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ICA-Asia and Pacific
10th Regional Assembly
7th Co-operative Forum



“CO-OPERATIVES BUILD A SECURED SOCIETY”



334:061.25 (520)
ICA

26-30 November 2012 Kobe, Japan

www.icaapra-kobe2012.com



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Invitation from ICA-AP President, Mr. Li Chunsheng



It is with great pleasure that I invite you to participate in the 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and 7th Co-operative Forum to be held in Kobe (Japan) from 26th to 30th November 2012. The ICA-AP Regional Assembly, which meets once every two years, bringing together the representatives from member organizations in the Region will

have its 10th Assembly in Kobe, Japan on 29th November 2012.

As you all are aware, the Regional Assembly deals with the development of cooperatives in the region and detailing of operations of ICA in the region and formulates policies on major issues beneficial and relevant to the ICA and the cooperative movement in the Region.

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly will bring together the interests of 530 million cooperators through the representatives from 78 member organizations in 25 countries. In the context of the Cooperative Ministers' Conference, co-operatives have been seen as the instrument to deal with the socio-economic development in the region, and thus add to the importance of ICA Regional Assembly. This time for Kobe, we have selected the general theme as "Cooperatives Build a Secured Society" to be shared by all sectoral and thematic committee meetings.

We know that cooperatives in the region have delivered a wide scope of services vital for not only their members' livelihoods every day but also for their societies, often as partner for government policy programs. In doing so, they must ensure the societies at large in the most security areas of food, water, shelter, health, job, finance, insurance, environment and many other social issues too. Especially in the time of crisis and disasters, their genuine role appears as apparent.

In view of this, the 7th Cooperative Forum on the "Role of Cooperatives in Times of Natural Disaster" will also be of great feature to be taken in Kobe, Japan in conjunction with the Regional Assembly. We have seen the pertinent roles, assistances and efforts of cooperatives, as fore-frontiers, in the relief and reconstruction processes when the great earthquake stroked Kobe in 1995, and the big earthquake-tsunami hit the Mideast part of Japan in March last year.

Since 2012 is the International Year of Cooperatives, our movement has a "once-in-a-generation" opportunity to take a massive step forward and lead the growth of our movements in the region.

Let us set our date with the destiny of millions of cooperators by participating in the 10th ICA Regional Assembly at Kobe in Japan in November 2012.

Li Chunsheng
President, ICA-Asia and Pacific

Welcome Message from Mr. Akira Banzai



I am really pleased to welcome all of you, on behalf of the Japan Joint Committee of Cooperatives (JJC) to participate in the 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly that will be held from 26th to 30th November 2012 in the wonderful city of Kobe.

Kobe is the capital of Hyogo Prefecture, an oldest port city located between the sea and the Rokko mountain range, is one of Japan's most attractive cities for many reasons. It will be pleasant with a nice weather in Kobe.

To stay at the pre-arranged hotels and meetings shall be fruitful, together with our 14 Japanese members and local cooperatives in Hyogo Prefecture. We will provide all of you opportunities to visit an agricultural cooperative, a consumer cooperative, a fishery cooperative, a workers' cooperative, a forest owners' cooperative and a health cooperative and make best efforts to bring it into a success.

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly this time is calling the representatives from 78 member organizations and excellent cooperators from 25 countries in the Region. It must be the historical event for the region, especially in achieving the objectives of the International Year of Co-operatives 2012 set by the United Nations.

To pursuit these, we will hold many conferences, forum, seminars, and meetings organized by the ICA-AP sectoral and thematic committees at the Kobe International Conference Center (KICC). It is meaningful to take the general theme to be shared for the events as "Cooperatives Build a Secured Society".

Kobe also has been known well as vibrant city that recovered successfully from the calamity hit by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995. You will see that the city is completely rebuilt now by the great efforts and endeavors contributed together with cooperatives. It will be special for the Assembly to organize the 7th Cooperative Forum on the "Role of Cooperatives in Times of Natural Disaster".

To this end, we, 14 ICA members in Japan, wish the Assembly a complete success and all delegates a pleasant stay in Japan.

Akira Banzai
Chairperson, Japan Joint Committee of Cooperatives (JJC),
on behalf of 14 ICA members in Japan

About the 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly

In Tokyo Congress, October 1992, restructuring of ICA was approved and a Regional Assembly was adopted as the highest policy making body of ICA-Asia Pacific in which all the members can participate, discuss concerned issues and take decisions. Next year, the constitution of the Regional Assembly was adopted in a meeting held in Beijing, China in 1993. The First Regional Assembly was held at New Delhi, India, 5-6 January 1995. As per the ICA-AP rule thereafter, the Regional Assembly shall meet every second year.

The chronology of ICA-AP Regional Assemblies from inception till date is as follows:

- 1st Regional Assembly took place in Delhi, India 1995
- 2nd Regional Assembly took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 1996
- 3rd Regional Assembly took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea 1998
- 4th Regional Assembly took place in Singapore 2000
- 5th Regional Assembly took place in Cebu, Philippines 2003
- 6th Regional Assembly took place in Chiangmai, Thailand 2004
- 7th Regional Assembly took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka 2006
- 8th Regional Assembly took place in Hanoi, Vietnam 2008
- 9th Regional Assembly took place in Beijing, China 2010
- 10th Regional Assembly is scheduled to take place in Kobe, Japan at the Kobe International Conference Center on 26th-30th November, 2012.



Slogan

Regional Assembly has been the time of cooperative festivity, gathering eminent cooperators and their representatives in the Region. In sharing a cooperative enthusiasm in the UN International Year of Cooperatives,

a slogan for the 10th Regional Assembly was decided as “Cooperatives Build a Secured Society”.

Regional Assembly Slogan - “Cooperatives Build a Secured Society”

The world today is facing innumerable challenges. Chronic problems such as poverty, food insecurity and hunger, social conflicts, terrors and civil wars have threatened human society. As industrialization as well as urbanization has been increasingly intense, the problems of pollution, wastes, highly infectious diseases, energy scarcity and environmental degradation are threatening the sustainable progress of human beings. Now in the 21st century, global warming and climate change are questioning profoundly the human existence.

The prime responsibility of addressing the situation must be on the national governments and their United Nations. However, seeing that most of UN's International Conferences and Protocols have not been so much effective in mobilizing changes at local level, role of civil societies should be considered as even more crucial one. The Cooperatives have existed since centuries everywhere in the world, operating in all kinds of sectors of living and serving daily lives of their members and communities. It is the fact that the Cooperative Movement being united and represented by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) brings together over 1 billion people around the world. The United Nations estimated in 1994 that the livelihood of nearly 3 billion people or half of the world's population was made secure by cooperative enterprise.

It is also a fact that cooperative enterprises have always emerged as a great force when nothing seemed to work and have pulled through major crises. However, keeping in view the complexity of challenges and limited resources and capacity that the cooperatives have, can cooperatives effectively confront these urgent challenges and play a meaningful role putting in practice the co-operative principles and values, especially the 7th Principle – Concern for Community, which may be more relevant to concurrent time as Concern for International Community?

In celebrating the UN International Year of Cooperatives, the 10th Regional Assembly of ICA-AP is taking this slogan to be shared by all participants and cooperators in the Region.

ICA-AP Committee Meetings

Regional Assembly has provided the platform for the Regional Committees for their general meetings and seminars as per their rules and activity plans.

This time, during the two days of 26th-27th November, ICA-AP Committees on – Agriculture, Consumer, Fishery, Credit and Banking (RCBA), HRD, Research, Women and Youth will have their meetings and seminars, and

report their resolutions to the Regional Assembly on 29th November.

Statutorily, ICA-AP Board recommended adopting the 'Model Constitution' for the ICA-AP Committees, revision and resolution of their committee constitution shall be the main agenda for their general meetings (see the Regional Assembly Program).

Thematically, the Regional Assembly slogan – "Cooperatives Build a Secured Society" shall serve as the theme for the discussion and examination of the Committee meetings and Regional Assembly.

Joint Opening Ceremony of 10th Regional Assembly and 7th Cooperative Forum

At the main hall of the Kobe International Conference Center, this grand opening ceremony will be held at 09:30-10:50 morning on 28th November. As our honorable guest, we expect that Mr. Yoshihiko NODA, Honorable Prime Minister of Japan preside the inauguration. Followings are the special guests who will provide their remarkable speeches.

- Mr. Akira Banzai, JJC Chairman & JA-Zenchu President
- Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of the ICA for Asia-Pacific
- Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)
- Representative from Government of Japan
- José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director of the ILO Employment Sector
- Mr. Toshizo Ido Governor of HYOGO Prefecture
- Mr. Tatsuo Yada, Mayor of Kobe City

Reconstitution of the ICA-AP Board

The Regional Assembly is the highest forum of the ICA members in the Region, for the members and by the members wherein all members from the region participate equally to discuss and resolute over all policy matters concerning rules, governance and procedures, work plan, finance, membership, elections and agenda raised by the Board and members.

According to the Article-7 of ICA-AP Rules, this 10th Regional Assembly shall elect the Regional Board Members of 11 persons consisting of a Chairperson, two Vice Chairpersons and eight Members. The current Board Members were elected by the 8th Regional Assembly in Hanoi 2008 (see the Regional Assembly Agenda (tentative)).

About the 7th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum

Since the 4th Regional Assembly in Singapore 2000, the Cooperative Forum has been installed, in the surveillance

of socio-economic and political environments unto cooperatives in the Region, and in order to draw recommendations and resolutions for the betterment of roles of cooperatives and promotion of enabling legal and policy environments for cooperatives. The theme of this 7th Cooperative Forum was decided as "Role of Cooperatives in Times of Natural Disaster".

The 7th Cooperative Forum will start at 11:10 morning of 28th November at Kobe International Conference Center after holding the Joint opening ceremony for Regional Assembly and Forum at 09:30 -10:50 am.
(see the Cooperative Forum Program)

"Role of Cooperatives in Times of Natural Disaster"

As we are aware, during the last decade and especially in the last few years, the entire region has been devastated by natural disasters and several of member countries suffered irreparable loss of human life and property. A large number of cooperatives were destroyed, many members lost their lives, and several of people were disabled and rendered homeless and jobless.

During all these times of disaster, the cooperatives tried to alleviate the sufferings of the people with all means at their disposal. The role of International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and its members in providing resources and extending solidarity has been stupendous in the time of need. Recently, the prompt action of the Japanese cooperatives in providing relief and support to affected people during Tsunami and earthquake in March, 2011 has been exemplary. However, it has been felt that the cooperatives can play bigger role in disaster relief and recovery process if their efforts are backstopped with support and resources from the Governments and other agencies as partners in joint endeavor.

In the Forum, the cooperatives from affected countries including Japan have been invited to share the cooperative experiences. It will be seen that during the course of rehabilitation and reconstruction work, the cooperatives experienced sever resource crunch and lack of supports from government and other agencies. In case the cooperatives are considered as one of the agencies for handling such work, the resources could be channeled through cooperatives which in turn enhance their capacity to help faster and better.

Therefore, this issue needs to be discussed and the members should be able to come up with certain road map and recommendations which could be taken up with Governments and UN agencies in the Region.

Program for 25th – 30th November, 2012

Kobe International Conference Centre

DATE	TIME	NAME OF EVENT	ROOM
25 th Nov (Sun)	14:00-19:00	Registration	Kobe Portopia Hotel
26 th - 28 th Nov	08:30-19:00	Registration	KICC
26 th Nov (Mon)	09:00-12:30	ICA Regional Board Meeting	401
	09:00-12:30	Credit & Banking Committee (RCBA) Meeting	502
	09:00-10:30	Agriculture Committee Meeting	501
	11:00-12:30	ICAO General Meeting	501
	14:00-17:30	Agriculture Committee & ICAO Joint Seminar	501
	09:00-17:30	Research Committee Conference & Meeting	503
	14:00-17:30	Youth Committee Meeting	402
	14:00-17:30	Women Committee Meeting & Forum	502
	18:00-20:00	Welcome Dinner for ICA-AP Board	Hotel Okura Kobe
27 th Nov. (Tue.)	09:00-12:30	Seminar on Promotion of Cooperative Tourism	503
	09:00-12:30	HRD Committee Meeting	501
	09:00-12:30	ICFO Annual Meeting	504
	09:00-15:30	Consumer Committee Meeting	502
	09:00-17:00	Study Visit & Exchange Program of the Women Committee	Co-op Kobe
	14:00-17:30	Forestry Committee Meeting	504
	18:00-20:00	Welcome Reception by JJC	Portopia Hotel
28 th Nov. (Wed.)	09:30-10:30	Joint Opening Ceremony of Cooperative Forum & Regional Assembly	Main Hall
	11:00-17:30	The 7th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum	Main Hall
29 th Nov. (Thu.)	09:00-16:00	The 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly	Int'l Conf. Room
	18:00-20:00	Farewell Reception by ICA-AP	Reception Room
30 th Nov. (Fri.)	09:00-17:00	Visit to local Cooperatives *	
Everyday	12:30-14:00	LUNCH	RECEPTION ROOM

* **Field Visit:** The host will arrange visit to local cooperatives

ICA Regional Board Meeting

26th Nov 2012

Facilitator: Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director

TIME & Room	09:00 - 12:30 (KICC Room 401)
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Credit and Banking Committee (RCBA) Meeting

26th Nov. 2012 (KICC Room 502)

Facilitator: Mr. Kulbhushan Kukreja, ICA-AP

TIME	AGENDA	RESOURCE PERSON
09:00-10:30	● Opening - Welcome remarks by the President of Norinchukin Bank	Secretariat
	Agenda 1. Adoption of Agenda	
	Agenda 2. Approval of Membership to the ICA-AP Credit & Banking Committee	
	Agenda 3. Amendment of the Committee Constitution (as recommended by the Model Constitution)	
	Agenda 4. Election of new Chairperson and Vice-Chair(s)	
10:30-11:00	Tea/ Coffee Break	
11:00-12:30	Agenda 5. Presentation of Country Reports: on " <i>Present Scenario of Credit Cooperatives and Cooperative Banks</i> " Presentation by Mr. Kazuhiko Otake, Managing Director, Norinchukin Bank, Japan on " <i>Reconstruction Efforts, the role played by Cooperative Financial Institutions</i> " (Members are requested to bring written reports for presentation)	Chairperson
	Agenda 6. Discussion and Approval of Work Plan	Chairperson
	Agenda 7. Any other matter with the permission of Chair	
	Agenda 8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting	
	Closing	

Agriculture Committee Meeting

26th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 501)

Facilitator: Mr. Ashok K. Taneja, ICA-AP

TIME	AGENDA	RESOURCE PERSON
09:00-10:30	● Opening remarks by Mr. N.P. Patel, Chair	Mr. N.P. Patel, Chair
	Agenda 1. Adoption of Agenda	
	Agenda 2. Confirmation of Minutes of the last meeting	
	Agenda 3. Report on the Activities Taken since last meeting	
	Agenda 4. Approval of Membership of the Committee	
	Agenda 5. Election of New Chairperson and Vice-Chair(s)	Interim Chair

	Agenda 6. Amendment of the Committee Constitution (as recommended by the Model Constitution)	Elected Chair
	Agenda 7. Discussion and Approval of Work Plan for 2013	
	Agenda 8. Any other matter with the permission of Chair	
	Agenda 9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting	
	Closing	
ICAO General Meeting 26th Nov 2012 Facilitator: Mr. Si-Hyung Jo, Secretary of ICAO		
TIME & Room	11:00 - 12:30 (KICC Room 501)	

Agriculture Committee & ICAO Joint Seminar 26th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 501)		
TIME	PROGRAM	RESOURCE PERSON
14:00 - 15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inauguration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome remarks by Mr. Akira Banzai, President of JA-Zenchu - Opening remarks by Mr. Won-Byung Choi, ICAO President - Opening remarks by the Chair 	
	<u>Session 1:</u> Presentation on <i>“Democratic Management System of Primary Agricultural Cooperatives”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaker from JA-Zenchu - Other speakers by countries -
15:40 - 16:00	Tea/ Coffee Break	
16:00 - 17:20	<u>Session 2:</u> Presentation on <i>“Leading-edge Business Activities of Primary Agricultural Cooperatives”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaker from JA-Zenchu - Mr. Abolhassan Khalili, MD, Farda Oil Coop Co., Iran
17:20 - 17:30	Closing and Final Comments	

Research Committee Conference 26th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 503)		
TIME	PROGRAM	RESOURCE PERSON
08:00 - 09:00	Registration	
09:00 - 09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks by Dr. G.N. Saxena, Chair of the Committee - Welcome remarks by Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Vice Chair of the Committee 	
09:30 - 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keynote Lecture 1: <i>What are coops' potentials in socio-economic development?</i> 	Prof. Johnston Birchall, Sterling University, UK
10:30 - 11:00	Tea/ Coffee Break	

11:00 - 12:00	● Keynote Lecture 2: <i>How to gauge socio-economic impact of co-ops to increase visibility?</i>	Prof. Lou-Hammond Ketilson, Saskatoon University, Canada
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 - 15:00	Presentation of Papers	
15:00 - 15:30	Tea/ Coffee Break	
15:30 - 16:30	Presentation of Papers cont.....	
16:30 - 17:00	Plenary/ Closing of the Conference	

Research Committee Meeting
26th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 503)

Facilitator: Mr. Ashok K. Taneja, ICA-AP

TIME	AGENDA	RESOURCE PERSON
17:00 - 17:30	Agenda 1. Adoption of Agenda	Dr. G.N. Saxena, Chair of the Committee
	Agenda 2. Confirmation of Minutes of the last meeting	
	Agenda 3. Report on the Activities Taken since last meeting	
	Agenda 4. Approval of Membership of the Committee	
	Agenda 5. Election of new Chairperson and Vice-Chair	Interim Chair
	Agenda 6. Amendment of the Committee Constitution (as recommended by the Model Constitution)	Elected Chair
	Agenda 7. Discussion and Approval of Work Plan for 2013	
	Agenda 8. Any other matter with the permission of Chair	
	Agenda 9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting	
Closing		

Youth Committee Meeting
26th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 402)

Facilitator: Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, ICA-AP

TIME	AGENDA	RESOURCE PERSON
14:00 - 15:30	● Opening remarks by Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director	
	Agenda 1. Self-introduction and country reports by the participants	Committee members
	Agenda 2. Welcome of new members and facilitation by Board	
	Agenda 3. Confirmation of the minutes of last meeting (Beijing 2010 – Singapore 2012)	
	Agenda 4. Presentation on “ <i>Role of Co-operatives during Natural Disasters</i> ”	Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur, KCHSU Mr. Ilham Nasai, DEKOPIN
15:30 - 16:00	Tea/ Coffee Break	
16:00 - 18:00	Agenda 6. Presentation on “ <i>Co-operative Business Solutions – Effective technology for Efficient Results</i> ” - Report of ICA Youth	

Activity in December 2011	
Agenda 7. Open House discussion on the 'ICA Principle 6 th and ICA Principle 7 th '	
Agenda 8. Work Plans for 2013	
Agenda 9. Report Writing and Group Activity	
Agenda 10. Final Adoption of Youth Constitution to be submitted to the Regional Assembly along with Report	
Agenda 11. Date and Venue of Next meeting and Closing	

Women Committee Meeting
26th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 502)

Facilitator: Ms. Savitri Singh, ICA-AP

TIME	AGENDA	RESOURCE PERSON
14:00 - 15:30	Welcome by Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the Committee	
	Agenda 1. Adoption of Agenda	Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chair of the Committee
	Agenda 2. Confirmation of the minutes of last meeting	
	Agenda 3. Report on the Activities Taken since last meeting	
	Agenda 4. Approval of Membership of the Committee	
	Agenda 5. Election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson	Interim Chair
	Agenda 6. Amendment of the Committee Constitution (as recommended by the Model Constitution)	New Chairperson
	Agenda 7. Update on Review of TOT program and manual	
	Agenda 8. Discussion and Approval of Work Plan-2013	
	Agenda 9. Reports from some members (updates about gender mainstreaming activities in their coops, 5 minutes each)	- Ms. Om Devi Josh, Nepal - Ms. Divina Cabunoc Quemi, Philippines - Ms. Mi-Yea OH, Korea - Ms. Errum Sharif Bahaiji, Pkistan
Agenda 10. Date and Venue of Next Meeting		
15:30 - 15:45	Break	

ICA Regional Women's Forum
26th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 502)

TIME	PROGRAM	RESOURCE PERSON
15:45 - 16:15	Keynote speech on " <i>Women in Cooperatives and Human Resource Development to Build a Secured Society</i> "	- Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Vice President of the ICA-AP Board - Ms. Yoshie, Uchima & Ms. Satoko Chikamoto, JCCU
16:15 - 17:10	Presentation from Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Speaker from JA group ● Speaker from Thailand (Ms. Kurwan Chonlanai) ● Speaker from Malaysia 	- Ms. Shizuka Sera, Chair of the National Council of Agricultural Cooperative Women's Association - Ms. Kurwan Chonlanai, Chair of AWCF - Mdm. Roszurina Omar, Deputy Manager of ANGKASA
17:10 ~ 17:30	Report and recommendation of the Forum	Ms. Savitri Singh, Secretary of RWC
	Closing	Ms. Hitomi Tanaka

Seminar on "Promotion of Cooperative Tourism in AP Region"

27th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 503)

Facilitator: Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, ICA-AP

TIME	PROGRAM	RESOURCE PERSON
09:00 - 10:30	• Opening	Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director
	• Introductory remarks and Self-introduction by participants	
	• Report on the Previous Meeting (Beijing 2010)	Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, ICA-AP
	• Thematic Discussion 1. – " <i>Sustainable Tourism Through Cooperatives</i> " (Case and Practices)	- BJSU, Bangladesh - NCUI, India
	• Thematic Discussion 2. – " <i>Educational Component of Cooperative Tourism</i> " (Case and Practices)	- ICC, Iran - Nokyō Tourist, Japan - Coopfed, Sri Lanka
10:30 - 11:00	Networking Tea Break	
11:00 - 12:15	• Group Activity on Tourism Market in the Asia Pacific Region - <i>Participants will be given fictitious tourism industry targets and will be encouraged to prepare cooperative tourism models for the countries in the Region.</i>	Moderator: Mr. Sanjay Verma, NCUI
12:15 ~ 12:30	Closing and Final Comments	

Human Resource Development (HRD) Committee Meeting

27th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 501)

Facilitator: Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP

TIME	AGENDA	RESOURCE PERSON
09:00 - 10:30	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chair of the Committee • Special remarks by Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI President and Vice Chairman of ICA-AP Board 	
	Agenda 1. Adoption of the Agenda	Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chair of the Committee
	Agenda 2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 23 rd Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on HRD held in Selangor (Malaysia) on 4 th July 2011.	
	Agenda 3. Report on the Action taken on the decisions of the 23 rd Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on HRD held in Selangor, (Malaysia) on 4 th July 2011	
	Agenda 4. Approval of Membership of the Committee	
	Agenda 5. Amendment of the Committee Constitution (as recommended by the Model Constitution)	
Agenda 6. Presentation on " <i>HRD as a Tool for Good Governance in Cooperatives</i> "	Dr. Bhagwati Prasad	
10:30 - 11:00	Tea/ Coffee Break	
11:00 - 12:30	Agenda 7. Presentation on " <i>How Human Resource Development Efforts Help Cooperatives Build Secured Society</i> "	Prof. Rosmimah Bt Mohd Roslin, Cooperative College of Malaysia
	Agenda 8. Presentation on "Status Report of GHRD" (www.hrd.coop)	Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive, NCUI
	Agenda 9. Presentation of country reports on 'Initiatives on HRD' by the members (Members are requested to bring written reports for presentation).	Committee Members
	Agenda 10. Election of Vice Chairperson(s)	Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chair of the Committee
	Agenda 11. Discussion on the subject for next HRD seminar	

Agenda 12. Any other with the permission of the Chair	
Agenda 13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting	
Closing	

ICFO Annual Meeting 27th Nov 2012 Facilitator: Mr. Kwang-Bum Park, Secretary of ICFO	
TIME & Room	09:00 - 12:30 (KICC Room 504)

Consumer Committee Meeting 27th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 502) Facilitator: Ms. Kanako Miyazawa, ICA-AP Singapore		
TIME	AGENDA	RESOURCE PERSON
08:45	Assemble at KICC Room. 502 for the 46 th Meeting of the Consumer Committee (*Members only)	
09:00 - 09:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks by Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Chair of the Committee - Welcome remarks by Mr. Katsumi Asada, President of JCCU 	
09:10 - 09:30	Agenda 1. Adoption of Agenda	Mr. Haruyoshi Amano
	Agenda 2. Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting	
	Agenda 3. Activity report since the last meeting by Secretary	
09:30 - 10:40	Agenda 4. Approval of Membership of the Committee	
	Agenda 5. Country reports and exchanges	
11:00 - 11:20	Tea/ Coffee Break	
11:20 - 11:50	Agenda 6. Activity plan for 2013	
11:50 - 12:10	Agenda 7. Amendment of the Committee Constitution (as recommended by the Model Constitution)	
12:10 - 12:30	Agenda 8. Closure of ICA-AP Singapore Business Office and Opening of ICA-AP Kuala Lumpur Office	
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 15:00	Agenda 9. Report of Study on "the Present Status of Consumer Cooperative in Asia and the Pacific 2012" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Background and introduction:</i> Mr. Viendra Singh, Chair of the Ad-hoc Committee - <i>Summary of the study:</i> Ms. Kanako Miyazawa, Secretary of ICA-AP Consumer Committee - <i>Comments:</i> Mr. T.T. Adhikari 	
15:00 - 15:05	Agenda 10. Any other item with permission of the Chair	
15:05 - 15:10	Agenda 11. Date and Venue of next meeting	
15:10 - 15:15	Closing	

Forestry Committee Meeting 27th Nov 2012 (KICC Room 504) Facilitator: Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP		
TIME	AGENDA	RESOURCE PERSON
14:00 - 15:30	Opening	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome Address by Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director 	
	Agenda 1. Adoption of Agenda	Secretariat
	Agenda 2. Approval of Membership of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry	
Agenda 3. Amendment of the Committee Constitution (as recommended by the Model Constitution)		

	Agenda 4. Election of Office Bearers	Interim Chair
15:30 -16:00	Tea/ Coffee Break	
16:00 -17:30	Agenda 5. Presentation of country Papers	Chairperson
	Agenda 6. Activity Plan for 2013	
	Agenda 6. Any other matter with the permission of Chair	
	Agenda 7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting	
	Closing	

Study Visit and Exchange Program of the Women Committee

27th Nov 2012

Facilitator:

TIME	PROGRAM	VENUE
09:10 - 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Registration and Move to Seikatsu Bunka Center Hall</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration will be conducted at each of hotel lobby respectively. Participants will move to the venue with event staffs 	Hotel lobby at *Kobe PortPia Hotel *Kobe Tokyu Inn *Toyoko Inn Kobe Sannomiya No.1
10:00 - 10:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Introduction of Japanese Cooperative Movement</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Address by Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee on Women - Introduction of Hyogo-Ken Joint Committee of Cooperatives by Mr. Kohei Miyake, Managing Director of Hyogo Consumers' Cooperative Union 	Seikatsu Bunka Center Hall
10:10 - 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Introduction of co-operative sector in Hyogo Prefecture</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Owners' Cooperative - Fisheries Cooperative - Agricultural Cooperative - Consumers' Cooperative <p style="color: red; margin-left: 20px;">(Speaker will be confirmed)</p> 	
11:00 - 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visiting Consumer Co-operative Kobe Inspection Laboratory 	
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Cultural exchange event facilitated by members of Consumer Cooperative Kobe</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kimono Dressing Class - Tea Ceremony 	Seikatsu Bunka Center Hall
15:30 - 15:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compliment to visitors 	<Exhibition >
15:55 - 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Closing Address by Masao Hata, Executive Director, CO-OP Kobe 	Support program for UNICEF projects
16:00 - 16:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visiting and Shopping at "Seer", CO-OP Department Store 	Seer
16:55 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● End of the program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants will go back to the respective hotels with event staff 	Seer

**The 7th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum on
“Role of Cooperatives in Times of Natural Disaster”**

28th November, Main Hall - Kobe International Conference Centre

PROGRAM

09:30 – 10:30 Joint Opening Ceremony of the Regional Assembly and Cooperative Forum

- Welcome Address : Mr. Akira Banzai, JJC Chairman & JA-Zenchu President
- Inaugural Address : Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA Asia-Pacific
- Inaugural Address : Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)
- Special Address : José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director of the ILO Employment Sector
- Special Address : Representative from Government of Japan
- Address : Mr. Toshizo Ido Governor of HYOGO Prefecture
- Address : Mr. Tatsuo Yada, Mayor of Kobe City
- Appreciation : Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director

10:30 – 10:50 Key-note Speech

- Keynote Speech: “*Role of Civil Society in Times of Natural Disaster*” by Mr. Masaki Watabe, Head of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs(UNOCHA) Kobe Office, Japan

10:50 – 11:10 Tea Break

11:10 – 12:30 Session-1: Reports from Japan (Chairperson: Mr. Katsumi Asada, President of JCCU)

- Special Speech: Kaihara Toshitami, former Governor of Hyogo Prefecture
- Report: Hajime Yaguichi, JJC Senior Director & JA-Zenchu Ex Director – “*Great East Japan Earthquake and Effort towards Recovery and Reconstruction by Japanese Cooperative Movements*”
- Report: Fukushima IYC Planning Committee – “*Current Status and Issues of Great East Japan Earthquake and the Nuclear Accident*”
- 10 minutes Open Floor for Q&A

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Session-2: Country Reports (Chairperson: Mr. Li Chun Sheng, President of ICA-AP)

- The Great Flood of Thailand by President, CLT, Thailand
- The Tsunami Disaster case of Sri Lanka by President, NCC, Sri Lanka
- The Tsunami Disaster case of Indonesia by President, DEKOPIN, Indonesia
- The Flood Disaster case of Philippines by President, NATCCO, Philippines

15:00 – 15:20 Tea Break

15:20-16:20 Session-3: Panel Discussion and Open Forum (Chairperson: Dame Pauline Green, ICA President)

Theme: Co-operatives Build A Secured Society

- Mr. Akira Banzai, JJC Chairman & JA-Zenchu President
- Fukushima IYC Planning Committee Representative, Japan
- Chairperson, CLT, Thailand
- Chairperson, NCC, Sri Lanka
- President of DEKOPIN, Indonesia or Chairperson, CLT, Thailand
- President of NATCCO, Philippines

16:20 – 16:30 Tea Break

16:30-17:00 Session-4: Special speech

- Special Speech: Mr. Uchihashi Katsuto, Japan IYC National Planning Committee Representative - “*Expectation for the Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific*”

17:00-17:30 Session-5: Conclusion

- Report of the Forum and Presentation of the Resolution and Recommendations of the Forum: Dr. Chan Ho CHOI
- Closing Speech: Mr. Katsumi Asada, Vice Chair of JJC

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly

29th November 2012

International Conference Room, Kobe International Conference Center (KICC)

TIME	AGENDA	PRESNTER
09:00 – 13:00	Agenda 1. Opening Remarks	Mr. Li Chunsheng
	Agenda 2. Approval of Agenda	
	Agenda 3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 9th Meeting held in Beijing on 5th September 2010	
	Agenda 5. Perusal of Minutes of ICA-AP Regional Board Meetings since last Regional Assembly	
	Agenda 5. Report of the Regional Director <input type="checkbox"/> ICA-AP Financial Report (2009-2012) <input type="checkbox"/> ICA-AP Membership Situation	Chan-Ho Choi
	Agenda 6. Report on the 9th Cooperative Ministers' Conference held in Bangkok on 27 th -29 th February, 2012	
10:30 -11:00	Tea/ Coffee Break	
11:00 -12:30	Agenda 7. Re-constitution of the ICA-AP Regional Board <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of Candidates <input type="checkbox"/> Election of Board Members including the ICA-AP President and 2 Vice Chairpersons	Election Committee
12:30 -14:00	Lunch Break	Reception Room
14:00 -17:10	Agenda 8. Report on UN International Year of Cooperatives and Blue Print of ICA by ICA Director General	Charles Gould
	Agenda 9. Approval of ICA-AP Strategic Plan and Multi-Annual Budget for 2013-2016	New President Chan-Ho Choi
	Agenda 10. Approval of revised ICA-AP Rules (on sub-regional office)	
	Agenda 11. Formation of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry	
	Agenda 12. Approval of revised Constitutions of the ICA-AP Committees.	
	Agenda 13. Reports from ICA-AP Sectoral /Thematic Committees	Committee Chairs
	Agenda 14. Report of the 7th Cooperative Forum on "Role of Cooperatives in Times of Natural Disaster", and Adoption of Resolution on "Cooperative Action for Natural Disaster"	Chan Ho Choi
	Agenda 15. Any Other Business matters	New President
Agenda 16. Venue and Date of next Regional Assembly		
17:10 – 17:30	Agenda 17. Closing Remarks	

Model Constitution for ICA-AP Committees

Note: The Model Constitution for ICA-AP Committees has been drafted based on the study of existing provisions of various ICA-AP Committees and the Rules of ICA-AP approved by the Regional Assembly in Beijing on 5th September 2010. The Model Constitution provides definite guidelines to the ICA-AP Committees to draft their own Constitution in a manner they think as best for the growth of their respective sectors. The Model Constitution which comes up with vital recommendations is intended to serve as a template for creation of Constitution of each Committee of ICA-AP. The Articles related to 'General Functions' and 'Activities' in the Model Constitution provide enough scope to each Committee to use their own judgment in further elaborating/adding upon these Articles for their Constitution based on the specific nature of their priority areas/requirements.

Constitution of ICA-AP Committees

The Committees may be constituted in the areas which are considered desirable for strengthening of the cooperative movement in the region. Their establishment may be based on the requirements of the region, and the level of involvement of the ICA-AP member organizations in the area of activity covered by them.

Preamble

- The Committee is a Committee of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and Pacific. The Committee shall work in accordance with the aims and objects of the ICA and the general policy of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

Article-1: Name

- The name of the Committee shall be 'ICA-AP Committee on ----- (Consumer, Agriculture, Youth, Banking, which ever the case may be).

Article-2: Overall Aim

- The overall aim of the Committee shall be to promote the development of sound and effective cooperative organizations in the specialized area of its work and to develop appropriate policies and programs. In this respect, the Committee will undertake suitable advocacy work and formulate viable strategies from time to time in order to build up the sector which it represents.

Article-3: Membership

- The Committee shall consist of persons working in the field of specialized functioning of the Committee in the member organizations of the ICA in the Region. Each member organization of the ICA-AP would be entitled to nominate a maximum of two persons in the Committee.

- Non-member of ICA can attend the Committee meeting provided it obtains the approval from the member organization of ICA and also accepts the objects of the ICA and the Committee.

Article-4: Functions

- to review periodically the progress made in the area covered by it and to initiate necessary action;
- to promote the growth and development of cooperatives in the region;
- to assist in the strengthening, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the existing cooperatives in the region;
- to recommend policies and common lines of action in the specialized field of functioning of the Committee and to initiate implementation;
- to make recommendations and undertake professional steps for improving managerial competitiveness and operational efficiency of cooperatives in the region;
- to promote systematic dissemination of information and exchange of experiences /best practices in respect of the area covered by it;
- to suggest and initiate programs of member activities and undertake appropriate measures for developing active participation of members in the management of cooperatives;
- to survey the problems which concern the cooperatives in the Committee's area of functioning, in order to ascertain which problems are common to these cooperatives as a whole, and formulate recommendations for the solutions of these problems;
- to share knowledge as well as liaise and collaborate with the ICA main specialized Committee, other regional and international organizations concerned with its work; and
- to carry out any other activities which are incidental or conducive to the promotion of the aims and objectives of the Committee.

Article-5: Activities

- For dynamic growth of the cooperative sector in the region, and to influence the policy-makers to give due recognition to cooperatives in the policy/legislative framework of the countries, the Committee may undertake various activities/ programs in accordance with the functions as well as objectives of the Committee. If needed, the Committee may decide to raise funds to increase its activities/programs.

Article-6: Meetings

- The meetings of the Committee shall be held at least once every year. At the time of the Regional Assembly, all the Committees shall hold a meeting/ seminar;
- The meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in English. Participants requiring interpretation in any

other language may be accompanied by personal interpreters at their own cost;

- The Regional Director and/or his/her nominee and members of the Regional Board shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the Committee;
- The members shall serve on the Committee for a period of four years;
- Each member attending the meeting shall have one vote;
- Observers from non-member organizations may be invited to the Committee meetings, through the national member organizations of ICA. Non-member organizations may here refer to institutions/organizations engaged in or interested in the Committee's area of functioning.
- The Committee shall have the powers to frame its own rules of procedures and conduct for approval by the Regional Assembly; and
- The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall consist of 5 member countries/organizations.

Article-7: Working of the Committee

- The Committee will work within the ICA Strategic Plan and will submit annual work plan/budget to the Regional Director.

Article-8: Officers

- The Committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson. Their term of office shall be four years (RA to RA). Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election;
- The Officer in charge of the Committee at the ICA-AP will function as Secretary of the Committee. The Secretary shall be responsible for the operational and administrative work of the Committee; and
- In the case of both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson not being present at the meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chairperson from among the members present for conducting the meeting.

Article-9: Finance

- The work and the meetings of the Committee shall be on a self-financing basis; and
- The financial year of the Committee shall be one calendar year.

Article-10: Office

- The office of the Committee shall be at the ICA-Asia and Pacific at New Delhi or at such place as may be decided by the Committee with the approval of the Regional Assembly.

Article-11: Report to ICA Regional Assembly

- The Committee shall submit a report of its activities to the ICA Regional Assembly.

Article-12: Relationship with Member Organizations

- The members of the Committee will keep the Committee informed of all significant developments in the Committee's field of work in their respective countries.

Article-13: Working Groups

- The Committee may constitute a technical development unit or working group as may be necessary, to deal with specific issues and problems and these groups may meet as and when required.

Article-14: Amendments

- Any amendments to the Constitution of the Committee shall be by a decision of two-thirds of all the members eligible to vote. Amendments thus adopted shall come into force after they are approved by the ICA Regional Assembly.

Article-15: Dissolution

- The Committee may be dissolved by the decision of three quarters majority of those attending the meeting.

CONCEPT NOTE

The 7th ICA ASIA-PACIFIC CO-OPERATIVE FORUM ON “ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN TIMES OF NATURAL DISASTER” 28 November 2012 at Kobe International Conference Centre, Kobe, Japan

Background

As we are aware, during the last decade and especially in the last few years, the entire region has been devastated by natural disasters and several of member countries suffered irreparable loss of human life and property. A large number of cooperatives were destroyed, many members lost their lives, and several of people were disabled and rendered homeless and jobless.

During all these times of disaster, the cooperatives tried to alleviate the sufferings of the people with all means at their disposal. The role of International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and its members in providing resources and extending solidarity has been stupendous in the time of need.

Recently, the prompt action of the Japanese cooperatives in providing relief and support to affected people during Tsunami and earthquake in March, 2011 has been exemplary. However, it has been felt that the cooperatives can play bigger role in disaster mitigation and management if their efforts are backstopped with support and resources from the Governments and other agencies as partners in joint endeavor.

Asia-Pacific Region is most prone to natural disasters but lacks preparedness even when it is four times more likely to be affected by natural disasters than Africa and 25 times more likely than Europe or North America, – according to the first Asia-Pacific Disaster Report, launched by ESCAP and ISDR in Icheon, Republic of Korea on 26th October, 2010 (*The Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)*).

In South-East Asia, many more people died as a result of natural disasters from 2001 to 2010 than during the previous decade, mainly because of two extreme events: the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of 2004, killing over 230,000 people in fourteen countries. Indonesia was the hardest-hit country, followed by Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008.

Iran is one of the most seismically active countries in the world and every year people die due to earthquake. In China, during the 2008- Sichuan earthquake 87,476 people lost their lives. The Pakistan Flood-2010 raised deaths due to natural disaster to over 2,100 with over 18 million people affected. The severe flood-2011 in Thailand resulted in a total of 815 deaths and 13.6 million people affected. The Philippines suffered a great deal due to flash flood in 2011 and more than thousand people died many more left homeless and sick. A powerful earthquake in 2011 hit Japan, over 200,000 homes destroyed and about 16000 people died.

Reconstruction and rehabilitation assistance by the co-operative organization in Asia and the ICA initiatives:

The ICA and member cooperatives across the world are always quick to respond to such emergencies and rush to help the cooperatives and communities. The ICA immediately issued message of solidarity and appeal to all the members to contribute funds and other help. There are several examples such as during the Iran earthquake-2003, the members from Asia and other parts of the world contributed generous funds, in china earthquake-2008, the members extended help and in Myanmar cyclone 2008, the ICA, in response to its call to global cooperative fraternity, received a generous support from its member cooperatives for the revival of most affected and marginalized Co-operatives in Myanmar.

The ICA-AP office helped in reconstruction of several cooperatives in the country. After the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami-2004, the ICA appealed for generous contributions and the fund was used for reconstruction in Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka in collaboration with their respective national cooperative organizations. Some member coop organizations in the region have been implementing exclusive projects to rehabilitate affected people and co-operative fraternity in affected countries.

The ICA-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) helped Pakistan flood relief work by contributing funds and distribution of relief material to the affected people. The regional Director visited to give a healing touch to the devastated people. The ICA collected funds through members and helped the flood relief task in Thailand in collaboration with member, the Co-operative League of Thailand which distributed eatables and other consumer items to flood victims.

The initiatives and efforts by Japanese cooperatives were phenomenal during 2011 earthquake and Tsunami in the country. The cooperatives launched help centres immediately, providing emergency aid, support medical activities, donations, fundraising activities, volunteer disaster relief etc. The cooperatives opened relief fund account and the ICA members helped generously. The ICA President Dame Pauline Green visited Japan to meet with the members and to take stock of the situation.

Thus, it is very important to discuss the issue at the important platform like the 7th ICA-AP Regional Co-operative Forum to be held in conjunction with ICA-AP Regional Assembly-2012 and other related events which will provide opportunity to a large number of co-operators from the region and other stake holders to participate. The members are invited to share their experience and make suggestions on how to build the

capacity of the cooperative organizations to handle disaster as co-operatives represent a large number of individuals, their families and community which gets affected very adversely due to natural disasters.

Objectives

The general objective of the forum is to bring together co-operatives and other stake holders such as United Nations agencies on a platform to deliberate upon role of co-operatives as partners of disaster management and strengthening their capacity for disaster preparedness, mitigation and management.

• Specific objectives are

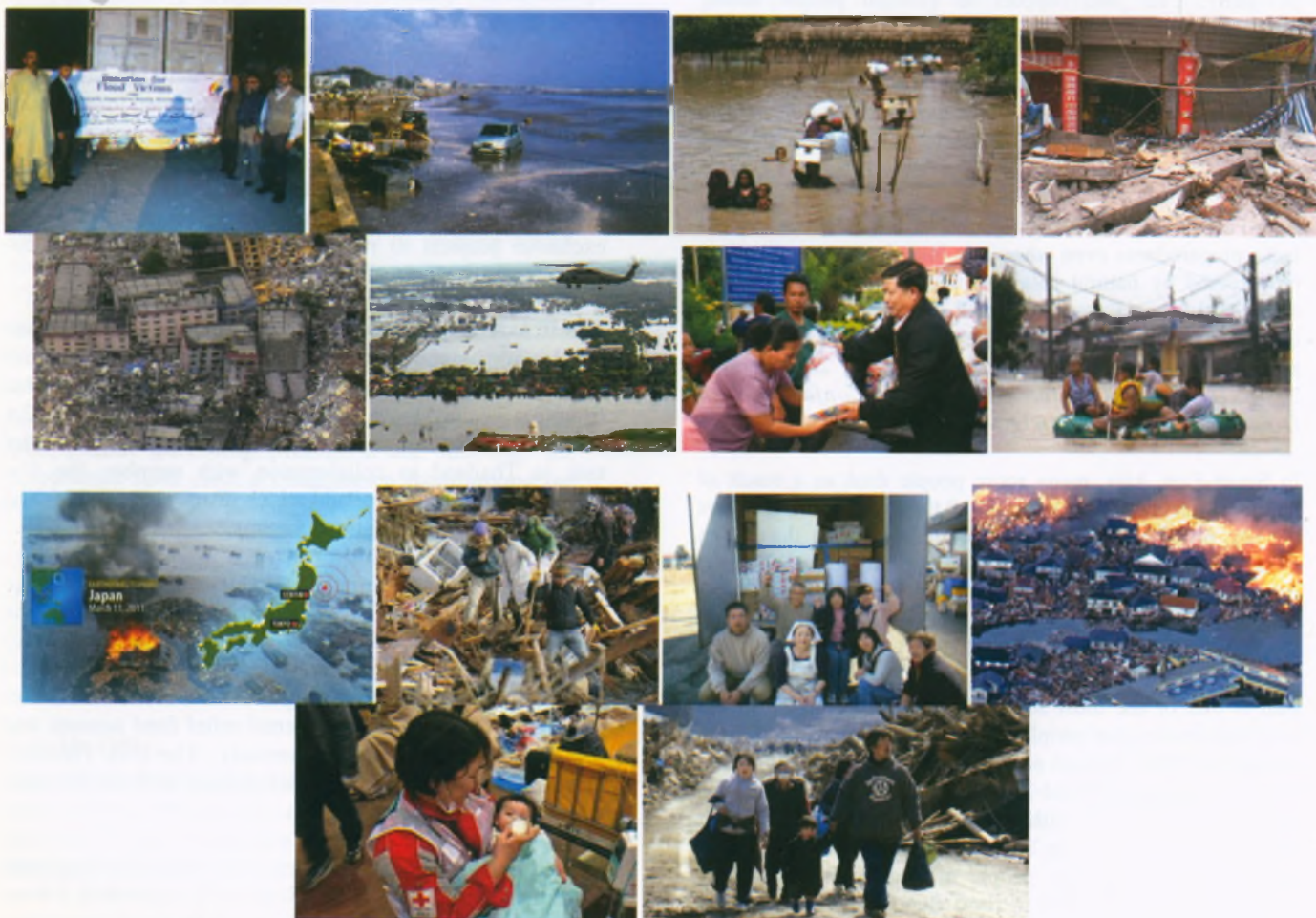
1. Recognizing co-operatives as representative of largest group of people in a country which represents individuals as well as their community more than any other civil society in any country for that matter.
2. UN and governments facilitate co-operatives in Asia Pacific countries to integrate resources for developing and implementing rehabilitation and reconstruction project during disaster.

3. Facilitating net work with fellow cooperatives, governments and UN agencies for exchange of information and declare co-operatives as mainstream organization to channel resources for disaster management by integration of co-operatives into the existing disaster management system.

4. Facilitating a joint exercise involving the ICA-UN-Government-Co-operative Movement to develop disaster management unites in co-operatives equipped with appropriate resources such as dedicated funds, disaster preparedness Manual and training to staff.

Expected results

1. To raise awareness about role of co-operatives during the disaster and to resolve and recommend that co-operatives be recognized as "Partner in disaster management" by respective governments and UN.
2. UN-ICA partnership for capacity building of co-operatives for disaster management.

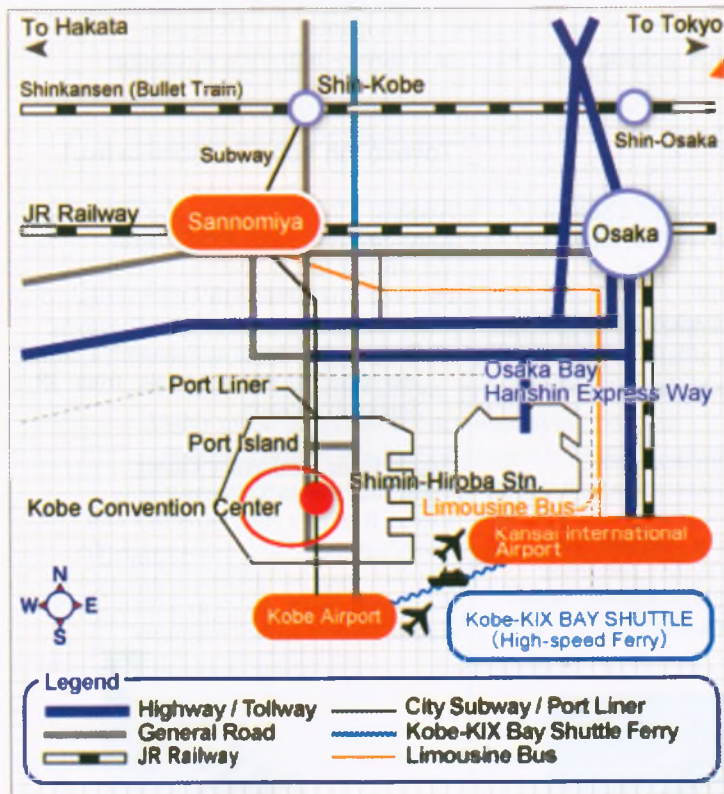


Travel to Kobe

Kobe is located in Hyogo Prefecture, one of several prefectures in the mid-west of Japan that, together, are known as the 'Kansai Region'. This is Japan's premier tourism area for overseas visitors making Kobe an ideal base city for visiting world heritage sites, both to the east and to the west. The Port of Kobe and its man-made islands are located on the north shore of the Osaka Bay. As a port city, built on a history of transportation, and with its own airport and Shinkansen station (Shin-Kobe), Kobe offers easy access for both domestic and overseas travelers.

Travel Option you may choose to arrive Kobe City as follows. Please click below for your detail information.

- [International Flight \(Arriving Kansai Int'l Airport\)](#)
- [International Flight \(Arriving Tokyo Narita / Haneda\)](#)
- [International Flight \(Arriving Nagoya Centrair\)](#)
- [Domestic Flight \(Arriving Kobe Airport\)](#)
- [Domestic Flight \(Arriving Osaka Itami Airport\)](#)
- [JR Shinkansen \(Bullet\) Train \(Arriving at Shin-Kobe Station\)](#)
- [Local or Express Rail \(Arriving Kobe Sannomiya Station\)](#)



Airport Transportation Service by JJC

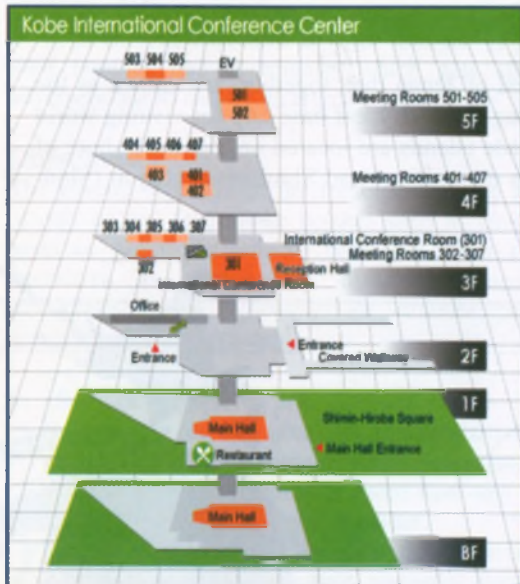
Thankfully, the JJC, the host organization will provide visa facilitation, reception and airport transfer from **Kansai Airport** to all the three designated hotels by arranging suitable transportation from 25th November to 1st December 2012. Transport to and from the hotels to KICC shall also be provided by the JJC, especially where the meeting place is not too close to the hotels.

Kobe International Conference Centre (KICC)

6-9-1 Minatogima-Nakamachi Chuo-Ku, Kobe 650

0046, Japan. Tel: +81-78-302-5200, Fax: +81-78-302-6485

- Kobe Convention Center (the International Conference Center, International Exhibition Halls and other key venues) are located on Port Island, about 10 minutes from downtown Kobe (Sannomiya) and only 8 minutes from Kobe Airport. Please see [About Sannomiya and Getting to Port Island \(Kobe Convention Center\)](#)
- Please click this KICC website (<http://kobe-cc.jp/english/>) for your detailed information.



Hotels

The following hotels have been engaged with special rates for the stay of the Delegates/ Participants. The Delegates /Participants can I book the hotel through N Tour on ICA-AP RA website The URL is as follows - <http://www.icaapra-kobe2012.com/>.

Kobe Portopia Hotel

Address: 10-1,6 Chome, Minatojima Nakamachi, Chuo-ku, Kobe, 650-0046, Japan.
 Tel. +81.78.302.1111/
 Fax. +81.78.302.6877
 Website:<http://www.portopia.co.jp/en/>

- 4-Star hotel located just next to the Kobe International Conference Center.

Access to the Conference Center:
 Only 2 minutes on foot.



Kobe Tokyu Inn

Address: 6-1-5, Kumoidori, Chuo-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo 651-0096, Japan
 Tel. +81.78.291.0109
 Fax.+81.78.221.2917
 Website:<http://www.tokyuhotelsjapan.com/en/TT/TKOBE/>

- 3-Star hotel located at the center of Kobe city.

Access to the Conference Center:
 Make your way to Sannomiya train station on foot, take about 2 minutes. Take local train 'Kobe Portliner' from Sannomiya Station to the Conference Center, called as Shimin-Hiroba Station. It takes about 15 minutes.



Toyoko Inn Kobe Sannomiya No.1

Address: 2-2-2, Gokou-dori Chuo-ku Kobe-city, Hyogo 651-0087; Japan
 Tel. +81-(0)78.271.1045
 Fax: +81-(0)78.271.1046
 Website: <http://www.toyoko-inn.com/eng>

- Budget class hotel at Sannomiya area, less than 10 minutes walk from JR Sannomiya station.

Access to the Conference Center:
 Make your way to Sannomiya train station. It takes 9 minutes on foot or 4 minutes by taxi. Take local train 'Kobe portliner' from Sannomiya station to the conference center, called as Shimin-Hiroba station. It takes about 15 minutes.



Tour Program

In order to the participants of the conference to have the possibility to experience a little more of Japan, the JA group's exclusive tour operator (Nokyo Tourist Corporation) has offered a special selection of tours before or after the meeting.

1. Pre tour : Tokyo 2 nights/ 3 days tour from 23rd to 25th Nov.

- Visit Tokyo, Mt.Fuji and Hakone, then transfer to Kobe for joining the meeting
- The bullet train ticket from Tokyo to Shin-Kobe is included
- The pre-tour starts from Tokyo city and the nearest airport is Narita International Airport
- It is highly recommend that participants to take the flight from your country to Narita International Airport to arrive on 23rd Nov. for joining this Pre-tour.



2. Post tour : Kyoto 2 nights/ 3 days tour from 1st to 3rd Dec.

- Visit famous historical city Kyoto and Nara. Finish the tour in Kyoto on 3rd Dec.
- Farewell dinner, Japanese Kaiseki style dish with Maiko's dance performance is included
- The post tour starts from Kobe where we have a meeting, then end up the tour at Kyoto city on 3rd Dec.
- The recommendable your departure airport is Kansai International Airport, the nearest interracial one.
- The tour fee includes airport transfer from the hotel to KIX.



3. Application form & Dead line

- Fill the form and send it to us by fax or email - FAX: 81-3-5297-7653 / Email: inbound@ntour.co.jp
- The deadline for the application of the tour is 31st Oct 2012
- The minimum operation number is 10 persons for both tours. However, even in case of less than minimum number, we will provide similar seat in coach tour without extra charge. In that case, the sightseeing places on the itinerary will be slightly changed. However the other conditions, meals and transfers are the same as the original one.



4. Other Private Services

- Participants may contact to the following contact number for any private requests
- Dedicated staff members from the Ntour are available for further assistance and requests personally made such as, Pre & Post accommodations, private transfer arrangements from the airport
Tailor made programs for accompanying persons
Japanese cultural experience programs (eg. Tea ceremony, Japanese flower arrangement)
Arrangements for your private guide, theatre and train, or bus, tickets etc

Contact: NOKYO TOURIST CORPORATION (Ntour) INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE & MARKETING
Address: 1-16-8 Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8613 Japan Tel: +81-(0)3-5297-7653 / Fax: +81-(0)3-5297-0131
Email: inbound@ntour.co.jp Person in charge: Ryoji ASO

The Official Website: www.icaapra-kobe2012.com

It contains all the relevant information on registration and booking of the hotels.

Registration: www.icaapra-kobe2012.com/registration

The ICA-AP members can register directly at this website.

● **Registration Fee: USD 400**

- Please note that the deadline is 17th October 2012 for both registration and hotel booking.

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE: USD 400

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Nationality: _____

Type of Birth Certificate:

Use Member Registration: _____

Registration on web site: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address 1 (Street No., Bldg. Name): _____

Address 2 (City/Town): _____

Address 3 (Country/Postcode): _____

Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

Please Note: (Registration Fee is USD 400)

Visa Application

- The Japan Joint Committee of Cooperatives (JJC) secretariat of ICA-AP Regional Assembly will prepare the documents required for VISA application ON A GROUP BASIS, NOT ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.
- Please identify the person in charge of VISA application of the group to prepare the following forms.
- Please download the below application forms to fill in all required terms in it, and send to JJC secretariat of ICA-AP Regional Assembly: icaapra2012@gmail.com .
- (Download Excel documents)
[\[List of Visa Applicants\]](#) [\[Schedule of Stay\]](#)
- Application forms include a list of members in the group, which is also vital for this VISA application procedure. Upon receiving your submitted forms, JJC secretariat of ICA-AP Regional Assembly will send all documents necessary along with the invitation letter to the person in charge of visa application of the group. Please advise us (JJC secretariat of ICA-AP Regional Assembly) the person in charge and the postal address of his/her office to send these documents from JJC.
- Notes: For the application of Japanese VISA, you need to prepare other items such as your passport besides the above documents issued from JJC.
- Please see the following website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for the detailed procedures for other items you are required: [Guide to Japanese Visas](#)

Participants and Observers:

Leaders, members and observers from the cooperative movements of all ICA member countries from the Region, government officials, international agencies and other cooperative stakeholders

The Host Organization

- The following cooperative organizations – member of the Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC) have kindly host the 10th Regional Assembly and related events.
- E-mail address of the JJC secretariat for the 10th Regional Assembly is : ica-ap.ra2012@jccu.coop

Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-ZENCH) , IE-NO-HIKARI Association, Japan Agricultural News (Nihon Nogyo Shimbun) , Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) , Japanese Health and Welfare Co-operative Federation (HeW Co-op Japan), Japan Workers' Co-operative Union (JIGYODAN), National Association of Labor Banks (NALB), National Federation of Agriculture Co-operative Associations (ZEN-NOH), National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations (ZENGYOREN), National Federation of Forest Owners Co-operative Associations (ZENMORI-REN), National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NFUCA), National Federation of Workers & Consumers Insurance Co-operatives (ZENROSAL), National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives (ZENKYOREN), The Norinchukin Bank

The Organizer:

The ICA-Asia and Pacific in collaboration with the Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC)

1. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI
Regional Director, ICA-Asia and Pacific
9, Aradhana Enclave, RK Puram Sector-13, New Delhi 110 066
Ph: (91-11) 2688-8250 ; Fax: +91 11 2688-8267
Email: choi@icaroap.coop Website: <http://www.ica-ap.coop>
2. Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan
Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA-Asia and Pacific
Ph: (91-11) 2688-8250 Extn.102 Fax: (91-11) 2688-8067 & 2688-8241
E-mail: sethu@icaroap.coop
3. Ms. Savitri Singh
Advisor- Gender Program and Communication, ICA-Asia and Pacific
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Organizational Website

<u>ICA</u>	
<u>ICA-Asia & Pacific</u>	
<u>IYC2012</u>	
<u>Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA-ZENCHU)</u>	
<u>IE-NO-HIKARI Association</u>	
<u>Japan Agricultural News (Nihon Nogyo Shimibun)</u>	
<u>Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union (JCCU)</u>	
<u>Japanese Health and Welfare Cooperative Federation (HeW Co-op Japan)</u>	
<u>Japan Workers Cooperative Union (JIGYODAN)</u>	
<u>National Association of Labour Banks (NALB)</u>	
<u>National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations (ZEN-NOH)</u>	
<u>National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations (ZENGYOREN)</u>	
<u>National Federation of Forest Owners Cooperative Associations (ZENMORI-REN)</u>	
<u>National Federation of University Cooperative Associations (NFUCA)</u>	
<u>National Federation of Workers & Consumers Insurance Cooperatives (ZENROSAI)</u>	
<u>National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives (ZENKYOREN)</u>	
<u>The Norinchukin Bank</u>	

10th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly

Kobe International Conference Centre, Kobe, Japan
29th November 2012

AGENDA NOTES



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



Agenda of the 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly

29th November 2012



International Conference Room, Kobe International Conference Center (KICC)

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10TH ICA-AP REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Kobe (Japan): 29th November 2012 {09:00~16:00}

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item 01 : Opening Remarks

Following the joint opening ceremony of 7th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum and Regional Assembly on 28th November, 10th meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly will be officially opened on 29th November. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-Asia and Pacific and also the Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly will chair.

Agenda Item 02 : Approval of Agenda

Delegates would be requested to formally approve the Agenda.

Agenda Item 03 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 9th Meeting held in Beijing on 5th September 2010

The Minutes of the 9th meeting of ICA Regional Assembly held in Beijing (China) on 5th September 2010, as enclosed at Annexure-1 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/ amendments have been received. Minutes may be confirmed.

Agenda Item 04 : Perusal of Minutes of ICA-AP Regional Board Meetings since last Regional Assembly

Since the last Regional Assembly, five meetings of the Regional Board were held. Confirmed minutes of the four meetings are enclosed at Annexure-2. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes has already been taken. The delegates of the Regional Assembly may kindly peruse.

Agenda Item 05 : Report of the Regional Director

ICA-AP Financial Report (2009-2012)

The ICA-AP Financial Report for the period 2009 to 2012 is given below:

ICA-AP FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2009-2012

<i>(All Amounts are in Swiss Francs)</i>	2009	2010	2011	2012*
INCOME:				
Subscription Redistribution	263,553	288,953	344,589	180,866
Administrative Contribution	65,798	62,721	50,718	41,172
Meeting Revenue	-	52,672	-	
Other Income	-	-	6,179	
TOTAL INCOME	329,351	404,346	401,486	222,038
EXPENSES:				
Personnel Expenses	192,097	208,726	172,255	131,858
Travel Expenses	54,200	67,814	97,986	49,185
Premises & General Office Expenses	19,032	17,983	33,677	13,369
IT and Telecommunication	14,158	14,257	8,722	3,021
External Services	30,006	5,901	86,839	5,712
Meeting Expenses	12,431	58,009	-	1,906
Bank/Other Charges	6,097	23,202	8	107
TOTAL EXPENSES	328,021	395,892	399,487	205,158
SURPLUS	1,330	8,454	1,999	16,880

* upto 30th September

SBO FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2009-2011

<i>(All Amounts are in Swiss Francs)</i>	2009	2010	2011
INCOME:			
SNCF, Singapore	23,077	21,897	22,222
TOTAL INCOME	23,077	21,897	22,222
EXPENSES:			
Premises & General Office Expenses	11,000	11,047	7,332
Seminar/ Workshop Expenses	12,077	10,850	14,890
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,077	21,897	22,222

ICA-AP Membership Situation

The following fifteen organizations from nine countries have joined ICA since last Regional Assembly in Beijing in September 2010:

- National Association of Labour Banks (NALB), Japan.
- Cooperative House Building and Finance Corporation Limited, India.
- Supervision & Central Coordination Union of Rural Agricultural Cooperatives (SCURA), Iran.
- Cooperative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH), Australia.
- Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank), Iran - Associate Member
- Cooperative Investment Guarantee Fund (CIGF), Iran - Associate Member
- Central Union for Cooperative Initiative in Israel Limited, Israel.
- National Cooperative Development Board (NCDB), Nepal.
- Japanese Health and Welfare Cooperative Federation (HeW Coop Japan).
- Mongolia National Cooperator's Association (MNCA), Mongolia
- National Federation of Rural Cooperatives (Induk KUD), Indonesia - Associate Member.
- Pishgaman Kavir Cooperative Company (PKYCC), Iran.
- Kotikawatta Thrift and Credit Cooperative Society Limited (KTCCS), Sri Lanka.
- Central Union of Iran Animal Farmers (CUIAF), Iran.
- *Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Limited (NACCFL), Nepal.*

Institute for Indonesian Cooperative Development Studies (LSP2I) of Indonesia and National Federation of Urban Cooperative banks & Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB) of India have ceased to be members of ICA due to non-payment of subscription fee.

The following organizations have applied for membership of ICA:

- *Gujarat Urban Cooperative Banks Federation (GUJFED), India.*
- *Adivasi Krishak Multi-State Cooperative Society Limited, Jharkhand, India.*
- *National Cooperative Bank Limited, Lalitpur, Nepal.*

The current total membership of ICA-Asia and Pacific is **81** organizations from **25** countries.

Growth of ICA-AP Membership

Period	Countries	# of MOs
1960-1970	06	10
1971-1980	08	22
1981-1990	13	31
1991-2010	25	71

Details	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Existing Members	55	57	60	65	71	77
New Members Added	2	3	5	6	8	4
Members Withdrawn	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total Members	57	60	65	71	77	81

Agenda Item 06 : Report of the 9th Cooperative Ministers' Conference Held in Bangkok on 27-29 February 2012

The brief report of the 9th Cooperative Ministers' Conference held in Bangkok (Thailand) from 27th to 29th February 2012 is enclosed at Annexure-3.

Agenda Item 07 : Re-constitution of the ICA-AP Regional Board

The term of office of the current regional board members will be over by November 2012. According to Rules of ICA-AP, the Regional Assembly shall elect a maximum of eleven members to the Regional Board for the next four years.

The ICA-AP secretariat had written to member organizations to propose nominees for election to the Regional Board. The details of the 14 nominations received by the ICA-AP are placed below for re-constitution of the Regional Board. Out of this, the Regional Assembly shall elect eleven board members including the President and two Vice Chairpersons at its meeting in Kobe (Japan) on 29th November 2012.

S.#	Name of the Member	Country	Position/Organization
01	Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam	Bangladesh	Director (I), BJSU
02	Mr. Li Chunsheng	China	President, ACFSMC
03	Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav	India	President, NCUI
04	Mr. A.M. Nurdin Halid	Indonesia	President, DEKOPIN
05	Mr. Akira Banzai	Japan	President, JA-ZENCHU
06	Mr. Won-Byung Choi	Korea	Chairman, NACF
07	Prof Dato Dr. Mohd Ali Baharum	Malaysia	President, ANGKASA
08	Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa	Mongolia	President, MNCA
09	Mr. Muhammad Sharif Bhajji	Pakistan	M.D, KCHSU
10	Ms. Amneris G. Gabiel	Philippines	Chairperson, NATCCO
11	Mr. Chan Tee Seng	Singapore	Chairman, SNCF
12	Mr. Bandu Ranawake	Sri Lanka	President, NCC
13	Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit	Thailand	Chairman, CLT
14	Mr. Dao Xuan Can	Vietnam	President, VCA

The brief introduction of the 14 nominees to ICA-AP Regional Board is given below for the reference of the members.

01. MR. MD. RAFIQU L ISLAM, DIRECTOR (INT'L), BJSU - BANGLADESH

Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam was born in 1960 at Dhaka. He took civil engineering in 1990 and during the college life he has attended social network as rover scout and after college life joined an international organization named - Jaycees. Under this organization, he toured all over the country and met international leader for the execution of social work over the country & international level. He underwent international training by this organization in 1991 at Bombay. He is also involved with Lions social organization for few years. From 1996 he has involved with cooperative movement in the area of Gopalganj. In the year of 2008 he joined as Coordinator of Cooperator for the National Chairman of Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union (BJSU) as special assignment. Currently he is working as Director (International) of BJSU and looking-after international affairs.

02. MR. LI CHUNSHENG, PRESIDENT, ACFSMC-CHINA

Mr. Li Chunsheng is currently the President of ICA-AP and the President of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC). He holds a PhD degree in Botany. During his long period of service, he worked with Helihe farm in Heilongjiang Province, Ministry of Forestry and the State Council in China. During his service in the State Council, he was deeply engaged in strategic planning and policy-making for rural areas and made enormous contribution to the cooperative development in China. In 1995 he joined ACFSMC as the Deputy Secretary General and Director of Farm Inputs Bureau. He later assumed office as the Secretary General and the Director of International Cooperation Department before being elected as the Vice President of ACFSMC. At present he takes charge of a wide range of cooperative works in ACFSMC, inter-alia, the reform and growth of affiliated enterprises and primary cooperatives, guild development, industrial planning and guidance, cooperative legislation, scientific research and innovation, training and education, international cooperation and trade promotion.

03. DR. CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV, PRESIDENT, NCUI-INDIA

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav has been associated with the cooperative movement for more than 20 years. Presently he is the President of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) which is the umbrella organization representing the entire spectrum of cooperative movement of India. He is an eminent cooperative leader with long established credential and experience of leading cooperatives. He has keen interest in the farmers' development through cooperatives and dedicated his entire carrier to the organization, promotion and development of cooperatives in the country. He has been the Chairman of the Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) for two terms and presently he is the Vice Chairman and Chairman of all its subsidiaries. He was a member of the 14th Lok Sabha (Parliament) and also served as Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Uttar Pradesh. He was a member of the various standing parliamentary committees and also associated with national and international cooperative institutions and social organizations. He is also the Vice Chairman of ICA-AP Regional Board and Member of IRU Board. He is also representing on the Board of NAFED, NCCF, COBI, NAFUCUB, etc. He was also the member of the Board of IFFCO, IFFCO Tokyo General Insurance Limited and has been Chairman of U.P Cooperative Marketing Federation.

Chairman for many years. At NTUC, Mr. Chan held key appointments in NTUC Healthcare and NTUC Income Coops, NTUC Membership Dept. and Skills Development Department.

12. MR. BANDU RANAWAKE, PRESIDENT, NCC-SRI LANKA

Mr. Bandu Ranawake is the President of National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NCC). He was born in a southern district of Matara. Due to his concerns towards the community, he was building very strong connections between the community and the politicians and allied himself towards the Sri Lankan Freedom Party. While in school in 1975 he served as the Chairman of Youth Society. After leaving school, he got involved in community based social services and became the Chairman of Village Development Society and Credit Cooperative Society. In 1989 he was elected as a board member to the Credit and Cooperative Union. In 1995 he was elected as the Chairman of Kotapola Multi Purpose Cooperative Society. In 1998 the KMPCC was adjudged the best cooperative society in Sri Lanka and provided employment to 600 villagers.

Matara District Tea Producers Cooperative Union was a brain child of Mr. Ranawake and amidst many hardships the society was formed in 1998. Today the Union makes an annual profit of SLR 22 million and in 2009 it was awarded the runners up as the best performing cooperative society in Sri Lanka. In 1991 Mr. Ranawake was elected as a member to the Kotapola Pradeshiya Sabha. He served the Kotapola Provincial Council as a member and the opposition leader till 1995.

13. MR. VITON NAEWPANIT, CHAIRMAN, CLT-THAILAND

Mr. Viton Naewpanit, 57 years old former taxi driver, to a cooperative leader in Thailand, formed a taxi cooperative to improve the livelihood of taxi drivers migrated from the rural farmers to Bangkok. He was indeed rich and varied experiences and knowledge that he possesses in beneficiary of taxi cooperative such as initiative to use of taxi mobile as "Need a taxi please call 1661". He launched an excellent initiative scheme to help the farmers by "Sale the rice inside the taxi". The passengers can easily buy the rice from taxi drivers to save costs of transportation and directly helped the rural farmers to distribute their products.

At the primary level, he holds the Chairman of Siam Taxi Cooperative, Federation of Transportation Cooperative Services of Thailand, and Foundation of Friend's Taxi Drivers Club. At the top level, he also holds Chairman of the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) since 2006 and ICA-AP Regional Board up to date. During the massive floods in Thailand in October-November 2011, he set up "Center for Emergency Disaster Assistance" shortly after started effective in the northern part in providing physical meals and donation campaign. He continues to bolster all efforts to employ the power of cooperation to maximum effect in bringing rehabilitation and recovery to the flooded areas.

14. MR. DAO XUAN CAN, PRESIDENT, VCA - VIETNAM

Mr. Dao Xuan Can was born on 31st December 1952. He is a doctor of economics. He had been the Chairman of the District People's Committee of Bac Giang Province; Director of Bac Giang Province Department of Planning and Investment; Vice Chairman and then Chairman of Bac Giang People's Committee and former Secretary of Bac Giang Province Party Committee. From 2005 to 2010 he was a member of Vietnam Central Party Committee - Session-X. He was elected as the President of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) in 2010

for a term of five years in the IV National Congress of VCA. He is a member of ICA-AP Regional Board and Vice President of International Cooperative Agricultural Organization (ICFO).

Agenda Item 08 : Report on UN International Year of Cooperatives and Blue Print of ICA

Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of ICA, will make a presentation on UN International Year of Cooperatives and Blue Print of ICA at the Regional Assembly.

Agenda Item 09 : Approval of ICA-AP New Strategic Plan and Multi-Annual Budget for 2013-2016

The ICA-AP Strategic Plan and Multi-Annual Budget for 2013-2016 are enclosed at Annexure-4.

Agenda Item 10 : Approval of revised ICA-AP Rules (on sub-regional office)

The Singapore Business Office which was started functioning on 10th July 1999 with the financial support of Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF). The SNCF has declined to renew the MOU after 31st March 2012. At the meeting held in Bangkok on 26th February 2012, Prof. Dr. Ali Baharum, President of ANGKASA had offered to provide office space for an ICA office in ANGKASA building in Malaysia free of cost and RD had some discussions with Dr. Ali Baharum regarding the proposed MOU. He further said that we can start the office in January 2013 and activities on consumer coops, coop trade, banking and insurance, etc. could be promoted from the Malaysian Business Office (MBO).

The MOU is being finalized with ANGKASA and the MBO will be evaluated after two years. ANGKASA has agreed to second one staff to work at MBO More support is required from other member organizations in the form of one or two seconded staff.

In view of the above, the following changes are proposed in the Rules of ICA-AP.

EXISTING RULES	CHANGES PROPOSED
<p style="text-align: center;">Article 3: Structure</p> <p>The ICA-AP is structured at the regional, sectoral and thematic levels and comprises the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a regional office in New Delhi, India • a sub-regional office in Singapore. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Article 3: Structure</p> <p>The ICA-AP is structured at the regional, sectoral and thematic levels and comprises the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a regional office in New Delhi, India • a sub-regional office in Malaysia.

Agenda Item 11 : Formation of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry

Background

Climate change is the unfolding baskets of calamities of our times. It is our moral responsibility, as a major component of the earth ecology, and as a resident of the world, to address the global threat that may take our children in to its grief. We are compelled to make difficult choices and change our lifestyles accordingly. If we see around the globe, our natural resources are depleting at a very fast rate to achieve growth which leads to unsustainable development. It has been projected by International Panel on Climate change that “the impact of climate change will fall disproportionately upon developing countries and poor persons within the countries and thereby inequalities in health status and access to adequate food, clean water and other resources”.

Global warming is slowly and continuously heating up planet Earth resulting in Glaciers melting. The glaciers in Himalayas are receding faster and that at current rate of depletion, the likelihood in Himalayan Ecology is deteriorating.

The expected doubling of heat trapping greenhouse gases over pre-industrial levels by the middle of the present century is projected to raise the average temperature of the earth 2 degree Celsius every coming year. Such radical changes would lead to an ecological catastrophe of incredible level. It also affects adversely not only the agriculture production but the ecology of the Asia Pacific Countries. A one meter rise in the sea level would submerge islands; salt water would intrude on rivers and coastal areas affecting freshwater supplies and severally hamper fishing.

We have to work towards energy efficient and sustainable development. Any successful and long lasting global agreement on climate change has to work on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility with concrete measures providing financial and technology transfers to developing states from developed nations on a realistic basis.

Situation in Asia-Pacific Region

Forest lands across Asia cover an area of over 500 million hectares, the majority of which are located in China (41 percent), Indonesia (18 percent), India (13 percent), Myanmar (6 percent), Thailand and Malaysia (4 percent each). Despite their unique standing value, tropical forests in the region have suffered high rates of deforestation. Since 1990, 38.7 million hectares of primary and other naturally regenerated forest have been lost in the Asia-Pacific region - an area greater than the size of Japan. The overall low levels of per capita forest area in the region make these reductions even more significant. In South Asia, in particular, 23 percent of the world’s population relies on only 2 percent of global forest resources and per capita forest area stands at only 0.05 hectares. The largest total reductions in forest area since 1990 were, however, in Southeast Asia where deforestation amounted to 33.2 million hectares or 7.6 percent of the land area. The decreasing forest area is one of the major causes for climate change on the earth.

The Way Forward

Heightened global interest in forests and forestry requires more investment in forestry sector and to attract more investment need to be focused on the following issues:-

- *Encouragements to the organizations/cooperatives engaged in promoting and developing natural resources/forests with community support for environment conservation.*
- *Improvements in institutional responsiveness, flexibility and efficiency are essential to cater to increased demand for forest goods and ecosystem services.*
- *Improvement in social and economic justice mean that direct government control over forest resources will need to be gradually relinquished. Government forestry agencies may need to confine responsibilities to regulation and oversight while allowing the cooperative sector, civil society and local actors to manage a larger proportion of the national forest estate.*
- *A major factor in encouraging investment will be increased clarity and stability of forest and forest land tenure. Without appropriate allocation of rights and responsibilities, investment in forestry may be wasted.*
- *With the region's forest area beginning to stabilize and in view of the rising demands for agricultural land, focus should be directed towards improving forest quality and raising the production of ecosystem services through forest conservation and rehabilitation and afforestation/reforestation.*
- *Providing adequate funding to monitor and maintain protected areas and diverting mining and infrastructure development activities away from precious forest resources will reduce the level of threat to much of the region's biodiversity.*
- *Recapitalization of the region's forest resources is essential for a greener future.*

Need to form ICA-AP Committee on Forestry

Since the cooperative sector is important and responsible to provide better life to its members, can play vital role and can contribute significantly in mitigating the climate change. In India, there are such a few successful examples where forestry cooperatives had significantly contributed to achieve the goal towards mitigating climate change.

The overall aim of the Committee will be to enhance the socio-economic status of the people through collective action by sustainable Natural Resource Management (NRM) and afforestation of wasteland for environment up-gradation, employment generation and integrated rural development for socio-economic upliftment of the landless, marginal and small farmers, women in particular.

Looking at the importance of the forestry sector, it has been decided at ICA-AP Secretariat that an ICA-AP Committee on Forestry should be constituted. In view of this, may I request the Regional Assembly to approve the formation of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry. We have already received 11 nominations from 7 countries {Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand and Sri Lanka} to become the members of the Committee. According to the ICA Rules, there will be no fee or subscription to be paid by the member-organizations separately to become a member of the Forestry Committee.

Agenda Item 12 : Approval of Revised Constitutions of ICA-AP Committees

The Regional Director is expected to present a report on the revised Constitutions of ICA-AP Committees at the Regional Assembly for its approval.

Agenda Item 13 : Reports from ICA-AP Sectoral/Thematic Committees

The Chairpersons of the following ICA-AP Sectoral/Thematic Committees will present their report before the Regional Assembly:

- (a) *ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture*
- (b) *ICA-AP Committee on Consumer*
- (c) *ICA-AP Committee on Credit and Banking*
- (d) *ICA-AP Committee on HRD*
- (e) *ICA-AP Committee on Research*
- (f) *ICA-AP Committee on Women*
- (g) *ICA-AP Committee on Youth*
- (h) *ICA-AP Committee on Forestry*
- (i) *ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus*

Agenda Item 14 : Report of the 7th Cooperative Forum on “Role of Cooperatives in Times of Natural Disaster”

The 7th Cooperative Forum would be held on 28th November 2012 a day before the Regional Assembly. The Forum will have presentations by eminent cooperative experts and leaders on the theme “**Role of Cooperatives in Times of Natural Disaster**”. The deliberations at the Forum will help delegates have a deeper insight into the most relevant and crucial contextual issues important to cooperatives. We expect around 300 international participants in this Cooperative Forum, besides a large number of local participants.

A brief report and a Resolution on “Cooperative Action for Natural Disaster” will be presented at the Regional Assembly on 29th November for its approval by the Forum Chair.

Agenda Item 15 : Any Other Business Matters

Agenda Item 16 : Consideration of Venue and Date of next Regional Assembly

Agenda Item 17 : Closing Remarks

MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF ICA-AP REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Beijing (China): 5th September 2010

AGENDA ITEM 01 : OPENING REMARKS

The joint opening ceremony of the 9th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and 6th Cooperative Forum was held at Beijing International Convention Center (BICC) in the morning of 3rd September 2010 which was attended by more than 900 cooperators. The inaugural address was delivered by His Excellency Liangyu Hui, Vice Premier of Peoples Republic of China. Dame Pauline Green, ICA President and Mr. Li Chengyu, President of ACFSMC delivered their special addresses at the opening ceremony. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP proposed a vote of thanks.

Subsequent to the deliberations at the ICA Regional Cooperative Forum, the 9th Meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Assembly was held at BICC, Beijing (China) on 5th September. 283 participants from 22 countries attended the Regional Assembly.

Mr. **Li Chunsheng**, President, ICA-AP and being the Chairman of ICA-AP Regional Assembly opened the meeting and welcomed all the members and special invitees. He expressed his happiness for the participation of most of the member organizations' representatives at the Regional Assembly in Beijing. He was happy to learn about laudable achievements made by the Cooperative Movements in various countries of the region during the last two years. He further said that around 400 international guests were registered for different meetings in Beijing. After his brief remarks, he requested Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of ICA, to say a few words.

Mr. **Charles Gould** informed the meeting that the ICA President, Dame Pauline Green, was unable to attend the RA. He expressed his pleasure on attending 2010 Regional Assembly of ICA-AP. He thanked all the participants for their participation in various meetings. He said that this was an important meeting. He overwhelmingly thanked the ACFSMC for the excellent arrangements made for the week-long events in Beijing. He said that we would be celebrating 2012 as International Year of Cooperatives. He welcomed all the delegates to the meeting and wished good discussions on the Agenda.

Dr. **Chan Ho Choi** said that around 300 participants from 28 countries had made on-line registration and a total of 26 different meetings were held in Beijing. He further said that first time the Cooperative-Government Dialogue was held during the Regional Assembly which was attended by close to 100 participants from 22 countries. He also expressed his sincere thanks to ACFSMC for making excellent arrangements for the meetings in Beijing.

AGENDA ITEM 02 : APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair asked the members if they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda, which was circulated at the meeting, was unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM 03 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING HELD IN HANOI ON 5TH DECEMBER 2008

Dr. Chan Ho Choi informed the meeting that the minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Regional Assembly held in Hanoi (Vietnam) on 5th December 2008 were circulated to all the delegates/member organizations and no comments/suggestions/amendments were received. The minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM 04 : PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA-AP REGIONAL BOARD MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Since last Regional Assembly, four meetings of the Regional Board were held. Confirmed minutes of these meetings were circulated at the RA. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes had already been completed. The delegates of the RA endorsed the minutes of the Regional Board.

At this point, Mr. **Chan Tee Seng**, Chairman of Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF) and Member of the ICA-AP Regional Board took over as Chair of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 05 : APPROVAL OF REVISED NEW RULES OF ICA-AP

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented the proposed amendments in the Rules of ICA-AP. He said that the ICA Governance Committee was given the mandate to review the Rules of the ICA regions so as to ensure that those were in conformity with the ICA Rules approved by the Special 2008 General Assembly held in Rome.

He said that ICA Rules being the global rules of the organization carry global significance and therefore the regional rules should be in conformity with the ICA Rules and avoid restating what was found in the ICA Rules – especially with regard to mission statements, membership, powers and responsibilities, etc. This, in turn, would have the advantage that if and when the ICA Rules were amended by the General Assembly with regard to these issues, the amendments would automatically apply to the regions enabling a consistency in the governance.

He said that the Rules were thoroughly discussed at the last Regional Board meeting held in Seoul in April and the minor changes proposed by the members had been incorporated. He further said that the Regional Board had already approved the revised Rules in its meeting held in Beijing on 1st December.

The new Rules of ICA-AP were unanimously approved by the Regional Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 06 : REPORT OF ICA-AP ACTIVITIES IN 2009 AND 2010

Mr. Chan Ho Choi presented the report of main ICA-AP activities carried out during the year 2009. He also gave a brief account of the activities carried out by ICA-AP from January to August and scheduled for the remaining period of 2010. He said that the activities were much diversified and many meetings were being held in Beijing in conjunction with the ICA Regional Assembly.

Mr. Chan Tee Seng congratulated the ICA Regional Director and his staff for conducting many important activities in 2009 and 2010. He said that the Asia-Pacific region had got good development partners. The report was unanimously accepted by the Regional Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 07 : ICA-AP FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2009 AND 2010

Mr. Chan Ho Choi presented the ICA-AP financial report for the year 2009. He informed the members that there was a surplus of CHF 1,330 during the year 2009. He also presented the financial report for the period January to June 2010. He informed the members that a small surplus was also expected during the year 2010. The report was unanimously accepted by the RA.

All members expressed happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP.

Dr. Choi also informed the meeting that the Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU-Japan) had seconded a person at Singapore Business Office and the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI-India) had seconded a person at New Delhi office.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that the financial situation of Asia-Pacific region was very good and hoped it would be better and better in the coming years.

At this point, Mr. **Godofredo Lising**, Vice Chairman of National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) and Member of the ICA-AP Regional Board took over as Chair of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 08 : ICA-AP WORK PLAN FOR 2011

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented the ICA-AP Work Plan for 2011. He said that in addition to routine activities the following four studies were included in the Work Plan – (a) Study on Consumer Cooperatives in Asia; (b) Study on Cooperative Trade among Cooperatives; (c) Study on Technical Cooperation among Cooperatives; and (d) Study on Communication Strategy for Cooperatives.

He also informed the meeting that the Government of Iran and the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) had expressed their keen interest to hold the next Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Iran and Vietnam respectively. After discussions, the meeting authorized Dr. Choi to discuss and finalize the venue of the next Ministers' Conference.

Mr. Moteki said that ICA should prepare a common message for coops on International Year of Cooperatives which could be translated into local languages for public awareness.

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the ICA-AP secretariat for preparing a very good Work Plan for the year 2011.

The work plan for 2011 was unanimously approved by the Regional Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 09 : ICA-AP MEMBERSHIP SITUATION

Dr. Chan Ho Choi informed the meeting that the following ten organizations from seven countries had joined ICA since last Regional Assembly in Hanoi in December 2008:

- All China Federation of Handicraft & Industrial Coops (ACFHIC), China.
- International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Coops (ICCIC).
- National Federation of Fishermen's Coops Limited (FISHCOPFED), India.
- National Labour Cooperatives' Federation of India Limited (NLCF), India.
- Iran Oilseeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Factories Coop Co. (Farda Oil Co.).
- iCOOP Solidarity of Consumer Cooperatives, Rep. of Korea.
- Korean Association of Social Economy Enterprises (KASEE), Korea.
- National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Coops (NAMAC), Mongolia.
- National Cooperative Federation & Development Center (VICTO), Philippines.
- Republican Union of Consumer Societies (Soyuz Tadjikmatlubot), Tajikistan.

He also said that the following organizations had applied for membership of ICA:

- China Fisheries Association (CFA), China
- Supervision & Central Coordination Union of Rural Agricultural Cooperatives (SCURA), Iran.
- National Association of Labour Banks, Japan.
- Mongolian Coop Training and Information Center (MCTIC), Mongolia.
- Cooperative House Building and Finance Corporation Ltd., Lucknow, India.

The total membership of ICA-AP was **68** organizations from **25** countries.

The members appreciated the efforts made by Dr. Choi in expanding the membership base of ICA in the Asia-Pacific region.

At this point, Mr. **Bandupala Ranaweka**, President of National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NCC) and Member of the ICA-AP Regional Board took over as Chair of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 10 : APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC HEALTH COOP ORGANIZATION (APHCO)

Dr. Chan Ho Choi informed the meeting that 2008 Special ICA General Assembly held in Rome (Italy) had resolved that there should be only one time annual membership fee of ICA thereby doing away with the membership fee of sectoral organizations and thematic committees. This consequently applies equally at the global, regional and sectoral levels. Accordingly, no sectoral organization/thematic committee, globally or regionally, would be allowed to collect separate membership subscription or have non-members participating in the meetings. As such, it is the responsibility of ICA regional offices to ensure adherence of this resolution by regional sectoral organizations/thematic committees.

He further said that in view of the above, APHCO would not be able to collect any subscription from the members for its activities and hence its Constitution should be changed accordingly.

Mr. Amano said that APHCO board members need more time to discuss this matter further in detail. Therefore, he wanted to postpone this Agenda and come back at a later stage. The Regional Assembly agreed to his suggestion.

AGENDA ITEM 11 : REVIVAL OF ICA COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC

Dr. Chan Ho Choi informed the meeting that the ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and Pacific was in existence until 1998 and it used to hold its meetings regularly. Its revised Constitution was also approved by the Regional Assembly held in Seoul (Republic of Korea) in 1998. After that due to lack of interest among committee members, it was discontinued.

He further said that it was decided at the Fisheries Committee meeting held on 2nd September to postpone the revival of Fisheries Committee for the time being because the members wanted to concentrate on the strengthening of International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) first since they do not have enough funds. ICFO had got only 13 members and their first priority is to strengthen the ICFO.

AGENDA ITEM 12 : REPORT ON 6TH ASIA-PACIFIC COOP FORUM

The 6th Asia-Pacific Coop Forum was held along with the ICA-AP Regional Assembly on 4th September at BICC in Beijing. The Theme of the Coop Forum was "Co-operatives-The Sector of Global Importance". The following were the Sub-themes: (a) *Visibility of Cooperatives and Year 2012*; (b) *Cooperatives – A Responsible Civil Society*; (c) *Corporate Governance in Cooperatives*; (d) *Level Playing Field for Cooperatives*; (e) *Cooperatives Empower Women and Youth*; and (e) *Way Ahead for Cooperatives*.

More than 200 delegates from 26 countries attended the 6th Coop Forum. The Cooperative Forum was created in 2000 with twin objectives of having open and frank discussions on important issues concerning the development of cooperatives and helping the co-operatives to seriously take up strategic initiatives for the successful operations of cooperatives in the fiercely competitive world. So far 5 such forums had been held over the period of 10 years since inception. The discussion and deliberations at the Forum were held on the main theme and related sub-themes of the Forum. The focus, however, remained on certain issues which need to be addressed or emphasized for the inclusive growth and development of cooperative movements in the region.

Mr. Dai Gongxing, Vice President of ACFSMC gave the opening address and the key note speech was delivered by Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP, gave the background perspective of the Coop Forum and facilitated the discussions. There were six presentations made by the experts.

At the end, a panel discussion took place which was conducted by Hajah Armi Zainudin, Vice President of ANGKASA and ICA Board Member.

At this point, Dr. **Mohd. Ali Baharum**, President of National Cooperative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA) and Member of the ICA-AP Regional Board took over as Chair of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 13 : REPORT ON COOPERATIVE-GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE ON COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

The Cooperative-Government Dialogue on setting the framework of 9th Ministers' Conference on Cooperative Policy & Legislation was held at BICC in Beijing on the 3rd September soon after the joint opening of the 9th ICA Regional Assembly and the 6th Cooperative Forum. The main objective of holding the Dialogue in conjunction with the Regional Assembly was to showcase the strength of ICA's membership base and also the expertise on matters concerning cooperatives. The Dialogue was attended by close to 100 delegates from 22 countries in the region. There were more than 30 delegates from the governments in 11 countries in the region. The theme of the Dialogue was "Socio-Economic Development & Cooperatives".

The title of the next Conference was proposed as "9th Ministers' Conference on Cooperative Policy and legislation" on the theme "Cooperatives for Socio-Economic Development".

AGENDA ITEM 14 : REPORT OF 6TH REGIONAL WOMEN'S/YOUTH FORUM

The 6th Regional Women's/Youth Forum was held at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September. The theme of the Forum was "Cooperatives: The Sector for Empowerment of Women and Youth". A total of 40 cooperators from ten countries attended the Forum.

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the ICA-AP Women's Committee welcomed the guests and participants and thanked them for their presence. She spoke about the Endeavour of the Women's Committee for empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming in cooperatives in the region. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI delivered the opening address and declared the Forum open.

The key note speech on the theme was delivered by Ms. Mi-Yea OH, Chairperson of iCOOP Goyang/President of Mutual Aid Society for Enhancing Korean Agriculture. It is a mutual aid society established by the members of iCOOP Korea to support local coops and agricultural producers. She started her address by reminding the participants the message of this year's international cooperative day. At iCOOP most of the leaders in 76 local coops were women.

In the post lunch session, group discussion was held among the women and youth group. The topic for the discussion was "Coop for Professional Development of Women & Youth".

At this point, Mr. Li Chunsheng took over as chair of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 15 : REPORTS FROM ICA SECTORAL ORGANISATIONS/
THEMATIC COMMITTEES**

Agriculture Committee: The ICA Committee on Agriculture in collaboration with ICAO organized a seminar on "Climate Change, Food Security and Sustainability of Agriculture" at BICC in Beijing on 1st September. The seminar was attended by 49 delegates from 21 countries. The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Won-Byung Choi, President of NACF and Chairman of ICAO. Mr. N.P. Patel, Chairman of ICA Agriculture Committee delivered the key-note address. Mr. Tong Baojun, President, Board of Supervisors, ACFSMC greeted the delegates.

Mr. K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director of National Cooperative Agriculture & Rural development Banks' Federation in India made the thematic presentation and dwelled upon all the related aspects of food security, agricultural cooperatives and the role of cooperatives in managing the climate change for the benefit of global society at large.

Mr. Matsuda Masahiro made an impressive presentation on the health services rendered by Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan and referred to the case of first medical healthcare service that was launched in November 1919 by a multi-purpose primary agricultural cooperative in Shimane Prefecture to provide medical service at low rates.

Ms. Linda Marion Shaw presented the classic innovative case of captive sales counters of coop farm produce in UK. Ms. Batmunkh Dulzen, Vice President, National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives shared cooperative farm practices of Mongolia with the participants. Meaningful interventions were made by Mr. Cafer Yuksel, OR-KOOP President from Turkey. The experts from COPA, AFMA and international Center for Trade and Sustainable Development enriched the conferencing content of the seminar.

The seminar ended up with following key observations and recommendations: (a) Agriculture production was most convenient in a coop mode; (b) Agricultural coops help enhance food production, stabilize food prices, generate gainful self employment, arrest migration to urban areas, strengthen local economies, reduce poverty, empower most vulnerable segment of society and finally save the mother planet from climatic disorders; (c) Time has come to conduct deeper research into fertile and water efficient farming practices, pest and heat resistant species of cereals using healthy genetically engineered crops, greening of waste land through productive plantation for a greener plantation; and (d) Building rural infrastructure of roads, warehouses, market centers, community education services, networks for e-marketing and value additive integrated support services would make agriculture as one of the most promising sectors of economy.

Regional Cooperative Banking Association (RCBA): A joint seminar of ICBA and RCBA on Financial Inclusion through Cooperative Banking—various forms and comparative advantages—was held on 1st September at BICC in Beijing. 25 participants from 8 countries attended the seminar. The seminar was chaired by Mr. Jean-Louis Bancel, Chairman of International Cooperative Banking Association (ICBA) and Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairman, Regional Cooperative Banking Association (RCBA).

The following papers were presented at the seminar: (a) Financial Inclusion through Cooperative Banking by Mr. B. Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, National Federation of State Cooperative Banks of India; (b) Exert

the Core Role of China Rural Credit Unions for Rural Financial Inclusion by Prof. Du Benwei, Vice Chairman of China Banking Association; (c) A special presentation on Global Networking of Cooperative Banking by Mr. Bernard Huberdeau, Secretary General of International Confederation of Popular Banks, Brussels; (d) Coop Banking Model of New Zealand by Mr. Ramsey Margolis; and (e) A presentation on “Thrift and Credit Cooperatives in India” by Mr. P.V. Prabhu, Secretary of National Institute for Rural Banking, Bangalore, India. In addition, two case studies on Rural Cooperative Banks were presented—one by Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman, SANASA Group of Sri Lanka and second one was presented by Mr. Babak Lalfam of Ministry of Coops, Iran.

After presentation of these papers, an open house discussion on Special Coop Development Fund at the regional level took place. Mr. Rajiv Mehta introduced the topic of discussion and Ms. Linda Shaw, Vice Principal of Coop College of UK, catalyzed the discussions. The Iranian and Malaysian delegates expressed their views in favour of the fund. However, the discussions remained inconclusive due to reservations posed by Indian delegates.

After the seminar, the 11th meeting of RCBA was to take place at the same venue at 14.00 hours which was postponed due to lack of quorum.

Consumer Committee: The 44th meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation was held at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September. 16 participants from five countries (India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka) attended the meeting. In addition, eight observers from Sri Lanka also attended the meeting.

In addition to the routine agenda of the meeting (Activity report since last meeting; Activity plan for next year 2011, Exchange of country reports), election of the Office Bearers of the Committee took place. Mr. H. Amano of JCCU was unanimously re-elected as Chairperson of the Committee for another term of four years. Mr. Virendra Singh, Chairman, NCCF (India) and Mr. Leong Sim Poh of NTUC Fairprice (Singapore) were unanimously elected as Vice Chairpersons of the Committee.

It was also decided that the next meeting of Consumer Committee would be held in the Philippines in conjunction with a workshop on Development of Consumer Cooperatives in Asia between October and December 2011.

Fisheries Committee: A meeting to discuss the issue of revival of ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and Pacific was held at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September at 14:00 hours. Ten participants from four countries (India, Japan, Korea & Vietnam) attended the meeting.

After a brief discussion on the subject, among members, it was decided to postpone the revival of ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and the Pacific for the time being because members wanted to concentrate on the strengthening of International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) first as they do not have enough funds to support both ICFO and ICA Committee on Fisheries at the same time.

They further decided that if ICA-AP could finance the ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and the Pacific, it could take a decision and inform us accordingly.

HRD Committee: The 22nd meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) for Asia and Pacific and was held in the forenoon of 2nd September at BICC in Beijing. 29 participants from 6 countries (China, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and UK) attended the meeting. The opening session was attended and addressed by Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI and Vice Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the HRD Committee. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific also addressed the meeting at a later stage.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the HRD Committee. He welcomed the presence of the members and thanked them for coming to the meeting. He stressed the importance of Global HRD Networking (www.hrd.coop) developed and maintained by National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VMNICM) in collaboration with ICA.

The following four presentations were made at the meeting: (a) “Global HRD Networking Centre” by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, former Chief Executive of NCUI and Vice Chairman of Cooperative House building and Finance Corporation Limited, Lucknow, India; (b) “Status and Progress of Cooperative Education in Schools” by Mrs. Anita Manchanda, Chief Executive of National Cooperative Union of India; (c) “Cooperative Schools in U.K” by Mr. Mervyn Wilson, Chief Executive and Director of Cooperative College of UK, Manchester; and

(d) “Significance and Importance of Training of Board of Directors in Cooperatives – A Malaysian Experience” by Ms. Hajah Armi Zainudin, Vice President of ANGKASA and ICA Board Member.

The ICA HRD Committee initiated two ambitious projects, namely, Global HRD (GHRD) networking portal and Cooperative Learning Center (CLC) some time back.

A suggestion was made at the last meeting held in Hanoi that the Cooperative Learning Center (CLC) may be managed by the Asia-Pacific region. After discussions, it was decided that a detailed project report should be prepared by the HRD Committee and be placed before the next meeting for its approval. Mr. Bhagwati Prasad presented the feasibility report at the meeting.

After deliberations, the Committee felt that at this juncture there is a need to formulate long term policy for successful running of these two prestigious projects of ICA HRD Committee in times to come. For this a permanent framework is required to support financially, technically and administratively.

The committee also endorsed the suggestion of integrating these two projects to minimize the cost and broaden the prospects of generating more resources from various sources, keeping in view the larger interest of cooperative movements.

After long discussions, the Committee was of the opinion that keeping in view the importance and their usefulness, both projects, i.e. GHRD and CLC were required to continue in the larger interest of the coop movements. Since GHRD was being run and supported by NCUI, there was a need for augmenting funds for CLC to continue because this project was going to be closed on 30th Sept. 2010 for want of renewal of .coop domain.

The meeting decided to continue the seminar on HRD Best Practices in the year 2011. The theme of the seminar would be “Need and Importance of HRD in Cooperatives with special reference to Training of Board of Directors”. The representative of ANGKASA offered to host the next seminar in Malaysia sometime in May 2011.

The meeting unanimously re-elected Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India as Chairman and Ms. Hajah Armi Zainudin from Malaysia was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman of the HRD Committee for the next four years. Both of them thanked the members for reposing their faith in them.

Asia-Pacific Health Coop Organization: The APHCO board meeting and the seminar was held in the afternoon of 2nd September at BICC in Beijing. 16 members from India, Japan, Malaysia and Sri Lanka participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, the members held discussions on Tokyo Declaration which was adopted in Tokyo at the 3rd international health coop forum in 2007. Five agendas were written in the Tokyo Declaration on the basis of Cooperative Principles as formulated by ICA.

The most important issue at the board meeting was on the revision of APHCO rules. In conclusion, they decided to further discuss the issue and not to seek approval of the APHCO rules at the present ICA Regional Assembly.

After the board meeting, APHCO held a seminar on the topic “HIV and Health Care for Women” focusing on cooperatives. Two resource persons were invited as speakers to make presentations at the seminar.

Research Committee: The ICA-AP Research Committee Conference on “Innovation and Expansion – The Opportunity for Cooperatives to Grow” was held at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September. The conference was chaired by Dr. G.N. Saxena, Chairman of ICA Research Committee. The conference was attended by 40 delegates from nine countries.

The focus of the conference was on integration of value chain in the affairs of cooperatives so as to give maximum benefits to the members and attract more members to join the cooperatives to expand the rural and local economy. The delegates were of the opinion that cooperative enterprises have an advantage compared to other forms of corporate as it dwells more on developing solid relations of reciprocal trust with stakeholders. The delegates from various countries made valuable contribution through their presentations on innovative ideas in cooperatives.

The conference concluded with the following important questions regarding the future of cooperatives: (a) What innovations should be introduced in corporate culture in order to face the many challenges of the present global economic situation; (b) How to compete with excellent companies, without becoming the same as a capital enterprise; (c) Were cooperative values and principles in line with the problems of today; and (d) How can cooperatives generate the resources required to compete and develop.

University/Campus Cooperative Committee: A special workshop on University/Campus Cooperatives was held in Yogyakarta (Indonesia) from 21st to 25th June. The main theme of the workshop was “Campus Coops: Responding to Emerging Challenges of Higher Education”. Around 100 participants including students from Japan, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, and Indonesia attended the workshop. The 2nd meeting of University/Campus Cooperative Committee was held in Yogyakarta. 15 members of the Committee attended the meeting. Professor Kokichi Shoji was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Committee.

Women’s Committee: The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Women’s Committee was held at BICC in Beijing on 1st September from 14:00 to 17:00 hours. Ten members from seven countries and twenty observers attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the Committee. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-Asia and Pacific, also attended the opening session and extended a warm welcome to the participants. Dr. Choi emphasized on the importance of equal participation of women and men in cooperatives and the need of capacity building of women to take up leadership.

Ms. Kruewan Chonlanai, Chairperson of Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum (AWCF) was unanimously elected as 2nd Vice Chair of the Committee. Currently it had got a total of 14 members from 11 countries.

The members shared information and updates about gender mainstreaming activities in their cooperatives. The next meeting of the Committee would be held in 2011 in conjunction with some important ICA event.

Youth Committee: The 4th meeting of ICA Committee on Youth Cooperation was held on 1st September at BICC in Beijing. 15 participants from seven countries attended the meeting. The meeting discussed the activities held since the last meeting and the activity plan for 2011.

All members actively participated in the discussions and pointed out the following as key issues facing the youth – unemployment; participation in decision-making process; education; social awareness among youth; environmental issues such as global warming; and legal constraints to reach out youth.

Ms. Tahmineh Kashani of CURACI (Iran) was unanimously elected as Chairperson while Mr. Ilham Nasai of DEKOPIN (Indonesia) and Mr. Koji Ozeki of JA-ZENCHU (Japan) were elected as Vice Chairpersons of the Committee.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee during 2011. The next Youth Conference would, however, be held in Japan in conjunction with the next Regional Assembly in 2012.

Preparatory Meeting of Tourism Committee: ICA-AP organized a preparatory meeting of Tourism and other innovative Committees at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September. The meeting was jointly chaired by Mr. Mohammad Sharif Bhajji, Managing Director, Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union, Pakistan and Dr. G.N. Saxena, Director–Cooperative Development, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative, India. The meeting was organized keeping in mind the theme of the Regional Assembly. The meeting was attended by 34 delegates from eight countries.

The meeting started with the talks relating to the need for Focus Groups that could dwell upon the coop potential in areas like tourism, housing, forestry, education, insurance and workers. The unanimous recommendation was of ICA-AP’s nodal role in conceptualization of specialized committees to benefit coops and economy at large.

Participants shared experiences in serving tourism related interests. The importance of the International Year of Cooperatives-2012 was also voiced. The session concluded with the decision on conducting feasibility studies on forming tourism and housing committees as specialized bodies of ICA-AP. The Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union and the representatives of the Ministry of Cooperatives of Iran agreed to arrange financial support for these two feasibility studies. The session was facilitated by Mr. Rajiv Mehta who was assigned the responsibility of setting the contours of the studies in consultation with fraternal stakeholders in the ICA-AP region.

AGENDA ITEM 16: DISCUSSION ON IMPORTANT EVENTS

ICA Expo 2010, Bangalore (India), 8-10 December

Dr. Chan Ho Choi informed the meeting that ICA Expo 2010 would be held in Bangalore (India) from 8th to 10th December 2010 in collaboration with Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO). ICA Expo 2010, as such would be a real opportunity to show our values, achievements, growth, importance and, most of all, highlight how much of a player the Cooperative Movement could be in the global economy. The first ICA Expo was held in October 2008 in Lisbon, Portugal. Intended mainly for professionals of the sector, the fair would promote the growth of cooperative business, the practice of inter cooperation among participants and the implementation of strategic alliances.

At the request of Dr. Choi, Dr. Saxena made a brief presentation on the preparations for the ICA Expo 2010. He said that about 75% of space had been sold out and the Expo would be inaugurated by Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, President of India. He said that Dr. Chandra Pal Singh had issued a letter to all the member cooperatives in India requesting them to participate at the Expo. He further said that IFFCO was willing to give space for five weaker cooperatives in the region free of cost as advised by ICA Regional Director.

Dr. Choi said that ICA Expo 2010 was very important for networking and requested the members to confirm their participation as soon as possible. He further said that participation of consumer and producer coops was very important.

UN Declaration on 2012 International Year of Cooperatives

Dr. Chan Ho Choi informed the members that the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution - "Cooperatives and Social Development" - in which it proclaimed the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) to be celebrated in 2012. He requested the members to take necessary initiatives on this matter as early as possible.

At the request of Dr. Choi, Ms. Maria Elena Chavez informed the meeting that the Working Group would be discussing this matter further. She said that one of the issues currently being tackled was determining a message for the cooperatives which could be translated into local languages and there was a need for the cooperatives to contact their governments. She further said that Japan, Mongolia, Brunei and the Philippines had already formed the national committees and requested other countries to form national committees.

Mr. Moteki informed the meeting that Japan has already formed the national committee and its first meeting was held in August and it would be meeting again in this year.

Mr. Yamashita wanted to discuss about strategic mission for IYC. He further said that JCCU would be celebrating its 60th anniversary in the next year.

Ms. Maria Elena Chavez further informed the meeting that there was an official website for International Year of Cooperatives which was launched in last August. Details on how to form a national committee were available on the website. ICA website would also be updated on a regular basis. ICA Geneva would also be sending out news items on IYC to its members regularly.

50th Anniversary of ICA-AP (1960-2010)

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the year 2010 marks completion of 50 years of ICA-AP. It was thought prudent to celebrate the history and glory of ICA-AP for serving the cooperative members in the biggest and most vibrant region of the world. A Book containing salient features of ICA's evolution to present form entitled **50 Years of International Cooperative Alliance in Asia-Pacific Serving Co-operatives** would be brought out. The chronology of events was distributed at the meeting.

He further said that it was his keen desire to capture this historic occasion as a launching pad for spreading awareness about the relevance and significance of cooperatives in general and 2012 International Year of Cooperatives in particular.

AGENDA ITEM 17 : ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Errum Sharif Bhajji made a presentation on *Terrible Catastrophe of the Century – Flood 2010 in Pakistan*. In her presentation she said that “at least 2,000 people have been killed and more than 722,000 homes had been badly damaged or totally destroyed. Pakistan has appealed to international donors for help in responding to the disaster. The UN has also launched relief efforts. It appealed for US\$ 460 million to provide immediate help, including food, shelter and clean water. Initial rescue of affected people, development of rescue camps, supply of food and medication are the basic requirements being supplied to some extent by the various agencies including civil societies and cooperatives. In Hyderabad two major camps of IDPs (more than 7,000 in each camp) have been set up by the Government where Sindh Graduates Cooperative Housing Society in collaboration with Hyderabad Gymkhana and other civil societies was providing food, clothes, milk to infants, water coolers, mats, cots, and other utilities”.

She said that at the moment they do not need any financial support from the members. However, they might require funds for re-construction programs (phase-2).

Dr. Chan Ho Choi said that he would be visiting Pakistan in October to find out more about the flood situation. He further said that if any member wanted to send donation, it could be routed through ICA.

Dr. Ali Baharum said that this time there was no field visits in China. He said that field visits were very important for the participants. He further said that Malaysia would be participating at the ICA Expo 2010 in Bangalore and would provide some financial support to Pakistan.

AGENDA ITEM 18 : CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Mr. Chan Ho Choi informed the meeting that on behalf of Japanese Joint Committee (JJC), the JA-ZENCHU (Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan) had offered to host the next meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Japan in the last quarter of 2012 for 5 days.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh informed the meeting that NCUI Congress would be held in 2012. Hence he wanted to host the next Regional Assembly in India in 2012 to coincide with the IYC. He requested the Japanese friends to allow Indian Cooperative Movement to host the next RA in India.

Mr. Moteki said that 13 organizations in Japan had already started working for a successful Regional Assembly in 2012 in Japan and requested Dr. Chandra Pal Singh to accept their invitation.

The meeting accepted the offer of JJC and decided to hold the next meeting in Japan in 2012. The date and venue would be decided in consultation with the JJC. The RA thanked the JJC for agreeing to host the ICA events in 2012 in Japan.

AGENDA ITEM 19 : CLOSING SESSION

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the members for coming and attending the meeting. He appreciated the excellent arrangements made by the host organization (ACFSMC) for the meetings in Beijing.

Mr. Charles Gould said that the 2010 RA was concluded with good results. He also congratulated the ACFSMC for its efficiency and great hospitality. He specially congratulated the members of the ICA-AP Regional Board.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi said that a total of 26 different meetings were held in Beijing from 1st to 5th September and he thanked the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) for making excellent arrangements and the kind hospitality. He also thanked Mr. Charles Gould.

The RA proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Chan Ho Choi and his able staff for carrying out the ICA-AP's work with success. The RA also thanked Mr. Charles Gould, ICA Director General for coming and spending his valuable time.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes of the ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting
Guangzhou (China): 2nd March 2011

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at Shangrila Hotel in Guangzhou on Wednesday, 2nd March 2011 from 09:30 to 14:30 hours. Following members attended the meeting:

1. Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
2. Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chairperson
3. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI, India – Vice Chairperson
4. Mr. Agung Sudjatmoko, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Alternate Member
5. Mr. Sang Chul Kim, NACF, Korea – Alternate Member
6. Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Member
7. Mr. Godofredo Lising, NATCCO, Philippines – Member
8. Ms. Dolly Goh, SNCF, Singapore – Alternate Member
9. Mr. Bandupala Ranaweka, NCC, Sri Lanka – Member
10. Dr. Chalernpol Dulsamphant, CLT, Thailand – Member
11. Mr. Nguyen Tien Quan, VCA, Vietnam – Member
12. Mr. Zhang Wangshu, ACFSMC, China – Observer
13. Mr. Li Shun, ACFSMC, China - Interpreter
14. Mr. Ved Prakash Setia, NCUI, India - Interpreter
15. Mr. Ilham Nasai, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
16. Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, JCCU, Japan – Interpreter
17. Mr. Han Ho Choi, NACF, Korea – Observer
18. Mr. Vipul Perera, NCC, Sri Lanka – Observer
19. Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, CLT, Thailand – Interpreter
20. Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hao, VCA, Vietnam – Interpreter
21. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, RD, ICA-AP, New Delhi
22. Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi

Agenda Item 01 : Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, Mr. Li Chunsheng welcomed all the participating members of the ICA-AP Regional Board for coming to Guangzhou to attend the meeting. He said that we had earlier planned to hold this meeting in Malaysia in May. However, since we had to elect a Trustee to ICA Domus Trust from our region before the ICA global board meeting in May, it was decided to hold this meeting here. He also informed the meeting about the sad and untimely demise of Mr. S.K. Jakhar of IFFCO on 17th January 2011. He further said that Mr. Jakhar had made substantial contributions to the cooperative movements all over the world.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh said that today Mr. Jakhar was not with us. It was a big loss for India and the world cooperative movement. Mr. Jakhar was representing many cooperative organizations in India and it was very difficult to fill the gap.

The board members conveyed their heartfelt condolences to his family members and prayed to almighty to give them strength to bear this unbearable loss.

Agenda Item 02 : Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited views and comments of the members on the Agenda. The Agenda of the meeting was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 03 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held in Beijing on 1st September 2010

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the minutes of the Regional Board meeting held in Beijing (China) on 1st September 2010 were circulated among the members and no comments/suggestions were received. The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item 04 : Ratification of substitute member from Thailand

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) had nominated Dr. Chalermopol Dulsamphant, Chairman, in place of Mr. Mongkalut Pukanut. The meeting unanimously ratified the substitute member from Thailand. Dr. Dulsamphant thanked the Regional Board for ratifying his name.

Agenda Item 05 : ICA-AP Activities Report for 2010

Dr. Choi gave a brief account of the activities carried out by ICA-AP from 1st January to 31st December.

Mr. Phanuwat from Thailand stressed the need of educating leaders, bureaucrats and members of coop community in Laos and Cambodia to learn about Thai model of cooperatives and wash away their notion about government controlled coops.

The members thanked the Regional Director and his staff for conducting so many important activities during 2010.

Agenda Item 06 : ICA-AP Financial Report for 2010

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

Dr. Choi also presented the details of contribution received from development partners/members for the year 2010. He thanked the members for their contribution in kind for organizing various activities. He informed the meeting that the JCCU had seconded a person at Singapore Business Office and NCUI had seconded a person at New Delhi office. He also informed the meeting that due to staff restructuring Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Deputy Regional Director, was not working with ICA-AP with effect from 1st January 2011.

Mr. Amano from Japan said that the Financial Report includes only the funds received from the development partners/members and it should include the expenses also in future.

Agenda Item 07 : ICA-AP Membership Situation

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the following four organizations were admitted into ICA Membership since last Regional Board Meeting: (a) National Association of Labour Banks, Japan; (b) Supervision and Central Coordination Union of Rural Agricultural Cooperatives of Iran (SCURA); (c) Cooperative House Building and Finance Corporation Limited, India; and (d) Cooperative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH Group), Australia. The total membership of ICA-AP as such was 71 member organizations from 25 countries.

He also informed the meeting that Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank) of Iran and National Cooperative Development Board (NCDB) of Nepal had applied for membership of ICA.

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

Mr. Phanuwat from Thailand said that the structure of the Cooperative Movement of Thailand had been changed since last year. Now we have seven national level federations and Chairmen of these federations were board of directors of CLT. Hence it was very easy for CLT to persuade them to join the ICA. He further said that the present Chairman of CLT was also the President of Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Thailand (FSCT) and Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Union (ACCU).

The members appreciated the efforts made by Dr. Choi in expanding the membership base of ICA in the Asia-Pacific region.

Agenda Item 08 : ICA-AP Budget for 2011

Dr. Choi presented the ICA-AP Budget for the year 2011. He further informed the members that a nominal surplus of CHF 1,339 was expected in the year 2011 also.

Agenda Item 09 : ICA-AP Work Plan for 2011

Dr. Choi presented the ICA-AP Work Plan for 2011. He said that in addition to routine activities the following four studies were included in the Work Plan – (a) Study on Consumer Cooperatives in Asia; (b) Study on Cooperative Trade among Cooperatives; (c) Study on Technical Cooperation among Cooperatives; and (d) Study on Communication Strategy for Cooperatives.

Dr. Choi informed the members that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries-MAFF (Government of Japan) supported training courses ended in 2010 and three new training courses would be starting from 2011 for three years.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh from India requested ICA-AP to plan more activities in India with the support of NCUI.

Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum from Malaysia offered to host the Regional Board Meeting in Malaysia in 2012.

Dr. Choi further said that this year JCCU would be celebrating its 60th anniversary and NACF would be celebrating its 50th anniversary. He said that UN had already cleared the slogan (Cooperative enterprises build a better world) and on 17th March they would be releasing the logo and we had to prepare for the celebrations of UN International Year of Cooperatives-2012 which was a life time opportunity.

The members thanked the Regional Director and his staff for planning so many important activities during 2011.

Agenda Item 10 : Change of ICA Domus Trust Trustees

A brief note and the trust deed of ICA Domus Trust were provided to the members. Dr. Choi informed the meeting that ICA Domus Trust was incorporated in the year 1988 under Indian Trust Law for public charity objects and a small Board of Trustees, consisting of the following, was responsible to manage the affairs of the Trust.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. ICA President | : | Trustee Chairperson |
| 2. ICA-AP President | : | Trustee |
| 3. NCUI President | : | Trustee |
| 4. ICA Director General | : | Trustee |
| 5. ICA-AP Regional Director | : | Executive Trustee |

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that based on the consensus made in the ICA Board in Bangalore on 8th December 2010, it was suggested to restructure the 5 trustees as follows.

Current Trustees	New Trustees
ICA President (Pauline Green) – retain	ICA President (Pauline Green) – retain
ICA-AP President (Li Chunsheng) - retain	ICA-AP President (Li Chunsheng) - retain
NCUI President (Chandra Pal Singh) - retain	NCUI President (Chandra Pal Singh) -retain
ICA DG (Charles Gould) – resign	One Trustee from Europe region
ICA-AP RD (Chan Ho Choi) - resign	One Trustee from Asia region
	ICA-AP RD as Manager for the Trust

- Ms. Kathy Bardswick (Chair of Audit & Control Committee) agreed to accept as a Trustee from Europe region.
- One Trustee from Asia would be decided in the Regional Board meeting in Guangzhou.
- ICA-AP RD, to be the Manager of the Trust. However, a legal opinion was needed to check the power of the Manager provided by the Trust Deed in signing the daily operational transactions of the Trust.

Reacting to the above, Dr. Chandra Pal Singh said “In my opinion and as per the general practice of the Trust, once a Trust has been established then only the Trustees are empowered to take appropriate decisions in the best interest of the Trust as per the Trust Deed. All the decisions, whether financial, policy and others, have to be decided by the Board of Trustees itself. If DG does not wish to continue as Trustee, it is his own decision, but the RD should remain as one of the Trustees and execute the trust as usual. Further, it is not necessary at all to replace any trustee with some other person as the remaining trustees are competent to run the trust. As per the Trust Deed, the number of trustees should not be less than three and more than five. If the number is less than 3 then I think we can say there is a vacancy and it needs to be filled up.

Further, this is to apprise you that during the meeting of the ICA Domus Trust held in December in Bangalore (India), where the Chairman was unable to attend the meeting, the DG desired to use the Trust money for global purpose. We have no objection for using the money for the development of the cooperative movement at global level, but it should not be at the cost of ICA-AP region and particularly the Indian Cooperative Movement. ICA-AP office has great support from ICA Domus Trust to run its activities. First, we should fulfill the commitments to strengthen the cooperative movement in India as well as in Asia-Pacific region for which this Trust was established.

This is to further inform you that on the direction of the DG, the RD has also sought legal opinion on the use of Trust fund for global activities through the advocate suggested by DG from Geneva, who opined that the fund can be utilized for the global purpose, but the income will be treated as taxable income and we have to pay heavy amount towards tax. However, we also sought the legal opinion in the matter and were informed that the funds of the said ICA Domus Trust cannot be used for another purpose. As per the Indian Trust Act the property or any money cannot be used for any other purpose unconnected with the Trust and ICA is not the part of ICA Domus Trust. Further there will be lot of legal implication for using the fund outside India.

During the last two meetings I have raised a query about the non-provision of the fund in the budget for the activities to be carried out as per the Trust Deed and I was informed that due to ongoing construction of Noida building no provision is being made for the activities as the funds are being utilized to complete the construction work and once the building will be completed the provision will be made for organizing more and more activities. But the DG desired that instead fund proposed for the construction work should be shown as "surplus" for which we objected. But the RD while preparing the minutes of the said meeting showed the amount as "surplus" for which I have sent my dissent note to RD. A copy of the same is here for kind perusal of the Hon'ble Chairman.

Keeping in view the above situation and better use of the funds as per the Trust Deed, I request the Hon'ble Chairman to seriously examine all issues and take appropriate decision in this regard."

At this stage Mr. Li Chunsheng asked for comments/suggestions of the board members on this important issue. He further said that it was a very complicated issue and a careful decision had to be taken as per the Trust Deed. In conclusion, all the board members unanimously requested Dr. Choi not to resign and continue his position as Executive Trustee of the ICA Domus Trust.

Agenda Item 11 : 9th Cooperative Ministers Conference in Thailand

A note on 9th Cooperative Ministers Conference was provided to the board members in advance. Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the Cooperative Promotion Department, Government of Thailand, had agreed to host the 9th Cooperative Ministers Conference from 31st October to 4th November 2011 in Chiang Mai (Thailand). He also said that with a view to make participation more broad-based, the national apex organizations would be requested upon to include one or two Member of Parliament in their delegation.

Mr. Li Chunsheng suggested that it was better to hold the next Cooperative Ministers Conference in March 2012 to coincide with the celebration of UN International Year of Cooperatives and also since this year we had many important activities including the ICA General Assembly.

Dr. Dulsamphant from Thailand said that it was better to hold the Cooperative Ministers Conference next year due to parliamentary election this year.

The meeting authorized the Regional Director to negotiate the dates of the 9th Cooperative Ministers Conference with the Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) and keep the board members informed accordingly.

Agenda Item 12 : Resolution for the Amendment of the 7th Cooperative Principle by Americas Regional Assembly

A letter from ICA President and the resolution passed by the Americas Regional Assembly for amending the 7th Cooperative Principle (Concern for Community) with Concern for Community and Environmental Sustainability was provided to the members in advance.

Dr. Choi informed the meeting about the resolution from the Americas region proposing an amendment to the 7th Cooperative Principle to strengthen environmental sustainability and requested the members for their reaction.

All the members, except one, felt that the existing 7th Cooperative Principle (Concern for Community) very well covers environmental sustainability and there was no need to amend it at the moment.

Agenda Item 13 : Other Business Matters Arising

Mr. Bandupala Ranaweka made a presentation on the damages caused due to flood in Sri Lanka in May 2010. He requested the board members for their generous contribution. It was mentioned that NCC had already sent an appeal letter to the ICA member organizations.

Agenda Item 14 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board in Chiang Mai in conjunction with the Ministers Conference, if it was held in the 1st week of November. If the Ministers Conference was postponed to next year, the next meeting would be held in Cancun (Mexico) in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly (14-18 November). The meeting authorized RD to take necessary contacts in this regard.

Dr. Choi thanked the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) of China for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and the kind hospitality. He specially thanked Mr. Li Chunsheng and the ACFSMC for taking care of the hotel costs of the regional board members in Guangzhou.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Minutes of the ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting
Cancun (Mexico): 15th November 2011**

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at Moon Palace Hotel in Cancun on Wednesday, the 15th November 2011 from 09:30 to 14:30 hours. Following members attended the meeting:

1. Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
2. Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chairperson
3. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI, India – Vice Chairperson
4. Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Member
5. Mr. Won-Byung Choi, NACF, Korea - Member
6. Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Member
7. Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, NATCCO, Philippines – Member
8. Mr. Chan Tee Seng, SNCF, Singapore – Member
9. Mr. Bandupala Ranaweka, NCC, Sri Lanka – Member
10. Mr. Nguyen Tien Quan, VCA, Vietnam – Member
11. Mr. Zhang Wangshu, ACFSMC, China – Observer
12. Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, JCCU, Japan – Interpreter
13. Mr. Ilham Nasai, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
14. Mr. Han Ho Choi, NACF, Korea – Observer
15. Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hao, VCA, Vietnam – Interpreter
16. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP
17. Ms. Savitri Singh, ICA-AP
18. Mr. K. Kukreja, ICA-AP
19. Mr. Nasir Khan, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Observer
20. Mr. Abdul Fattan Abdullah, Malaysia - Observer
21. Mr. MGS Silva, NCC, Sri Lanka – Observer
22. Ms. Bernadette Turner, Coop UK – Observer
23. Mr. Masahiro Matsuda, JA-Zenchu, Japan – Observer
24. Mr. Seah Kian Peng, Singapore – Observer
25. Mr. Katsumi Asada, Japan - Observer

Agenda Item 01: Opening Remarks

The Chairperson, Mr. Li Chunsheng, extended warm welcome to board members and introduced new member from Philippines and Thailand. The member from Thailand was not present. The President further thanked all the cooperative movements of the region for their valuable contribution.

Agenda Item 02: Approval of the Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was tabled for approval. Dr. C.P. Singh Yadav, Vice Chairperson said except agenda number 12 all other is adopted. He asked that this agenda was already discussed then why brought up again.

**Agenda Item 03 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held in
Guangzhou on 2nd March 2011**

The minutes of the last meeting held in Guangzhou on 2nd March 2011 was confirmed.

**Agenda Item 04: Ratification of substitute members from Thailand
(Mr. Vitoon Neawpanit, Chairman of CLT) and the Philippines
(Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, Vice Chairperson of NATCCO).**

The Chairperson welcomed the two new members to attend the meeting. Mr. Vitoon Neawpanit, Chairman of CLT was not present. Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, Vice Chairperson of NATCCO from the Philippines introduced herself and thanked for welcome and committed to contribute for the better future of International Cooperative Alliance. The Chairperson remarked that Ms. Gabriel has to play a big role and invited comments on the issue. The members agreed.

Agenda Item 05: ICA-AP Activities Report for January-October

The Chairperson asked Dr. Chan Ho Choi to present the report. Dr. Choi presented the report and the Chairperson extended words of appreciation to all the cooperative members/government for cooperation and funding of the projects.

Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid, President [DEKOPIN] Indonesia and regional board member observed that most programs are of the nature of workshops and seminars. We need ICA-AP to convince governments and the cooperative movement to change environment and the cooperatives should be given more important role to play in the country.

Dr. C.P. Singh Yadav thanked the Regional Office and specially the Regional Director for good work and activities.

The Chairperson said that the comment from Indonesia is very important that cooperative play an important role in socio- economic development and coops should share experience and stressed on building friendship among us. He further appreciated the report of the Regional Director and hoped that this trend will continue.

RD expressed his gratitude to the members for great solidarity in not only providing support but hospitality and accepting delegates and participants and also seconded staff to the regional office. Because of this we were able to do many activities unlike other region.

Agenda Item 06 : ICA-AP Financial Report for January-September

Financial report was presented by the Regional Director. The Chairperson thanks for the report and invited members for discussion on the report.

Dr. Yadav appreciated the report and the Chairperson remarked that it is a positive report and good when compared to other regions of ICA.

Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum, member from ANGKASA, Malaysia wanted to know country-wise contribution. The RD reported that it was not easy to segregate by country.

The Chairperson invited further comments and said that the question raised by Dr. Ali was good but what was important is to spend the money judiciously.

Agenda Item 07: ICA-AP Membership Situation

Dr. Choi explained the membership situation. Dr. Ali suggested building up Strategy to increase membership. Dr. Choi said that more members could be brought in from the Islamic countries with the help of Malaysia and other Islamic members.

Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid from Indonesia raised the issue of confirmation from the existing ICA member in the country in case a new member applies for membership of ICA. Dr. Choi informed that it was also our concern as several applications sent directly to ICA so we were informed by ICA Global. During the membership committee meeting I raised the issue. The tradition is to confirm the application from the existing members from the country.

Mr. Seah Kian Peng, Singapore informed that it was already in the rules of the ICA to get clarification from the existing members.

The Chairperson observed that membership grew substantially. It is good result. As for Malaysia/ Indonesia a new organization's application is always confirmed by the member federation.

Mr. Nurdin Halid suggested that in case of non-confirmation from the existing member the membership of the coop should be cancelled.

Agenda Item 08: Approval of ICA-AP Work Plan for 2012

The work plan for 2012 was approved.

Agenda Item 09 : Approval of ICA-AP Budget for 2012

The budget for 2012 was approved.

Agenda Item 10: The 9th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Thailand (27th Feb. to 1st March 2012)

Dr. Choi explained about preparations. The office has commissioned a Critical Study and has dispatched a set of Questionnaires to all members and governments to get feedback on output of the previous conference.

The members from Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia observed that this is a good platform to discuss common issue concerning to all such as control by politicians.

The Chairperson observed that the Ministers Conference was there for a long time. We consider the suggestions of Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia. In order to get good advantage of the coops, please send your suggestions/questions by email/letter to the Regional Office for making Agenda.

Agenda Item 11: 10th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Related Events, Japan, 26-30 November 2012.

President of JCCU introduced Kobe-RA preparations and extended invitations to all. He said that in March 2011 disaster happened and we received help and messages from all and thanked everyone. Kobe was divested by earthquakes but a beautiful city now.

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

Agenda Item 12: ICA Domus Trust

Dame Paulin Green, ICA President also participated in the discussion. Dr. Yadav presented a legal opinion on the matter. The discussion could not be concluded because of the difference of opinion. Therefore, the matter was referred to the Domus Trust meeting scheduled to be held separately in the afternoon.

Agenda Item 13: Discussion on Celebrations of IYC-2012

Dr. Choi requested members to send their activities to be posted on the ICA-AP web site to be shared with others. ICA-AP has prepared Te shirt, stickers, etc. for showing visibility and solidarity.

The members informed about their activities one by one and also offered suggestions.

Malaysia: On 26/11/11 the IYC 12 will be launched.

Sri Lanka: Will launch books and housing projects, IT program etc throughout the year.

Vietnam: Informed following two proposals for-2012.

1. The Revised Cooperative Law of Vietnam has been under the discussion of the National Assembly of Vietnam and will expectedly be promulgated at the end of the year. The revision process has received support from the German cooperative organizations.
2. In Vietnam, there is only VCA as the national cooperative organization which act as the umbrella association. There is no national federation of cooperatives in specific sector, such as agriculture, industry, fisheries (except the National Credit Association). The establishment of such national federation has been proposed in the National Assembly.
3. I therefore would like to suggest two recommendations:
 - *The ICA-AP should be concerned about the development of such federation. We need information and support for the establishment and operation of such organization. Some general information could be found in the website; however it should be more specified.*

- *VCA has planned to set up a Federation of cooperative in the field of agriculture, consumer, and industries. ICA-AP support in term of information and expertise will be highly appreciated.*

Mr. Haruyoshi Amano from JCCU, Japan informed the following:

12 members from Japan organized IYC committee last year, now preparing for next year launch from 13th Jan 2012. We will host RA and coop forum during that period and all ICA-AP members can participate. This is information about IYC celebrations. The Standing Committee IYC 2012 web site can be accessed for more information.

The Chairperson appreciated the plans of members and informed about preparations in China.

The government in China has approved working commission. Total 3 big events to be held in China.

The ICA-AP office may print special magazine and summarise all reports and send to ICA Global to inform about activities of our region.

Agenda Item 14: Other Business Matters Arising

Dr. Choi thanked Vietnam for inviting suggestions to revise law. He said that the main UN recommendation was to create enabling environment by new policy. This IYC-2012 is a good opportunity to upgrade the cooperative law in their countries. He asked them to post their coop law to ICA-AP website to get suggestions from other members in the region as well as from ICA-AP.

The Chairperson agreed with Dr. Choi and said it is important that through IYC-2012 we would create awareness for general people, upscale lobbying with government and get resolved concerned legal and policy issues for coops- ICA AP website can provide information.

Dr. Choi asked members to send cooperative stories for publicity.

Agenda Item 15 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 26th February 2012 in Bangkok in conjunction with the 9th Cooperative Ministers' Conference.

The Chairperson thanks all the members and observers for attending the meeting and having good discussions.

Minutes of the ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting

Bangkok (Thailand): 26th February 2012

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at the premises of the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) in Bangkok on Sunday, 26th February 2012 from 14:00 to 17:30 hours. Following members attended the meeting:

1. Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
2. Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chairperson
3. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI, India – Vice Chairperson
4. Mr. Teguh Boediyana, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Alternate Member
5. Mr. Si Hyung Jo, NACF, Korea – Alternate Member
6. Prof. Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Member
7. Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, NATCCO, Philippines – Member
8. Mr. Chan Tee Seng, SNCF, Singapore – Member
9. Mr. Bandupala Ranaweeka, NCC, Sri Lanka – Member
10. Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, CLT, Thailand – Member
11. Mr. Nguyen Van Bien, VCA, Vietnam – Alternate Member
12. Ms. Tahmineh Kashani, CURACI, Iran – Youth Representative
13. Mr. Zhang Wangshu, ACFSMC, China – Observer
14. Dr. Dinesh, NCUI, India - Observer
15. Mr. Warsono, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
16. Ms. Sharmila, DEKOPIN, Indonesia - Observer
17. Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, JCCU, Japan – Interpreter
18. Mr. Yutaka Aotake, JCCU, Japan – Observer
19. Mr. Masahiro Maeda, JCCU, Japan – Observer
20. Hj. Mutadho Bahri, KOPSYA-ANGKASA, Malaysia - Observer
21. Dr. M.G. S. Silva, NCC, Sri Lanka – Observer
22. Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana, COOPFED, Sri Lanka - Observer
23. Dr. Suwichai Suparanon, CLT, Thailand – Observer
24. Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, CLT, Thailand – Interpreter
25. Mr. Hoang Van Long, VCA, Vietnam – Interpreter
26. Dame Pauline Green, ICA President – Special Invitee
27. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, RD, ICA-AP, New Delhi
28. Mr. K. Kukreja, ICA-AP, New Delhi
29. Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi
30. Ms. Kanako Miyazawa, ICA-SBO, Singapore

Agenda Item 01 : Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, Mr. Li Chunsheng welcomed all the participating members of the ICA-AP Regional Board for coming to Bangkok to attend the meeting. He also extended a warm welcome to Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA for coming to the meeting. He further said that she has completed a big job today. We have reached agreement on the appointment of trustees of the ICA Domus Trust at today's meeting. He also thanked the youth representative - Ms. Tahmineh Kashani of CURACI, Iran – for attending the board meeting first time.

Dame Pauline Green thanked Mr. Li Chunsheng for making excellent arrangements for the meeting. She said that 2012 is an important year for international cooperative movement and we have a key job to do. International economy is still in a chaotic situation. In this context I think the message we have given to the UN that we need more diversified economy is a critical one.

She underlined the importance of cooperatives that has over 10 billion members across the globe compared to shareholders of companies listed in the stock market that is just 327 million. The list of Global 300 successful cooperatives published each year alone is worth 1.6 trillion US dollars from 25 countries including Asia.

She extended an invitation to all members to the closing of the international year of cooperatives on 31st October 2012 in Manchester. It would be a major event and about 10,000 people are expected to attend. She further

said that there would be an ICA Expo also and requested the members to reserve the space in advance. She also said that there would be a special General Assembly of ICA where key issues would be discussed and you would get the invitation soon. Finally, she thanked the region for the good work they are doing.

She informed the meeting that we had a Domus Trust meeting today morning and we have finally reached agreement on the appointment of trustees which has been pending for a long time. She specially thanked Dr. Chandra Pal Singh for taking the right way forward. She informed the meeting that there were two different kinds of advices from the lawyers and hence a practical way had to be found. The composition of the trustees agreed are as follows: (a) President of ICA; (b) President of NCUI; (c) President of ICA-AP; (d) one global board member (on behalf of DG); and (e) one ICA-AP regional board member (on behalf of RD). Ms. Kathy Bardswick has agreed to be a trustee on behalf of DG. Dr. Chan Ho Choi would be appointed as Administrator of the Trust and we have full confidence in him in running the Trust.

She further said that global ICA was not seeking any funds from Domus Trust and the financial support to ICA-AP would be continued at the existing level. We would ask for a major development need in Africa when we start getting the rental income from the Noida building. We would come back to the Domus Trust with further details later.

Mr. Li Chunsheng appreciated the good talent and ability of Dame Pauline Green in conducting the meeting. He said that ICA Domus Trust was in existence for 25 years and done a lot of good work. He further said that one trustee has to come from our region and the final decision rests with the Regional Board.

Agenda Item 02 : Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited views and comments of the members on the Agenda. The Agenda of the meeting was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 03 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held in Cancun on 15th November 2011

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the minutes of the Regional Board meeting held in Cancun (Mexico) on 15th November 2011 were circulated among the members and no comments/suggestions were received. The minutes were confirmed with the following amendment: The name at serial number 20 – Mr. Abdul Fattan Abdullah – should be from Malaysia and not Indonesia as mentioned in the minutes.

Agenda Item 04 : Ratification of Substitute Member from Vietnam

Mr. Li Chunsheng informed the meeting that the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) had nominated Dr. Dao Xuan Can, President, in place of Mr. Nguyen Tien Quan for the remaining period. However, Dr. Can could not come and in his place Mr. Nguyen Van Bien, Vice President of VCA, attending the meeting. The meeting unanimously ratified the substitute member from Vietnam.

Agenda Item 05 : ICA-AP Activities Report for November-December

Dr. Chan Ho Choi gave a brief account of the five activities carried out by ICA-AP from 1st November to 31st December.

The members thanked the Regional Director and his staff for conducting so many important activities during 2011.

Agenda Item 06 : ICA-AP Financial Report for 2011

Dr. Choi presented the financial report of ICA-AP for the year 2011. The members noted that there was a surplus of CHF 9,777 in Delhi office instead of CHF 1,339 anticipated. All members expressed happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP.

Dr. Choi also presented the details of contribution received from development partners/members for the year 2011. He thanked the members for their contribution in kind for organizing various activities. He informed the meeting that the JCCU had seconded a person at Singapore Business Office and NCUI had seconded a person at New Delhi office. In addition, NCUI has seconded another person to work at ICA-AP for two days in a week.

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that we had hired two Consultants during 2011. One consultant (Dr. Daman Prakash) has undertaken two studies – (1) Promotion of International Trade among Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific; and (2) Promotion of Technical Cooperation among Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific. The other consultant (Mr. Rangan Dutta) has conducted the 4th Critical Study on Cooperative Legislation and Policy Reforms which would be presented at the 9th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference.

Dr. Choi also said that we have received 3,000 books from ICA Geneva and our plan is to digitalize our library so that the member organizations would be able to retrieve these documents through ICA-AP home page.

Dr. Choi said that the balance of MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) fund would be used in the 1st quarter of 2012. He thanked the Government of Japan for providing financial support to ICA-AP for the last 25 years for training courses and hoped that this would continue in the coming years also. He further said that so far IDACA has received more than 5,600 participants from all over the world who work as officials and employees of the agricultural cooperatives and the government officials in charge of the cooperative development. Out of this, more than 4,000 are the graduates from the ICA training courses which have been funded by the Government of Japan.

Dr. Choi said that there was a balance of US\$ 23,000 in JCCU contribution which would be used in the 1st half of 2012 in consultation with JCCU.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that the financial situation of Asia-Pacific region was very good and hoped it would be better and better in the coming years. He said that the programs supported by our members were very useful to our region.

Dame Pauline Green informed the meeting that ICA has moved to Belgium. However, this year we will continue in Geneva and a Resolution would be moved at the coming General assembly to move the office to Belgium and the currency would be Euro instead of Swiss Franc.

Agenda Item 07 : ICA-AP Membership Situation

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that Pishgaman Kavir Yazd Cooperative Company (PKYCC) of Iran has applied for membership of ICA. He also said that National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB) of India have ceased to be a member of ICA due to non-payment. The current total membership of ICA-AP is 77 organizations from 25 countries.

The members appreciated the efforts made by Dr. Choi in expanding the membership base of ICA in the Asia-Pacific region.

Agenda Item 08 : Review of Singapore Business Office

Dr. Choi presented a Note on Singapore Business Office which was started functioning on 10th July 1999. He said that there was no agriculture or housing cooperatives in Singapore and only consumer cooperatives were there. He further said that the management of SNCF has expressed its desire not to continue the MOU after 31st March 2012.

Mr. Chan Tee Seng said that SNCF has been providing financial support to ICA for more than 10 years. To increase the intra-regional trade was the objective when the office was established. For the last 6-8 months we have been discussing with Dr. Choi about the future of the SBO. He further said that perhaps this is the time to review the arrangements and take a final decision.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that for the last 13 years SNCF has supported the SBO and we are grateful for their support.

Mr. Amano said that we are grateful to SNCF for their generous support for the last 13 years and honestly I want to continue the support, but you have your own problems. For the last 20 years the economic situation in Japan has changed for the consumer cooperative movement.

Prof. Dr. Ali Baharum, President of ANGKASA offered to provide office space for an ICA office in ANGKASA building in Malaysia free of cost. He said that Singapore and Malaysia is very near.

Mr. Si Hyung Jo said that having only one staff member in ICA office either in Singapore or Malaysia was not a healthy situation.

Mr. Chan Tee Seng said that we have to objectively assess the situation. The office could be in Singapore or in Malaysia.

Dr. Choi said that Singapore has a geographical position. However, we cannot insist on SNCF that it should continue the support. SNCF have indicated that they want to increase their staff strength.

Mr. Amano thanked Prof. Dr. Ali Baharum for offering his support for an office in ANGKASA building in Malaysia. He further said that SBO has not been functioning as per the objectives established.

Dr. Choi said that we have to frame new objectives for the new office. What I reported was the intention of the SNCF. I will continue to table the information on the new office in Malaysia. This was just a starting point.

Agenda Item 09 : Review of Constitutions of ICA-AP Sectoral/ Thematic Committees

Dr. Choi said that at present we have got eight Committees. Some Committees are very active and some are not. In observing the Constitution of the Committees, I found that it was much diversified. Member representation is very congested in some Committees. All researched are invited to Research Committee and they are not from member organizations. So we have to prepare a model Constitution to increase the participation of members in a democratic way and achieve the objectives. Elections would be held in Kobe RA for different Committees. He felt that all the Committees should have a uniform Constitution. This will also improve the functioning of the Committees. There should be clarity of objectives and these objectives should be followed by main ICA global objectives. He further said that once the model Constitution is drafted, we could request the Committees to review their Constitution accordingly.

Mr. Li Chunsheng requested the members to read the document circulated to the members thoroughly and send their comments to the Regional Director as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 10 : Report on Thailand's Flood Disaster in 2011 & Rehabilitation Plan of CLT

Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, Chief of International Department, Cooperative League of Thailand made a presentation on Thailand's Flood Disaster in 2011 and Rehabilitation Plan of CLT for the benefit of the members. The CLT thanked the members for their generous financial support.

Agenda Item 11 : 9th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference

Dr. Choi gave a brief account of the 9th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference to be held at United Nations Convention Center (UNCC) in Bangkok from 27th to 29th February. He informed the meeting that 14 ministers from 13 countries and over 300 participants from 21 countries are attending the Conference. The Conference would be inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. In addition, Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA, would also be attending the Conference. The Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) has made all the arrangements for the Conference. The registration of the participants would be done at the four designated hotels and transport would be provided by CPD from the designated hotels to UNCC and back.

**Agenda Item 12 : 10th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Related Events, Japan
26-30 November 2012**

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the 10th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Related Events would be held in Kobe (Japan) from 26th to 30th November 2012.

Mr. Amano said that the venue of the meeting would be Kobe International Conference Center and information about reasonable hotels was to be collected. The name of the nearest airport is **Kansai**. The travel time from Kansai airport to Kobe is about 60 minutes and the host would provide transportation (limousine bus).

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that this is an important event and the preparations are going on for a long time. He hoped that the cooperatives in our region would participate in the events in good number.

Agenda Item 13 : Discussion on Celebrations of IYC-2012

Dr. Choi requested the board members to send their activities to be posted on the ICA-AP website to be shared with others. He said that the 9th Cooperative Ministers Conference and Regional Assembly would be the two main activities to be conducted by ICA-AP.

The members informed the meeting that the following activities would be hosted by their respective countries.

Singapore: (a) *The International Year of Cooperatives 2012 Conference is a 1-day conference (3rd October) that focuses on "how social capital drives profits, growth and sustainability;* (b) *Auto venture with 150 vehicles from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur;* and (c) *Coop Hot Shots – a photography competition with the 5 competition themes: cooperation, self-help, equality, mutual help, care for others (1st March to 30th April).*

India: *NCUI Congress on Cooperatives, April – President of India would be inaugurated. It is going to be a big event.*

Indonesia: (a) *International cooperative day celebrations in July;* (b) *International seminar on role of cooperatives;* and (c) *IYC will also be celebrated at provincial level.*

Malaysia: (a) *Auto venture;* and (b) *Setting up of a factory for clean drinking water.*

China: (a) *Organize series of events at national, provincial and primary level including exhibition, fair, workshops, etc.;* (b) *Trade networking;* (c) *Cultural activities;* and (d) *The 2012 International Year of Cooperatives Symposium, Beijing, 11-13 June.*

Agenda Item 14 : Other Business Matters Arising

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that some financial assistance should be provided to the youth representative (Ms. Tahmineh Kashani, CURACI, Iran) for attending future board meetings. ACFSMC agreed to consider the request.

Dr. Choi said that based on the objectives of IYC publication of cooperative success stories would be undertaken by ICA-AP.

Agenda Item 15 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

Mr. Li Chunsheng informed the meeting that the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) are organizing **The 2012 International Year of Cooperatives Symposium** in Beijing (China) between 11 and 13 June 2012. He also proposed that a Regional Board meeting could also be held in Beijing in conjunction with the Symposium, if majority of the members agree to attend. The hotel costs in Beijing would be borne by the ACFSMC. Otherwise, the next meeting would be held in Kobe in conjunction with the Regional Assembly. The meeting authorized the RD to take necessary contacts in this regard and take a final decision in consultation with the Chairman.

Dr. Choi thanked the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and the kind hospitality.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Minutes of the ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting
Beijing (China): 12th June 2012**

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at the Capital Hotel in Beijing on Tuesday, 12th June 2012 from 14:00 to 17:30 hours. Following members attended the meeting:

01. Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
02. Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chairperson
03. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI, India – Vice Chairperson
04. Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid, DEKOPIN, Indonesia - Member
05. Mr. Won Byeong Choi, NACF, Korea – Member
06. Prof. Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Member
07. Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, NATCCO, Philippines – Member
08. Mr. Chan Tee Seng, SNCF, Singapore – Member
09. Mr. Bandupala Ranaweka, NCC, Sri Lanka – Member
10. Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, CLT, Thailand – Member
11. Mr. Zhang Wangshu, ACFSMC, China – Observer
12. Mr. Li Shun, ACFSMC, China – Interpreter
13. Dr. Dinesh, NCUI, India – Observer
14. Mr. Teguh Boediyana, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
15. Mr. Ilham Nasai, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
16. Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, JCCU, Japan – Interpreter
17. Mr. Masahiro Matsuda, JA-ZENCHU, Japan – Observer
18. Mr. Young Ho Lee, NACF, Korea – Observer
19. Ms. Sylvia O. Paraguya, NATCCO, Philippines – Observer
20. Dr. Suwichai Suparanon, CLT, Thailand – Interpreter
21. Dame Pauline Green, ICA President – Special Invitee
22. Mr. Charles Gould, ICA Director General, Special Invitee
23. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, RD, ICA-AP, New Delhi
24. Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi

Agenda Item 01 : Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, Mr. Li Chunsheng welcomed all the participating members of the ICA-AP Regional Board from 10 countries for coming to Beijing to attend the meeting. He extended a warm welcome to Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA and Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of ICA for coming to the meeting. He also thanked Mr. Masahiro Matsuda of JA-ZENCHU for coming to attend the meeting first time.

Agenda Item 02 : Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited views and comments of the members on the Agenda. The Agenda of the meeting was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 03 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held in Bangkok on 26th February 2012

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the minutes of the Regional Board meeting held in Bangkok (Thailand) on 26th February 2012 were circulated among the members and no comments/suggestions were received. The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item 04 : Report on the 9th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference and Follow-up

Dr. Choi presented a brief report and the Joint Declaration adopted by the 9th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference held in Bangkok (Thailand) from 27th to 29th February 2012 which was attended by 14 cooperative ministers and about 300 delegates.

He also said that as a follow-up of the Conference, a letter together with the joint declaration and the speech of Dame Pauline Green at the Conference has been sent to member organizations where she has mentioned about

the appropriate policy interventions that governments could undertake at Rio+20 and at the G20 meeting in Mexico in June.

Dame Pauline Green said that the speeches made by the ministers were very good and the Conference had a good impact. She further said that ten days back a meeting of ministers was held in Paraguay which was attended by parliamentarians from 13 countries and South American parliamentarians have formed a network and we can have a global network of parliamentarians.

Dame Pauline Green further said that we have provided you with the Rio+20 Summit wording which is relevant for our understanding of what is being worked upon. She asked the members to provide the text numbers for the diplomats to place their support behind wording on “**cooperatives**” that is currently being considered in negotiations in Brazil on 20-22 June. She also informed the meeting that Ms. Betsy Dribben, ICA Director of Policy is working very hard on this issue and requested the members to contact her in case they need any clarifications.

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the Government of Indonesia has offered to host the next Cooperative Ministers Conference in Indonesia.

Mr. Amano said that there was a Symposium by UN agencies in Japan and made a brochure that introduces the collaboration between UN agencies; local cooperatives and other organizations.

Agenda Item 05 : Membership Development Strategy in the Region

Dr. Choi presented the Membership Development Strategy in Asia-Pacific region with statistical information. He said that our region has got 62 countries (46 in Asia and 16 in Pacific Islands) and only 25 countries with 78 member organizations are represented and this fact alone provides a huge potential for ICA to increase its membership.

Mr. Charles Gould said that regionalization issue will be discussed at the Manchester meeting. He further said that this is very timely and in line with ICA global membership strategy. He also said that sub-regions have not helped much.

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that comparing with our regions, our membership growth was very good (57 in 2007 and 78 in 2012) and we intend to reach the target of 100 members soon.

In his presentation, Dr. Choi made the following statement and recommendations for the consideration of the Board.

- *A special strategy is required to raise ICA membership in the Middle-East region, especially in Arab region for those many Muslim majority countries. It may be good for ICA and sometime jointly with ICMIF to develop a certain regional / international forum together with the ICA Muslim major countries.*
- *ICA may need to reach out to the non-ICA countries in the Pacific Island with the help of member organizations, especially in disseminating the ICA and ICA-AP materials to those remote island states.*
- *Strategy must be country-specific for the effectiveness. However we can approach them more efficiently in categorizing their membership patterns, considering their legal provisions, cooperative system and social environments.*
- *The Cooperative Ministers' Conferences, Regional Assembly and its Cooperative Forum have served as multilateral forum for Region in reviewing, assessing the county-wise strategies. While national conferences for specific countries have served as good events to bring the ICA Principle and technical assistance especially legal and thematic areas.*
- *In general, ICA-AP needs to promote more the Committee activities and interactions not only for the existing members but also as a strategy to invite new members and countries. To catch up the recent opportunities and as the emerging areas of cooperation, sectoral committees in fishery, forestry in rural area and housing and health in urban may need to be established in the region, while activating*

more on the existing committees in agriculture, consumer, credit and banking, and university-campus coops. In restructuring the ICA-AP Committees, it is desirable to have a 'model constitution' for framing the Committees be more representing, participatory and democratic.

- *ICA-AP may need to upgrade its Database knowledge not only to serve better to the existing members but to develop membership strategies in the non-ICA countries.*

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that it is a very good report and has revealed the complete story of membership in our region. He congratulated Dr. Choi for bringing this issue to the notice of the regional board members.

The members appreciated the efforts made by Dr. Choi in expanding the membership base of ICA in the Asia-Pacific region.

Agenda Item 06 : Moving of Singapore Business Office to Malaysia

Dr. Choi presented a Note on Singapore Business Office which was started functioning on 10th July 1999 with the financial support of Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF). He said that SNCF has declined to renew the MOU after 31st December 2012. He further said that at the last meeting held in Bangkok on 26th February 2012, Prof. Dr. Ali Baharum, President of ANGKASA had offered to provide office space for an ICA office in ANGKASA building in Malaysia free of cost and he had some discussions with Dr. Ali Baharum regarding the proposed MOU. He further said that we can start the office in January 2013 and activities on consumer coops, coop trade, banking and insurance, etc. could be promoted from the Malaysian Business Office (MBO) and requested the members to provide their advice.

Mr. Chan Tee Seng said that clear direction on what this office wants to do is required before opening the office.

Dr. Choi said that this will be clearly mentioned in the MOU and the MBO will be evaluated after two years. He requested more support from other member organizations in the form of one or two seconded staff. ANGKASA will second one staff to work at MBO.

Dame Pauline Green said that clear set of ideas is required including the number of staff members needed. She further said that regionalization issue will be discussed in Manchester in October this year.

Ms. Tanaka said that we used to send good English speaking staff to SBO. At the moment the intended object is not very clear. We will continue to support consumer cooperatives in the region and we will have closer collaboration with New Delhi and Malaysian office.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh said that it is very important to have the structure and objectives of the office. Then only we can take a final decision whether you require outside support or not.

Dame Pauline Green said that we have a global board member from Iran and it has to be taken into account.

Dr. Choi said that the idea is to serve our members better. South-East Asia has been an emerging region for the cooperative movement, and requires more interactions with other regions in various sectors of cooperative businesses activities. He further said that geographic situation and cost effectiveness have also to be taken into account.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that the structure and objectives are to be very clear to increase the membership from other countries. He really appreciated ANGKASA for supporting the MBO.

Dr. Choi said that he will work out more on this matter and report to the Kobe meeting.

Agenda Item 07 : Discussion and Approval of Model Constitution for ICA-AP Sectoral/ Thematic Committees

Dr. Choi said that at present we have got eight Committees and there is no uniformity in its constitutions. Member representation is very congested in some Committees. So we have prepared a model Constitution to increase the participation of members in a democratic way and achieve the objectives. He felt that all the Committees should have a uniform Constitution. This will also improve the functioning of the Committees.

Mr. Amano said that the overall aim could not be the same for sectoral committees and thematic committees.

Dr. Choi said that each Committee is free to change the overall aim based on the specific nature of its priority and areas/requirements. We have only provided a model constitution and the final version will be worked out by the Committee itself.

The meeting, in principle, approved the model constitution. Dr. Choi said that he will send out the model constitution to the Chairmen of the Committees for their deliberations.

**Agenda Item 08 : 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Related Events,
Kobe (Japan), 26-30 November 2012**

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the 10th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly and related events would be held at Kobe International Convention Center (KICC) in Japan from 26th to 30th November 2012. He said that the theme of the Coop Forum is “Role of Cooperatives in the Disaster Times” and the general theme is “Cooperatives Build a Secured Society” to be shared by all sectoral and thematic committees. The one-week long events are being hosted by the Japanese Joint Committee of Cooperatives (JJC) on behalf of 14 ICA member organizations in Japan. The draft Schedule of the meetings was also provided to the members.

Dr. Choi further said that the last election for ICA-AP Regional Board was held in Hanoi (Vietnam) on 5th December 2008 for a period of four years. Hence, the Regional Board has to be reconstituted at the Regional Assembly in Kobe. He further said that the Regional Assembly website will be launched soon. The registration fee charged by us is US\$ 300 which is very low comparing with other regions.

Ms. Tanaka said that women’s committee meeting and women’s forum would be held on 26th November and women’s exchange program on 27th November. She further said that only 14 countries send women representatives out of 25 countries. She requested the regional board members to send more women representatives to Kobe.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that this is an important event and the preparations are going on smoothly. He requested all regional board members to participate in large numbers.

Agenda Item 09 : IYC-2012 Celebration Activities of Member Countries

The members from Malaysia, Philippines, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Indonesia presented the IYC celebrations to be undertaken in their respective countries.

Dr. Choi requested the board members to send their activities to be posted on the ICA-AP website to be shared with others.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that (a) through IYC celebrations we can collaborate with the governments for better environment and conditions; (b) cooperatives build and establish education and better focus on younger generation; and (c) it is a good beginning or more now on cooperatives to grow fast and fast.

Agenda Item 10 : Other Business Matters Arising

The minutes of the ICA Domus Trust Meeting held on 26th February 2012 in Bangkok were circulated to the members for their information. Dr. Choi said that there is a change of Trustees in the ICA Domus Trust. RD has been resigned from the ICA Domus Trust as a Trustee and a substitute is to be nominated from the ICA-AP Regional Board. RD will function as an Administrator of the Trust. He also informed the meeting that the construction of the Noida building will be over by end of June 2012 and we are looking for a good tenant with the help of NCUI.

Dame Pauline Green said that everybody was happy with the decision. ICA-AP will get the funding at the existing level. Additional funding is to be shared with other regions including Africa. ICA global board has already nominated a member to the Trust in place of DG. ICA-AP Regional Board should nominate a person from its Board.

In response to a query from Dr. Choi regarding the composition of the Trustees, Dame Pauline Green clarified that three names are by designation – ICA President, ICA-AP President and NCUI President – and one each nominated by ICA Global Board and ICA-AP Regional Board.

Dr. Choi requested the members to nominate a person to be a Trustee of the ICA Domus Trust.

Agenda Item 11 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

It was decided to hold the next meeting in Kobe (Japan) on 26th November 2012 from 09:00 to 12:30 hours in conjunction with the ICA-AP Regional Assembly.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that we already had two meetings this year and another will be held in Kobe in conjunction with the RA.

Dame Pauline Green said that this was a fantastic meeting. She thanked Mr. Li Chunsheng and his staff for the good arrangements made for the meeting. She also said that Asia-Pacific region is very valuable to ICA.

Mr. Charles Gould thanked ACFSMC for their hospitality. He further said what you have discussed here is very good and I hope to see you all in Manchester.

Dr. Choi thanked the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and the kind hospitality.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**The 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference
Bangkok (Thailand): 27-29 February 2012**

BRIEF REPORT

The 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference held on 27-29 February 2012 at the United Nations Convention Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, convened by ICA-AP and hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand was attended by 14 Co-operative Ministers and about 300 delegates including government representatives, international delegates and ICA members from the Asia-Pacific Region.

The conference was inaugurated by the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Chumpol Silpa- Archa who delivered the inaugural address. The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the significance of co-operatives in the national economy and social stability and therefore, the government is committed to support and promote growth of co-operatives.

Mr. Theera Wongsamut, Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives extended warm welcome to the delegates and also delivered the key-note address on the conference theme: "Sufficiency economy and co-operatives." The concept of sufficiency economy developed by His Majesty the King of Thailand was taken up as the conference theme addressed by the Minister of Thailand who gave an ethical definition of sufficiency implying moderation in consumption and behavior and capacity to create within the individual and social system, a degree of immunity from shortages and deficiencies by proactive action with the use of knowledge and perseverance as the moral foundation of the people.

Exuding happiness at the excellent arrangements made and positive response of the governments and the ICA members, Dame Pauline Green, President ICA informed that this conference had about the largest ever participation of the ministers and ICA delegates. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-Asia Pacific, expressed deep appreciation for the support of the Royal Government of Thailand for hosting the conference and the warm hospitality extended to delegates.

Dame Pauline Green, in her special address, highlighted facts to establish the unstated yet significant role of co-operatives in global economy as co-operatives have one billion members as compared to just 327 million share holders of companies listed in the stock markets and the net worth of 300 globally successful co-operatives published every year is about US\$ 1.6 trillion. She however regretted that the present role of cooperatives in environment and conservation and its future potential in this field were not noted in the Rio Conference and ICA has been trying to include Co-operatives as an item in the forthcoming Rio+20 conclave.

The Conference Honored Mr. Shill Kwan Lee for successfully organizing three Co-operative Ministers' Conferences during his tenure as the Regional Director of ICA-AP from the year 2002-2009.

There were 36 speakers from 21 countries including 14 Cooperative Ministers, 3 international organizations; FAO, ILO and ACCU besides 4 Government representatives and cooperative success stories presentation by the ICA-AP members. Honorable Cooperative Ministers as listed below attended the conference and made statement:

1. *Honorable Vice Minister Mr. Shuji Yamada, Ministry of agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan.*
2. *Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa, Deputy Speaker of the Mongolian Parliament and President of National Association of Mongolian Cooperatives.*
3. *Honorable Mr. Harish Rawat, Minister of State for Agriculture, India.*
4. *Honorable Minister Reza Sheykholeslam, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Islamic Republic of Iran.*
5. *Mr. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya Bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Hon'ble Minister of Industry & Primary Resources, Brunei.*
6. *Honorable Minister Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Bin Yaakob, Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operative and Consumerism, Government of Malaysia.*
7. *Honorable Minister Theera Wongsamut, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand.*

8. *H.E. Dr. Phouangparisak Pravongviengkham Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, MAF, Government of Laos.*
9. *Honorable Minister Syarifuddin Hasan, SE, MM, MBA, Ministry of Cooperatives & SMEs, Indonesia.*
10. *Honorable Syed Asraful Islam, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Bangladesh.*
11. *Honorable Minister Mr. Johnston Fernando, Ministry of Co-operatives and Internal Trade Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka.*
12. *Honorable Mr. Seyed Nezamaldin Sajadi, Deputy of Jihad-e- Agriculture Minister, Islamic Republic of Iran.*
13. *Honorable Deputy Minister Mr. Nguyen Dang Khoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of Vietnam.*
14. *Honorable Minister Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Royal Government of Bhutan.*

The important highlights of the statements made by the Hon'ble Ministers are as follows:

1. *Concerns about the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources for profits only and that commodification of public goods, rising prices, privatization of public services have been causing massive hardships for the common people and the cooperatives must step in to institutionally counter these adversities.*
2. *To expand the base of the co-operatives it is imperative that the activities of the SHGs, Micro Credit and Micro Finance Institutions, NGOs and Civil Society groups with shared values and methods of organization are brought within the ambit of co-operatives.*
3. *Empowerment of women could be achieved by innovative programs such as tree plantation in Mongolia and forming women led Dairy co-operatives as achieved in India, Bangladesh and elsewhere.*
4. *The Governments of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Bhutan Iran Mongolia, Nepal and Sri Lanka reported policy, law and institutional changes made to create an environment conducive to co operative development, while Philippines and Laos emphasized measures to make farms increasingly use organic methods through the cooperative mechanism with support from the Government to bring about balanced agriculture development.*
5. *The Islamic Republic of Iran projected the present share of cooperatives in the GDP at 9% and a target of 25% to be achieved in five years due to the concerted efforts of the Government to strengthen and expand the co operatives and suggested formation of a consortium of Governments to support cooperatives and a common chamber of co-operatives and regional and international unions for all co-operatives.*
6. *Japan, Korea and Vietnam informed the conference about new mechanism to promote ethical consumerism and co-operatives becoming an integral part of economic transformation programs with emphasis on upgrading the capacities of co-operatives to take up larger business activities. Mr. Shuji Yamada informed the exemplary work of Agricultural Co-operatives in providing relief to the victims of last year's devastating earthquake and highlighted their role in food security, sustainable development and diversified activities leading to diffusion of democracy. Considering the positive role of co-operatives, the National Planning Committee is engaged in the preparation of a comprehensive plan for co-operatives in Japan.*
7. *The Minister from India informed that the co-operatives are taking up a wide range of diverse activities and also informed about the legal and policy reforms undertaken by the government to reform the sector and in particular the credit sector.*
8. *The Minister of Bhutan stated that Bhutan has taken up a plan to promote co-operatives to achieve holistic human development in line with its development philosophy of Gross National Happiness which goes beyond GDP based on only material factors. The co-operative law 2009 has been enacted to provide the framework under which 170 co-operatives have been functioning. Bhutan supports the ICA Principles at this stage and is keen to actively participate in the UN and ICA work relating to cooperatives.*

9. *The President of the Co-operative League of Thailand urged upon creation of a strong capital base needed by cooperatives of the region. Hence special funding arrangements are to be created by the Governments to facilitate the growth of co-operatives.*
10. *The representative from Nepal stated that the cooperatives are to be the foundation of Nepal's economy based on multipurpose co-operatives, micro enterprises, and diary co-operatives with emphasis on participation of women and disadvantaged sections. A new Co-operative Law in conformity with ICA Principles is under preparation. Reforms in co-operative Policy are being considered under a mission mode approach to achieve professionalization and efficiency to raise share of co-operatives in the GDP from the current level of about 3.2%.*
11. *The representative from Kuwait stated that the concept of co-operation is rooted in Kuwaiti tradition of community help which the Government has harnessed to develop cooperatives in different spheres.*
12. *The representative of Korea made a presentation on "The Basic Cooperative Law in Korea". He said that 2012 is important momentum - key for success is working in partnership with NGO, government and coop. The coop will continue to work together at the local and international level.*
13. *The representative from China made a presentation on "Circular Economy Business. He said that circular economy – waste in one sector is input in another. There is a need to reuse and recycle with higher efficiency so that pollution is minimized and used again as much as possible.*
14. *Indonesia is amending its cooperative law of 1992. There is a need to amend cooperative law to adapt to climate and competition and also protection of intellectual property rights.*

At the end of each session, the conference provided an open forum for the delegates to participate in the proceedings. Several governments argued for special funding mechanisms for the development of co-operatives by initiating a Special Co-operative Fund and submitted their presentation materials. In order to make the conference more effective, the ICA-AP is commissioning critical study of cooperative law and policy of countries in the region before every conference which is being presented and discussed in the conference. This study gives an insight of prevalent practices and "what is working what is not" which is meant to help the ministers and stake holder in creating a road map for future progress. This time also the 4th Critical Study was completed by Mr. Rangan Dutta, Senior Consultant of ICA-AP and was presented by him at the conference.

The proceedings of the conference were concluded with the adoption of the Joint Declaration, consideration of the conference report and the concluding address by the Honorable Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Co-operation of the Kingdom of Thailand, Mr. Nattawoot Saikuar. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude for the warm hospitality and all round support provided by the Government of Thailand and also acknowledged with gratitude the support of the Honorable Ministers and delegates by attending and actively participating in the Conference. The conference report and all the speeches and presentations are placed on the ICA-AP website.

The Honorable Minister Syarifuddin Hasan, SE, MM, MBA, Ministry of Cooperatives & Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of Indonesia has expressed his keen interest to host the next Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Indonesia.

The Joint Declaration of the 9th Cooperative Ministers' Conference adopted by the Conference on 29th February 2012 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok is as follows.

Joint Declaration of the 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference
27th-29th February 2012
The United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand

Adopted by the Conference on 29th February 2012

1. The 9th Conference of Ministers in charge of co-operatives in the Governments of Member countries of the Asia-Pacific Region of the International Co-operative Alliance,
2. **Reaffirming** that the last eight conferences of 'Cooperative Ministers' since 1990 have contributed to the development of cooperative movements in the Region through the platform for Ministers aiming to provide an enabling policy and legal environment embodied in the Declarations and Recommendations adopted jointly with cooperative movements in the Asia-Pacific Region, met at Bangkok from 27 February to 29 February 2012 and

3. **Noting** that several Governments of the Region have taken steps, on the recommendations made at the 8th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, to create an enabling environment for the co-operatives to function as voluntary, autonomous, democratic and apolitical enterprises and Cooperative Movements have striven to raise their capacities in size and scope of business to compete with the businesses of commercial and multinational enterprises in the process of globalization and harmonization of domestic laws and rules to the international standards and
4. **Taking Note** of the views expressed on the multi dimensional impact of Globalization experienced in their respective countries in terms of volatile capital markets, rising prices and consequent hardships for the masses, shrinking employment opportunities in the process of capital intensive growth, increasing casualisation of labour and adverse terms of trade for agriculture and rural economy, and
5. **Conscious of** the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources for profits disregarding the irreversible environmental damages, commodification of public goods and privatization of public services, causing massive hardships and the positive role of Cooperatives in addressing these issues and their contribution to strengthen food security in the world and
6. **Noting** that the UN General Assembly Resolution no. A/RES/64/136 calling upon all Member States to take advantage of the year 2012 declared as the International Year of Co-operatives in recognition of the positive impact of co-operatives on poverty reduction, generation of employment and social inclusion and the goals set by the UN for the International Year of Co-operatives, do hereby resolve to make earnest efforts to increase public awareness about co-operatives and their contributions to socio-economic development and especially towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, to promote the formation and growth of co-operatives, and to meet these objectives to encourage Governments to establish policies, laws and regulations to create an environment conducive to the formation, growth and stability of co-operatives, and
7. **Recognizing** that the vital role co-operatives in advancing towards a sufficiency economy based on sustainable development and our commitment to the co-operative movement, especially for those belonging to vulnerable groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, aged persons and indigenous peoples in order to fully participate, on a voluntary basis in cooperatives and to address their social and economic needs and
8. **Reaffirming** that the potential of co-operatives as a strategic sector balancing the forces operating in a market economy as being risk averse, stake holder welfare oriented form of enterprises has been overlooked and hence the need for a more dynamic set of laws and policies than what have been put in place so far

We, the participants of the Conference

9. **Urge** upon the Governments to formulate a new policy and legal framework, on the basis of ICA Principles, by initiating a comprehensive review of co-operative laws and Policies, taking into account the recommendations made in the last Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference and the suggestion to enact a common co-operative code defining Government-Co-operative relationship and addressing the governance issues to enable the co-operatives to move to a high growth path and
10. **Urge** upon the Governments to expeditiously lay down a new policy and legal framework to provide a larger and durable space for the co-operatives in their economies by initiating an urgent review of the co-operative laws with a view to removing provisions which continue to impinge on the autonomy and self regulation in the management of co-operatives, introducing fair and transparent mechanisms for arbitration of disputes and redress of grievances and protecting the basic character of co-operatives by stricter legal provisions to prevent demutualization and to provide an effective supportive role for the Co-operative Unions and Federations in the functioning of the co-operatives essentially in capacity building and good governance for ensuring accountability and to review and restore various incentives earlier allowed to co-operatives such as exemptions from payment of certain taxes, in recognition of their crucial role in holding the price line, promotion of social welfare and sustainable employment and contribution to social and economic stability and

11. **Urge upon** the Governments to make institutional arrangements like constitution of a National and Provincial Co-operative Development Fund with contribution from the state, the co-operatives and the Central Bank not only to rescue co-operatives facing difficulty but also to assist them in developing professional management, competitive edge and core competency in emerging areas and to enter into more diverse areas of cooperation like housing, energy, health, child and elderly cares, education and other social services to render services to the common people at affordable prices apart from strengthening its traditional activities in credit, distribution of consumer goods and essential supplies and

12. **Call upon** the co-operative movements to consider innovative measures to bring within its ambit the Self Help Groups, especially the women led SHGs and Microfinance Institutions and other social associations with features common to co-operatives and shared values and promote growth of large multipurpose societies and expand the base of co-operatives, and

13. **Call upon** international organizations and the specialized UN agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to encourage growth of coherent synergy between the co-operatives and the civil society organizations in areas such as natural resource conservation and environment and mitigation of climate change, advocacy and welfare of disadvantaged sections and thereby contribute to the growth of social capital and to promote of strategic alliances among co-operatives across the region and with appropriate public and private entities and promotion of greater sharing of experiences towards attainment of common objectives.

(Draft) New Strategic Plan of ICA Asia-Pacific

Introduction

01. The current 'Strategic Objectives (SO)' of ICA will end this year 2012, which has guided the operations of ICA and its regional offices since the ICA Extraordinary Ordinary General Assembly in 2008 in Rome.
02. As the United Nations declared the year 2012 as the UN International Year of Cooperatives (IYC), there have been full of cooperative aspirations, inspirations and new establishments in achieving the goals of UN-IYC. The 'ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade', being adopted duly in the ICA Extraordinary General Assembly in Manchester on 31st October 2012, is the consolidate outcome to be pursued collectively by all cooperatives and their stakeholders in the coming decade.
03. The ICA Asia-Pacific now serves more than 700 million individual members through 81 national level member organizations and one regional organization in 25 countries in the Region. The number of member organization has grown steadily from 60 to 81 during the last four years (2009-2012). Knowing that the Region is economically boosting with about 4.2 billions of population now, the work for the cooperative development of ICA will be greatly potent and promising.
04. In acknowledging these provisions, potentials and grand framework of ICA for the world cooperatives, it is proposed to establish the New Strategic Plan of ICA Asia-Pacific for the next four years to come. The ICA-AP office is submitting the draft in encompassing the all visions, desires, objectives for the cooperative environments and situations of the Region.

ICA-AP Office in the Past and Now

05. The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) came to Asia Pacific Region with the establishment of the Regional Office & Education Center for South-East Asia in 1960 as a result of the discussions that had taken place at the various Congresses of the Alliance since 1948.
06. The main objectives of ICA-AP in the earlier decades, was to explore to bring the national cooperative movements in the developing countries closer to ICA, by way of educating and training cooperative leaders and managers so as to contributing through the instrument of cooperation, and to social and economic development of developing countries. Whilst the ICA-AP office, as the Regional office of ICA and as the custodian for the ICA Co-operative Identity Statement (ICIS), has been missioned to promote and enhance co-operative development in the Region widely.
07. Main focus areas of ICA's Regional office have been: Promotion and protection of ICA Cooperative Identity Statement (ICIS) mainly through the Cooperative Forum; Promotion of enabling cooperative policy and legal environment through the Cooperative Ministers' Conferences; Training of cooperative leaderships and managers

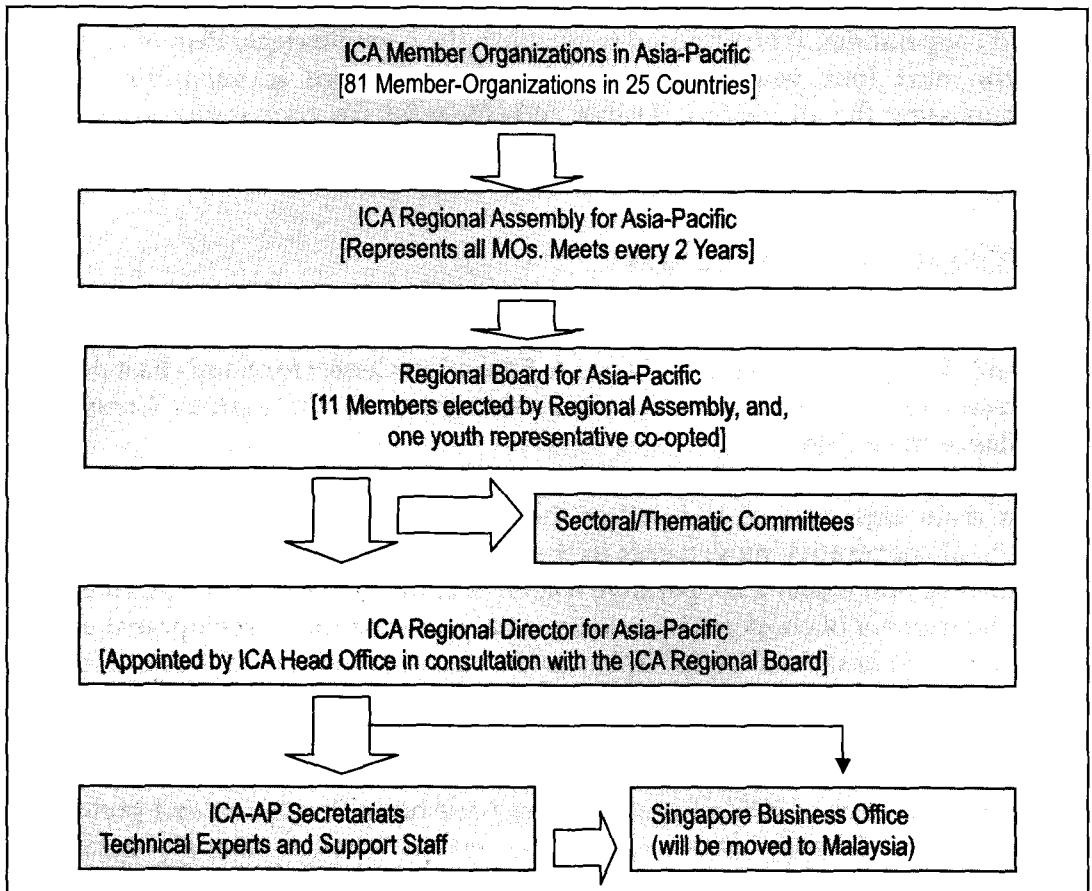
especially for the Agriculture and Consumer sector development; Supporting regional cooperative trade interactions; Human resource development for mainstreaming women, youth in co-operative efforts; Utilizing information, communication and technology for development, Technical assistances on cooperative laws; Consultancies, Field studies, Research and Development works.

08. In order to implement its activities, the ICA-AP has collaborated international and national development agencies and national government ministries. The major funding partners include the Government of Japan (MAFF) and ICA Member organizations i.e. JCCU (Japan), NACF (Korea), ACFSMC (China), SNCF (Singapore), NCUI (India), IFFCO (India).
09. In doing those activity programs and development efforts, ICA membership had increased explosively during the decade of 1991-2010, and even faster in recent years. As observed, inviting non-ICA countries will be the promising strategy to increase the membership in the coming years.

Period	Countries	Members
1960-1970	06	10
1971-1980	08	22
1981-1990	13	31
1991-2010	25	71

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Existing Members	55	57	60	65	71	77
New Members Added	2	3	5	6	8	1
Members Withdrawn	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total Members	57	60	65	71	77	81

10. Organizational Structure of ICA-AP



11. In addition to the above structure, ICA-AP has organized the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference every four years as the unique instrument for the cooperative development in the Region since 1990, to mobilize the Ministers and their governments to prepare an enabling legal provisions and policy environments for full-fledging the potentials of cooperatives in the Region. The Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum has been also the Regional instrument for all members and their stakeholders to discuss cooperative issues and generate solutions in the Region. The Cooperative Forum has been held every two years since 1995 in conjunction with the Regional Assembly.

The Strategic Objectives of ICA (for 2009-2012)

12. The Strategic Objectives of ICA was made to present a global vision of the 'one ICA', including planning for the central and regional offices as well as the sectoral organizations for the period 2009-2012. It includes commonly agreed strategic objectives, key result areas, outcomes and indicators, as well as the strategic initiatives as defined by each component of the ICA.
13. The Strategic Objectives has guided the ICA's operation, visioning that the Cooperative Identify shall be the powerful instrument for all people, therefore inviting cooperatives as ICA members is essential for the cooperative contribution to the sustainability of human society.

Strategic objectives (SO) of ICA (for 2009-2012)

1. Consolidate and Increase Membership

- Retention of Existing Members
- Accreditation of New Members
- Improved Compliance of the Cooperative Identity
- Improved Value of Services to Members

2. Increase Global Influence to Promote Co-operative as Value Based Business

- Dissemination of ICIS & Cooperative Advantages in building a Value Based Business Model
- Institutionalization of Policy Dialogue on Co-operatives for Inclusive Growth of National Economy and Fair Globalization
- Effectiveness of ICA as a Lobbyist and Advocate for the Cooperative Movement
- Credibility of ICA as the Agency of Reference Value and Accreditation for Coops

3. Develop Strong Cooperative Enterprises for Social and Economic Progress

- Consolidated & Focused Strategic Alliances / Networks
- Enhanced Capacity of Co-operatives to Compete Locally & Globally
- Structured Governance Regime in Co-operatives
- Vulnerability Reduction through Co-operative Actions
- Participation of Women and Youths in the Cooperative Organizations

4. Strengthening ICA's sustainability through Financial Capacity, Good Governance and Committed People Base

- Timely Collection & Revision of Membership Fees
- Membership Advantages to Increase & Expand Membership Base of ICA

- Significant Development Funding from Alternative Sources
- Effective Governance System in ICA
- Knowledge Management within ICA
- Professionalism in Work Culture in ICA
- ICA as an Employer of Choice

The ICA “Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade”

14. In celebrating the UN International Year of Co-operatives, ICA has set up ambitiously a greater vision for the cooperative future and a powerful claim to the world, which is the ICA ‘Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade’. It can be summarized as follows (see the full document in separate paper).

Summary of the Blueprint strategy

The starting point for the strategy for a global co-operative future is the powerful claim which co-operatives make to the outside world: that they have a way of doing business which is better than the one which is currently failing.

- *Co-operatives are better because they give individuals **participation** through ownership, which makes them inherently more engaging, more productive, and both more useful and more relevant in the contemporary world*
- *Co-operatives are better because their business model creates greater economic, social and environmental **sustainability***

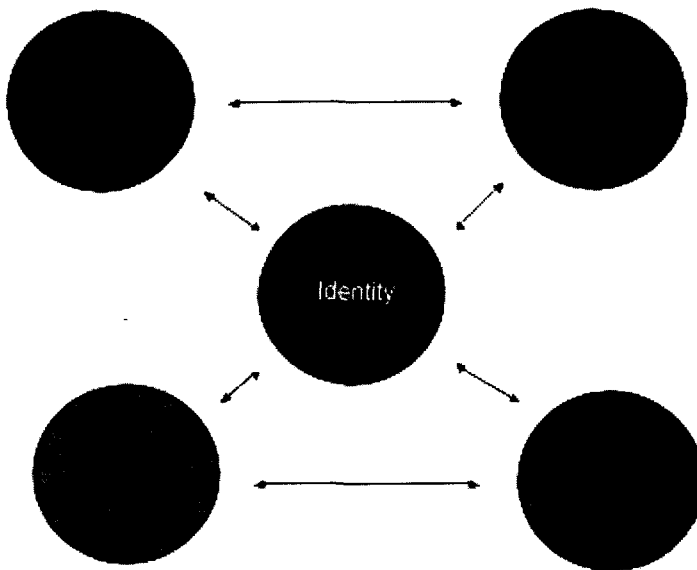
Chapters 1 (Participation) and 2 (Sustainability) explain why co-operatives offer a better way of doing business. Chapter 3 effectively sets out the co-operative proposition for today: what it means to be a co-operative and what are the defining characteristics or “irreducible core”.

- *This is looked at through the lens of **identity** – how co-operatives communicate their powerful message and how they are to be seen and understood by everybody from policy-makers to the general public.*

With the intrinsic and abiding value of the co-operative model clearly established, and a distinctive co-operative identity and proposition described, attention turns in chapters 4 and 5 to what facilitates or inhibits co-operatives.

- *Co-operatives in every jurisdiction sit within a **legal framework**. This framework plays a critical role for the viability and existence of co-operatives.*
- *Co-operatives need access to **capital** if they are to be established, grow and flourish.*

These are the five interlinked and overlapping themes of the Blueprint strategy, which can be illustrated as follows.



To pursue the 2020 Challenge, the Blueprint strategy therefore involves concentrating on these 5 critical interlinked themes, and establishing an individual strategy in relation to each of them. The overarching agenda for the ICA, its Members and the movement generally is laid out here:

1. Elevate **participation** within membership and governance to a new level
2. Position co-operatives as builders of **sustainability**
3. Build the co-operative message and secure the co-operative **identity**
4. Ensure supportive **legal frameworks** for co-operative growth
5. Secure reliable co-operative **capital** while guaranteeing member control

Each of these themes represents a priority area for the ICA, its Members and the wider movement. Each chapter of this document concludes with some possible and indicative actions that *might* be taken, in pursuit of these goals. Subject to agreement on the Blueprint Strategy and its goals, it will be for the ICA and its Planning Work Group, ICA Members, regions and networks to decide on actions they need to take to implement the Strategy. Through working together on these themes the co-operative community can collectively aim to meet the 2020 Challenge.

With the International Year of Co-operatives drawing to a close, a new focal point is needed for future activity, accompanied by ambitious goals. It is hoped that this Blueprint will help the ICA and its Members to find that focus, and meet those goals.

The Current Status of the Asia-Pacific Region

15. The Asia-Pacific is geographically wide and culturally segmented by sub-regions whereas the Pacific Islands are pointed on the Sea. In the coverage of the ICA Asia-Pacific, it can be divided into six sub-regions in terms of their historical, political, and currently economical interactions and alliances – the East Asiaⁱ, Southeast Asia (ASEAN), Pacific Islands, South Asia (SAARC), Central Asia and Middle East Asia. One single office in New Delhi might not and will not be enough to cover the entire movements in the past, and much more in the future.

16. The Region is highly populous and economically boosting, and thus emerging Region for cooperative development. In the Region, the East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia are dominant in ICA membership and in population too.
17. ICA membership, Population and Total GDP in the ICA Asia-Pacific by Sub-regions

Sub-Region	Total Country	ICA Country	% of ICA Country	ICA Members		Population		Total GDP	
				n	percent	million	percent	billion	percent
East Asia	7	4	57%	26	32%	1,500	37%	14,878	61%
Southeast Asia	11	7	64%	12	15%	600	15%	2,148	9%
Pacific	18	3	17%	4	5%	33	1%	929	4%
South Asia	8	5	63%	22	27%	1,600	40%	4,383	18%
Central Asia	5	2	40%	2	2%	65	2%	166	1%
Middle East	14	4	29%	15	19%	221	5%	1,965	8%
Total	63	25	40%	81	100%	4,019	100%	24,469	100%

(Sources: <http://en.wikipedia.org>)

Approaching to the New Strategic Objectives

< From the Current Structure of ICA-AP >

18. To see the ICA membership in the Region, ICA-AP has many countries to invite in the Middle-East, Central Asia, Mekong-Delta, and in the Pacific. Noting that cooperative businesses in insurance, banking and consumer's have been highly emerging in these sub-regions, ICA-AP needs to have the strategic objectives to tap their potentials.
19. Activities of the sectoral and thematic Committees of ICA-AP have been the practical instrument for members and potent members to interact in exchange of their solidarity and business interests and opportunities in the Region. It should be further promoted and facilitated by the ICA-AP Secretariats. The ICA-AP currently has 4 sectoral Committees on Agriculture, Consumer, Credit & Banking, University/Campus Coops, and 4 thematic Committees on HRD, Research, Women and Youth. It has been desired by ICA-AP office to create the Committees on Fishery, Forestry (2F) for the cooperation in rural area; and Health and Housing (2H) in urban area in the Region.

< From the Strategic Plan for the New Business Office in Malaysia >

20. The Singapore Business Office (SBO) of ICA-AP started functioning on 10th July 1999 in a rented building, envisioning to creating business interactions and cooperative trade among members and with other partners in the Region. After 17 months of its operation, the original SBO (under the direct control of ICA-AP) had to move to the premises of the Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF) due to its failure to generate revenue to cover its operation cost to pay for the office rent and staff salaries. The business model of the original SBO might not produce easily the result in dealing with the cooperative apex organizations at that time.

21. Afterwards, SNCF had provided the office space since January 2002 till today and financial support of S\$ 30,000 per annum till the year-end of 2011. Two staff members, on deputation from Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union (JCCU) and National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) were working at the SBO till 2007. However, from the beginning of 2008 onwards only one staff member on deputation from JCCU is working at SBO. There had not been clear objective and activity plan for SBO except for the activities of the Consumer Committee funded by JCCU.
22. Upon receiving the question from SNCF in renewing the MOU in July 2011, Regional Director visited SNCF twice but could not reach an agreement on the utility of SBO for the benefits of SNCF. Finally in March 2012, the SNCF and ICA-AP decided to decline to renew the MOU.
23. In identifying a new place for new business office other than Singapore, Malaysia was the proper location, considering those various factors of demands, geographical proxies, cost of operations and international character of Kuala Lumpur. Thankfully, the Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA) has expressed their high willingness to host the business office for the Strategic Objectives. To this result, Regional Director reported and earned approval of the Board to submit a Strategic Plan for the ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia.
24. Presently, ICA-AP is discussing with JCCU on how the joint activities on consumer cooperatives can be carried out as usual with new Business Office in Malaysia (MBO). In staffing for the MBO, ICA-AP has discussed with ANGKASA, JCCU and NACF on their secondments, and received the willingness from ANGKASA and NACF.
25. With these learned experiences, given the conditions and new objectives, the new 'Strategic Plan for the ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia' was made for the Regional Board, and can be summarized as follows.

Strategic Plan for the New Business Office in Malaysia

Strategic Objectives

01. The Business Office in Malaysia, as the strategic office for the business interactions and exchanges, shall have the following strategic objectives to plan and implement relevant activities;
 - 1) to increase the business interactions and exchanges between/among Consumer Cooperatives, Cooperative Insurance & Banking, especially with the countries in the Middle east sub-regions;
 - 2) to promote 'Cooperative trade' strategically by the modes of 'Fairtrade' and 'B to B trade platform' through the Internet in the Region;
 - 3) to promote the technical exchanges and assistances in IT technology in the forms of workshop and training;
 - 4) to transfer the technical and managerial know-how, especially in the business areas of 'Resource Recycling' and 'Renewable Energy' businesses;
 - 5) to promote cultural exchanges of youth cooperators in the Region.

Office Structure

02. Under the direct control of Regional Director, the Office shall have three sections –
 - 1) Consumer Coop & Fairtrade, 2) Insurance & Banking, and 3) IT technology & Renewable

Resources which are to be covered by the three seconded staff members from said organizations, in collaboration with the staffs of New Delhi office and Committee of seconding organizations.

03. Address of the new Business Office in Malaysia shall be;
 [ANGKASA, Wisma Ungku A. Aziz, Jalan SS 6/1, Kelana Jaya 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia]

Mode of Activity

04. Plan and implementation of the five strategic objectives can be categorized into two types by the venue of and mode of conduction of activities - 1) in Malaysia for Seminar, Workshop, Training; and 2) Other country than Malaysia for organized study visit of a group. It can be termed as 1) 'Meeting' and 2) 'Study Visit' in short.

- 1) Seminar, workshop and training (Meeting) are to be modulized with minimum two resource speakers (one from abroad, one from Malaysia) and about 20 participants (10 from abroad, 10 from Malaysia) for 2 days of activity.
 2) Group (Study Visit) is to be modulized with one conducting staff and about 10 participants for 5 days (3 days of visits and 2 days of air travel).

Mode of Financing Activities

05. It will depend on the mode of activities in the case of 'Meeting' and the hospitality extensions of the hosting organization and financial capability of sending organization in the case of 'Study Visit'. The Financing scheme for participants is to be established case by case. However 'self-financing' is to be general norm for the participation except for 'resources speaker' and 'trainer' unless there will be funded by ICA Member or by a funding organization.
06. However, the host organization would provide air-fare, board and lodging, local transportation and other in-kinds services in part of these costs and selectively to the participants based on their objectives and financial capabilities.

Four-Year Plan

07. The Strategic objectives for the Malaysia Business Office will be attained in planning and implementing the strategic activity areas progressively for the four years to come.

Strategic Activity Area	Number of Activities' (Plan)			
	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016
Consumer Coops/ Fairtrade ¹⁾	2	2	2	2
Coop Insurance/ Coop Banking		1	2	2
IT and 'B to B' Technology	1	1	1	1
Recycling / Renewable business	1	1	1	1
Cultural exchange of Youth		1	1	1

1) Which excludes the existing activities of the ICA-AP Consumer Committee (JCCU funding)

Financing of MBO Works

08. In estimating the expenses, financing and budget for one year for the operation and activity implementation of Malaysia Office (KBO) is to be planed; provided that ANKASA will provide the office space in the ANKSAK premises, financial contribution and one or two staff member for the new Business Office; and foreseeing that NACF and JCCU will second one staff members each at their provisions of salary and living expenses of their seconded staff to Malaysia. The estimated total expenditure was figured as USD 67,000 to accomplishing the planned activities in assuming that the said provisions will be available from the participating organizations.

Term of Evaluation

09. The ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia will be evaluated after two years together with ANGKASA in consultation with ICA-AP Board, participating organizations (JCCU, NACF) and ICA to decide for its improvement and continuation beyond the term.

< From the ICA 'Blueprint for a Decade' >

1. For the 'Participation'

26. It is fundamental for all cooperatives to ensure that participatory governance is placed in structuring their organizational bodies and participatory decision-makings in their business management. It must be clearly stipulated in their 'Bye-Laws' in coinciding with the provided regulation of the Registry and Cooperative Law.
27. Full participation in the debating and voting procedures is fundamental for a cooperative organization, especially for certain organizations having big numbers of individual members. In utilizing the current IT technology and postal infra and mechanism, it will be desirable to innovate a direct-voting procedure as possibly.
28. Involvement and representation of women and youth have been the emphasis of ICA not only in the level of Federation/Apex organization but also in the Primary cooperatives. In this context, it will be desirable to review their By-Laws with a view to ensure for women and youth to have a certain seats in their Board structure.
29. To this end, ICA-AP will need to study and organize forum, seminar and workshop on those respects in reviewing the relevant laws on cooperatives, at the guidance of the ICA Cooperative Identity Statement (ICIS).
30. Participatory involvement of women and youth will be the firm ground for sustainable development in any cases. Where cultural diversity has been one of the factors for segmentation in the Region, ICA-AP should have the special program to exchange and enjoy their cultural diversities of youth.

2. For the 'Sustainability'

31. As globalization has proceeded widely, cooperative enterprises have faced high competitions, and have needed to equip themselves to gain their competitive

advantages in their respective business sectors. In their business operation, adoption of innovative technologies and business alliance are of strategic solution in cooperation. ICA-AP will need to prepare a special platform in mobilizing the new Business Office in Malaysia.

32. Most of the national Apex organizations, especially in the Southeast Asia and South Asia have had limited capacities to access the markets for their numerous numbers of small producers. Now in the highly connected society though Internet, it has been revealed and commended by many best practices in the Region for cooperative enterprises to install their own Internet based 'B to B' and 'B to C' business models. Then, ICA-AP will need to take this new business model as its new area for development.
 33. As the countries in the Region are industrialized and hugely urbanized, ICA-AP needs to promote providing cooperative housings, health and care services. Concerning more their communities on environment, food safety and other social security should be continuously triggered. As their potent area of competent business, cooperatives and their enterprises need to involve and consider to establish some forms of enterprise in the areas of 'waste management and recycling of natural resources' and 'financing, producing and distributing of alternative energy'. These new business areas will be coincided with the 'Sustainability' pillar of the ICA Blueprint.
 34. The paradigm of 'Ethical Consumption' should be extended to 'Ethical Production' in the Region by way of promoting the 'Fairtrade' business and practice domestically and among countries in the Region. It will give the ample opportunity for cooperatives and ICA-AP to create many educational programs on environment, food safety and climate change. To facilitate the 'Fairtrade' business, the Region may need to establish a regional norm and Institution for the 'Fairtrade Certification' in the Region.
3. For the 'Identity'
35. Basically, the Cooperative Identity is represented by the ICA Statement on Cooperative Identity which must be promoted by genuine operation of cooperatives firstly, and more actively disseminating positive messages to the public. Collections of 'Cooperative Story' and its publication will be the effective strategy.
 36. In branding the cooperative business regionally and globally, ICA will need to have united symbolic features like 'doot.coop' domain and to create influential messages and media advocacies as experienced during the UN-IYC celebration.
 37. Besides the Cooperative Identity also should be protected well by collective monitoring of cooperative movements and business operations by certain instrument such as 'Cooperative Social Audit' for example. It could be done better in the Regional level.
 38. In the Regional level, it has been the view that 'Autonomy and Independence' principle was the given agenda for Asia-Pacific when ICA review the Cooperative Principle at the Centennial Congress held in Manchester in 1995. It must be continuously pursued by members and their governments soundly in the Region, especially in the process of cooperative legislation.

4. For the 'Supportive Legal Environment'

39. In the Region, the Cooperative Ministers' Conference has been the useful platform for Ministers' and their governments to resolute their wills to prepare their enabling legal and policy environments in reiterating the important roles of the cooperatives in their socio-economic and rural development.
40. While continuing to mobilize this special mechanism for the Region, it should be extended to invite Parliamentary members for the effective results. As desired, ICA will need to organize a 'Parliaments' Network' regionally and globally to whom we could call them as 'Cooperative-minded Parliaments Members.
41. In the Region, cooperatives have emerged in many sectors of new businesses which require a new legal provisions and regulation. Often in many countries, cooperatives are not allowed enter into banking and insurance business for their financial arm. In some countries, the genuine nature of cooperative business models are often challenged by their Fair Trade Agency in the processes of harmonizing domestic law with international standards. With a view to provide them a fair playing field, ICA-AP will need to organize an independent Conference instrument with national Registry agencies for dealing such specific issues on cooperative inclusion.
42. In the Region, there have been prevailing discrepancies between cooperative law and commercial laws and among cooperative law, regulations of Registry and government policies. To these inconsistencies and gaps, ICA-AP needs to mobilize a monitoring mechanism by setting up a Conference with national Registries in the Region.

5. For the "Cooperative Capital'

43. Creation of a cooperative enterprise is the genuine way of mobilizing shared capital in among ordinary people. The mechanism of retains of dividend earnings is also unique feature for the sustainable existence of cooperative enterprise. However, when cooperatives need and desire to expand their business and invest to new technology they often meet shortage of capital.
44. In the Region widely, size of cooperatives are very small and their business alone are uncompetitive and even intangible. So the merger and business alliance are necessary to make their size and business looks tangible to their market places. Especially in the time of fast globalization, enlargement of cooperative capital is necessary by way of enforcing merger of primary cooperatives at national norm, and strategic amalgamation alliance of township cooperatives. It had happened in the East Asia countries like Japan and Korea in the past. In these countries, enforcement was accompanied with technical assistances, financial incentives and legal provisions.
45. Sectoral Federations in some countries often attempted to have its own cooperative bank for their firm-based finance and investment, but failed to apply with given legal provisions. It could be taken vigorously as the strategic objective by those countries at the technical assistance and consultation of ICA-AP office in the coming years.

New Strategic Objectives of ICA-AP (2013-2016)

46. At the continuum of the ICA's Strategic Objectives made in Rome for the year of 2009~2012; in summing up the all objectives identified above; following strategic activities and program will be planed and implemented under the directions of Regional Board and in consultation with ICA, participating Members, related ICA-AP Committees, government agencies;
- 1) To invite more ICA membership in the Middle-East, Central Asia, Mekong-Delta, and in the Pacific sub-regions, noting that cooperative businesses in insurance, banking and consumer's are their emerging sector
 - 2) While further activating the Committees in Agriculture, Consumer, Credit & Banking, University/Campus Coops, HRD, Research, Women and Youth, to set up the Committees in Fishery, Forestry (2F) in rural area; and Health and Housing (2H) in urban area
 - 3) To promote the paradigm and practices of 'Ethical Consumerism' of consumers and 'Ethical Production' of producers.
 - 4) To promote 'Cooperative trade' strategically by the modes of 'Fairtrade' and 'B to B trade platform' through Internet
 - 5) To promote the technical exchanges and assistances in IT technology in the forms of workshop and training
 - 6) To transfer the technical and managerial know-how, especially in the business areas of 'Resource Recycling' and 'Renewable Energy' businesses
 - 7) To promote cultural exchanges of youth cooperators
 - 8) To study on countries' By-Laws of primary cooperatives, and to draw a model By-Laws with a view to ensure the financial sustainability of cooperatives and participatory governance and decision-making of members, especially for women and youth to have certain seats in their Board structure
 - 9) To collect and disseminate 'Cooperative Story' in creating public awareness on cooperative and its business model
 - 10) To promote and deliver of '.coop' domain and to create influential messages and media advocacies on cooperative and its business model
 - 11) To institutionalize the 'Cooperative Social Audit' with a view to and as a mean to promote and protect the Cooperative Identity
 - 12) To continue to organize the Cooperative Ministers' Conference as the useful platform for the enabling policy and legal environment and provision, especially in reiterating the 'Autonomy and Independence' principle for cooperatives in the Region

- 13) To organize a 'Parliaments' Network' regionally and globally with 'Cooperative-minded Parliaments Members
- 14) To organize an independent Conference instrument with national Registry Agencies in order to dealing such issues on cooperative inclusions in the business opportunity, especially in the area of new cooperative business, and for sound-tuning between cooperative laws and commercial laws and between cooperative law and government policy provisions
- 15) To encourage and enforcing merger of primary cooperatives as countries' norm, and to strategic amalgamation alliance of township cooperatives for strong capabilities by way of introducing best practices and model cases
- 16) To provide technical assistance and consultation to Member counties on cooperative law and regulations on cooperative banking and insurance.

Multi-Annual Budget for the Years of 2013-2016

BUDGET -NEW DELHI (all amounts in Swiss francs)		BUDGET 2013-2016			
		Y2013	Y2014	Y2015	Y2016
Expected GLOBAL Membership Fees		840,500	861,500	883,000	905,000
Bad Debt Provision	0.0%	12,607	12,922	13,245	13,575
Sectoral Orgn. Allocation		82,790	84,858	86,975	89,143
Balance prior to redistribution		745,103	763,720	782,780	802,282

INCOME					
- Subscription redistribution	50%	372,552	381,860	391,390	401,141
- Solidarity to Africa	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Total subscription redistribution		372,552	381,860	391,390	401,141
Regional membership fees					
Meeting revenues (R.A.)			50,000		50,000
Administrative Contribution		55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
Sale of services & others		-			
TOTAL INCOME		427,552	486,860	446,390	506,141

EXPENSES					
Personnel Expenses		228,000	250,500	260,000	270,000
Travel Expenses		80,500	85,500	80,500	85,641
Premises & General Office Expenses		33,552	37,500	34,500	38,500
IT & Telecommunication		25,000	27,500	24,500	31,000
External Services		15,500	17,360	6,731	16,500
Meeting Expenses		16,500	38,500	14,500	36,000
Other Expenses		8,500	10,000	5,659	8,500
Budgeting to Malaysian Business Office		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
TOTAL EXPENSES		427,552	486,860	446,390	506,141

ⁱ The **East Asia** includes **China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia**, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and North Korea. The total population is more than **1.5 billion people**, about 38% of the population of Asia or 22% of in the world, live in East Asia, about twice Europe's population. The region is one of the world's most populated places, with a population density of 133 inhabitants per Km², being about three times the world average of 45 persons per km², although Mongolia has the lowest population density of a sovereign state. It holds the nominal GDP of \$ 14.878 trillion (as of 2011) in total. (source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Asia)

The **Southeast Asia** includes **Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam**, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and East Timor. The total population is about **610 million people** (2011) with total GDP of \$2.158 trillion and \$3,538 GDP per capita (2011). (Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Asia)

The **Pacific Islands** created the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) which includes 16 countries, - **Australia, New Zealand, Fiji**, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Niue, Samoa, Vanuatu, which has been highly led by Australia and New Zealand. The population of PIF countries was **32.5 million people** (2008) in total, and their total GDP was estimated as US\$929.263 billion. (source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Islands_Forum)

The **South Asian** Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) includes **Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka**, Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives. The total population was about **1.6 billion people** (2009) with high population density of 304.9/km². The nominal GDP produced was estimated as US\$ 4,382,700 million with US\$ 2,779 Per capita (as of 2009). (Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_Association_for_Regional_Cooperation)

The **Central Asia** includes these five republics of the former Soviet Union - **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan**. The total population of these five countries is about **64.7 million people** (2012), and the total GDP produced was marked as \$ 166 Billion with \$ 2,700 of GDP per capita (2009). (Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia).

The **Middle East** includes **Iran, Israel, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates**, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen. The economies of Middle Eastern are range from being very poor (such as Gaza and Yemen) to extremely wealthy nations (such as Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia). According to the World Bank's *World Development Indicators* database published on July 1, 2009, the three largest Middle Eastern economies in 2008 were Turkey (\$ 7.94 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$ 4.68 billion) and Iran (\$ 3.85 billion) in terms of nominal GDP. In regards to nominal GDP per capita, the highest ranking countries are Qatar (\$93,204), the UAE (\$55,028), Kuwait (\$45,920), Bahrain (\$34,662) and Cyprus (\$32,745). The economic structures of Middle Eastern nations are heavily dependent on export of only oil and oil-related products. (Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East)