

2nd Training Course on
**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE
ENTERPRISES FOR RURAL WOMEN**

PHILIPPINES – JAPAN
July 13 – August 18, 2007

COURSE REPORT



**International Co-operative Alliance
Asia and Pacific**

ICA Library
334:001.85
ICA-T
ICA 02510

ICA 02570

2nd Training Course on
**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE
ENTERPRISES FOR RURAL WOMEN**

Philippines - Japan: 13th July to 18th August 2007

COURSE REPORT

334,007.85



**International Cooperative Alliance –
Asia and Pacific**

9 Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector-13,
New Delhi-110066, India.



**Report of the 2nd Training Course on
Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women
Philippines-Japan: 13th July to 18th August 2007**

CONTENTS

SECTION-1					
Executive Summary	...	...	...	...	01
SECTION-II					
Inauguration of Part-I of the Training Course in the Philippines	...		...		04
SECTION-III					
Comparative Field Study Visits in the Philippines	...		...		05
SECTION-IV					
Inauguration of Part-II of the Training Course in Japan			...	...	11
SECTION-V					
Country Background Papers – A Summary of Country Reports (China, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam)	...		...		12
SECTION-VI					
Comparative Field Study Visits in Japan...	...		...	...	22
SECTION-VII					
Concluding Session of the Training Course in Japan			...	...	26
SECTION-VIII					
Action Plans Proposed by the Participants	...		...	...	28
SECTION-IX					
List of Participants	...		...	...	37
SECTION-X					
Program of the Training Course	...		...	...	40

2nd Training Course on
Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women
Philippines-Japan: 13th July to 18th August 2007

COURSE REPORT

SECTION - I

Executive Summary

Introduction

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is an independent non-government association that unites, represents and serves cooperatives worldwide. Founded in London in 18th August 1895 by the International Cooperative Congress, the ICA, the largest non-governmental organization, is headquartered in Geneva. ICA is a member-based organization with national and international cooperative organizations in more than 85 countries. ICA's four offices in Africa, the Americas, Asia & Pacific and Europe, together, serve more than 221 member organizations, representing well over 800 million cooperative members around the world.

The ICA-Asia and Pacific Office is operating from New Delhi since 1960, serves 57 national level organizations from 22 countries, representing about 500 million cooperative members.

Background

The ICA was earlier chosen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan to implement its Training Project on "Strengthening Women's Agricultural Cooperatives in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management and Rural Life" for the last 15 years. The overall objective of the training program under this Project was "to facilitate improvement of living standards of rural farm households through women's participation in agricultural cooperative activity". 100 women from 13 countries had successfully participated in these courses.

On the basis of these achievements, a Training Project on "**Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women**" has now been developed and agreed upon for implementation through the ICA, with a view to generating employment and increasing income of rural women, and based on discussions held between the International Cooperative Alliance [ICA], the

Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan [JA-ZENCHU]/IDACA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan.

Under this Project, the 2nd Training Course on “**Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women**” was held in the **Philippines and Japan**. **Part-I** of the Training Course was held in the Philippines from 13th to 22nd **July** and **Part-II** in Japan in collaboration with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo (Japan) from 23rd **July** to 18th **August** 2007. The program is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), of the Government of Japan and implemented by ICA.

Objectives

The main objectives of the Training Course under this Project were:

- To learn method of enterprise development by rural women through case studies;
- To study management method of micro-enterprises by rural women; and
- To learn method of encouraging women to be involved in rural communities development.

Course Participants

Twelve (12) rural women leaders of agricultural cooperatives were selected by ICA-AP for the Training Course - two each from China, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam. A list of participants is placed at Section-IX.

Training Program

The training program placed a strong emphasis on enhancing the participation of women in agricultural cooperatives which results in generating additional income for rural women. The day-to-day program of the Training Course, as followed, is placed at Section-X.

Home Country Assignments (HCAs)

The selected participants undertook their Home Country Assignments (HCAs) for a period of 5 days (8th to 12th July) prior to the actual commencement of the Training Course in the Philippines. They prepared: (i) **Country Reports**; and (ii) **Action Plans** for the development of their own organizations. The Action Plans prepared by the participants in their home countries were substantiated during study visits in the Philippines and Japan.

The Training Course was divided into two parts, as has been explained below:

Part-I: Study Visits in the Philippines

A 10-day study visits program was held in the Philippines from 13th to 22nd **July** 2007 in collaboration with National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) – a member organization of ICA. The main subjects covered during study visits were: Voluntary associations in support of empowerment of rural women; Self-Help Groups as a sub-system of agricultural cooperatives; Micro-credit; Methods and Techniques of Marketing of Products; Methods used for generation of income and employment, etc.

Part-II: Training Course in Japan

Part-II of the Training Course including field study visits was held in Japan for 26 days (23rd July to 18th August 2007). The program was conducted by and located at IDACA. Some of the key subjects covered at IDACA were:

- Presentation of Country Reports;
- Women's Associations and Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives;
- Organization and Business Development of Agricultural Coops in Japan;
- Rural women Enterprises in Japan and Involvement in Rural Communities Development;
- Safety of Farm Products and Increase of their Quality; and,
- Reporting, Evaluation and Country Action Plans.

Financial Support

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan contributed funds to the 2nd Training Course on "Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women" which was followed by a grant for its implementation. The ICA is highly appreciative of the contribution made and grateful to the Government of Japan for this gesture.

Acknowledgements

In the implementation of the 2nd Training Course, the ICA has received full support and cooperation from the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA-ZENCHU), the International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan; the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia [IDACA] in Japan; National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) of the Philippines and other ICA Member-Organisations in the Region. The ICA is grateful to its member-organisations for their support.

Administrative Arrangements

Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer/Program Coordinator, ICA-AP, was responsible for the conduct of the 2nd Training Course. The entire Training Course was coordinated and implemented by him for its full duration, under the direction of the ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific.

Part-II of the training program held in Japan at IDACA was conducted under the direction and guidance of Mr. Kazuo Tsukada, Executive Director of IDACA. Ms. Eiko Oshita was designated by the IDACA as the Course Coordinator for this part.

Summary of the Time Table

The following was the summary of the timetable:

Home Country Assignments (HCAs)	:	8th to 12 th July 2007
Arrival of Participants in Manila	:	13th July
Part-I: Study Visits in the Philippines	:	14 th to 22 nd July
Arrival of Participants in Tokyo	:	23 rd July
Part-II: Training Course in Japan	:	24 th July to 17 th August
Departure of Participants from Japan	:	18 th August 2007

SECTION - II

Inauguration of Part-I of the Training Course in the Philippines

The inauguration of Part-I of the 2nd Training Course on "Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women" was held in the morning of 14th July 2007 at the premises of National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO). The inaugural session was attended by Mr. Rustico U. Galang, Chairman, St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative (SMTCDC) and former Board of Director of NATCCO; Mr. Alex G. Almendral, Vice President (Business Operations) of NATCCO; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer/Program Coordinator of ICA-Asia and Pacific; and a number of NATCCO officers and staff.

Mr. Alex G. Almendral welcomed the participants and the guests on behalf of NATCCO. He said that NATCCO has the honour to organise such an international training program in the Philippines. He wished the participants a comfortable stay in the Philippines. He also made a presentation about the Transformed NATCCO.

Mr. Sethu Madhavan welcomed all the distinguished guests and the participants to the inaugural session. He expressed the gratitude of the ICA to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan for their continued financial support to the program and JA-ZENCHU/IDACA for their active collaboration in the implementation of the training program. He also expressed the gratitude of ICA-AP to NATCCO for making all arrangements for the field visits in the Philippines. He also informed about some basic disciplines to be maintained throughout the training course.

The Training Course was formally inaugurated by Mr. Rustico U. Galang, Chairman, St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative (SMTCDC). He thanked the organisers for inviting him to be the Chief Guest at the inaugural session. He explained the challenges of the cooperative movement. He said "The Philippines, despite its positive prospects in economic development, is seriously confronted with the continuing problems of poverty and income inequality. Income inequality comes in two dimension – the inequality among classes in the economic strata (or the poor becoming poorer and the rich becoming richer); and inequality among regions of the country (or the poor regions are being left behind by the fast-paced development of the regions).

Cooperativism has now been put in the public mind not only as a vehicle of development but as a process of empowerment. The movement paves the way for genuine people empowerment – to become a development force so that the poor can craft their own destiny in a highly skewed social set-up.

Cooperatives and other labour enterprises are among the pillars of the people empowerment movement. This empowerment movement, which is now known as the civil society movement, aspires for a strong pro-people mixed economic society where the state, private and civil society are cooperatively harnessed in the development efforts of society".

He said that the coops should be able to develop members to be the entrepreneurs which would reduce unemployment. He hoped that the participants would have a comparative study of the Philippines and Japanese Cooperative Movements in the coming days. Finally, he wished the participants a pleasant stay in the Philippines.

He also presented a paper on "The Cooperative Movement in the Philippines" for the benefit of the participants.

SECTION-III

Comparative Field Study Visits in the Philippines

The comparative field study visits were arranged from 16th to 21st July 2007 in and around Manila by the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO).

The participants visited the following cooperatives/women's groups in the Philippines to get an opportunity to meet some of the progressive women members and observe their participation in the business operations of their agricultural cooperatives.

National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)

The National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) was formed by credit union pioneers in the Philippines who believed that the task of cooperative development lies primarily in the hands of private sector. These leaders believed in self-help, in the idea that unless people do something to solve their own problems, their situation will not get any better. These leaders believed that to succeed, cooperatives have to be driven, capitalized and patronized by the members themselves rather than depending on government. They believed in membership responsibility. They upheld that this membership responsibility could only be established through cooperative education.

Thus, in the 1950s and 1960s, a large number of privately-initiated primary cooperatives (cooperatives with individual persons as members) were formed. Between 1966 and 1976, these cooperatives formed five regional cooperative training centres. In 1977 the five regional training centres organised NATCCO, then known as National Association of Training Centres for Cooperatives, to coordinate the provision of training and educational services at the national level, and serve as the voice of cooperatives belonging to NATCCO network. In response to the growing needs of primary cooperatives' affiliates, NATCCO was converted into a multi-service national cooperative federation while the regional training centres were transformed into multi-service cooperative development centres in 1986. However, the acronym NATCCO was retained and its meaning converted to the present National Confederation of Cooperatives.

Today NATCCO is the biggest and strongest national federation of cooperatives in the Philippines in terms of geographical reach, membership, financial capacity, and array of services. The vision of NATCCO is – We are the most trusted world-class financial cooperative network. The mission is – We deliver superior, relevant, and ethical financial and allied services anytime, anywhere.

Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)

The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) is a government agency created by virtue of Republic Act No.6939 in compliance with the provisions of Section 15, Article XII of the Philippines Constitution of 1987 which mandates Congress to create an agency to promote the viability and growth of cooperatives as instruments for equity, social justice and economic development. RA 6939 was signed into law on 10th March 1990.

The CDA is governed by a board of administrators consisting of a Chairperson and six members appointed by the President and are chosen from among the nominees of the cooperative sector with two representatives each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. They serve for a term of six years without reappointment.

The CDA is mandated by law to promote the viability and growth of cooperatives as instruments of equity, social justice and sustainable economic development. Vision: A strong and viable

cooperative sector that is able to create and equitably distribute wealth, expand socio-economic opportunities and help bring about conditions to overcome poverty and strengthen the middle class in the Philippines.

Mission: The CDA shall be a proactive and responsive lead agency in advancing and sustaining the growth of the cooperative sector by pursuing a holistic development approach, establishing support systems and structures and building strong linkages with stakeholders, thereby optimising benefits to cooperatives in particular and to society in general.

R.A 6939 has granted the CDA with the following main powers, functions and responsibilities: Registration; Regulation; Mediation and Conciliation; and Developmental.

Valenzuela Development Cooperative (VALDECO)

In 1980 the market vendors of the Green Leaf Market organised Valenzuela Community and Vendors Credit Cooperative Inc. It was registered on 24th October 1980 and confirmed with the CDA on 1st April 1991 with confirmation number MLA-C-490 under its new name – Valenzuela Development Cooperative (VALDECO). In 1992, through the effort of its members and with the help of other primary cooperatives and federations where VALDECO is affiliated, the cooperative was able to acquire its own building at its present premises in Valenzuela City.

VALDECO is an open type multi-purpose cooperative, which operates within the area of Valenzuela city and nearby areas. Its primary objective is to uplift the standard of living of its members. Its operation is financed by members through share capital, savings deposits, and time deposits.

The Vision of VALDECO is – The model and leading coop, serving its members and the community. The Mission is – To uplift the standard of living of members and be a partner in community development by providing livelihood and other institutional services.

Now on its 27th year, VALDECO stands as one of the oldest and productive cooperatives in the city of Valenzuela. With an asset of 96.3 million Pesos and a membership of 5,418 it has retained its ranking as the second largest cooperative in the city of Valenzuela, offering many services to its members and associate members.

VALDECO is run by 9 (5 women and 4 men) Board of Directors who supervise and control the affairs of the cooperative policies guided by the Cooperative Code of the Philippines. Board members are elected by the General Assembly composing of regular members with good standing. The term of office of the board of directors is two years. They are eligible for re-election for a maximum period of three terms only. It has 22 full-time employees who manage its day to day operation. 80% of members are women. The net profit for the year 2006 was 3.6 million Pesos. The cooperative has been running in profit since its inception.

The participants also visited the Pharmacy run by the cooperative. They also visited the garments making unit and handicrafts making unit. Raw materials for the handicrafts unit are supplied by the VALDECO.

Paco Soriano Pandacan Development Cooperative (PSPDC)

Paco Soriano Pandacan Development Cooperative (PSPDC) was organised in 1977 for the purpose of engaging in activities as a credit cooperative under Presidential Decree No.175 and Letter of Implementation No.23 and was registered with the Bureau of Agricultural Cooperative Development as full-fledged cooperative with Certificate Registration number R-IV-CA-03322 dated 19th January 1988. Its registration was confirmed by the Cooperative Development Authority on 15th August 1991 with Certificate of Confirmation number MLA-C-834. The Cooperative Articles of Cooperation and By-laws amended under CRA No.MLA-C-147-1216

dated 29th September 2004. The cooperative's area of operation shall be 5th and 6th districts of Manila and its principal office is located at Paco, Manila.

Through the years the membership grew, reaching a peak of 2,500 in 1999. Today PSPDC has a little over 3,000 members. Of the total membership, 25% are male while almost 75% are female. Although originally intended for the benefit of the market vendors of Paco, Soriano and Pandacan, the cooperative started accepting members from other sectors of the community even during the early years. Membership is open to all persons residing or working within PSPDC's area of operation.

To be a member, one applies with the properly designated officers of the cooperative, attends a pre-membership education seminar (PMES), pays a membership fee of Pesos 50, and subscribes to at least 50 shares equivalent to Pesos 5,000. Upon application, a new member is required to pay the value of 10 shares equivalent to Pesos 1,000.

The loan portfolio available to members includes the regular, special, housing, calamity and balikwasan loans. The last is a micro-finance lending. As in other micro-financing schemes, the balikwasan is granted to a group of five members, each one serving as each other's guarantor to ensure that the loan is repaid in full when due date comes. A maximum of 25,000 Pesos may be availed under this scheme, at an interest rate of Pesos 40 per Pesos 1,000 loan. Over the years, PSPDC has been able to grant increasingly larger amount of loans. From only half a million in 1977, total loans released in 2006 have reached Pesos 211 million. Women, who comprised the majority of the market vendors, were the main beneficiaries of these loans.

Only on its second year of operation, the cooperative already reached its Pesos 1 million mark in terms of assets. Last year, total assets were valued at Pesos 119 million. Today, PSPDC continues to be classified as a large enterprise under RA 8289 or the amended Magna Carta for Small Enterprises, which defines a large enterprise as one that has more than Pesos 60 million in assets.

The PSPDC is run by nine (5 male and 4 female) board of directors and their term of office is two years. The net surplus for the year 2006 was Pesos 2.804 million. The net surplus expected for the year 2007 is Pesos 4.763 million.

The participants also observed the Vendors' Market near the cooperative. The vendors are the members of the PSPDC.

Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC)

Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC) was first established as Sorosoro Ibaba Farmers' Association on 19th March 1969. The Association was funded initially by 59 members who voluntarily contributed 200 Pesos each for a total capital of Pesos 11,800. It was used for the construction of a goods store that offered basic commodities needed by the residents.

In 1972, the Association became the Samahang Nayaon ng Sorosoro Ibaba and started contract-growing activities. The success of the operation had strongly encouraged additional members to a total of 500, large enough for an organization to qualify as full-fledged cooperative. Samahang Nayaon ng Sorosoro Ibaba became Sorosoro Ibaba Consumers Cooperative in November 1978. Five years later, it was registered with the Ministry of Agriculture as a development cooperative. Only then the cooperative was renamed Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative Inc. It became Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC) in 1997.

As of 31st December 2006, the cooperative has 4,379 regular members (55% female) and 5,605 associate members. It is foreseen to increase due to the success and the benefits it has been providing not only to members but to the community as well. Most of its members are residents of

Batangas city. It also has members from nearby provinces. It now employs 227 regular employees, most of which are members of the cooperative.

The business activities of SIDC are as follows: Feed Mills, Contract Growing, Savings and Loans, Coop Mart, Hog Selling Pen, Artificial Insemination, Rentals, CATV Service, Pig Farm, Rice Mill, Slaughter House, Farmer VIC Processed Meat, Gasoline Station, Farmer VIC Meat Shop, and SIDC Aqua Care.

The SIDC provide members with the following services: Free medical check-up; SIDC care (hospitalization); Scholarship grants; study now pay later; Barangay development fund; Mortuary fund; Newsletter publication; Technical and marketing assistance; Seminars and training; Job opportunities; Other courtesy-gift certificates; and Patronage refund. The SIDC has got many awards since 1989.

The SIDC is run by nine (4 male and 5 female) board of directors and their term of office is two years. The net surplus for the year 2006 was Pesos 30.505 million.

St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative (SMTCDC)

St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative (SMTCDC) was started on 11th November 1969. Originally named as St. Martin of Tours Credit Union, it was formally registered with the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Cooperative Development on 27th January 1970 and was named after the patron saint of what was once a 4th class agricultural town in the province of Bulacan, Bocaue. Under the leadership of Dr. Antonio B. Fortuna - who served as the coop's Chairman for 20 years – the coop took root, flourished and has never stopped growing. Dr. Fortuna has, since then, been elevated as the coop's Chairman Emeritus. Initially holding office in a room in the municipal office, it no soon had its own office building at a small lot beside the parish church. Following the Samahang Nayon (community association) principle of the Martial Law years, the credit union registered itself anew as St. Martin of Tours Kilusang Bayan sa Pagpapautang Inc. By this time, the membership had reached 500.

15 years since its inception, in 1984, membership was recorded at 3,000. Meanwhile, from the founders' equity of Pesos 250, total assets steadily leaped to Pesos 18.5 million. More milestones and achievements were a-coming. Expanding its reach, membership was opened outside of Bocaue to four neighbouring towns and serviced by three branches. However, more branches were soon opened to bring the offered products and services closer to the people. Today the coop has got more than 16,000 members in Central Luzon and is the biggest savings and credit coop in the region.

Evolving through the years as an effective channel for socio-economic growth in the communities it serves, the coop registered with the CDA its energised name – St. Marin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative. To ensure that operations remain efficient and sustaining, SMTCDC started to migrate its information system into a wide area network system.

Relevance, timeliness and viability are among the key indicators on why specific financial products are offered to SMTCDC members which are classified as deposit products and loan products. To help uplift the quality of life of its members, the coop dispenses many social services.

The vision of SMTCDC is – We are the country's leading cooperative in terms of financial strength, quality of members and contribution to society. The mission is – We give responsive financial products and services that best address the socio-economic needs of the community.

As part of gender sensitivity and women empowerment program of the coop, the SMTCDC Kababaihan (Women) Club was organised in July last year by ex-officio Director Irma Cruz who then headed NATCCO's Women's Sector in Luzon. With an initial membership of 259, the Kababaihan Club has engaged in livelihood and enrichment seminars as well as educational field

trips. Membership to the Club is open to all interested women in the community regardless of membership in the cooperative. A livelihood loan package is offered to club members who have completed any of the trainings offered to help jumpstart a related business.

The net surplus of SMTCDC for the year 2006 was Pesos 5.643 million. The coop has got Pesos 549 million assets at present. The coop is run by nine (3 male and 6 female) board of directors and their term of office is two years.

Andrea's Sweets: The participants visited Andre's Sweets run by a member of the SMTCDC. It has got a total of 20 employees and works in two shifts of 8 hours. The sweets are very popular and sold to all markets in Manila. She has taken a loan from SMTCDC. It has also got two delivery vans.

St. Jude Multipurpose Cooperative

On 5th April 1967 Rev. Fr. Carlos Isles, former parish priest of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish and 14 spiritually nourished Cursillistas from Lucena City founded St. Jude Community Credit Cooperative Inc. – now St. Jude Multipurpose Cooperative. Inspired by a common concern to help barangay constituents to become responsible, productive and resourceful residents, they put in together an initial capital of 673 Pesos to venture into lending program. The office of the cooperative was then located in a small space offered by St. Jude Parish.

In 1973 the successor parish priest (Rev. Fr. Ruben T. Profugo) who later became Bishop had an opportunity to attend a three month intensive training on cooperatives in Cagayan de Oro City. Motivated of what has been learned, he initiated the holding of the 1st General Assembly and introduced Pre-Membership Seminars as a pre-requisite for membership. He also spearheaded the putting up of an own office to serve existing and prospective members. It was a dream-come-true when the cooperative was able to purchase a plot and building in front of St. Jude Parish in 1983. In December 1985 the cooperative moved to its new premises.

From then on the Board of Directors (numbering 9 - 3 male and 6 female) being the representative of the whole membership of St. Jude Multipurpose Cooperative makes sure that the cooperative would succeed in many ways. They see to it that the services being offered are not only for the good of its members, but also in such a way that it will benefit the community within the area of operation.

At present the cooperative's total asset is 176 million Pesos and the total membership is 6,569 (95% are women). The net surplus for the year 2006 was 7.866 million Pesos.

The SJMP prides itself with the following main services; credit services, micro-finance program, consumer services, funeral services and health services. The coop provides to its members many social services. The coop received various awards from different bodies. It also provides many community services to its members.

The participants also visited the coop's health services, funeral services and garlands making unit (sampaguita) under micro-finance program.

Health services were started in August 2005. The coop ventured into this kind of service which offers lower cost of check-up because the accredited doctors are members of the cooperative and reasonable price for various laboratory tests to members and non-members.

Funeral Services was established in late 1990s. The building which is owned by the cooperative was inaugurated in September 2002. It is open for 24 hours, and offers affordable packages with quality service. Now-a-days its funeral services and packages are being copied by other funeral parlours.

Ligas Kilusang Bayan sa Pagpapaunlad Inc (LKBPI)

Ligas Kilusang Bayan sa Pagpapaunlad Inc (LKBPI) was started on 2nd March 1986, just after the historic EDSA Revolution. The founders gathered a starting capital of 15,800 Pesos which was initially lent to members for their livelihood and providential needs at very low interest rate, thus preventing them from borrowing from the so called “bumbay” or “5-6” proliferating then in the place. From here started the continuous growth in membership, capitalisation and resources of LKBPI. The cooperative has since established a positive image in the sector as proven by various award and citations it received.

The organisation was first registered as a credit cooperative in 1989. It amended its Articles of Incorporation and By-laws in 1994 to reflect its shift from lending to multipurpose cooperative. From mere lending, the cooperative has diversified its businesses and has expanded its area of operations through its various branch offices, offering variety of programs and services to its members and to the communities where it operates. Lately, in preparation for the implementation of the new Manual of Rules and Regulations and to strengthen more and expand its financial base and resources, it further amended its Articles of Cooperation and By-laws. This latest amendment was approved by the CDA on 18th June 2007. It is now ready to brace up for bigger challenges ahead as it equips itself to give flesh to its new vision, mission and goals leading to a higher quality of life for members and communities.

The cooperative has its head office, four branches and four special projects. Its businesses include lending, deposit servicing, memorial lots, motor trading, hardware and construction supplies, montessori school and skills training and manpower placement. The coop's economic and social initiatives are all anchored on the felt needs of the members and the communities, striking a balance between business and social responsibilities. The holistic approach provides solutions to members' needs from womb to tomb, and leads towards the empowerment of the members and the marginalised sector. Establishing linkages and networking, the coop's programs and services benefit a greater number of small farmers and fisher folks, micro-entrepreneurs and other members expanding to 3 cities and 29 municipalities of the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija.

For the past three years (2004 to 2006) the coop has made a tremendous growth in terms of membership, capital expansion, resources, programs and projects. From 54.861 million Pesos in December 2003, its total assets jumped to 121.052 million Pesos as of December 2006; membership grew from 2,861 to 5,193 (2,764 regular and 2,429 associate); capitalisation rose from 14.418 million Pesos to 28.124 million Pesos; and deposits increased from 27.607 million Pesos to 61.116 million Pesos. From two volunteer workers when it started in 1986, the coop now directly employs 51 full-time manpower complement as a December 2006. From its main office building situated in a residential area, it now looks forward to locating to a bigger and better 4-storey with roof-deck LKBPI tower and business center in the commercial district of Guiguinto, Bulacan by the end of 2007, to better serve all the needs of the members and other stakeholders under one roof.

LKBPI enhances the competency of its officers and employees through its continuing professionalisation program. It is dynamic and vigorously innovates in various business lines. It fearlessly invests in social enterprises, strategically positions itself in non-traditional, but high impact programs and services. It's Montessori School, envisioned to provide quality education and values formation, and its Skills Training and Manpower Placement Services are two major contributions to socio-economic development and its noble share in the nation building.

SECTION - IV

Inauguration of Part-II of the Training Course in Japan

The Part-II of the Training Course was formally inaugurated on 24th July 2007 in the Conference Hall of IDACA by Mr. Kosei Banura, Section Chief, International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan. Mr. Kazuo Tsukada, Executive Director of the Institute for Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer/Program Coordinator, ICA-AP also addressed the inaugural session. Mr. Mitsura Sato, Manager (General Affairs Department) and other senior officers of IDACA were also present.

Welcoming Mr. Kosei Banura, Mr. Kazuo Tsukada and other senior officers of IDACA, Mr. Sethu Madhavan congratulated the participants for successfully completing the Part-I of the training course held in the Philippines for 10 days. He also conveyed the sincere gratitude of the ICA to MAFF, Government of Japan, for their valuable financial support for the development of women's activities in Asia. He mentioned about the longstanding collaboration between ICA, JA-ZENCHU and IDACA.

In his brief inaugural speech, Mr. Banura welcomed the 12 participants of the training course from six countries, namely, China, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam to Japan. He said "Our government announced the New Development Initiative at the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005 which would help promote new approaches to supporting the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors in LDCs in a bid to facilitate them to further obtain profits stemming from the free trade system.

To be more precise, it envisages the duty-free and quota-free access for LDCs and their products and promotion of technical cooperation in the field of agricultural production and distribution. We at the MAFF are planning to promote dispatch of experts and acceptance of 1,000 trainees per year.

In fact, this training course can be viewed as one of such approaches in the Development Initiative with a view to enhancing greater participation of women in the agricultural cooperative which is expected to lead to generating additional income for rural women".

He requested the participants to take care of their health during their stay in Japan because of much difference in climate and social conditions from their respective countries. He also expressed his appreciation to ICA-AP and IDACA for their strenuous efforts in the implementation of the training course.

Mr. Kazuo Tsukada extended a hearty welcome to all the participants to Japan and IDACA. He said that IDACA was established in 1963. Funds for the establishment of IDACA were contributed by all Japanese agricultural cooperatives. More than 40 years history of IDACA, more than 5,000 participants have been trained from 106 countries.

He further said that the ICA-Japan Rural Women Training Project was started in 1991 and from last year onwards the training course has been designed to focus on Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women. He said that during the stay of the participants at IDACA, there would be exchange of experience and knowledge. He hoped that the participants would enjoy the life and living at IDACA comfortably. He advised the participants to take care of their health.

SECTION - V

Country Background Papers – A Summary of Country Reports

China

Some of the basic indicators of China are as follows: Population-1.294 billion; Land Area-9.6 million sq .km; Cultivated land-123.5 million hectares; Per capita income-US\$ 700 (Yuan 5,460). The main agricultural products are: rice, wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, tea, raw silk, vegetable oils, live hogs, and live poultry.

China is a country with a large population and less arable land. The country is administratively divided into 23 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, 4 municipalities and 2 special administrative regions. With only 7% of the world's cultivated land, China has to feed one-fifth of the world's population.

Today, there are approximately 1.5 million all types of cooperatives in China, and the membership is approximately 200 million. There are three main cooperatives in China, the Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (SMCs), the Rural Credit Cooperatives, and the Handicraft Industry Cooperatives.

The Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (SMCs) in China are the important agricultural cooperatives. They are cooperatives economic organizations whose members are chiefly farmers. They consist of the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC), 31 provincial, 336 prefecture, 2,370 county federations and 22,537 primary cooperatives, with a membership of 160 million farm households, 1.2 million employees and 289,000 business outlets. The ACFSMC is the largest cooperative in China, and the largest agriculture cooperative of China. It is the apex organization of the Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (SMCs) of the whole country. By the end of 2005, the total assets have amounted to 464.61 billion Yuan, total profit has amounted to 6.58 billion Yuan, large leading enterprises have amounted to 412 exemplary farm produce bases have amounted to 6,000, market share-agricultural inputs supply has amounted to 60%; market share-cotton purchase has amounted to 110,000 of SMCs in China. And there are 14,000 specialized cooperatives, 6,000 various trade associations, 113,000 multi-function cooperatives in the SMCs of China.

Status of Women: In China employed females now account for 44% of the total number of employees which is higher than the world rate of 34.5%. In the country side, women labourers made up half the rural force. The number of urban working women increased from 600,000 in 1949 to 56 million while their share of the country's total working population went up from 7.5 per cent to 38 per cent. Women account for more than half of all workers in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries and water conservancy. About 50-60 per cent of the total rural output value is generated by women. At present, rural China boasts more than 100 million workers in township businesses, and 40 million of them are women. They create about 65 per cent of the output value.

Quite a few women become leaders at different levels in township enterprises. There are 2,000 to 3,000 women directors and managers in such businesses in the provinces of Jiangsu, Guangdong, Anhui, Fujian and Henan. In addition, tens of thousands of women serve as the technical backbone in production at workshops.

The great role played by Chinese women in rural economic construction has won commendation from some international organisations. Rural women not only shoulder 40 to 60 per cent of the workload in the fields, but also 74 per cent of production tasks of township textile, clothing and embroidery enterprises. The embroidery articles they make are exported and earn for the country US\$ 2.5 million annually.

More than 5,800 mass women's organisations in China undertake to report women's views and their problems to the authorities and make suggestions on how to solve them. They are an important force in safeguarding the status of women. The biggest of these is the All China Women's Federation (ACWF) which comprises women from different ethnic groups and all walks of life.

Since 1989, the ACWF together with over 10 government departments has launched several campaigns for the betterment of women themselves. By the end of 1993, more than 120 million rural women had joined in and 90 million of them had received practical technical training. Another 10 million had learned to read and write, while 510,000 gained the title of agro-technician. In poverty-stricken areas, ethnic minority areas and border regions, 250 training classes have been held and 4,500 aid stations have been set up to help the impoverished. Now days, 80 per cent of the poor families covered by these stations have adequate food and clothing.

The ACFSMC is an organization combining the supply and marketing cooperatives throughout the country. It is the highest organ of administration of the SMCs. Its functions and tasks are to take charge of studying and formulating the development strategy and the development program for the nationwide SMCs and guide the development and reform of the SMCs throughout the country; to organize, coordinate and manage the business operation in the major means of agricultural production and farm and sideline products according to authorization by the government; to safeguard the right and the interests of the SMCs at all levels; to harmonize the relations between the cooperatives and other competent departments, guide the business activities of the SMCs throughout the country and promote the flow of goods between the cities and the countryside; to propagate and carry out the principles and policies concerning the rural economic formulated by the Party Central Committee and the State Council; and to participate in various activities of the International Cooperative Alliance on behalf of China's cooperatives. It has 16 subordinate enterprises, 8 science and research institutes and 7 institutions and 12 national level specialized associations. It has played an important role in encouraging farmers to participate in the market, promoting the industrialized management of agriculture, providing services to farmers and agricultural production. It constitutes a vital link between the government and farmers.

In recent years, following the rural economic reform, with agriculture entering into a new stage of development, a lot of specialized cooperatives have been constituted. They provided farmers with services before and after production, provided farmer members with such services as jointly purchasing inputs and selling agricultural products, most of the specialized cooperatives were set up under the basic principle of cooperatives. They are run under a constitution, with stockowners, and members of the management and supervision committees elected democratically. As the highest decision making organ, the cooperative membership meeting (or congress) deliberates on the annual work plans of the management and supervision committees. It decides on major issues like the surplus distribution scheme, the methods of loss remedies as well as the merger or dissolution of the cooperative. The elected council members are often the large pig-raisers, rural agents, and entrepreneurs playing the role of bringing along the cooperative members. Most of the specialized cooperatives concentrated on planting, breeding and processing industries while involving transportation, storage and selling of the means of livelihood and production.

India

Some of the basic indicators of India are as follows: Population-1.13 billion; Land area-328.73 million ha; Cultivated area-193.03 million ha; Share of agriculture in GDP-25.57%; Average land holding-1.5 to 2 ha; Total number of cooperatives of all type-549,119; Membership-229,510 million; Per capita income-US\$ 343 per annum. The main agricultural products are: rice, wheat, maize, cotton, potato, sugarcane, oilseeds, etc.

India is basically an agriculture country where agriculture is livelihood for rural community. Although agriculture accounts for 22.7% of India's GDP, it employs 65% of its population. About 43% of India's geographical area is used for agricultural activities. Although it covers 2% of world land but it supplies food to 17% of world population. India now produces largest quantity of milk in the world registering annual growth rate of 3.8% while the country also accounts for 57% of the world's buffalo production.

Cooperative Movement in India has been acknowledged as an important instrument towards achieving the socio-economic transformation of the rural areas with special emphasis on poverty alleviation. This movement has covered 100% of villages and 71% of rural households and have developed about 549,119 cooperative societies with a membership of 229,510 million in various segments like credit and banking, marketing, fertilizers, dairy, agro-processing, sugar etc.

The Cooperative Movement in India is one of the oldest in the Region and the largest in the world in terms of number of members and cooperative institutions. Starting as a credit cooperative movement in 1904 has now expanded into the various fields of cooperation such as marketing, agro-processing, fertiliser production and supply, production of heavy machinery, housing, consumer, fisheries etc. Agriculture is the strongest segment of the cooperative sector.

Status of Women: India has the world's largest number of professionally qualified women. It has more female doctors, surgeons, scientists and professors than the US. It has more working women than any other country in the world including surgeon and airline pilot to bus conductors and manual labourers. On average, women in India are socially, politically and economically weaker than men. Moves are underway to empower women. The most news making development was the introduction of Women's Bill in Parliament in late 1998. The Bill seeks to reserve 33% of seats in Parliament to women. There is a National Human Rights Commission for women that handle all human rights violations against women. There is an entire ministry for women that formulates and implements policy for them. Year 2001 announced as 'Year for Empowerment of Women' gained overwhelming importance. In spite of the fact that women are increasingly associated with various socio-political-cultural activities, majority of them still live in precarious condition.

Indian population is 48.2% women. Sex ratio is 93 women to 100 men. Majority of women in India are illiterate with the literacy rate being as low as 28%. In rural area, agriculture and allied activities employ 89.5% of total female labour. Women have extensive workloads with dual responsibility for farm and household population. Women's work is getting harder and more time consuming due to ecological agricultural technologies and practices. Women play an active role in livestock production, forest resource use and fishery processing. Women contribute considerably to household income through farm and non-farm activities as well as landless agricultural labourers. It has high degree of inter-state and intra-state variations in gender roles in agriculture, environment and rural population. There are 24 important women's organisations in India.

The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) is a major in the women cooperative sector in India. As on date the SEWA has more than 96 cooperatives with a total membership of 113,805.

Most of the cooperatives are vertically integrated through their respective specialised federations or unions at the district, state and national levels. Primary cooperatives are affiliated to the district level unions/federations, which, in turn, are federated into state level unions/federations. 17 national level specialised federations, 140 state level unions/federations, and 31 Multi-state Cooperative Societies are members of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) which is the spokesman and umbrella organisation of the entire Cooperative Movement in the country. NCUI is also one of the members of the ICA. The objectives of NCUI are to promote and develop the cooperative movement in India, to educate, guide and assist the people in their efforts to build up and expand the cooperative sector and serve as an exponent of cooperative opinion in accordance with cooperative principles.

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) is under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The basic mandate of the organisation is to bring about the socio-economic development of tribals of the country by institutionalising the trade of natural products grown/collected by them and providing marketing support to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations and other State level Agencies engaged in procurement of such product from tribals to ensure fair prices. The present state of activities of TRIFED are confined mainly to marketing of tribal handicrafts, handlooms and other natural products and undertaking developmental projects connected with their skill upgradation and income generation of tribal folk; projects for development of minor forest produce; training and capacity building, research and development activities. TRIFED has created its own website to promote tribal products.

The Punjab State Cooperative Agricultural Development Bank Limited is a semi-government organisation with the apex body at the state level and 88 primary banks at the grass root level. The primary objective of the Bank is to improve the economic lot of its member farmers by providing long-term investment credit for agriculture. Apart from loans for farm sector the Bank also provides credit for non-farm sector activities. The state level bank arranges funds from the central government through NABARD and provides advances to the primary banks which in turn loan out funds to member cooperatives. Each primary bank called the PADB (Primary Agriculture Development Bank) is an independent body, being democratically managed by elected representatives at the local level. The PADBs function as profit centers. Long-term investment credit is provided to members against land as collateral security.

Malaysia

Some of the basic indicators of Malaysia are as follows: Total national population-26.7 million; Total land area-330,000 sq. km; Per capita income-US\$ 3,626; Share of agriculture in GDP-14.7%, Total number of cooperatives- 4,330; Total cooperative membership- 5.6 million. The main agricultural products are: oil palm, rubber, cocoa, pepper, paddy and timber.

Agriculture still plays an important role in Malaysia's economy. The share of the agriculture sector in the Gross Domestic Product is 14.7%. Main activities in the rural areas are agriculture. About 6.4 million hectares of the total land is utilized for agriculture. The major crops planted are oil palm (4 million ha), followed by rubber (1.3 million ha). Paddy is the main food crop planted on 1.1 million ha.

The three main core agricultural activities in Malaysia are the estate sector, the small farm sector and the newly developed land sector. Plantation crops dominate agriculture. Oil palm cultivation has taken strides over rubber and other plantation crops due to its high returns and less labour demands. Livestock production is restricted to poultry. Agricultural cooperatives are involved in various activities e.g. credit disbursement, marketing, rice milling and processing activities and cooperative education activities. Agricultural cooperatives and other cooperatives function under various government agencies.

Status of Women: Government of Malaysia is serious in giving ample opportunity to women to participate in the development of their country. The participation and active involvement of women in various aspects of development is given sufficient attention especially in the 9th Malaysian Plan. Various steps are planned and taken to increase the involvement of women in agricultural sector. However, the level of involvement is still below expectation.

Female population in Malaysia increased at an average rate of 2.5% per annum and accounted for 49.25% in 2005. Women accounted for 48% of the working population with the female labor force participation increasing from 44.7% in 2000 to 47.5% in 2005. Women are mainly involved in manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade as well as in the agricultural sector.

The proportion of women in the senior officials and manager level has increased from 4.8% in 2000 to 5.4% in 2005. The social and economic advancement of women was contributed largely by equal access to education opportunities, in which the enrolment rate of female students in public universities has increased from 61% in 2000 to 63.4% in 2005.

In 2005 there were 5.6 million members in the cooperative movement of which 2.2 million (40%) were women. As the number of women membership increased, the total number of women in decision-making position has also increased by 0.15% as compared to 1995. The main reasons for the hindrance of women leadership are upbringing culture, lack of awareness on gender equality among the members, inferiority complex and low self-esteem among women, and communication barrier.

The Cooperative Development Department of Malaysia has suggested to the cooperatives in Malaysia to set up a Women's Development Unit in their cooperatives in addressing the low level of participation of women in cooperative leadership.

Direct involvement of women in women-only cooperative is still low with only 96 (1.95%) cooperatives in Malaysia. However, in other cooperatives, namely, agriculture and services, nearly 50% of the members are women.

The ANGKASA (National Cooperative Organisation of Malaysia) was registered on 12th May 1971. It is recognized by the Government as the sole national apex cooperative of Malaysia which represents the cooperative movement at national and international levels. Its membership is voluntary and open to all cooperatives registered under the Cooperative Act 1993. As at June 2007, there are 3,417 member cooperatives which include tertiary, secondary, primary and school cooperatives with more than 4.5 million individual members.

The objectives of ANGKASA are: (a) The unification of Malaysian cooperatives and to be the custodian of the rights of the movement; (b) To represent the cooperative movement at the national and international level; (c) To inculcate cooperative concepts and principles amongst Malaysians; and (d) To assist in the development of member cooperatives. ANGKASA is a service oriented and non-business organization. ANGKASA's programs and activities are aimed at educating the cooperative board members and cooperative members in improving the administration of their cooperatives and in assisting the cooperatives to alleviate certain operational problems. All services provided by ANGKASA to member cooperatives are free of charge.

The FOA Act (Act 110) enacted by the Malaysian Parliament, established FOA (Farmers Organisation Authority) on 14th February 1973. FOA is a statutory body responsible for registering, controlling and supervising Farmers' Organizations (FO). It also acts as the development agency to promote, stimulate, facilitate and undertake the economic and social development of farmers' organizations. It also provides professional management services to the Area Farmers' Organizations (AFO), State Farmers' Organization (SFO), and the National

Farmers Organization (NAFAS). Presently, there are 200 Area Farmers' Organisations, 12 State Farmers' Organizations and one National Farmers' Organization under FOA's direct supervision. In addition, there are 68 AFOs and 1 SFO under delegated authorities. The total tally is 282 FOs through out the country.

Myanmar

Some of the basic indicators of Myanmar are as follows: Total population-55.4 million; Total land area-167.18 million acres; Share of agriculture to GDP: 40.2%; Total cultivable land-14.78 million acres; Average size of holding-5.8 acres; Total number of primary cooperatives-17,092; Total cooperative membership-4 million; Per Capita Income-US\$ 507. The main agricultural products are: paddy, sugarcane, long-staple cotton, maize, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, black gram, green gram and pigeon peas.

Agriculture plays a major role in the economy of Myanmar. In fact, it is the backbone of the Myanmar economy. The agriculture sector contributes 40.2 per cent (2005) of GDP; 12.14% of total export earnings; and employs 61 per cent of the labour force. The State has laid down (12) political, economic and social objectives and one of the major economic objectives is to base the all round development of the economy on agriculture.

Status of Women: Myanmar women enjoy equal rights with men in political, economic, administrative, judicial and social spheres. There is no discrimination between men and women. Husband and wife have equal property rights as they share the responsibility of their family, and son and daughter have equal status in the family. Women retain their maiden name after marriage. Widows and divorced women have the right to remarry freely.

Most of the rural women are engaged in farming and off-farm activities, such as, cotton ginning, weaving and bamboo weaving for baskets, trays, cheroot rolling, clay and glazed pots making and setting up grocery shops; and the processing of agricultural, horticultural and aqua-cultural products, such as, apple drying, wine making, citrus, juices, jams, fish chips, etc. There are also beautiful and unique traditional handicrafts activities by women.

The percentage of women members of Executive Committee is 15% for 17,092 societies. There are 200 women-headed, women chairperson societies. Board of members and employees of the all-women cooperative societies are all women. Women cooperative organizations are engaged in functions such as production of agricultural products, handicraft and other income generating activities, micro-financing and HIV/AIDS prevention and counseling activities.

The ratio of women holding senior positions in Departments under the Ministry of Cooperatives is nearly 50 per cent. The women are holding positions up to Director level and are also in all levels of the organization.

At present there are many women organizations in Myanmar promoting social welfare and community services. The prominent organizations are Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Women Sports Federation, Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, and Myanmar National committee for Women's Affairs. These organizations are women NGOs functioning from the very top of the Government hierarchy down to the grass-roots levels with the consent and blessing of the State. In addition, there are 16 all women cooperative societies registered in Myanmar. They are engaged in activities such as child day care centre, micro-finance, women training, sales of clothes and

apparels, preserved food, health care, HIV/AIDS prevention, care and counseling and the plantation of oil palm.

The Cooperative Movement in Myanmar was introduced in 1904 in accordance with the Indian Cooperative Societies' Act. The first agricultural credit cooperative was registered in January 1905. After independence in 1948, two cooperative laws were enacted in 1956 and 1970 respectively. The 1970 cooperative law was amended in December 1992 in line with the new market-oriented economic policies of the country. The new law promulgates a four-tier system, with the primaries at the grass root level, the syndicate at the secondary level; union at the tertiary level and the Central Cooperative Society [CCS] at the apex.

The CCS is the national spokesman organisation of the Cooperative Movement and has been a member of the ICA since 1993. The CCS has a total membership of 225. The CCS is engaged in business and cooperative promotional activities. It also carries out cooperative education and training activities in collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Development. The primaries are multipurpose in character and provide credit, input supply and marketing of member's produce in addition to allied services. Owning and operating processing facilities like rice mills, oil expellers, condensed milk manufacturing, salt plants, textile mills and other workshops, do value adding. Rice and rice products, beans and pulses, maize etc are exported and fertiliser, machineries and other consumer food etc. are imported.

Philippines

Some of the basic indicators of the Philippines are as follows: Total population-86.2 million, Total land area-300,179 sq. km; Total coast area-34,600 sq. km; Total cultivable land-56,851 sq. km; Per capita income-US\$ 1,576;. Share of agriculture in GDP-20%. The main agricultural products are: rice, corn, coconut, sugarcane, banana, pineapple, coffee, mango, tobacco, abaca, rubber, cocoa, root crops, spices, fruits and vegetables.

Agriculture continues to play a dominant role in the Philippines economy. About 60% of the population is residing in agriculture land or rural areas. Agriculture continues to form the backbone of the Philippines economy, accounting for 21 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Agriculture-related manufacturing and services contributes as much as 50 per cent, thereby bringing the total contribution of the agricultural sector to 71 per cent of GDP, one of the highest in Asia. Agricultural productivity, however, remains very low. Agricultural imports amount to US\$ 500 million annually. This includes 600 metric tons of rice imported per year to meet local demands. Agriculture recorded a 4.09 per cent growth in 2001, in terms of value of production at constant prices, through the expanded outputs of all sub-sectors. Main contributors to this notable performance of the sector were poultry with a 7.80 per cent growth and 6.05 per cent from fisheries. Among the commodities, garlic posted biggest growth at 11.83 per cent, followed by aquaculture and chicken at 10.31 per cent and 10.12 per cent respectively.

The Philippines, comprising 7,100 islands and islets with three main islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, is principally an agricultural country. 47% of its 86.2 million population is highly dependent on agriculture. Agricultural production in the country suffers every year due to typhoons.

Cooperatives in the Philippines cater to diverse needs of its membership, i.e., credit, consumer, marketing services etc. and mostly are multipurpose in character. The new Cooperative Societies Act, [RA 6938], enacted in 1990, has made the cooperatives free from government interference and paved the way for a smooth and proper democratic development of the movement. The total number of cooperatives as of 31st October 2001 was 59,210, of which 85 per cent were multipurpose with 56% agricultural cooperatives and 30% non-agricultural cooperatives, and only 15 per cent non-multipurpose/single purpose types of cooperatives.

Status of Women: Rural women undertake a variety of production and caring activities. Though not counted in official statistics, women are active economic actors such as landless workers, traders of agricultural and fishery products, and engaged in micro-financing. In 2005, the country's female agricultural workers reached 2.94 million, expanding by an average of 1.44 per cent annually. Correspondingly, female employment in agriculture comprised 23.7 per cent in the total female employment. The proportion declined by 1.20 per cent annually during the three-year period.

By class of workers, about half of the female agricultural workers were classified as unpaid family workers. This proportion grew by an average of 1.11 per cent annually. About 30 per cent were own account workers and the remaining were wage and salary earners.

The female labour force participation ratio has consistently lagged behind the male in the past 10 years). Of the 11.5 million women of working age, only 4.9 million were employed. This has pushed many of them to migrate not only to Metro Manila and other urban centres but also overseas.

In 2004, about 13.5 million female were part of the country's labour force in rural areas. More women in rural areas were unpaid family workers. Until mid-1980s, agriculture absorbed half of the labour force, but its relative size shrank in succeeding decades. By 2000, only 37 per cent of employed workers were in agriculture.

The majority of the poor are still found in the rural areas which can be attributed to the lack of access to productive resources. Ownership of land remains elusive especially for many rural women. Very few women have benefited from land distribution. They are also discriminated in the provision of government services and training. NGOs have privatisation and deregulation vis-à-vis their gendered impact on the social sector, particularly women in poverty. The Philippines Government has various support services in promoting women's economic empowerment, protecting and advancing women's rights, and advancing gender responsive governance such as provision of training and non-training assistance and increasing the amount of funds available for SME lending.

At home and work place, the Filipino women remains second-in-command who holds the purse, supports the leader and subjugates her needs to his wishes. In coops, large number of membership is women, but leadership is male-dominated. The main reason is the multiple tasks of women. Women's lack of access to resources in some area is a stumbling block. Men still dominate the access to land and credit.

Since 1985, the Government has introduced legislation, mechanisms and processes for the advancement of women and for the eradication of discriminatory forces in the field of employment, training, access to resources and the like. Many coops and NGOs are active in promoting women's concerns and committed to gender and development.

Ligas Kilusang Bayan Sa Pagpapaulad (LKBPI) is a multi-awarded cooperative which has been serving members and communities for the past 21 years. Its operation started in 1986 with only 30 incorporators as organisers who were mostly farmers and small businessmen. Now LKBPI boasts of 2,997 regular members and 2,905 associate members. Through the years, LKBPI has already established a positive image in the cooperative sector as proven by various awards and citations it earned. It envisioned being a leading and dynamic cooperative that brings higher quality of life to members and the communities. Its mission is to bring about economic, human and social development which extends both to individual members and the larger community through fast, reliable, effective and quality financial services and social programs.

The National Confederation of Cooperatives [NATCCO] is an apex organisation which was formed by credit union pioneers in the Philippines in 1977. Its registration as a cooperative federation was confirmed by the Cooperative Development Authority [CDA] in December 1990. After the transformation journey where NATCCO shifted from a three-tier to two-tier system, it

changed the membership from a secondary federation (Regional Development Centres) to cooperatives (both secondary and primary). Today, NATCCO is the biggest and strongest national federation of cooperatives in the country in terms of geographical reach, membership, financial capacity, and array of services. It has a total membership of 230 cooperatives with services on agriculture, savings and credit, retail/consumer, housing, funeral and other allied services.

Vietnam

Some of the basic indicators of Vietnam are as follows: Total population-85 million; Total land area-331,688 sq. km; Share of agriculture in GDP-21%; Total cooperatives-17,500; Total membership-125,000; Per capita income-US\$ 648. The main agricultural products are: rice, sweet potatoes, pepper, coffee, tea, rubber and many kinds of fruits and marine products.

Vietnam is an agricultural country as the population living in the rural area accounts 70%, among this farmers account for 70%. The agricultural sector plays an important role in contributing to economic growth in Vietnam. Total land available for agriculture: 69,535, and 70 sq.kms accounted for 22.1% of the total national land fund, land holding-52.8% with a farm population of 72%.

In the year 2006, the average productivity of rice was 59.6 quintal per hectare – rice production reached 36.9 millions tons. Rice is the main product of Vietnamese agricultural sector followed by plants and cattle can be considered of high economic value. Other main crops include maize, sweet potatoes, cassava, potatoes, soybean, peanuts, rubber and fruits and vegetables, tea.

Status of Women: At the moment, women occupy 51.8% of total population, among them, 70% of women at working age are taking part in labour forces. In renovation trend, Vietnamese women have adapted to renewal of labour and jobs allocation, actively accessed to new jobs, improved labour skills, knowledge on manufactures, management abilities, applied sciences and technologies and advance know-how to production.

In recent years, Vietnam has adopted many policies and progressive guidelines for women, such as reforms on thoughts or campaign for women, implement well legislations, equal on gender policies, improve and train professionals, increase education.

However, for renovation requirement of the country, to implement modernisation, industrialisation, women in rural areas who participate in agriculture have met a lot of obstructions. The health care for them has not been paid adequate attention. Women seldom have conditions to join technical training, and situation like 'female works – male studies' still exist. Moreover, women in rural areas usually do not understand their legislation right due to their low level of education and lack of information.

Vietnam Cooperative Economic Newspaper is the mouthpiece of the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance. It was established 16 years ago. Apart from making public information about economic, political, cultural and social situations, the newspaper pays special attention to propagating economic activities of cooperatives.

South General Trading Company Limited is the dependent unit of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance. It was established in accordance with the decree 1001/QD-QLDN dated 6th September 2005 of VCA. It is a business unit. Its mission is to implement the policies issued by the Union.

The Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) is a social, economic organisation and an apex organisation of Vietnam Cooperative Movement. It is organised at the central and provincial levels. The co-operative enterprises at the primary level are affiliated to the district unions, which, in turn, federate into provincial unions. The cooperative alliance has been established in all 64 provinces and cities through Vietnam.



*Opening of the Course
at IDACA, Japan*





Study visits in Japan





Study visits in Japan





*Study visits in
Philippines*



At the end of 2006, there were 17,500 cooperative associations in the whole country, including 8,458 agricultural cooperatives, 586 trade and services cooperatives, 2,205 industrial – craft industry cooperatives, 557 construction cooperatives, 486 aquatic product cooperatives, 1,060 transportation cooperatives, 915 credit cooperatives, 217 other types of cooperatives and 2,585 electric cooperatives.

The National Representative Congress, the highest decision-making body of the VCA, meets every five years. The Congress elects the Central Executive Committee, responsible for managing the VCA, meets twice every year. The Central Executive Committee of the third congress currently has 115 members, including representatives from ministries, agencies, social-economic organisations, department directors, organisations, affiliates of VCA and representatives from cooperatives of all sectors.

Training of co-operative office-bearers and staff is partly carried out through training centres or programmes of provincial cooperative alliances and partly through the Vietnam Institute for Small Enterprise Cooperatives and the College of Management and Technology of the VCA. The Centre of Science, Technology and Environment (COSTE) belongs to VCA, is an organisation developing activities, programmes and development support project, which benefits cooperatives, small and medium-sized enterprises and household business in the fields of enterprises establishment, environment, energy efficiency, science and technology, information, agriculture and forestry, gender, trade etc.

SECTION - Vi

Comparative Field Study Visits in Japan

During Part-II of the Training Course in Japan, study visits were arranged in Shimane Prefecture. The participants visited this Prefecture from 6th to 10th August 2007 to get them acquainted with the organizational structure and business activities of prefectural and primary level agricultural cooperatives, and also to observe the organization and functioning of women's associations. The participants visited the following institutions during their study visits.

Shimane Prefecture

The total land area is 6,708 square kilometers (78.9% of the land are mountains and forests). Total arable land is only 1.8%. The total number of households is 261,000. The total population of Shimane Prefecture is 742,000. Population density is 111 persons per square meter. Ratio of aged population (over 65 years) is 26.8% (number one in Japan). Total number of farm households during 2005 was 44,312, which has decreased by 10,339 households for the last 10 years. Total cultivated land area in 2005 was 39,200 ha, which has decreased by 5,800 ha for the last 10 years. The amount of gross agricultural production during 2005 was 64.8 billion yen. Main farm products in Shimane are rice, vegetables, fruits (grapes) and livestock products (meat and milk). Rice production is in a decreasing trend, while livestock production is increasing. Price of rice is on the decrease, while prices of livestock products are on the increase.

JAs in Shimane Prefecture

In the year 1987 there were 66 JAs in Shimane Prefecture. Due to amalgamation the number of JAs came down to 11 in 2005. The total number of officials is 297. Total number of employees is 3,905. Six JAs have got more than 5,000 regular member farm households. The largest JA has got 12,500 regular member farm households. The total number of farm households is 141,142. The largest JA has got 32,402 households. The total number of members is 204,038. The largest JA has got 46,412 members. The total owned capital for the year 2005 was 38.628 billion yen. The net profit for the year 2005 was 1.174 billion yen.

JA Shimane Prefectural Union

The JA Shimane Prefectural Union which is a guidance organization was established, with the main purpose of encouraging healthy development of the JA Group based on the Agricultural Cooperative Law. The primary agricultural cooperatives in Shimane are comprised of 11 JAs established in the region along with the JA Prefectural Federations that support their activities. The Union conducts organizational and guidance on farming and better living, auditing, education and lobbying.

JA Shimane Prefectural Union is involved in the following activities with the objective of "contributing to the creation of happiness for members and regional society worth living": (a) promotion of JA businesses that are rooted in the local area; (b) training for farm successors and promotion of farm guidance; (c) promotion of better living activities and welfare of the elderly; (d) promotion of management reforms of JAs; (e) training of employees and officials of JAs; (f) implementation of audits of JAs; and (g) development of lobbying activities for agricultural policies and advertising activities.

It has got 13 regular member organizations and 2 associate member organizations. It has a President, Vice President, Chief Executive Director and 10 Board of Directors (directors-8, representative auditor-1 and auditor-1). There are 36 employees as at the end of the current financial year. The Union has set forth the following three goals for facing the challenges of privatization and globalization: (a) restructuring and reorganization of agriculture; (b) production of safe and quality food; and (c) ensuring suitable and sound management of JAs.

JA Shimane Prefectural Council of Women's Associations

The JA Shimane Prefectural Council of Women's Associations has got 14,056 members. The President of this Women's Associations is concurrently the President of National Council of JA Women's Associations and it has got 889,803 members. The average annual membership fee is 1,000 yen. The JAs also contribute some funds to the Women's Associations annually. The Women's Associations directly or indirectly contribute to the business activities of JAs as the supporting group. The activities of the Women's Associations are closely related to better living and welfare activities performed by JAs. Japan has made tremendous economic development. However, agriculture is given little attention. Lobbying is one of the important activities of Women's Associations. Their activities are mainly categorized into four [life, self-reliance, symbiosis (co-existence) and organization]. The biggest problem the Women's Associations are facing at the moment is decrease in its membership. Young women are reluctant to join the Women's Associations, while old women are getting retired from the organization.

JA ZEN-NOH Shimane

The prefectural headquarter of JA ZEN-NOH, formerly known as the Economic Federation, launched agricultural promotion, marketing and purchasing strategies for the Shimane Prefecture. Its marketing business aims to strengthen production, collection and sales of agricultural produce, while the purchasing business aims to make efficient business operations and promotion to assist JAs. Its turnover for the year 2006 was 48 billion yen. At present it has got a total staff of 152. It is comprised of the following departments: Rice and Cereals Department, Livestock Produce Department, Production Materials Department, Better Living Department and Administration Department.

It has the following five affiliated cooperative companies: (1) JA Agriculture Shimane Company Limited, (2) A-Coop Shimane Company Limited, (3) Shimane Winery Company Limited, (4) Shimane Prefecture Meats Processing Company Limited, and (5) JA West Japan Union Feedstuff Company Limited.

JA Agriculture Shimane Company Limited was established on 1st July 2005. Its capital investment was 150 million yen, which was contributed by ZEN-NOH. It has got 10 officials (8 directors and 2 auditors). The total number of employees working for the company is 60. It consists of four business departments (management, flower, pearl rice and marketing) of 5 affiliates. Of the five companies mentioned above, the following two cooperative companies were visited by the participants:

Flower Wholesale Market: The Flower Centre of Shimane Prefectural Economic Federation was established in June 1969. The business was launched in June 1969 in Higashi Asahi-cho, Matsue City, and at that time the flowers were brought directly by the producers and agricultural cooperatives, which were graded by the Flower Centre and sold to florists through negotiations. In January 1970, its name was changed to the Flower Market of Shimane Prefectural Economic Federation, and moved to Shinjimachi in the following year. It has a capital of 50 million yen and is fully owned by the Prefectural Economic Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives. The company was established on 1st October 1997 with 9 officials and 10 employees. At present it has got 12 employees. The business turnover for the year 2006 was 1 billion yen.

Pearl Rice Company. The Company was founded on 1st April 1996 (earlier it was run directly by the JA Shimane Prefectural Economic Federation). It undertakes the business of purchasing, wholesale and retail of rice, cereals and processed rice and wheat, and contract rice milling. It has a capital of 100 million yen. The total staff strength is nine. It has a rice milling plant with the capacity of 175 HP. Its annual milling capacity is 6,000 tons. Its turnover for the year 2006 was 1.6 billion yen.

JA Izumo

The JA Izumo was established on 2nd April 1996 by amalgamating seven agricultural cooperatives. Blessed with a warm climate having mountains and sea, it is suitable for production of grapes and various other commodities. The local residents prefer to consume the locally produced farm products and thus the JA is positively promoting the 'chisan-chisho campaign' (let's consume locally what's produced locally) by setting up its 7 stores. The JA also manages four welfare facilities for the elderly people which operate 24 hours and open through out the year.

The total number of members is 60,000 {regular members-13,000 and associate members-47,000}. Total number of member households is 32,402. The business turnover of JA Izumo for 2006 is as follows: marketing business turnover-8,990 million yen; purchasing business/production materials turnover-2,380 million yen; credit business turnover-88.4 billion yen; purchasing business/consumer goods turnover-15,595 million yen; and mutual insurance business inclusive of new contracts turnover-93.9 billion yen. Credit business and mutual insurance business are doing well and constitute the main source of income of the JA.

The number of general representatives is 900. Total number of directors is 33 (of which 2 are women) and the number of auditors is 6. Their term of office is three years. The total number of employees is 1,086 (regular employees-484, part-time employees-112, others-490). The JA has got 16 branches. The JA has got the following Departments: Planning and General Affairs; Credit Business; Mutual Insurance Business; Farm Management; Better Living; Automobile and Fuel Business. The facilities of JA include direct sales shops; 'A coop' store; farm machinery repair workshop; country elevator; agricultural implements repair workshop, funeral service centre (Memoria), day care centre, etc.

JA Izumo Women's Association

The JA Izumo Women's Association was formed in 1996. Since 35% of the population in Izumo was above 65 years old, the welfare activities of the aged people were given priority for the Women's Association. At present it has got 6,300 members. The average annual membership fee is 1,000 yen. The JA also contributes some funds to the Women's Association annually. It promotes the 'chisan-chisho campaign' (let's consume locally what's produced locally). 60% of the staff working in JA Izumo including the part-timers is women. However, female representation at the board of directors is only two. With the contribution to local people gaining its importance and increasing, the Women's Association embarked on the establishment of branding of goods and nursing care activities. This gave a big boost to JA. Thus, the Women's Association plays a significant role for sustenance of regional society. The problem the Women's Association faces is decrease of its membership.

The following three facilities of JA-Izumo were visited by the participants:

A-Coop Store: A-Coop Store (LAPITA) was founded in 1988. It has got a total of 100 employees. The business turnover during 2006 was 6.5 billion yen. The profit is generally 20%, dealing in more than 1,500 items. Its main business activities are: sales of food, drinking water, daily necessities, kitchenware, hardware, cosmetics, books, pictures, antiques, cigarettes, salt, postage stamps, laundry service, beauty parlor, restaurants, coffee shops, management of

culture centre, planning and development of stores, rental of store building, agriculture, livestock and marine products, etc.

Funeral Service Centre: The Funeral Service Centre (Memoria) was established in 2002. The objective of establishing this centre was to help the bereaved families to do their last rites at reasonable prices. 322 families used this facility during the year 2006. The total construction cost was 300 million yen, excluding the land cost. The land is rented from the local government on a lease basis. The lease charges for 3.3 square meter of land is 1,000 yen per year. It has got three halls of different size. 12 staff members are working at this centre. The annual business turnover during the year 2006 was 600 million yen. The profit during the year 2006 was 70 million yen. Besides this Centre, there are two more centres in other areas.

Day Care Centre: The Day Care Centre was established in 1997. The total construction cost was 650 million yen, excluding land. 50% of the construction cost was subsidized by the local government. 58 staff members are working at the Centre. This service is available for persons whose age is 65 and above. Three categories of people can receive care services at this centre. The day care centre can accommodate a maximum of 30 persons. Their working hour is from 09:00 to 16:00. There are also facilities for the elderly desiring for short stay services with a capacity of the maximum of 20 persons. Another 40 persons can stay at the centre with the assistance of certified helpers. The beneficiaries pay only 10% of the cost involved and the balance is met out of Governmental Long-term Care Insurance System. It aims to help the elderly to live in the independence and also to create the community that guarantees a secure life to all the people.

After the exchange meeting with the JA Izumo Women's Association, the participants visited the following two rural women entrepreneurial activities.

Ito's Dairy Farm: Mr. Ito is the owner of the dairy farm and it was established it in 2003. The total investment was 100 million yen. His father is a member of JA Izumo. He has got a total of 150 cows. At present the number of milking cows is only 80 and he gets 2,500 liters of milk per day. Milking is done by machine. There are 10 dairy farms in his area. They ship their milk to the Prefectural Dairy Federation for processing. Mr. Ito hires three employees. The turnover during the year 2006 was 100 million yen. The profit is generally 25%.

Cowbell Bakery. Cowbell Bakery is run by Mrs. Ito. It was started in October 2006 in Sada town. Total investment was 30 million yen, out of which 50% subsidy was provided by the local government. The characteristic feature of the bread-making of this bakery is to use locally grown rice and vegetables. She makes different kinds of breads using them. Average sale per day is 200,000 yen. It has got six part-time staff to run the Bakery. She expects that many people from other prefectures will visit and taste her products.

Shimane Winery Company

In 1957, in response to the demands of grape growers, the then Central Agricultural Cooperative Federation established a Grape Processing Centre, as one of the conditions for promoting the joint sale of Shimane grapes. It got license in 1964 to manufacture and retail sweet wines. In May 1974 its name got changed to Grape Wine Taisha Plant of Shimane Prefectural Economic Federation. In March 1986 its name was changed again into 'Shimane Winery of Shimane Prefectural Economic Federation'. It is making white wine, red wine and rose wine. It has a total area of 4.8 ha, which includes 76 acre of grape growing cultivation demonstration area. It has the following facilities: winery, wine testing and wholesale facility "Bacchus", barbecue house "Chateau Misen" and coffee house "Chardonnay".

SECTION - VII

Concluding Session of the Training Course in Japan

The concluding session of the Training Course was held at IDACA on 17th August 2007. The session was attended by Mr. Mr. Kosei Banura, Section Chief, International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF); Mr. Kazuo Tsukada, Executive Director of IDACA; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer/Program Coordinator, ICA – Asia and Pacific; and other senior officers of IDACA.

In his address, **Mr. Sethu Madhavan** congratulated the participants for their cooperation; and IDACA for the successful completion of the Training Course. He also expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the ICA to the Japanese Government, especially MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) for the financial support extended in the conduct of this Training Course. He hoped that the MAFF will continue to support this training course in the future also since this course was very relevant for the women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Asia.

Addressing the session, **Mr. Banura** expressed hearty congratulations to the participants on successful completion of the training course. He further expressed his gratitude on behalf of MAFF to ICA-AP and IDACA for conducting the course successfully. He was happy to find the participants hale and hearty in spite of difficulties and different climate. He hoped that the experiences gained by the participants while in the Philippines and Japan would be useful when they return to their countries.

He further said "Today I reported this course as very successful, because you have overcome the various obstacles. I can see you had a better understanding about promoting agricultural business and acquired knowledge and know-how which would increase the income of rural women and raise their position in the agricultural sector. I sincerely believe you would be able to play a leading role in your organizations and countries with strong will. I hope this training course would develop your countries agricultural sector and build good relationship among participating countries including Japan."

Mr. Tsukada expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Tanaka for the support of MAFF extended over the last 16 years. He thanked Mr. Tanaka for sparing his valuable time to attend the closing session. He extended congratulations to the participants on successful completion of the training course. He said that in IDACA part of the course, efforts were made to introduce the activities of JA group and the agricultural cooperative movement of Japan. He said that at the moment JA group is facing many difficult issues such as economic globalisation, WTO Negotiation, stagnant agriculture production and ageing of rural population.

He requested the participants to make use of their experiences gained in the Philippines and Japan to develop some institutional support for women and improve their rural life in their own countries. He wished the participants safe journey back home.

'Certificate of Participation' was awarded to the participants by the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA).

Ms. Hamidah Mohd. Jamil (Malaysia) spoke on behalf of the participants from China, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam. She expressed the participants' gratitude to the ICA and IDACA for organizing the training course from 13th July to 18th August 2007 in the Philippines and Japan. She specially thanked Ms. Eiko Oshita of IDACA and Mr. K. Sethu Madhvan of ICA-AP for excellently handling the course. The participants felt that the training course was very relevant for the women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Asia and hence it should be continued. She also expressed the greatest appreciation of the participants to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan for providing financial support for this Training Course. She hoped that the MAFF would continue to support this training program in the future also for the development of rural women in the developing countries.

She further said: "Although this is the first time for all the participants to be away from home for a period of more than a month, we would like to say that the sacrifice is worth it. As a whole, the program has broadened our views and knowledge on cooperatives, rural women's activities and various projects undertaken by women to generate sustainable income. Through our visit to the coops and women activities in the Philippines and Japan, we have learned and gathered invaluable experience that gave an impact not only to our life but also to others around us as well.

Our stay in Japan has been memorable and I cannot find a better word to convey our appreciation to all of you. Despite our differences, deep inside we are still the same and let us work on our similarities in enriching our life and be succeeded."

The participants left Japan for their home countries on 18th August 2007, after completion of the Training Course.

SECTION - VIII

Action Plans Proposed by the Participants

In view of the experience gained by the participants through class room lectures, field study visits in the Philippines and Japan, interaction among themselves, and based upon their own work environment, the participants were able to develop brief outlines of their Action Plans which they would recommend to their organisations after their return to their home countries. These plans were developed through holding group discussions and on the basis of their discussions with their seniors before joining the Training Course.

[1] CHINA

The two participants were nominated by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC). They proposed the following Action Plan.

Ms. Ma Jihong
Ms. Luna Yu

Objective: To promote the development of rural women cooperatives.

<i>What (Action)</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Why</i>
Report and share the experiences gained.	September 2007	Hold a topic meeting in which we will present our report to the directors of related department and make suggestion.	Participant of the training course	To introduce the operation of JA Women's Association and make more attention paid on the role of women in rural cooperatives.
Delegate the responsibility and task to the concerned department.	October-December 2007	Communicate to the related department and write the responsibility and task of promoting rural women organizations.	ACFSMC	To establish a working system specialized in women organization's promotion.
Research and make action plan.	October 2007 to April 2008	Communicate to coops and acquire more information of the rural women coops, after that make the working plan.	SMC	To analyse the status of rural women coops and make a feasible plan.

Conduct tests on the select points and sum up experience.	April 2008 to March 2009	Select those respective SMC coops, organize several rural women coops, and regularly keep in touch with the test points, writing some articles and discussing the topic.	ACFSSMC	To gather experience for the next work.
Promotion of all around the SMC based on the test points.	April 2008 to July 2009	Hold specialized meeting, reporting on the newspaper and magazine.	ACFSSMC & SMC	To serve as the promotional/marketing arm to make known to the coops and to the society the role of rural women.
Prepare regular update on the status of above mentioned activities.	Quarterly/Half-yearly.	E-mail	ICA-AP/IDACA	For monitoring and evaluation of the action plan.

[2] INDIA

The two participants were nominated by the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI). They proposed the following Action Plan.

Ms. Rajvinder Randhawa

Objective	Proposed Activity	Time Frame	Key Players	Expected Outcome
To educate member cooperators about their rights and duties in the cooperative.	Form Farmers' Clubs in the village. Each club will have a maximum membership of 15 so as to make it a close knit group. The club members will meet in the village community hall over a cup of tea.	One year, i.e. September 2007 to August 2008. One new club will be formed in each month and subsequently each club would meet once every month.	Manager and field staff	A more aware and involved membership will understand the objects of the Batala Primary Cooperative Agricultural Development Bank better and this will help in improving the loan recovery of the Bank.

Ms. Seema Koshal Bhatnagar

Objective: Empowerment of tribal women.

<i>Program</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Time Period</i>
Re-echo	Make a summary of the points learnt in the Philippines and Japan Training. Share and discuss the same with officers of TRIFED.	September 2007
Women Empowerment	Identify tribal women/their self-help groups making handicraft/handloom items or procuring organic items in the entire country. Extend all assistance of retail marketing activities for the products of these identified tribal women through the coops own retail outlet network all over the country, exports, e-commerce and through participation in domestic and international fairs/events. Organize tribal handicraft/handloom exhibitions with the financial support of the office of the DC (Handlooms) to identify individual tribal women artisans/their self-help groups, register their names with TRIFED and extend all assistance of market development for their produce with a regular customer feedback.	September 2007 onwards.
Women Empowerment	Prepare a project proposal to empower the tribal (largely tribal women) for imparting training in a handicraft activity (e.g. preparing baskets, etc. from leaves/grass) in the state of Himachal Pradesh with the financial assistance of the office of the DC (Handicrafts). Implement this Scheme.	4 th quarter of 2007 onwards.
Women Empowerment	As an additional activity, advise the tribal women of Lahaul/Kinnaur districts to form coops/groups for opening a farmers' restaurant to consume local agriculture/orchard produce. This restaurant could have special dishes of the area that may attract not only the farmers but also tourists. They may have an attraction of a little orchard nearby where the tourists may come and pluck fruits from the orchards and see other handicraft activities in process.	4 th quarter of 2007 onwards

[3] MALAYSIA

The two participants were nominated by the National Cooperative Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA). They proposed the following Action Plan.

Ms. Noorshina Binti Ahmad Termizi

Objective: To improve the skills and the living standard of rural women.

What (Action)	When	How	Where	Why
Sharing the experiences especially my observations about the agricultural coops in Japan and the Philippines	November 2007	Through SFO and AFO level Bulletins.	FOA Headquarters	To share and make aware of women empowerment in the Philippines and Japan women activities in agricultural sector.
Prioritize the government assisted funds to targeted women farmers' group.	From March 2008 onwards	Allocation of funds will be distributed to women farmers' groups that have been identified and showed high level of commitment.	AFO members level	To help the groups to undertake some economic activities and become competent and economically strong.
Organize technical guidance for women farmers' groups.	From July 2008 onwards	Cooperate with other government departments and agencies under Ministry of Agriculture.	Project site	To upgrade the farmers' skills and knowledge.
Organize agricultural workshop and courses for women farmers' group.	From August 2008 onwards	Gather women farmers in small groups.	Project site	To get more information or problems solving amongst women farmers which indirectly helps to increase their self-confidence.
Monitor the services and evaluating performances.	Quarterly and Annually	Report from AFO will be submitted to headquarters level.	SFO and AFO	To ensure the impact.

Ms. Hamidah Mohd. Jamil

Objective: To plan activities for development of women cooperative members.

In ANGKASA, the Development of Women and TCM Unit plans and carry out the programs pertaining to the development of women members in building their leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

Development of Women in Leadership:

- a. Public speaking/communicating skills

This half-day course taught women members on how to voice out and present their views in their coop's annual general meeting with confidence. Presently, the Unit is

involved in preparing a continuation course, an advance level to members to improve their communication skills.

b. Leadership Development Course

Based on the ICA-AP and ILO Training Manual, this course empowers women to become effective cooperative members. The Unit has been involved in developing the training manual for the movement level and is expected to offer the course to members in January 2008.

c. Financial Management Course

The other course that is also being planned for women members includes the financial management course. This is still in the planning stage and expected to be ready by June 2008.

Development of Women Entrepreneurship:

a. Child Care

ANGKASA encourages women members to set up and manage childcare centers as an income generating enterprise. Working together with relevant government agencies, a three week certificate level course is offered by ANGKASA to the women members. A management course is also offered to the entrepreneurs to increase their knowledge and skills in managing childcare centers.

b. Production and Marketing of Banana Chips

The women cooperators who are involved in the production of chips are mainly from rural areas. ANGKASA gave assistance in organizing workshops and seminars with relevant government agencies to improve their skills, knowledge and their production quality.

What (Action)	When	How	Where	Why
Publish/sharing of experiences on the study visits to the Philippines and Japan.	October-November 2007	ANGKASA monthly magazine "Pelancar". World Rural Women's Day Celebration.	ANGKASA	To share experiences and knowledge on women activities in the Philippines and Japan.
Prepare advance level of public speaking course.	October 2007	Working with module course writers.	ANGKASA	As a continuation course to improve members communication skills.
Prepare leadership development course.	October-December 2007	Develop a training module for women members.	ANGKASA	To empower women to become effective members in their cooperatives.
Increase the number of women childcare entrepreneurs (home-based).	December 2007-June 2008	Awareness programs.	Road shows at state level.	Awareness on the opportunity for the rural women to set up childcare at own home as an income generating activity.
Increase the skills of women entrepreneurs in banana chips production.	January-June 2008	Awareness programs with related government agencies.	Road shows at state level.	To upgrade the skills and knowledge of the women entrepreneurs and improving the production quality.

[4] MYANMAR

The two participants were nominated by the Central Cooperative Society (CCS) of Myanmar. They proposed the following Action Plan.

Ms. Aye Aye Win
Ms. Khin Moh Moh

Objective: To promote women's income generating activities in rural areas.

<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Expected Results</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Person Responsible</i>
Promotion of sustainable enterprise for rural women.	Prepare training modules.	Approximately 70% of the target villages covered by the rural credit schemes.	One year from September 2007.	Board of Directors from Central Cooperative Society (CCS) and its Union Syndicates Cooperatives, Thirimay Women Development Cooperative and other implementing women cooperatives.
Promoting women income generating activities in small areas.	Initiate simple training programs for value adding, skills development, technology improvement (food preservation and processing better packaging, marketing and financial management).	Income generating activities provided to be most vulnerable and disadvantaged segments of the women population, the poor, farm-less, households.		
To link income generation activities to the small credit scheme which can be mutually supportive.	Link income generation activities to the small credit scheme which can be mutually supported.	Varieties of training modules developed and conducted for the beneficiaries to gain some new skills to start new micro-business.		

[5] PHILIPPINES

The two participants were nominated by the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO). They proposed the following Action Plan.

Ms. Everina Hernandez Lim

Objective: To enhance the socio-economic condition of the rural women.

<i>What (Action)</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Why</i>
Information Dissemination	September 2007	Re-echo the points learned from the training course to the board of directors, officers and management staff.	San Miguel Branch Manager	To share the learning gained during the study visits in Japan.
Women Empowerment	October 2007	Encourage at least 2 groups of women to adopt 2 different income generating projects.	Women leaders and management staff	To organize and strengthen women's associations within the cooperative.
Entrepreneurial Development	November 2007	Coordinate with other agencies regarding technical assistance (e.g. training on product development).	Management staff, LGUs, DOST, DTI.	To ensure the products sold are of good quality.
	Year 2008	Linkaging/Participation in local, national trade fairs/exhibits.	Management staff, LGUs, DOST, DTI.	To ensure marketability of their products.
Cooperative Social Responsibility	Year 2008	Encourage women members to engage in backyard gardening.	Women leaders, management staff.	To be able to sustain family's daily food consumption, augment income.
Monitoring and Evaluation.	Year 2008	Regular status report (quarterly).	Management staff	To monitor and evaluate the status of women's association.

Ms. Milagros U. Gonzaga

Objective: To enhance the socio-economic condition of the rural women.

<i>What (Action)</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Why</i>
Share the experiences gained/best practices of agricultural cooperatives in Japan.	September 2007 onwards.	Presentation in Managing Committee and Board Meeting and in membership related activities.	NATCCO	To introduce the functions of agricultural coops in Japan and encourage the women in our country to participate more in nation building.
Recommend to Gender Program Officer of member coops to form women's groups/clubs and introduce entrepreneurial skills.	October 2007 onwards.	Written communication to cooperatives.	NATCCO	To increase everyone's awareness and sensitize educated women.
Publish articles about the Japan agricultural cooperatives and the role of its women's groups.	Next issue of Coop Sector (Oct-December 2007).	Regularly contribute article(s) in these publications.	NATCCO Quarterly Issues.	To serve as the promotional/marketing arm to make known to the coop sector and to the world the role of women.
Segregate membership data on the types of cooperatives with focus on agricultural cooperatives.	September 2007 onwards	Verify from documents received, e-mail, phone call, etc.	Membership database.	To reflect the realistic classification of members and to create an updated master list/picture of the agricultural cooperatives and agriculture in the country (eventually).
Prepare regular update(s) on the status of above mentioned activities.	Quarterly/Half-yearly.	E-mail	ICA-AP/ IDACA	For monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan.

[6] VIETNAM

The two participants were nominated by the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA). They proposed the following Action Plan.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Hien

Objective: To provide fertilizer at a reasonable price to farmers.

<i>What (Action)</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Objective</i>
Information Dissemination	To report the lessons learned from the training course to the board of directors and officers.	South General Trading Company Limited.	September 2007	To share the experiences gained during the study visits in the Philippines and Japan.
Set up a fertilizer supply store in the company.	The company will provide fertilizer to the farmers on credit and later buy back dry corn from them.	Binh Duong Province (where the company has established trade links).	October 2007 to March 2008 (Continuous).	To stabilize the price of fertilizer as well as corn so that through the buy back guarantee, both the farmers and company are benefited.
Organize a seminar to find out training skills needed for women.	Working together with training centre in city and municipal cooperative alliance.	South General Trading Company Limited.	Two times a year (December and June).	To improve women skills and knowledge – to protect their own interests and to gather experience.

Ms. Trinh Thi Thuy Lien

Objective: To educate and empower women

<i>What (Action)</i>	<i>Why</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>
Writing articles.	To increase public awareness regarding the important role of women in rural economy.	Write articles about the training course in the Philippines and Japan; Write articles and lobby for policies favoring women; and Write articles on unreasonable policies.	September 2007 (on-going process).	Vietnam Cooperative Economy Newspaper.
Provide education and information.	To strengthen the effective participation of women in economic development.	Organize training course in collaboration with government and non-government agencies to share methods, technologies, experiences of other countries.	December 2007 to August 2008.	Vietnam Cooperative College; Vietnam Coop Economy Newspaper; Agriculture Ministry; Farmers' Association; Women's Association.

SECTION-IX

List of Participants

- CHINA
- 01 **Ms. Ma Jihong**
Director of Investment Management
All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives
45 Fu Xing Men Nei Street
Beijing-100801, China.
Phone/Fax: (86-10) 66050767
E-Mail: majihong@chinacoop.gov.cn
- 02 **Ms. Luna Yu**
Managing Editor, China Cooperation Times
F-5, Building 12, Unit-6, Abp No.188
South-West Sihuan Road
Beijing, China.
Phone: (86-10) 63733874
Fax : (86-10) 63702680
E-Mail: ritayu9@hotmail.com
- INDIA
- 03 **Ms. Seema Koshal Bhatnagar**
Senior Manager
The Tribal Coop Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED)
NCUI Building, 2nd Floor
3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg
New Delhi-110016, India.
Phone: (91-11) 26968247
Fax: (91-11) 26866149
E-mail: skb62001@yahoo.co.in
- 04 **Ms. Rajvinder Randhawa**
Manager
The Batala Primary Coop Agricultural Development Bank
Near Bus Stand, Jalandhar Road, Batala
District: Gurdaspur, Punjab, India.
Phone/Fax: (91-1871) 240396
E-mail: rairandhawa@rediffmail.com
- MALAYSIA
- 05 **Ms. Noorshina Binti Ahmad Termizi**
Executive of Commodity Based Human Development Unit
Farmers Organisation Authority (FOA)
Block-C (North), Damansara Town Centre
Kuala Lumpur-50460, Malaysia.
Phone: (60-3) 20905139
Fax: (60-3) 20957093
E-mail: noorshina82@yahoo.com

- 06 **Ms. Hamidah Mohd. Jamil**
 Head – Development of Women and TCM Unit
 Education, Information, Publication and Services Dept.
 National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA)
 Wisma Ungku A. Aziz,
 Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya
 47301 Petaling Jaya
 Selangor, Malaysia.
 Phone: (60-3) 78008127
 Fax: (60-3) 78061506
 E-mail: hamidahmi@yahoo.com
- MYANMAR
- 07 **Ms. Aye Aye Win**
 Assistant General Manager
 Central Cooperative Society Limited
 Sayasan Plaza
 Junction of Sayasan & New University Avenue Road
 Bahan Township
 Yangon, Myanmar.
 Phone: (95-1) 557640
 Fax: (95-1) 553894
 E-mail: aveayewin999@gmail.com
- 08 **Ms. Khin Moh Moh**
 Junior Supervisor
 Central Cooperative Society Limited
 Sayasan Plaza
 Junction of Sayasan & New University Avenue Road
 Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
 Phone: (95-1) 554687
 Fax: (95-1) 553894
 E-mail: mohmoh1986@gmail.com
- PHILIPPINES
- 09 **Ms. Everina Hernandez Lim**
 Branch Head
 Lligas Kilusang Bayan Sa Pagpapaunlad Inc. (LKBPI)
 San Miguel Branch
 Norberto Street, San Jose, San Miguel
 Bulacan-3011, Philippines.
 Phone/Fax: (63-44) 6782395
 E-mail: lkbpi@yahoo.com
- 10 **Ms. Milagros U. Gonzaga**
 Membership Relation Officer
 National Confederation of Coops Inc. (NATCCO)
 227 J.P. Rizal Street, Project-4
 Quezon City-1109, Philippines.
 Phone: (63-2) 9137011
 Fax: (63-2) 9137016
 E-mail: mugonzaga@natcco.coop; milaugonzaga@yahoo.com

VIETNAM

- 11 **Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Hien**
Sales Manager (Import and Export)
South General Trading Company Limited
30 Dang Van Ngu, Ward 10, Phu Nhuan Dist.
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
Phone: (84-8) 4490947
Fax: (84-8) 4490946
E-mail: ngochien_soqe@yahoo.com
- 12 **Ms. Trinh Thi Thuy Lien**
Reporter
Vietnam Cooperative Economy Newspaper
6th Floor, 77 Nguyen Thai Hoc Street
Hanoi, Vietnam.
Phone: (84-4) 8439694
Fax: (84-4) 8230554
E-mail: thuylien822003@yahoo.com

ICA-AP

Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan
Planning Officer/Program Coordinator
International Cooperative Alliance – Asia and Pacific
9 Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector-13
New Delhi-110016, India.
Phone : (91-11) 26888250 exn.102
Fax: (91-11) 26888067 & 26888241
E-mail: sethu@icaroap.coop

SECTION-X
Program of the Training Course

13 th July, 2007	Arrival of participants in Manila
14 th July	FN Orientation/Briefing of the Program at NATCCO and Opening Ceremony
	AN Presentation on "The Cooperative Movement in the Philippines" by Mr. Rustico U. Galang, Chairman, St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative.
15 th July	Sunday: Sight-seeing in Manila
16 th July	FN Visit to Cooperative Development of Authority (CDA)
	AN Visit to Valenzuela Development Cooperative (VALDECO)
17 th July	Visit to Paco Soriano Pandacan Development Coop (PSPDC) in Manila and observation of Vendors' Market.
18 th July	Visit to Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC), Batanga City and observation of its facilities.
19 th July	FN Visit to St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative (SMTCDC), Bulacan
	AN Visit to Aadrea's Sweets (owned by a member) in San Miguel.
20 th July	Visit to St. Jude Multipurpose Cooperative, Lucena City and observation of its facilities.
21 st July	FN Visit to Ligas Kilusang Bayan sa Pagpapaunlad Inc. (LKBPI), Bulacan and Montessori School run by LKBPI.
	AN Sight-seeing in Bulacan
22 nd July	Sunday: Report writing
23 rd July	Departure for Tokyo Arrival of participants at IDACA
24 th July	FN Orientation and Opening Ceremony
	AN Japanese Society, Economy and Culture by Ms. Eiko Oshita, Program Coordinator, IDACA.
25 th July	Organisation and Business Activities of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA) by Mr. Toru Nakashima, Dy. Manager, (Training Department), IDACA.

26 th July	"Chisan Chisyo" (Movement of Locally Produced for Locally Consumed) and Direct Sale Shop by JA Group by Mr. Akihiro Ishikake, Regional Promotion and Better Living Department, JA-ZENCHU.
27 th July	Presentation of Country Reports by participants
28 th July	Observation of Central Part of Tokyo
29 th July	Sunday: Free
30 th July	FN Organization and Activities of JA Women's Association – Case Study of JA Hadano. AN Observation of facilities of JA Hadano
31 st July	Challenges to Better Living Activities of JA Group by Mr. Tsukasa Nishino, Section Chief, Measures for Food, Agriculture and Life section, Regional Promotion and Better Living Department, JA-ZENCHU.
1 st August	Agriculture in Japan: Lessons and Experiences for Rural Development by Mr. Yukio Abe, Manager (Training Department), IDACA.
2 nd August	Ways to Motivate Rural Women to Start Business and its Implementation Method t by Ms. Kazuko Kano, Senior Technical Advisor, Project Development Department, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).
3 rd August	Marketing Strategies for the SMEs in Food Sector & Entrepreneurial Activities by Rural Women as the core of "one village one product" by Ms. Kazuko Yamamoto, President, Japan Agro Marketing Institute.
4 th August	Saturday: Free
5 th August	Sunday: Free
6 th August	Move to Shimane Prefecture
7 th August	FN Visit to Shimane Prefectural Union and briefing about its Activities. AN Visit to JA ZEN-NOH Shimane Headquarters and Observation of its facilities (flower wholesale market, pearl rice company).
8 th August	FN Visit to JA Izumo (briefing about its activities and its Women's Association). AN Observation of facilities of JA Izumo (A-Coop store (LAPITA), Funeral Service Centre (Memoria), and Day Care Centre.
9 th August	FN Exchange Meeting with JA Izumo Women's Association AN Visit to Rural Women Entrepreneurial Activities (Ito's dairy farm, and Cowbell bakery).

10 th August	FN	Visit to World Heritage "Iwami-Ginzan Silver Mine Ruins" & Visit to Shimane Wine Company.
	AN	Move to Tokyo
11 th August		Saturday: Free
12 th August		Sunday: Free
13 th August		Roles of Life Improvement Activities to Sustainable Rural Women Entrepreneurship and Community Development in Japan by Ms. Hitomi Tomizawa, Gender and Community Development Expert, Rural Women Empowerment and Life Improvement Association (WELI).
14 th August	FN	Discussion and Question/Answer Session
	AN	Preparation of Reports
15 th August		Preparation of Reports/Action Plans (contd.)
16 th August		Presentation of Reports/Action Plans
17 th July	FN	Evaluation/Closing Ceremony
	AN	Move to Narita Airport Area
18 th July		Departure of Participants from Japan

FN Session	:	09:30~12:00
AN Session	:	13:30~16:00

ICA Co-operative Identity Statement

DEFINITION

A Co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

VALUES

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, Co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

PRINCIPLES

The Principles of Co-operation are guidelines by which Co-operatives put their values into practice.

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

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

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

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

Fifth Principle: Education, Training and Information: Co-operative provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their Co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of Co-operation.

Sixth Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives: Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Co-operative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Seventh Principle: Concern for the Community: Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

0.2510

ICA Library



02A 02510