, electronics, chemicals and mineral-based industry. "But they still face troubles concerning funds. That is why the formation of the Women Bank".

IFFCO achieves record output

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) performed exceedingly well during 1991-92 and achieved several landmarks in the spheres of production, marketing, energy conservation and other fields, despite unfavourable fertiliser marketing situation in the country.

This was disclosed by Mr. P. Ramachandra Reddy, Chairman, IFFCO while addressing the delegates at its Representative General Body Meeting.

IFFCO retained its position as the largest producer of chemical fertilisers in the country, contributing 13 per cent of nation's nitrogenous and 12.7 per cent of phosphatic fertilisers. It achieved the highest-ever production of 27.03 lakh tonne of fertiliser material, surpassing the previous year's record of 25.35 lakh tonne.

NAFED MOU with Italian firm for mushroom exports

NAFED has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Italian firm, Turatti, for the production and export of international quality white button mushrooms.

The first phase of the project envisages a total outlay of about Rs.100 million and would produce 1,500 tonnes of mushrooms annually. Turatti has undertaken to buy 50 per cent of the production and help in finding overseas buyers for the remaining unsold stock.

Currently, most of the annual global demand of 115,000 tonnes is met by farmers from developed countries. Since labour costs in these economies make up about 60 per cent of the product cost, it is expected that India could make a substantial dent in the market.

Rs. 180 million Dividend paid by IFFCO

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) paid nearly Rs. 180 million as dividend to Govt. of India for the year 1991-92 towards their equity participation in IFFCO.

Mr. Pellakuru Ramachandra Reddy, Chairman, IFFCO presented the dividend cheque to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. IFFCO has so far paid over Rs.860 million as dividend.

Cooperatives to have complete Autonomy

The Government, in a major policy decision, has decided to give the co-operatives full autonomy. The national policy on co-operatives which is to be placed before Parliament has urged the Government to remove all legal provisions which would restrict the autonomy of cooperatives.

The policy which has been formulated

after a lot of debate and discussion including a meeting of the state ministers of the co-operatives also envisages a reform of the co-operative legislation with a view to giving fuller autonomy.

The new policy formulations which would turn the fate of the network of 3.50 lakh co-operative societies with a membership of over 16 crore is to be used to "harness and develop people's creative power for decentralised economic development". The co-operative development in the country has so far been by and large the result of state sponsorship and state assistance.

The essence of the policy is to encourage the growth of self-reliant grassroots democratic institutions owned, managed and controlled by members for their economic and social betterment, operating their business on co-operative principles. The policy also calls for development of viable and responsive economic enterprises through the co-operatives. The thrust area of this sector must be agro-processing, cottage industries, marketing and export of agricultural commodities to merge as principal source of income for the small farmers and artisans, landless agricultural labourers and share-croppers.

The need for the new policy in this sector was felt since signs of structural weakness in this sector had become apparent. It was also observed that so far the benefits of co-operative development programme and projects have not percolated to large sections of the rural population who apparently are not in a position to make use of services and facilities of the co-operative societies.

NAFED wins APEDA Award

The National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has won the APEDA award for excellent

performance for export of fresh fruits and vegetables during 1991-92.

The award was presented by the Minister of State for Commerce, Prof. P.J. Kurien, to Mr. B.M. Sarin, NAFED chairman. NAFED exported agricultural commodities worth Rs.204 crore during the year. Onion exports, for which NAFED is the canalising agency, have increased from 68,983 MT in 1974-75 to 4,06,135 MTs in 1991-92. The onion exports alone accounted for Rs.162.8 crore.

Southern growers form Coffee Coop

A multi-state co-operative marketing institution of coffee growers drawn from three southern states. Indian Coffee Marketing Co-operative Ltd. - COMARK, has been formed here for providing service for marketing of coffee.

While it has been proposed to handle only coffee in the first year the co-operative will extend its activities to other commodities. CAMPCO, has been formed to give service to small growers so that they can have a say and benefit in their business.

Coffee, one of the important commercial and plantation crops in the country is grown in an area of 2.50 lakh hectare in 95,500 estates in the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The total production is about 2 lakh tonne per annum. Nearly 60 per cent of the production is exported through the Coffee Board.

The proposed co-operative will handle the produce on consignment basis charging not more than two per cent towards commission apart from actual handling expenses. The co-operative expects to earn Rs.600 per tonne and Rs.60 lakh for 10,000 tonne. It may have to open about 10 collection centres initially in the three states which can be increased in the later years, Dr. Ravindranath said.

PM's concern towards Coops

The Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, expressed his concern that cooperatives, even while contributing significantly to the economy of some states, had not left their impact in others. He hoped that strategies would be developed by which cooperatives would flourish throughout India. He expressed this to a group of individual cooperators called the Cooperative Initiative Panel.

India introduces "Environment-friendly label" ECOMARK

On december 2, 1992, which is observed as the Pollution Prevention day, the Govt. of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, has launched the Ecomark Scheme "Environment Friendly Label".

An earthen pot has been chosen as the logo for the ECOMARK scheme. The logo signifies that the product which carries it does least damage to the environment. It symbolises the earth. The earth has the ability to renew and regenerate itself. An earthen pot stands for man's inherent urge to create and preserve. Its solid and graceful form represents both strength and fragility, which also characterises our ecosystem. The earthen pot uses a renewable resource like earth, does not produce hazardous waste, consumes little energy, can be recycled and is biodegradable.

Although the concern for environment is natural to all human beings. People are unable to differentiate between products which are environment friendly and products which harm the environment. A distinguishing mark can guide us in making the right choice.

The Government have decided to institute a scheme to label products which are environment friendly which means those products which are made, used or disposed of in a way that significantly reduces the harm these

would otherwise cause the environment. The Label shall be known as the ECOMARK and will be awarded to those household and other consumer products which meet specified environmental criteria along with the quality requirements of the Indian Standards.

Dr. Pandey is best Marketing Man

Dr. S.N. Pandey, Marketing Director, Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) was declared the Best Marketing Man- 1992 by National Foundation of Indian Engineers (NAFEN) at their two-days 6th International Congress and Exhibition, ENVIRO - 2000.

Dr. Pandey received the Award and a citation from Shri K.C. Pant, Chairman, Finance Commission.

Dr. Pandey was awarded this coveted prize in recognition of his contribution and services rendered in the marketing of fertilisers and providing direction and leadership to the fertiliser industry in taking the modern agricultural technology to the farmers' doors.

Dr. Pandey is one of the top level marketing executive in the fertiliser industry who has presented about 70 papers in various international journals and seminars and visited a large number of countries as World Bank Consultant on marketing.

Kurien and 8 others get SHASTRI AWARDS

Dr. verghese Kurien, who pioneered the white revolution in India was presented the Lal Bahadur Shastri Desh Gaurav Samman, among nine other eminent personalities.

JAPAN

News & Views

Three-year Plan Highlights General Assembly

At ZEN-NOH'S 14th general assembly, held on June 26 in Tokyo, the focus was on operating plans for fiscal 1992, as well as the fifth year plan, running through June 1995.

ZEN-NOH's plan calls for competitive operations based on the principle of assuring confidence to producers and consumers alike. The plan, which was drawn up in response to cooperative members' calls to the national federation, focuses on reinforcing sales strategies in large consumer markets, developing new agricultural technologies, expanding overseas activities, strengthening businesses related to daily life, and reinforcing the commitment to information systems.

The plan also addresses organization. The ongoing consolidation of primary-level agricultural cooperatives (Nohkyo) and the results of discussions within the committee to promote systematic structural cooperatives will help to rationalize economic activities and to ensure quick responses to businesses, products, and regions.

The fiscal year 1992 operating plan states goals for each business in relation to the fifth three-year plan and urges vigorous action to meet its first year targets.

ZEN-NOH will also review its own functions and structures and promote the creation of dynamic work places, while strengthening its business foundations.

Under the plan, ZEN-NOH will expand its turnover to Y 7,200 billion in fiscal 1992, Yen 7,368 billion in 1993, and Yen 7,553 billion in fiscal 1994 (ending June 1995), the final year of the plan.

The 9th Radio Tampa Asia Award

The Winner of the ninth Raio Tampa Asia Award (certificate and supplementary prize of one million yen) is Mr. Bati in Erdenebaatar, a journalist from Mongolia, for his number of articles introducing history, literature, philosophy and ideas of ancient and present day Japan in the newspaper "ARDCHILAL".

Radio Tampa Asia Award was established in 1984 by Nihon Short-wave Broadcasting, a nation-wide commercial radio station in Tokyo aiming to help contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding and goodwill among Asian and Oceanian regions.

From the period when it was not easy for the journalist to write and publish what he has gathered, Mr. Bati in Erdenebaatar tried to collect as much information as he could concerning the world outside of Mongolia, especially Japan. In spite of lesser amount of information, Mr. Bati in Erdenebaatar researched and then started to print his articles in "ARDCHILAL", a newspaper born after the "democratizing movement" in Mongolia.

BOOK REVIEW

CO-OPERATIVES TODAY: Their Basic Problems

"Has the cooperative lost its reason for existence in contemporary society? In the Western developed countries the co-operative movement seems to be in crisis. Then, how can we understand the progressive development of consumers' co-operatives in Japan and some other countries? Can this be explained by special market conditions in Japan or by the system of member's participation in a small unit? Han (small group)? What are the causes of the growth of workers' co-operatives in Spain and some other countries? (Editor's Preface).

This book focuses on the main issues of

the ICA Congress in Tokyo, 1992. Leadings scholars and leaders of the co-operative movement in Japan discuss the history, the present situation and the future perspective of the co-operative movement in the world of Japan, and seeks to identify its "basic values". The book provides better understanding of the co-operative movement in the contemporary world and encourages its future. This book is highly recommended to all co-operative members and those who are concerned with the co-operative movement.

Preface: Co-operatives Today and Their Basic Values.

Market: Life, Labor & "Participation"

Contents: i) Movement and the History of the ICA: Masao Ohya (Executive Dir. Jap. Con. Co-op Union); ii) The Experience in Socialist Countries and its summary: Akira Matsubara (Professor of Eco. Waseda Univ); iii) The Significance of the Workers' Co-operative Movement - Problems of values and Principles: Kenji Tomizawa (Prof. of Eco. Hitotsubashi Univ. President, Japanese Society for Co-operative Studies).

The Co-operative Movement in Japan and its Issues

- i. Consumers' Co-operatives and other Co-operative Enterprises movements by the Workers. Tokiya Sugimoto (Executive Director, The Association of Labour Banks in Japan).
- ii. The Development of Japanese Multi-purpose Cooperatives and its Contemporary Situation. Tetsuo Takeuchi (Professor of Eco. Nara Women's Univ. Former President, Japanese Society for Coop. studies).

Publisher : Keibunsha, 26, Tanaka Sekiden-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan.

Note: Order to be sent to the publisher.

Price: Yen 1,600 (including Postage).

PHILIPPINES

NATCCO : National Youth Conference

The National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) and the Cooperative Education Center, Inc. (CECI) hosted the First National Cooperative Youth Congress (NCYC) on October 22-26, 1992 in Novaliches, Quezon City, Philippines.

More than 200 youngsters, aged 13-21 years, attended the NCYC. These young people are involved in activities of school and community.

The NCYC was the first time for the youth sector of the Philippine cooperative movement to meet at the national level. This sector, being future leaders, is given due importance as a key factor for the continued success of coops in the coming years. Already, many cooperatives are either directly involving young people in coop activities, or are undertaking projects specifically targeted to their needs.

In line with NCYC's theme 'Cooperative: A challenge to tackle two vital issues. These issues are the role of a youth in cooperatives and how to respond to the challenges confronting coops; and environmental concerns and how young people can help protect, conserve and enhance nature. To these ends, the NCYC participants formulated resolutions.

The NCYC youngsters also came up with action plans to help them apply their learning and insights when they go back to their respective coops, schools and communities. In attendance also at the NCYC were four youths from the Manitoba Cooperative Council of Winnipeg, Canada.

An added highlight of the NCYC was the bestowing of awards to three youths who have exemplified the cooperative ideals through involvement in coop and community

activities. The awardees were Ninonuevo of the Tanay (Rizal) Market Vendors and Community Multi Purpose Coop, Raul B. Limpiado of the Dalakit Youth Organization in Catarman, and Allyn Grace A. Alcaraz of the Students coop Savings Centre of La Consolacion College, Bacolod. Ms. Ninonuevo and Mr. Limpiado each received the 1992 Youth Cooperator Award from NATCCO. Ms. Alcaraz was chosen as 1992's most outstanding Cooperative Student Officer among the Augustinian schools in the Philippines.

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VIETNAM

Central Council of Vietnam Cooperatives And Non-State Enterprises

With a view to supporting the development of cooperatives, private enterprises, individuals in Vietnam and expanding friendship relations and developing the economic cooperation, technical science with the cooperative organizations from member countries in International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), World Assembly of small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) and other economic organizations in the world, the Central Council of Vietnam Cooperatives and Non-State Enterprises was founded.

The Central Council of Vietnam Cooperatives and Non-State Enterprises is a non-government socio-economic organizations comprising: Union of supply and marketing cooperatives, Union of small industry and handicraft cooperatives, Union of construction cooperatives, Union of Transport cooperatives and Associations of entrepreneurs, private enterprises on the basis of voluntariness.

The Central Council is an internal and external clue for cooperatives and non-state enterprises throughout the country.

The Central Council represents the members' right, participating with Government Bodies to compile laws and policies relating to the activities of cooperatives and non-state enterprises; to train and improve the workmanship for entrepreneurs; to research and apply advanced technology, technical science into production and business.

The Central Council represents the cooperatives and non-state enterprises in Vietnam joining the International Counterparts (ICA, WASME) receiving the aids of International and Foreign Organizations; developing international cooperation and relations; widening export-import markets and

services; coordinating the implementation of joint venture, cooperation and investment with cooperatives and other economic organizations in the world.

The organization system of Central Council of Vietnam Cooperatives and non-state enterprises includes:

The Central Council.

The Council of Cooperatives and Non-State Enterprises of provinces and cities.

The Cooperatives and other non-state member units.

The specialized bodies of central Council of Vietnam Cooperatives and Non-State Enterprises:

- Administrative Department.
- International Economic Relations Department.
- Masses Organization Department
- Policy and Law Department.
- Non-State Economic Development Centre (NEDCEN).

For further details, please contact:

Mr. Vu Luu, Director
International Economic Relations
Department, CCSMC
77 Nguyen Thai Hoc, Hanoi, Vietnam.

UNITED KINGDOM

Bernard Howcroft Retires

Bernard Howcroft, Chairman of the Working Party of Cooperative Librarians, Information and Documentation Officers since 1977, has retired as Manager of the British Co-operative Wholesale Society's Library and Information Unit in Manchester after 44 years of service with CWS.

EC Milk for Operation Flood

The European Community (EC) would soon deliver 15,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder and 5,000 tonnes of butter oil as part of its food aid commitment to India for this year to support the third phase of Operation Flood - the country's premier dairy development project.

PLUNKETT FOUNDATION Study Programme tackles current cooperative issues in developing countries

The Plunkett Foundation has begun the first of a new series of Study Programmes specially aimed to help co-operatives in those countries undergoing "Structural Adjustment Programmes" (SAP).

Attending the course are co-operating managers, planners and policy makers from Kenya, Gambia, India, South Africa, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The programme is an entirely new approach to "development" courses, being based on workshop sessions (which encourage participants to think for themselves, identify their specific problems and work out their own

strategies to solve them) and visits to co-operatives and other relevant organisations to see given expert assistance by Plunkett Staff and external consultants in preparing a plan of action which is within their scope to carry out on their return.

SAPs were set up when international monetary and donor organisations made economic policy changes a prerequisite for further lending, because of the enormous debts owing by governments caused partly by the drastic decline a world market prices for agricultural produce. Cooperatives have been compelled to act as near parastatal organisations in many developing countries, so when "economic liberalisation" takes place the effect of co-operatives could be immediate - they sometimes lose market and supply monopolies, subsidies and loan facilities, and at the same time face new competition from other traders.

So the need for a strategy to compete in the market place is vital. The programme therefore focuses on the most important aspects of running an efficient and competitive member-controlled organisation - such as the role of co-operatives in a market economy, governance in cooperatives, the leadership factor, developing marketing planning etc. The Plunkett Foundation believes that this and other similar programmes will provide much-needed help to those who are in a position to effect changes, in evolving strategies to establish cooperatives that are genuine member-run organisations working for the thousands of small farmers who not only feed the nation, but produce the crops for export which earn vital foreign exchange.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

ASPACON Appreciation

The President of Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines has written that:

"Please be informed that the Coop News is read by the officers and employees of the Cooperative Development Authority, as well as the general public. They find the magazine very informative. More so, it also beefs up the CDA Library".

We thank the President and feel encouraged.

SWEDEN

Reorganisation of the SCC

The cooperative movements in the third world are facing new challenges as economic reforms are undertaken, political pluralism is gaining ground and the structural adjustment programmes come into effect. These fundamental changes open up new possibilities, but they do also entail considerable difficulties. It is obvious however, that the movements will have to undergo a period of transformation, to a higher or lesser extent, in order to adjust to the new situation.

The Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) wants to be a useful partner also in the future. Its development programmes will therefore also need to change so as to correspond to new needs. Additional and new types of resources will furthermore be required and this will put increasing demands on solidarity and mobilization of funds among the Swedish Cooperative movements. The SCC is therefore undertaking a major reorganization of its headquarters in order to intensify the engagement and support for its work among the Swedish cooperators. The reorganization will also strengthen the capacity of the SCC development section. As part of the reorganization, the SCC Board of Directors has appointed Mrs. Eidi Genfors as the new Executive Director as from October 1, 1992.

Eidi Genfors has a degree in Economics from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. After her studies she undertook research work in Mocambique in 1978 and in 1979 she worked for the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) in Guinea-Bissau. During the 80s she has worked for several parastatals in Sweden as well as for the Ministry of Agriculture. She has specialized in agricultural and trade policies. Since 1988 she is employed by the Federation

of Swedish Farmers. Eidi Genfors is a board member of SIDA as well as of SCC.

The present Executive Director, Mr. Bjorn Genberg, has expressed a wish to concentrate on the development of SCCs assistance programme, and he will do so in the new position of Deputy Executive Director. A close dialogue with the SCC cooperative partners in the South is now required in order to determine how the development programme of the SCC is to adjust to the changing environment in the South. □

CONDOLENCES

ASPACON learnt with great sorrow of the passing away of Dr. J.H. Ollman. The staff of ICA ROAP conveyed their condolences in the following resolution:

"DEEPLY GRIEVED AND SHOCKED TO LEARN OF DR. JAN HANNS OLLMAN'S UNTIMELY DEATH. HE WAS OUT HONOURED AND HIGHLY RESPECTED COLLEAGUE. WE WILL CHERISH HIS ASSOCIATION WITH US FOR EVER. PLEASE ACCEPT AND CONVEY TO YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHIES AND HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES FROM ALL COLLEAGUES IN THE ICA DELHI REGIONAL OFFICE. WE PREY TO GOD FOR PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL".

OBITUARY

The death has occurred of Dr. Hanns. J. Ollman, aged 76, former Joint Chief for Research and Public Relations at the International cooperative Alliance in London.

A distinguished international cooperator, Dr. Ollman had travelled widely on behalf of the ICA in Europe, Latin America and South East Asia as an adviser and lecturer, and was official spokesman for the Alliance at ICA Congresses and conferences. He retired from the ICA in 1982 after its headquarters were removed from London to Geneva.

As ICA Secretary for Press and Publications, Dr. Ollman was Editor of the ICA Journal "Review of International Cooperation" and also was responsible for the reception at ICA headquarters of cooperative delegations from all parts of the world. He was a member in 1966 of the ICA Commission of Inquiry on Cooperative Principles. He had also acted as Secretary of the ICA Press Working Party.

Over the years, he and his devoted wife Eileen acted as hosts at their Central London home to hundreds of individual cooperators from many countries.

COOPERATIVE PUBLICATIONS ISSUED DURING 1992

01. An Overview of Gender Integration and Women in Cooperative Development in Asia and the Pacific by W.U. Herath. Rs.100/US\$15.
- Gender Integration Country Study Series:**
02. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Fiji by M.Vuluvano. Rs.100/US\$15.
03. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Pakistan by Shahnaz Kazi. Rs.100/US\$15.
04. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Thailand by Pailin Supakitvilekagarn. Rs.100/US\$15.
05. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Korea, DPR by Gang Jung Ok. Rs.100/US\$15.
06. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Sri Lanka by Chandra Rupasinghe. Rs.100/US\$15.
07. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Bangladesh by Fatema Kabir. Rs.100/US\$15.
08. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Indonesia by Jutta Berninghausen. pp.47. Rs.100/US\$15.
09. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Philippines by Teresita P Jamias. Rs.100/US\$15.
10. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - India by Gurveen Rikhy. Rs.100/US\$15.
11. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Afghanistan by Fahima Azizy. Rs.100/US\$15.
12. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Iran by Maryam K. Saleh. Rs.100/US\$15.
13. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Malaysia by Rahaiah bte Baهران. Rs.100/US\$15.
14. Gender Integration in Cooperatives - Japan by Akiko Yamauchi. Rs.100/US\$15.
15. Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan : The dynamics of their development - 2nd Revised Enlarged Edition by M.V. Madane. Rs.200/US\$30 (paper back), Rs.250/US\$35 (hard bound).
16. Sustaining Environment Through Cooperative Action by Daman Prakash. Rs.100/US\$15.
17. Environment & Cooperatives : A Regional Study covering India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and Thailand by G.C. Shrotriya & Daman Prakash. Rs.300/US\$25.
18. Cooperative-Government Relationship: Report and other Documentation of the 2nd Conference of Ministers Responsible for Cooperative Development on Cooperative Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Cooperatives Jakarta. Feb.18-21, 1992. pp.298. Rs.400/US\$60.
19. Conclusions and Recommendations - 1992 Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference Jakarta, Indonesia: February 18-21, 1992. Rs.60/US\$10.
20. Agribusiness Cooperatives : Case Studies conducted in India, Bangladesh, Thailand & Indonesia by S.P. Seetharaman & P.M. Shingi. Rs.225/US\$35.
21. COOPFED - SRI LANKA : The Birth of a Consumer Cooperative Federation - Two case studies by Karl Fogelstrom. Rs.60/US\$10.
22. Towards Genuine Cooperatives: Pre-requisites for Cooperative Success or Criteria for Genuine Cooperative Societies by Karl Fogelstrom. Rs.20/US\$3.
23. A Learners manual for Internal Auditing in Primary Cooperatives (HRD Series 3) by Prof. B.N. Choubey (Retd. Secretary, NCCT, India). Rs.60/US\$10.
24. Dawn of Consumer Cooperative Movement in Asia.
25. Guidelines for an Action Plan on a Cooperative Project.
26. Principle of Super Market Operations.
27. Short Essays on Member Development in Consumer Cooperatives by Pradit Machima, W.U. Herath and Daman Prakash. pp.60. Rs.60/US\$10.
28. Basic features of a Cooperative Society (with special reference to consumer cooperatives).
29. Report on Regional Seminar on University Cooperatives in Asia held at Brawijaya University, East Java, Indonesia.
30. Report on National Orientation Seminar on Member Participation and Housewives Involvement in Consumer Cooperatives held at Quezon City, Philippines in May.

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