


CA 01422

334:061.25
ICA

BRANTICAMP
No. 29525
16-4-2013

ICA Library

02 01422



CO-OPERATIVES : PAST 10 YEARS AND 10 YEARS AHEAD

(FOCUSING ON ASIAN VALUES VIS-A-VIS CO-OPERATIVE VALUES)

Second ICA Regional Co-operative Forum and related events

Cebu – Philippines
18-24 February 2003



THE THEME

Co-operatives : Past 10 years and 10 years ahead

Conceptually speaking, co-operation is deeply rooted in Asian value system. It was, therefore, natural for the Asian society to willingly accept co-operation as an effective institutional framework for socio-economic development of the weak. During the post colonial period, adoption of co-operatives by governments of most of the countries though resulted into all round development and expansion of the co-operative sector, it also brought negative impact on its independence and autonomy and thereby striking at the co-operative value system.



ICA President, Ivano Barberini with Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General

The market pressures and pulls unleashed by intense globalisation and liberalisation during the past 10 years threw up a distinct challenge before co-operatives to transform themselves into value-based member-driven competitive enterprises. The resilience shown by co-operatives during the Asian financial crisis is testimony of the co-operatives' intrinsic strength to cope up with emerging challenges.

Simultaneously, Information Technology revolution in the last decade not only expanded the area of competition and market for co-operatives, but also called upon them to function as well-knit and adequately networked business enterprises to maximise the gains at the market place. In the coming decade, these challenges and pressures will be more pronounced and intensive.

The above context calls for urgent introspection by co-operative members, leaders, managers, governments and the civil society into the achievements of co-operatives as value based businesses in the past 10 years and to look ahead to the next 10 years to strengthen their identity in a globalised, competitive and market-oriented world.

The 2nd Regional Co-operative Forum will debate these issues and also will focus on Asian values as reinforcing element to strengthen co-operative values. How far co-operatives have used Asian Values as a vital force to strengthen their own values in Asia-Pacific region?

The two-day deliberations of the Forum are expected to culminate into evolution of workable strategies for co-operatives to strengthen their presence as value-based business enterprises in the market to ensure a brighter, happier and secure future for the mankind.

Eminent co-operative leaders, thinkers/researchers and co-operative business executives will speak at the Forum.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Name of the Event</i>
18-21 February	09.00 - 17.00	Registration (RA/CF/RC)
18 February	09.00 - 10.30	Women's Committee Meeting
	10.30 - 17.00	Women's Forum
	09.30 - 17.00	Research Conference
	09.30 - 17.00	Consumer Committee Meeting
	09.30 - 16.00	Agricultural Committee Meeting
	16.00 - 18.00	RCBA Meeting
	17.00 - 19.00	Standing Committee Meeting
19 February	09.30 - 12.30	HRD Committee Meeting
	09.30 - 12.30	Research Conference
	09.30 - 12.30	Executive Committee Meeting of ICA Global Gender Equality Committee
19 February	16.00 - 17.30	Joint Opening Ceremony of 2nd Co-op Forum & 5th Regional Assembly
20 February	09.30 - 17.00	2nd Co-operative Forum
21 February	09.30 - 17.00	5th Regional Assembly
22 February	09.30 - 17.00	Development Partners Forum
	09.30 - 17.00	CICOPA Meeting
23-24 February	09.30 - 17.00	RCBA Seminar on Finance & Banking



Venue of the Forum

ABOUT THE ICA



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

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common social and cultural needs and aspirations through jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprises. Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality and solidarity.

Co-operatives put into practice these values through the following principles:

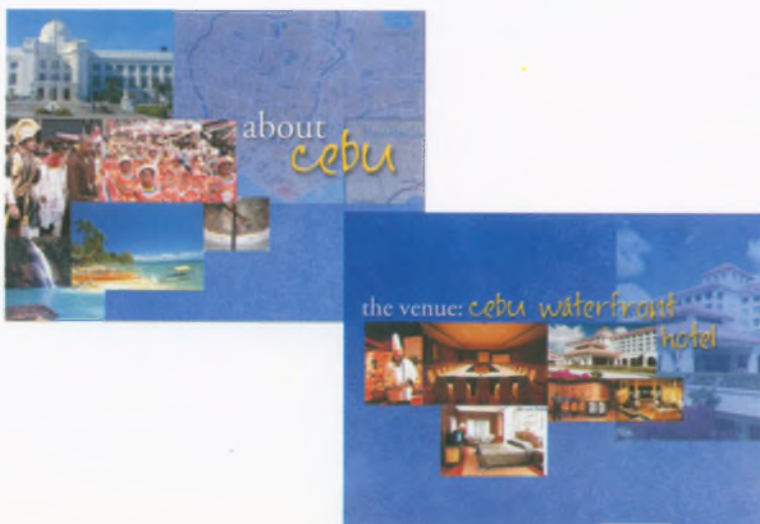
- Voluntary and Open Membership.
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Co-operation among Co-operatives
- Concern for Community.

The International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) is one of the operating regional offices of the ICA. It serves 52 national level member organizations and one international organization in 23 countries.

These national co-operatives in turn serve all types of co-operatives operating in all sectors of national economies, including those engaged in agricultural production and marketing, wholesale and retail, small and medium scale industries, financial services, insurance, housing, transport, health and other services. Over 520 million individual members benefit from the services of these co-operatives.



*The new ICA ROAP Office
in New Delhi*



CEBU AND THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines were ceded by Spain to the US in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. They attained their independence in 1946 after Japanese occupation in World War II.

The Philippines is often called the “Pearl of the Orient Seas”. It is situated at the crossroads of the Pacific Ocean and South China and Sulu Seas. Manila is the country’s capital.

There are about 80 million Filipinos that inhabit about 700 of the nation’s 7,100 islands. The 3 major island groups are Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The majority of the people are Roman Catholic, but there is also a sizeable Muslim minority. The Philippines is blessed with many scenic and historical tourist spots. It is a haven for nature-lovers.

The 21-year rule of Ferdinand MARCOS ended in 1986 when a widespread popular rebellion forced him into exile. In 1992, the US closed its last military bases on the islands. The Philippines has had two



electoral presidential transitions since Marcos’ removal by “people power.”

Cebu is the second biggest metropolis in the country with a population of 2.7 million. English is generally spoken and considered the second language. Cebu has an international airport with 30 direct flights from/to Asian countries and 340 domestic flights weekly to 25 destinations;

Pleasant warm weather prevails over Cebu, famous for its beaches and seafood and has a population of 2.7 million.



Meeting Room



The Cebu Waterfront Hotel

**Waterfront International Hotel,
Lahug, Cebu City**

Standard Room	US\$ 60.00	Single/Double
Superior Room	US\$ 70.00	”
De Luxe Room	US\$ 80.00	”
Ambassador Room	US\$ 120.00	”
De Luxe Suite	US\$ 150.00	”
Ambassador Suite	US\$ 170.00	”
Executive Suite	US\$ 280.00	”
Presidential Suite	US\$ 500.00	”

Note : The above rates are net, inclusive of 10% service charge and prevailing government tax. Buffet breakfast at the Café Uno for a maximum of 2 persons per room. Free entrance to Casino Filipino. Free use of the swimming pool.

Cebu Midtown Hotel

Single Accommodation	Pesos 1,400.00 net. US\$ 29.16
Double Accommodation	Pesos 1,600.00 net. US\$ 33.33

Note: Above rates are inclusive of tax and service charge. Corporate rate is inclusive of breakfast, except for Day Use Rate.

Montebello Villa Hotel

De Luxe	Pesos 1,800.00 US\$ 37.50 Single/Double
De Luxe	Pesos 2,350.00 US\$ 48.95 Triple
Standard	Pesos 1,400.00 US\$ 29.18 Single/Double
Suite	Pesos 3,600.00 US\$75.00 Single/Double

Note: Above rates are inclusive of tax and service charge.



Swimming Pool (Waterfront International Hotel, Cebu)

NATCCO - our hosts

The National Confederation of Co-operatives or NATCCO was formed by credit union pioneers in the Philippines who believed that the task of co-operative development lies primarily in the hands of the private sector.

In the 1950's and 1960's, a large number of privately-initiated primary co-operatives (or co-operatives with individual persons as members) were formed. Between 1966 and 1976, these co-operatives formed five regional co-operative training centers (i.e. secondary co-ops).

In 1977, the five regional training centers organized NATCCO, then known as the National Association of Training Centers for Co-operatives, to coordinate the provision of training and educational services at the national

level, and serve as the voice of co-operatives belonging to the NATCCO network.

In response to the growing needs of primary co-operatives affiliates, NATCCO was converted into a multi-service national co-operative federation while the regional training centers were transformed into multi-service co-operative development centers in 1986. The acronym NATCCO was retained and its meaning converted to the present, National Confederation of Co-operatives.

Today, NATCCO is the biggest and strongest National Federation of Co-operatives in the country in terms of geographical reach, membership, financial capacity and an array of services.



REGISTRATION FORM

2nd ICA Regional Co-operative Forum 5th ICA Regional Assembly 2nd Co-operative Research Conference Cebu - Philippines : 18-24 February 2003

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

01. Full Name (in capitals)* :
02. Title/Designation:
03. Organisation:
04. Full Postal Address:
-
-
- Phone No. Fax No.
- E-mail address:
05. Accompanying person/spouse

REGISTRATION FEES

06. Events you are attending: (Kindly tick mark)
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| i. Regional Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fee US\$ 150 |
| ii. Co-operative Forum | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fee US\$ 200 |
| iii. Research Conference | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fee US\$ 100 |

(Participants attending all the three events may pay a consolidated Registration Fee of US\$ 350).

PAYMENT DETAILS

07. a. Bank transfer (*up to 31 December 2002*) to Current A/c No. **525 0 501177 4**
Standard Chartered Bank, 10 Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001, India.
- b. US\$ Demand Draft (in favour of ICA, New Delhi) No. Dated
- c. Payment on Arrival (in US Dollars)

TRAVEL DETAILS

08. Date of arrival in Cebu: Flight No. Time:
09. Date of departure: Flight No. Time:

HOTEL REQUIREMENTS

10. Name of Hotel: Type of Room
- Category of Room: Single/Double Check in: Check out:

FOOD PREFERENCES

11. I am a Vegetarian / Non-Vegetarian (tick mark) : VEG / NON-VEG

Date: _____

Signature _____

* Kindly attach your business card.



RE-ENGINEERING CO-OPERATIVES IN THE GLOBALISED ECONOMY

THAILAND
**Third ICA Regional
Co-operative Forum**

Sixth ICA Regional Assembly

November 29 – December 4, 2004

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

Organised by
**International Co-operative Alliance
Asia and Pacific**
New Delhi, India

and
Hosted by
The Co-operative League of Thailand
Bangkok, Thailand





H.E. CHATURON CHAISANG
Dy. Prime Minister of Thailand

H.E. CHATURON CHAISANG, has travelled widely and has vast working experience. He was Teaching Assistant, The American University, Washington, D.C; U.S.A.; 1976 President of the Student Club, Chiang Mai University; 1986 - 1988 Member of Parliament, Chachoengsao, New Aspiration Party; 1988 - 1991 Member of Parliament, Chachoengsao, New Aspiration Party; 1992 Member of Parliament, Chachoengsao, New Aspiration Party; 1995 - 1996 Member of Parliament, Chachoengsao, New Aspiration Party; 1986 - 1987 Assistant secretary to Minister of Finance; 1986 - 1988 Secretary of Economic Committee, House of Representatives; 1988 - 1991 Advisor of Committee on Finance, Banking and Financial Institutions, House of Representatives; 1991 Secretary to Minister of Commerce; 1992 Member of Committee on Finance, Banking and Financial Institutions, House of Representatives; 1992 - 1995 Advisor to Minister of Science, Technology and Environment; 1995 Advisor to Minister of Labor and Social Welfare; 1995 - 1996 Chairman of Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives; 1992 - 1995 Spokesman of New Aspiration Party; 1996 - 1997 Deputy Minister of Finance; 1996 - June 1998 Deputy Secretary in General of New Aspiration Party; 1999 - 2000 Secretary General New Aspiration Party; 1998 - 2000 Member of Committee on Finance, Banking and Financial Institutions, House of Representatives; 1998 Member of Extraordinary Committee on Budget 1999.

His Royal decorations include:

- 1986 Commander (Third Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand 1988;
- Commander (Third Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant 1990 Knight;
- Commander (Second Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand 1995;
- Knight Commander (Second Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant 1996;
- Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand 2000;
- Knight Grand Cordon of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand.



MR. SUWAT TANTIPAT
Governor of Chiang Mai

MR. SUWAT TANTIPAT, was born on 27 December 1946 and became the Governor of Chiang Mai in 2003.

He did his Bachelor of Law from Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand in 1966-1965 and thereafter a Masters in Development Administration from National Institute of Development Administration, Bangkok, Thailand in 1974-75. He also holds a Certificate of Senior Governor, Institute of Administration of Development, Thailand and a Certificate of Senior Administrator, Damrongrathanupab Institute.

He has wide work experience as:

- Assistant District Chief Officer of many districts/provinces
- Chief of the Administrative Office for Rachaburi Province
- Deputy Governor of Uthaitani Province and Suphanburi Province
- Governor of Buriram Province
- Governor of Chiang Mai Province (Since 5 June 2003)



**MR. WAN MUHAMAD
NOOR MATHA**
Minsiter of Agriculture

MR. WAN MUHAMAD NOOR MATHA, the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives was born May 11, 1944. His Educational qualifications include a B.Ed., Bachelor of Education (Social Science) Chulalongkorn University in 1969 and in 1974 he did his M.Ed., Master of Education (Administration) Chulalongkorn University.

A person with varied professional background, he was Advisor to prime Minister in 1988. Besides holding several high positions in the high offices as also ministerial positions he was Deputy Prime Minister in March 10, 2004.

He received several Royal Decorations form distinguished personalities and Institutes.



**MR. WIRAT IAM-UA-
YUTH**
Chairman, CLT

MR. WIRAT IAM-UA-YUTH is the Chairman of the Cooperative League of Thailand from 2001 till date.

Mr. Wirat Iam-Ua-Yuth is deeply involved with Cooperative Development and has vast experience and knowledge. He work experiences includes :

- Chairman of Chumsaeng Agricultural Cooperative, Ltd. Nakhonsawan Province, Thailand;
- Chairman of the Cooperative League of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand;
- Board Member of Bangchak Petroleum Public Company Limited.

Speakers

IAN MACPHERSON

Mr. Ian MacPherson is a Professor of History and Director of the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies at the University of Victoria. The author of several books and papers on the Canadian and international co-operative movement, he has made numerous presentations and offered papers to co-operative and academic groups in many parts of the world. He has served on the boards of several co-operative organisations, locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. He led the process and wrote the documents whereby the International Co-operative Alliance developed its Identity Statement for the twenty-first century at its Manchester Congress in 1995.

FUKAMACHI SHIGERI

Mr. Fukamachi Shigeri, graduated from the economic department of Tokyo Metropolitan University in March 1969. He joined the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA-Zenchu) in April 1969 and in the various sections such as audit, computer system counter measures, Central Co-operative College and the last post was manager of publicity and public department in April 2001. After that, he assumed a post as the managing director of IDACA until now.

YAMASHITA

Mr. Yamashita is Vice President of JCCU and has been the Chairperson of Co-op Tokyo, which is one of the biggest and successful primary consumer co-operatives in Japan, since 2001. Mr. Yamashita also takes on the position of Vice Chairperson of CCI of ICA since 2003.

LUCITA LAZO

Ms. Lucita Lazo started work at UNIFEM, Bangkok as Regional Programme Director, in April 2003. Prior to joining UNIFEM, Lucy was Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and then undersecretary of the Department of Labour and Employment, Intramuros, in Manila. From 1988 to 1996, she was the chief technical officer of the International Labour Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, located here in Bangkok, where she implemented a technical cooperation project for rural women home workers in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines. Under the project she advocated for policy and programme reforms to extend social protection and safety nets to home workers who were adversely affected by globalization. Likewise, she has championed the recognition and social protection of workers in informal employment.

She is co-founder of the HOMENET, a network of home workers' organizations as well as the WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing), an international NGO.

Lucy has an M.A. in Psychology from the University of the Philippines, where she also taught for ten years. She was an assistant professor of Psychology from 1979 to 1982. She has worked as a consultant for numerous international organizations including the UNDP, UNICEF, ESCAP, the ADB and the European Commission.

HUSEYIN POLAT

Mr. Huseyin Polat was born in Turkey in 1946 and studied mathematics and engineering and undertook postgraduate studies on labour economics and cooperative management training. He worked in the Turkish trade union movement as cooperative organizer, trainer and general manager of the union of workers' consumers cooperatives. He joined the ILO in 1986 as cooperative development expert and worked in several Asian countries. He has been stationed in Geneva since 1991 and coordinating regional and inter-regional technical assistance programmes and projects of the Cooperative Branch. Among these programmes and projects, the indigenous and tribal peoples' programme of the ILO (INDISCO) and the trade union-cooperative collaboration to organize the informal economy workers (SYNDICOOP) can be highlighted due to their strong participatory approaches aimed at supporting cooperatives of the poorest of the poor and strengthening the ILO's partnerships with the ICA, ICFTU and the national affiliates of these organizations.

PAUL FITZGERALD

Paul is the Deputy Director/General Manager of the Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development (ACCORD a joint venture of the University of Technology Sydney and Charles Sturt University. He has come to the position with extensive experience in the areas of enterprise development, employment services, economic development, housing and finance in the not for profit, government and the private sectors. He has had practical experience in both managing and directing co-operatives and social development organizations. He was the founding CEO of the National JobFutures group and has been a Director of a number of finance organizations. He has had over 20 years experience as a consultant working across Australia and more recently internationally as an expert on post war reconstruction planning in such environments as Bosnia,

Notes

Kosova and Sri Lanka He holds formal qualifications in Business, Sociology, Psychology, Finance and Education.

SEAH KIAN PENG

Mr Seah Kian Peng is the Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), the apex body representing the Co-operative Movement in Singapore. Concurrently, Mr Seah is also the Deputy CEO and COO of NTUC FairPrice Co-operative and the CEO of NTUC Media Co-operative. NTUC FairPrice is a leading retailer in Singapore, running a chain of over 100 supermarkets and convenience stores and NTUC Media is in the radio broadcasting and publishing businesses. In February 2003, Mr Seah was elected as a member of the Standing Committee of International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for Asia & Pacific. Prior to his involvement in the Co-operative Movement, Mr Seah had worked in both the public and private sectors. He currently sits on the boards of various subsidiaries within the NTUC Group as well as serve on various public and community organizations.

FAYE LAGEU

Faye Lageu is an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute (UK) and has nine years experience in the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation. In 2002, she was appointed Vice President Intelligence Unit; in this role, she has been responsible for the development of tools for the delivery of strategic information to members of the Federation, and appropriate platforms to ensure the exchange of experience, including professional networks and collaborative research studies. Her other areas of interest have included the development and running of the ICMIF management course and an in-depth research piece, *Valuing Our Mutuality*, a European-wide study which puts the financial performance of cooperatives/mutuals compared to that of stock companies under the microscope. From 1998–2004, Faye was also Assistant Director of the European regional association of the Federation, ACME. Faye also holds a Bachelors degree in Modern Languages, and although born and based in the UK, has worked in France, Italy and the United States.

HAGEN HENRÿ

Hagen Henrÿ is a Doctor of Laws and a German lawyer. He did his major in Development Policy and Development Law from the Universities of Paris and Geneva. He is a Consultant on Cooperative Legislation and Policy since 1993 for various national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations in some 30 countries around the world.

TEO SAY HONG

Mr Teo Say Hong is the Youth Coordinator of Singapore

National Co-operative Federation. During the 4th ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar in September 2004, Mr Teo was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Youth Steering Committee for the Asia-Pacific region. Mr Teo had been involved in the Co-operative Movement since his University days; he had been a director and internal auditor of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Multi-purpose Cooperative.

He had also been very active in the regional activities, having participated in the ICA ROAP's Regional Youth Seminar in 1996 (Singapore), 1999 (Philippines), 2001 (Japan) and 2004 (Malaysia). He also presented a paper on the importance of youth involvement during the 2001 ICA General Assembly in Korea. Prior to his involvement in the Co-operative Movement, Mr Teo had been the Chairman of the NUS Students' Union and the President of the NUS Engineering Club.

Y.S.P. THORAT

Y.S.P. Thorat is the Managing Director, National Bank For Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) based in Mumbai, India. A Ph.D. in progress with the University of Reading, U.K., on the subject "The Forgotten Cooperatives - Provision of micro finance services by Non-Agricultural Credit Societies in Kolhapur District, Maharashtra, India".

He is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers and had served as the Principal of the Bankers' Training College. Prior to joining NABARD, Mr. Thorat has served as the Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India and also held several other important assignments.

U.S. AWASTHI

Mr. U.S. Awasthi is the Managing Director of the Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), the largest producer and marketer of fertilisers in India. A graduate of Chemical Engineering, he has held executive positions in several chemical and fertilisers in cooperatives. He was Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India from 1994-96 and became President of the International Fertiliser Industry Association, Paris in 1997.

Mr. Awasthi is on the Boards of several Indian and overseas companies, has over 25 technical papers to his credit, and has co-authored the book, "Fertiliser Industry in India." He is a recipient of the "Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Award" and the "Eminent Chemical Engineer Award." The National Cooperative Union of India, honoured him in 1997 for his distinguished service to the cooperative sector.

N. SUZUKI

Mr. N. Suzuki is the Secretary General of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (ICFTU-APRO).

Theme of the Forum

“RE-ENGINEERING CO-OPERATIVES IN THE GLOBALISED ECONOMY”

The present day world is characterized by globalization, growth through competition, trade beyond national boundaries, information technology, and the ever-opening market economy. To thrive, grow and sustain in such an environment, the co-operatives have to re-engineer their organization, management processes, and operations through adoption of innovative strategies.

We believe that the co-operatives will play a larger role in catalyzing economic growth with social justice.

Sub-Themes of the Forum

Sub-Theme 1 : “CO-OPERATIVE VALUES VIS-À-VIS COMPETITION”

In a globalised and market economy, the co-operatives have to face a great deal of competition. Being member-based businesses, they have to ensure cost-effective services to their members and to sustain their distinctive character. Although the co-operative way of business has a strong foundation in co-operative values, yet, in the context of market competition, the basic question is how do these values strengthen competitiveness of co-operatives.

Sub-Theme 2 : “FAIR GLOBALIZATION THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES”

Globalization is here to stay and we in the co-operative movement are well aware of it. Globalization, in itself, is not bad, and co-operatives can take advantage of it, as long as the globalization is done on a ‘Fair’ basis. Studies of impact of globalisation show that on the one hand, it has brought economic growth, it has also created economic disparities and further marginalized the poorer sections of the societies. Can co-operatives ensure fair globalization?

Sub-Theme 3 : “RE-STRUCTURING CO-OPERATIVES”

Re-structuring the co-operatives are very essential to survive in the market economy. So in order to nurture the co-operatives, co-operative leaders and governments should take immediate initiatives to properly restructure co-operatives, to make them member-centric and market-oriented enterprises.

Sub-Theme 4 : “GOVERNANCE OF CO-OPERATIVES”

Success of any business enterprise depend on good governance and professional management practices. Transparency, accountability and respect for stakeholders are important elements of good corporate governance. However, in majority of countries of Asia-Pacific, co-operatives have been controlled by the government. In a competitive environment, change in the corporate governance of co-operatives, therefore, becomes inevitable.

Sub-Theme 5 : “SECTORAL CONCERNS”

Co-operatives cover all sectors of the economy. Important sectors where co-operatives have made their effective visibility are insurance, agriculture and consumers. Viewed in the context of the new changes that are emerging in the global economy, an objective analysis of co-operatives in these sectors has become necessary.

Sub-Theme 6 : “SOCIAL COHESION THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES”

The paramount purpose of setting up co-operatives is to serve the society. In the current times of ethnic and other strifes throughout the world, co-operative is probably the only system which brings people together and thus revitalizes the society. Co-operatives’ commitment to promote gender equality and to harness the potential of youth help in strengthening social cohesion.

Objective of the Forum

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

Participants from Co-operative Organisations, research and training institutions and co-operative practitioners from Asia-Pacific and other regions are expected to participate.

Notes

Notes

Venue of the Forum

Lotus PSK Hotel is located in central Chiang Mai adjacent to the Kad Suan Kaew Shopping Plaza. The hotel is about 15 minutes drive from the International Airport and 10 minutes from the Night Bazaar.

Situated in a large complex together with the shopping plaza. The Lotus Hotel has two wings, the Doi Suthep wing (main wing) has 13 floors with an atrium style open lobby and the Huay Kaew wing which is situated above a parking house has its own reception and lobby on the 4th floor. Both wings are linked on the ground floor and the 6th floor in the Doi Suthep wing.



Notes

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF 3rd ICA REGIONAL CO-OPERATIVE FORUM

Chiang Mai (Thailand): 1-2 December 2004

THEME : RE-ENGINEERING CO-OPERATIVES IN THE GLOBALISED ECONOMY

- Sub-Themes :**
1. Cooperative Values vis-à-vis Competition
 2. Fair Globalization through Co-operatives
 3. Re-structuring Co-operatives
 4. Governance of Co-operatives
 5. Sectoral Concerns
 6. Social Cohesion Through Co-operatives

1st December 2004

- 10:00-11:30 **Joint Opening of the 3rd ICA Regional Co-operative Forum and 6th ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.**
- 10:00-10:30
- Welcome Speech by the Governor of Chiang Mai
 - Cultural Show
 - Video Presentation on Thailand Co-operative Movement
- 10:30-11:00 *Speeches by:*
- Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Thailand
 - President, ICA (Mr. Ivano Barberini)
 - President, ICA-Asia & Pacific (Mr. Mu Li)
 - President, CLT
- 11:00-12:00
- Inaugural Speech by H.E. Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand
 - Vote of Thanks by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director
- 12.00-13.30 Lunch
- Session-1: Co-operative Values vis-à-vis Competition**
Chairperson: Dr. Yehudah Paz
- 13:30- 13:50 *Speaker:* Dr. Ian MacPherson, Canada.
- 13:50-14:10 Interactions/discussions
- Session-2: Fair Globalization through Co-operatives**
Chairperson: Mr. Tan Kin Lian
- 14:10-14:30 *Speaker:* Mr. Huseyin Polat, Senior Co-op Development Expert, ILO.
- 14:30- 15.10 *Speaker:* Mr. N.Suzuki, Secretary General, ICFTU/APRO, Singapore
- 15:10-15:30 Interaction/discussions
- 15:30-16:00 Tea/Coffee break
- Session-3: Restructuring Co-operatives**
Chairperson: Dr. Robby Tulus
- 16:00-16:30 *Speaker:* Mr. Paul Fitzgerald, Dy. Director, ACCORD, Australia on "Lessons of Demutualization of Co-operatives".
- 16:30-17:00 *Speaker:* Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director, IDACA on "Building Strong Inter-Co-operative Relationships".
- 17:00-17:30 Interactions/discussions

Notes

2nd December 2004

09:00-09:30 Presentation by Mr. Wim Polman, FAO Representative on
“Review of UN Millennium Development Goals in the context of Asia-Pacific
Situation”.

Session-4: Governance of Co-operatives

Chairperson: Director General, Co-op Promotion Department, Thailand

09:30-09:50 *Speaker:* Mr. U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO on
“Developing Positive Relationships between CEO, Chairman and the Board”.

09:50-10:10 *Speaker:* Mr. Hagen Henry, Chairman, ICA Legislative Forum on
“Co-operative Law as an Instrument of Good Governance”.

10:10-10:30 Interactions/discussions

10:30-11:00 Tea/Coffee break

Session 5: Sectoral Concerns

Chairperson: Mr. Leow Peng Kui

11:00-11:30 *Speaker:* Mrs. Ranjana Kumar, CMD, NABARD on
“Re-engineering Co-operative Banks”.

11:30-12:00 *Speaker:* Mr. Faye Lageu, Vice President, ICMIF on
“Re-engineering Insurance Co-operatives”.

12:00~12:30 *Speaker:* NACF representative, Korea on
“Strengthening Agricultural Co-ops and Farmers’ Organizations
to Face Global Competition”.

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-14:30 *Speaker:* Mr. Toshifumi Yamashita, Vice President, JCCU on
“Relevance of Consumer Co-operatives to Protect Consumers in a Globalised Market”.

14:30-15:00 *Speaker:* Mr. Seah Kian Peng, Dy. CEO, NTUC Fair Price on
“Relevance of Consumer Co-operatives to Protect Consumers in a Globalised Market”.

Session-6: Social Cohesion Through Co-operatives

Chairperson: Madam Rahaiah Baheran

15:00-15:20 *Speaker:* Ms. Lucita S. Lazo, Regional Program Director, UNIFEM South-East Asia on
“Gender Equality in Co-operatives”.

15:20-15:40 *Speaker:* Mr. Teo Say Hong, Youth Leader from Singapore National
Co-operative Federation on
“Social Cohesion from a Youth Perspective – Changing Attitudes of
People in the Asia Pacific Region”

15:40-16:00 Interactions/Discussions on Sectoral Issues.

16:00-16:30 Tea/Coffee break

16:30-17:30 **Summing up Session and Closing**

Panelists: Dr. Yehudah Paz, Mr. Tan Kin Lian and Ms. Maria-Elena Chavez

- Summing up by Dr. Ian MacPherson.

Vote of Thanks by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA ROAP.

Notes

Other Meetings in Chiang Mai during the period

29 Nov. 2004	14.00 – 16.00	ICA Regional Women's Committee Meeting.	
	09.00 – 17.00	ICA University/Campus Sub-committee Meeting and Workshop.	
	10.00 – 16.00	International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) General Meeting	
30 Nov. 2004	09.00 – 15.00	4th ICA Regional Women's Forum	
	09.00 – 18.00	3rd ICA Regional Research Conference	
	09.00 – 16.00	ICA Consumer Committee Meeting	
	09.00 – 19.30	ICAO Workshop & Agri. Committee Meeting	
	09.00 – 12.30	ICA HRD Committee Meeting	
	09.00 – 12.30	ICMIF-AOA Seminar	
	14.30 – 17.00	ICA RCBA Meeting	
1 Dec. 2004	16.00 – 19.00	ICA AP Standing Committee Meeting	
	10.00 – 10.30	Welcome Speech by: Chiang Mai Governor - Cultural Show - Video presentation on cooperative movement of Thailand	
	10.30 – 11.00	Speeches by: - Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives - President, ICA (Mr. Ivano Barberini) - President, ICA Asia & Pacific (Mr. Mu Li) - Chairman of the CLT	
	11.00 – 12.00	- Inaugural Speech by H.E. Mr.Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand - Vote of Thanks by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director	
	12.00 – 13.30	Lunch	
	13.30 – 17.00	3rd ICA Regional Cooperatives Forum	
	13.30 – 17.00	Thailand Cooperative Leaders Forum	
	18.00 – 21.00	Welcome Party (all delegates & spouses)	
	2 Dec. 2004	09.30 – 17.00	3rd ICA Regional Cooperatives Forum (cont.)
		09.00 – 15.30	Thailand Cooperative Leaders Forum (cont.)
18.00 – 21.00		Dinner Party (ICA delegates only)	
3 Dec. 2004	09.30 -16.00	6th Regional Assembly Meeting	
	18.00 – 21.00	Dinner hosted by ICA AP - ICA delegates only	
4 Dec. 2004	08.00 – 17.00	Study visit to cooperatives	

Notes

ICA ASIA-PACIFIC

Fourth ICA Regional Co-operative Forum and 7th Regional Assembly

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
August 14-19, 2006

CAPACITY BUILDING: THE PRIORITY FOR CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES

Organised by

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

and Hosted by

The Sri Lankan Co-operative Movement



National Co-operative
Council (NCC)
of Sri Lanka



Consumer Co-operative
Federation of Sri Lanka
(COOPFED), Sri Lanka



Federation of Thrift and
Credit Co-operative Societies
(SANASA), Sri Lanka



National Institute of
Co-operative Development
(NICD), Sri Lanka

CAPACITY BUILDING: The Priority For Co-operative Enterprises

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

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

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

SUB-THEMES OF THE FORUM

1. Co-operative Values and Good Governance

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



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

1. **SELF-HELP** - It is from this value that the idea flows that each individual member/owner of the co-operative shares the responsibility for the success of the co-operative.
2. **DEMOCRACY** - Democracy is a practice of governance in which the people are collectively the repository of authority. The exercise of that authority is democratically legitimate only if the people who will be affected by that exercise are consulted openly and freely.
3. **EQUALITY** - Equality as a value flows from the traditional wisdom that each person, irrespective of talent, skill or appearance, possesses an intrinsic value and thus as a human is of no greater or lesser value than anyone else.



Trans Asia Hotel



Hilton Hotel

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

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

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

2. The Co-operative Way of Management

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

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

3. Strengthening HRD and Networking

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



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

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

What are the elements of networking in co-operative HRD? What are the advantages and what are the possibilities of external promotion? The presentations will help draw optional HRD practices to build a strong network of performing co-operatives globally.



Bodhi Tree



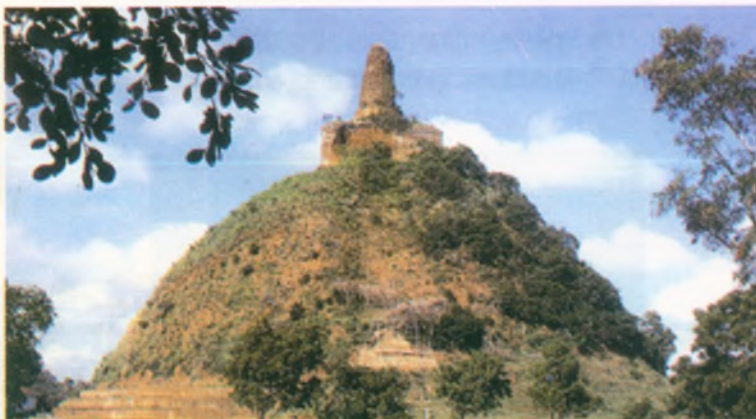
A Stupa

Participants at the Forum

Participants from Co-operative Organisations, research and training institutions and co-operative practitioners from Asia-Pacific and other regions are expected to participate.

Objective of the Forum

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



**COOPERATING
OUT
OF
POVERTY**

Tentative Programme of the Co-op Forum

16 AUGUST, 2006

16:00 ~ 17:30 Joint Opening of the 4th Regional Co-operative Forum and 7th ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

17 AUGUST, 2006

08:30 ~ 09:00 Key Note Speech

09:00 ~ 10:30 Presentations on **Co-operative Values and Good Governance**

11:00 ~ 12:30 Presentations on **the Co-operative Way of Management**

12:30 ~ 14:00 Lunch

14:00 ~ 15:30 Presentations on **Strengthening HRD and Networking**

16:00 ~ 17.30 **Plenary and Closing**

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

18 AUGUST, 2006

09:00 ~ 17:30 **7th ICA Regional Assembly Meeting**



Sri Lanka . . .

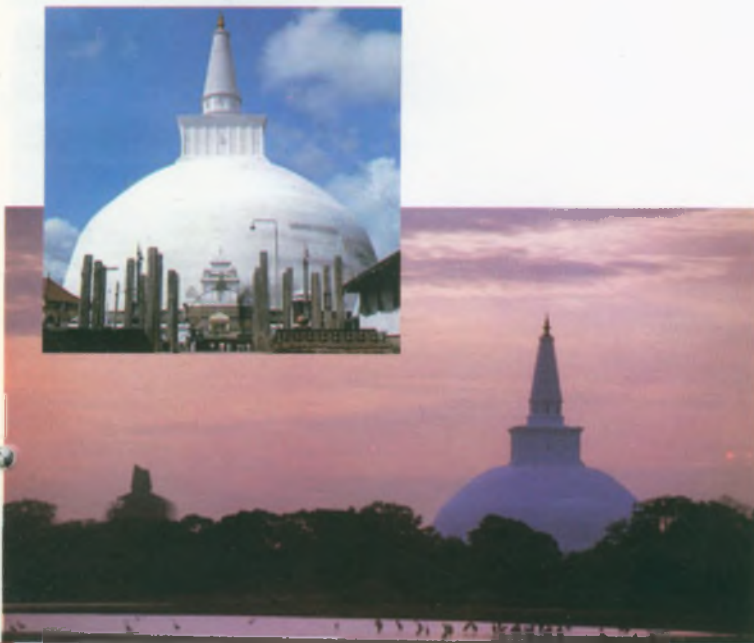
For a small island, The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, has many nicknames: Serendib, Ceylon, Teardrop of India, Resplendent Isle, Island of Dharma, Pearl of the Orient. This colourful collection reveals its richness and beauty.

The capital city is Colombo and the country has an area of 66,000 sq km (25,483 sq miles) and a population 19,000,000 inhabitants. The principal languages are Sinhalese (official), Tamil (official) and English. The religion breakup is 69%Buddhist, 15%Hindu, 8%Muslim, 8% Christian. The official currency is Sri Lankan Rupee (Rs.)

Sri Lanka is a typically tropical country with distinct dry and wet seasons. The highest temperatures are from March through June, while November to January is usually the coolest time of the year. Rainfall is heaviest in the south, southwest and central highlands; the northern and north central regions are very dry. The best time to visit the east coast is May to September.

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

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



Details of other Events

Colombo, Sri Lanka

4-19 AUGUST, 2006

4th Aug. Monday	AM	Meeting of Regional Co-op Banking Association
	AM	Meeting of University/College Co-op Sub-committee
	PM	University Co-op Leaders' Workshop
5th Aug. Tuesday	AM	Meeting of ICA Regional Women's Committee
		3rd Regional Youth Seminar (whole day)
		4th Research Conference (whole day)
		HRD Seminar and HRD Committee Meeting (whole day)
	PM	Meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and the Pacific.
6th Aug. Wednesday	AM	4th Research Conference (contd.)
	AM	Standing Committee Meeting Assembly
	AM	Consumer Committee Meeting
	PM	Joint Opening of 4th Cooperative Forum and 7th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly, followed by Welcome Dinner.
7th Aug. Thursday		4th Regional Co-operative Forum (whole day)
8th Aug. Friday		7th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly (whole day) followed by ICA Farewell dinner.
9th Aug. Saturday		Field Visits to Co-operatives (whole day)



Leopard



Tea Plantations

Meeting Registration Form

**ICA-AP REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE FORUM
Colombo (Sri Lanka): 16th to 19th August 2006**

THIS 'FORM' SHOULD BE RETURNED BY 15th JULY 2006 TO:

ICA-ASIA & PACIFIC

9 Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector-13
New Delhi-110066, India.
Telefax: (91-11) 2688-8067 & 2688-8241
E-mail: icaroap@vsnl.com

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

01. Full Name (in capitals)*:Mr/ Ms
02. Title/Designation:
03. Organisation:
04. Full Postal Address:
-
-
- Phone No. Fax No. E-mail address:
05. Accompanying person/spouse

REGISTRATION FEE: US\$ 300

PAYMENT DETAILS

06. a. Bank transfer (**up to 15th July 2006**) to Current A/c No. **525-0-501177-4** Standard Chartered Bank,
10 Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001, India.
Swift Code : SCBLINBBXXX – under intimation to ICA-AP.
- b. US\$ Demand Draft (in favour of ICA, New Delhi) No. Dated
- c. Payment on Arrival (in US Dollars)

Date:

Signature

Hotel Booking Form

ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA-PACIFIC
AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS
Colombo (Sri Lanka): 14th to 19th August 2006

THIS 'FORM' SHOULD BE RETURNED BY 15TH JULY 2006 TO:

MR. M.G.S. SILVA

General Secretary/General Manager
National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka
455 Galle Road, Colombo-3, Sri Lanka.
Telefax: (94-11) 2587-062 & 537-6885.
E-mail: slncc@sol.lk & jnslncc@sol.lk

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

01. Full Name (in capitals)*: Mr/ Ms.
02. Title/Designation:
03. Organisation:
04. Full Postal Address:
-
-
- Phone No. Fax No. E-mail address:
05. Accompanying person/spouse

TRAVEL DETAILS

08. Date of arrival in Colombo: Flight # Time :
09. Date of departure: Flight # Time :

HOTEL REQUIREMENTS

10. Name of Hotel : Type of Room:
- Category of Room (kindly tick mark): **Single / Double.**

FOOD PREFERENCES

11. I am a Vegetarian / Non-Vegetarian (tick mark) : **Veg. / Non-Veg**

Date:

Signature

4th

**ICA-Asia Pacific
REGIONAL GO-OPERATIVE FORUM**

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

&
7th REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Colombo, Sri Lanka

August 14-19, 2006

Organised by



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

Hosted by

The Sri Lankan Co-operative Movement



CAPACITY BUILDING: The Priority for Co-operative Enterprises

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sub-themes of the Forum

1. Co-operative Values and Good Governance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. The Co-operative Way of Management

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

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

3. Strengthening HRD and Networking

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

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

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

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

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

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

Participants at the Forum

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

Objective of the Forum

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



National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka

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

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

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

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

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



SANASA

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

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

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



CO-OPFED

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

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

NICD

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

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

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

PROGRAMME OF

4th ICA Regional Co-operative Forum

Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 16-17, 2006

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

Sub-themes:

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

16 August, 2006

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

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

17 August, 2006

09:00~09:30

Key Note Speech by **Mr. Lalith Weeratunga**, Secretary to the President of Sri Lanka.

09:30~10:30

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

10:30~11.00

Tea Break

11:00~13:00

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

13:00~14:30

Lunch Break

14:30~16:00

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

16:00~16:30

Tea Break

16:30~17:30

Summing up and Closing

Panelists:

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

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

Details of other Events in Colombo, Sri Lanka

14-19 August, 2006

14th Aug, Monday

09:30~17:00

09:30~13:00

14:30~17:30

09:00~17:00

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

15th Aug, Tuesday

09:30~13:00

08:00~18:00

08:00~18:30

09:00~17:00

14:30~18:00

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

16th Aug, Wednesday

09:00~13:30

16:30~17:30

09:30~12:30

08:30~13:00

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

17th Aug, Thursday

09:00~17:30

4th Regional Co-operative Forum

18th Aug, Friday

09:00~16:00

7th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly

19th Aug, Saturday

Field Visits to Co-operatives

The Eminent Speakers



H.E. MAGINDA RAJAPAKSE – President of Sri Lanka

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



HON'BLE LALITH WEERATUNGE – Secretary to the President

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

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

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

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

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

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



DR. YEHUDAH PAZ

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

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



TOSHIFUMI YAMASHITA – JCCU

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



ISAMI MIYATA – Japan

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



Lyu, Keun-Won

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



SEAH KIAN PENG – SNCF

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

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

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

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

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



MERVYN WILSON

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ALEX WRIGHT – New Zealand

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

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

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

Sri Lanka



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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