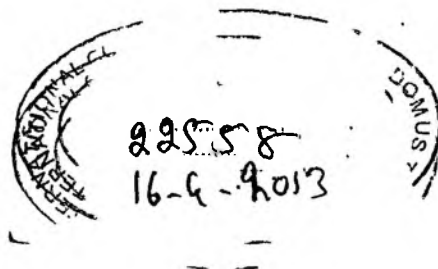


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# Asia-Pacific CO-OP NEWS

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE ICA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC

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## ICA holds Co-operative Think Tank Consortium



Co-op Think Tank Consortium in progress

Conceived in 1997 to provide a dialogue between the ICA regional members and the development partners on broad-based issues of common concern to the ICA ROAP, a Co-operative Think Tank Consortium was held in Manila from 18-23 February, 1998, co-sponsored by the National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO), Philippines.

As expected the Consortium was able to define a new Co-op Paradigm that conforms to the policy directions set by the ICA Board and the development strategies of the ICA Development Trust.

Several papers were presented at the Consortium on major themes like "the Global ICA Policy and its New Development Strategy", "Towards a Fresh Co-op Paradigm", "Impact of the Current Economic Crisis in the Region and ways Co-ops adjust to the Changing Environment", "International Co-operative Development Agenda: Sustaining Relevance of the

Co-op Model in a Changing Local and Global Environment", etc.

Bruce Thordarson, Director General and Bjorn Genberg, Director Development of ICA discussed the general thrusts and direction of the ICA at the global level and the development approach that ICA is currently taking to become more relevant and effective to its world-wide co-operative constituency.

The paper on 'Towards a Fresh Co-op Paradigm', presented by the ICA's Regional Director Robby Tulus, outlined the interim and long term plan formulated by the ICA Regional Office.

Several representatives from member-organisations in Singapore, India, Japan, Korea, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and the ICA's development partners like Canadian Co-operative Association, Development International Desjardins (DID), the Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU), the International Labour Organisation,

etc. made presentations on important issues in response to the changing world environment and their strategies in Asia.

A highlight of the Consortium was a Speakers' Forum, organised through the special efforts of the host NATCCO, Philippines. Dr. Ian MacPherson, Dr. Peter Davis and Dr. Hans Munkner gave special lectures on relevant co-operative development topics. The speakers' forum was attended by the Consortium participants, several representatives from different Philippine co-ops, NGOs and government agencies and the participants of the ICA-Japan Management Training Course.

The participants, responding to an evaluation, felt that the meeting allowed them to discuss problems and possible solutions concerning current important issues and events in Asia. A consensus was also reached to hold national level Think Tanks leading to the ICA Regional Assembly in October, 1998.

(Continued on Page 5)

### Contents

ICA holds Co-op Think Tank	1
ICA/Japan Management Training	2
Asian Top Leaders' Conference	2
ICA President visits Singapore	3
Joint workshop on Restructuring Co-op Support Services	4
ICA Board meets in Tokyo	5
Project on Indian Co-op History	5
ICA launches Co-op Leadership Development for women	6
Schedule of Regional Assembly	7
ICA ROAP undergoes reform	8
Upali completes his assignment	8

## ICA/Japan Management Training Course holds 8th national follow-up and review workshop in Philippines

The 8th National Follow-up and Review Workshop under the ICA-Japan Managing Training Project was held in the Philippines, 11-12 Feb, 1998. Eight former participants of the course attended the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to have a comparative study of the Co-operative Movement in the Philippines.

Mr. Jose Medina, Chairman of the Co-op Development Authority (CDA), Mr. Filomeno Bautista, Jr., Gen. Arcadia Lozada and Ms. Emilina Santos of NATCCO provided the technical inputs for the workshop. Dr. Daman Prakash, Project Director, ICA and Mr. Felix Borja, Secretary General of the CUP coordinated the workshop.

The participants were able to attend the Co-op Think Tank Consortium (CTTC) organised by the ICA in collaboration with the NATTCO.



Mr. Jose Medina, Chairman of the CDA addressing the National workshop

The participants of the workshops had the opportunity of interacting with Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General ICA, Mr. Robby Tulus, the Regional Director, Mr. Bjorn

Genberg, Director-Development, ICA, Dr. Peter Davis of Leicester University, Prof. Hans Munkner and Prof. Ian MacPherson, along with some of the ICA board members.

## Second Asian Top Leaders' Conference on "Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia"

The Second Asian Top Leaders' Conference on "Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Agricultural Co-ops in Asia", jointly organised by the ICA ROAP, JA-Zenchu and the

IDACA, was held in Tokyo, Japan, April 13-17 1998.

The Conference was attended by representatives of India, Malaysia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, and the participants of the 12th ICA-Japan

Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives. The Conference was also attended by Mr Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.



Dr. Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director, having discussions with the Conference delegates

The Conference took note of the resolution adopted by the first Asian Conference, the Conference documentation explaining the conduct of the ICA-Japan training courses, and the financial contribution to the programme provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Government of Japan. The collaborative arrangements between the ICA and the JA-Zenchu/IDACA to conduct the course and other agricultural co-operative activities were also considered.

In the light of the above, and the discussions which had taken place

during the working sessions, the Conference adopted unanimously the following recommendations:

- i. The contents and format of the training programme have been of high quality and have been well-recognised by the user-organisations and the participants. The Conference strongly recommends that the financial assistance of the Government of Japan for this programme be continued, and the scope of the project be further expanded;
- ii. The Conference strongly urged the user-organisations/sponsoring organisations to document the progress of the project proposals produced by their nominees, critically evaluate the pros and cons of the project proposals, and provide strong support to implement these proposals, with modifications, if necessary;
- iii. The Conference suggested to the ICA ROAP and IDACA to realign and redesign the contents and duration of the training programme without compromising on its quality to attract more suitable candidates to participate in the future training courses, and, if possible, carry out discussions with the user-organisations to pre-select the participants. The Conference also urged the user-organisations to outline their expectations of their candidates from the training course e.g., project proposals;
- iv. The Conference taking note of the high quality of the training imparted, strongly recommended that the user-organisations come forward to be increasingly involved to consider the increase of counterpart contributions in view of the anticipated budget cuts which the Government of Japan proposes to introduce effective 1998;
- v. In view of the importance of agricultural co-operatives to meet the challenges of free market competition and to ensure food security, the Conference strongly urged the user-organisations to strengthen the business management aspects of such co-operatives, and for this purpose, enlist the collaboration of other international and national organisations by using the ICA and IDACA network;
- vi. The Conference placed on record with high appreciation the role played by the ICA Regional Office and the IDACA in the development of agricultural co-operatives in Asia, and recommended that more active contacts be established to identify common problems and their possible solutions.

## ICA President visits Singapore Co-operatives

**R**oberto Rodrigues, President of the ICA, along with Bruce Thordarson, Director General and Robby Tulus, Regional Director, visited the Singapore co-operative movement, 25-27 April, 1998.

Mr. Rodrigues is the first ICA President to visit Singapore co-operatives, since the inception of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF).

The President visited several affiliates of the SNCF and evinced a keen interest in the functioning of these co-operatives. He was particularly happy to note that despite the current economic crisis in the Region, co-operatives, especially in Singapore, were able to maintain their viability and profitability through the innovative strategies adopted by them and the support of their members.

Tan Kin Lian, Chairperson of the SNCF hosted a welcome dinner in



*The delegation (Mr. Robby Tulus, Mr. Bruce Thordarson and Mr. Rodrigues) at the NTUC Income Board Room.*

honour of Mr. Rodrigues and his delegation. Mr. Rodrigues was returning from Tokyo after attending the ICA Board meeting there.

During the visit, Mr. Rodrigues also met Mr. Chon Choo Seng, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development and the

office of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Rodrigues also met with the NTUC Leadership. The Minister for Community Development, Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi was unable to meet Mr. Rodrigues due to his health condition. The SNCF and its affiliates appreciated the visit of ICA President.

## Joint workshop on 'Restructuring of Co-operative Support Services in Asia-Pacific'



Inaugural session of the workshop. Seated from left to right are Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Deputy Regional Director, ICA, Mr. Bhagat Singh, Additional Secretary, Government of India, Mr. Jurgan Schwettmann, ILO Coop Branch, Geneva, Mr. Ejvind Mogensen, ILO, New Delhi, Mr. Krishan K. Taimni, Regional Coordinator, ILO Coopnet/Coopreform Programmes and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Chief Executive, NCUI.

The ICA ROAP has organised a Regional Workshop on Co-operative Support Services, in collaboration with the ILO Coopnet and the National Co-operative Union of India in New Delhi, 19-23 April, 1998.

More than 30 delegates representing from the Co-operative Movements and Governments in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Thailand and international organisations like ILO, FAO and the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO), apart from ICA and NCUI, participated and had very fruitful discussions.

The objectives of the workshop were to review the current institutional, financial and technical status of co-operative support services i.e. staff and leadership training, member education, management consultancy, accounting and auditing, project preparation and legal matters.

Country reports presented by

the delegates focussed on the increasing competition due to deregulation and liberalisation, urgent need for co-op support services, necessity to bring suitable changes in co-operative legislation and systematic and comprehensive measures to provide consultancy services.

Mr. Jurgan Schwettmann of ILO Co-operative Branch made a presentation examining the co-operative support services in Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Bhagat Singh, Additional Secretary in the Government of India presented a working paper on 'Issues in Restructuring of Co-op Support Services in Asia-Pacific'.

Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Deputy Regional Director of the ICA ROAP, made presentation on 'Necessary Conditions for Restructuring Co-operative Support Services'.

A working paper on 'Restructuring of Auditing Services' was presented by Ms. Supatra Thanaseniat of Thailand.

Working papers on 'Making Co-operative Training System Responsive and Effective' was resourced by Mr. K.K. Taimni, Regional Coordinator of ILO Coopnet/Coop Reform Programmes.

Another working paper on 'Issues in Designing and Delivering an Effective Co-operative Management Consultancy Service' was also resourced by Mr. Taimni.

Mr. B.D. Sharma, Chief Executive of NCUI, presented a paper on 'Restructuring other Support Services for Co-operatives'.

Each session of the workshop saw very serious discussions and the delegates were able to pin-point problems and tried to suggest their possible solutions.

It was felt that the 5 days' workshop was a long-overdue event and proved very productive and successful.

The ICA/ILO and the co-operative movements in the Region and other international organisations will follow-up on this regional workshop to further tackle the problems faced by the co-operative movement in the region on co-operative support services.

### A note to our Readers

As you know until December, 1997, the Asia-Pacific Co-op News (ASPACON) was published every quarter.

In the spirit of efficiency, it has been decided that the ASPACON will, hence forth, be issued only 3 times a year.

Of late we have also noticed that a number of packets sent to our readers were returned undelivered.

We would request the readers to kindly notify immediately any change in their addresses to save unnecessary postal costs.

-Editor

## ICA Board meets in Tokyo

The ICA Board met in Tokyo on 21st April, 1998 at the Zenkyoren building. The meeting was hosted by the Japanese Joint Committee on Co-operatives.

Mr. H. Kohno, member of the Board, confirmed to the ICA Board last September that Japan was indeed pleased to host the meeting.

The 'Sakura' (cherry blossom) season in April enlivened the already bright atmosphere surrounding the meeting. The Board meeting was preceded by an Executive meeting of the ICA President and Vice Presidents.

Substantive issues were discussed during the Board meeting and the focal issue being the keen reflection and assessment on the role of co-operatives in light of the new socio-economic environment.

This exercise is deemed particu-

larly relevant in the face of the ongoing economic crisis in Asia, and the fact that Japan's economy was also still languishing at the time of the meeting.

The ICA President re-emphasized the importance of specialization and integration, as well as the need to beef up the role of communication to portray the ICA and co-operatives more realistically as a strong and vibrant Movement in the world.

The Board meeting was further marked with a special video shooting by the World Television, and by a lively reception hosted by the Japanese Co-operative Movement.

A field trip was arranged to Hiroshima and Kobe on April 22 and 23, 1998, sampling the famous bullet train of Japan and witnessing the operations of primary co-operatives in both places.

## Project on Indian Co-operative History

The Indian Society for Studies in Co-operation (ISSC), has initiated a project to write the History of the Indian Co-operative Movement, since 1904 when the first Co-operative Law was introduced in India.

It is felt that there are voluminous documentation and material published on co-operatives and co-operation in India, a well researched Co-operative History of the Indian Co-operative Movement is lacking.

It is hoped to write a comprehensive history of all sectors of co-operatives since 1904, expansion and growth of the various sectors of co-operatives, important stages of development in the pre and post independence era, the co-operative laws in the country, problems associated with rapid growth, implications of government association and support, expansion of legal provisions to regulate co-operative management, co-operative unions and their influence

on co-operative development and the impact of liberalisation of economy on co-operatives, etc., etc.

Committees will be set up to look into various project activities. There will be an Editorial Committee and a Drafting Committee. It is also expected to set up Regional Committees. A local Coordination Committee will be set up at Pune consisting of senior co-operators and academicians to monitor the project activities.

During the first year, the project is expected to need a budget of INR 400,000/-. Financial and material assistance is expected from co-operative organisations and bodies in India and other countries of the region.

The project is expected to be completed during the year 2004.

To obtain more information and participation in the project, please write to Mr. M.V. Madane, Chairman, Indian Society for Studies in Co-operation, C/o. VAMNICOM, University Road, Pune 411 007, India.

Continued from page 1)

## Think Tank Consortium

An important highlight of Consortium was a meeting with the President, Mr. Mitsuo Sato, Executive Director and staff of the Asian Development Bank at the Bank's offices in Manila.

A delegation comprising the Director-General and Regional Director of ICA, Mr. Kurimoto from the JCCU, Mr. Tan Kin Lian, SNCF, Mr. B.S. Viswanathan, NCUI and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, NACF, were able to meet and discuss with the President of the ADB, Mr. Mitsuo Sato. □

### Post-Graduate Diploma in Co-operative Business Administration

Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management invites applications for the two-year Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (Co-operation) for 1998-2000.

The prestigious comprehensive course is scheduled to commence at VAMNICOM Campus, Pune, India, from 27 July, 1998. Approximately 15 international students are sponsored under the bilateral exchange programme of the Government of India. Other foreign/NRI students will have to bear the approximately US\$2,800/- plus boarding costs.

The last date for the receipt of applications is 15 June, 1998.

For further information, prospectus and application forms, please contact:

Dr. R.N. Reddy  
Professor & Course Coordinator  
Vaikunth Mehta National Institute  
of Co-operative Management  
University Road,  
Pune 411 007, India

Fax: (91)212-327726  
Phone: (91)212-327974-78

## ICA launches Co-op Leadership Development activities for Women in Asia-Pacific

**A**s a sequel to the 'Regional Conference on Women in Decision-Making in Co-ops' held in Philippines last year, the Gender Integration Project of the Regional Office launched a multi-pronged strategy to increase women's participation in co-operative leadership and decision-making by collaborating with the ILO Coopnet programme.



*Participants at the workshop discussing on strategies for leadership training*

The Regional Office held a Regional Preparatory Workshop to identify the target groups, analyse the current situation of women in co-operatives in the region and to chart out appropriate strategies for developing women's leadership in co-operatives.

This meeting came up with a recommendation that a '**Leadership Training Manual for Women**' should be developed for training women leaders and potential women leaders at the primary level.

However, it was felt that the ICA cannot undertake such a huge task of training grassroots level potential women leaders. The ICA/ILO should develop and publish a manual, train trainers at the national level and then training of trainers at the primary/

grassroots level should be the responsibility of the national level Co-operative Movements in the region.

The ICA has since engaged Dr. Govind Kelkar of the Asian Institute of Technology as a consultant to prepare a manual. The ICA has also constituted a Steering Committee consisting of the ICA Regional Director, Gender Programme Advisor, Ms.

Anne Brit Nippierd of ILO, Geneva, Mr. Krishan Taimni, Regional Coordinator of ILO Coopnet and Mr. P. Nair, Project Assistant of the Gender Integration Project.

The Steering Committee is expected to meet in New Delhi, on 4th May and discuss the details of the manual with the Consultant.

The draft manual is expected to be ready some time by early September, 1998. The steering committee and experts in the field in the region will then have a technical scrutiny of the draft.

ICA will hold a validation workshop in November, 1998, possibly in Indonesia to validate the manual and train national level trainers in the region.

The manual will then be published and disseminated to the national level co-operative organisations in the region. The national co-operative organisations will arrange training of trainers and eventually the target group at the primary level.

### Singapore to organise national women's forum

**A**s a run up to the Regional Women's Forum in Seoul, Korea, the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) will organise a national women's forum on 12th September, 1998.

Some other Co-operative Movements like India, Nepal and Japan are also expected to hold national level women's fora prior to the Regional Women's Forum in Seoul.

We request all our member organisations to hold such forum before October, 1998.

### ICA Regional Protem Women's Committee to meet in Kuala Lumpur

**T**he ICA Regional Protem Women's Committee will meet in Kuala Lumpur, August 1998, to discuss and finalise the Regional Women's Forum in Seoul, Korea on 26 October, 1998,

This forum will precede the Regional Assembly meetings there. The Committee will have its next meeting also at Seoul on 25th October, 1998.

Official invitation letters to the meetings have already been posted to ICA member-organisations.

The member-organisations who have not nominated members to the Regional Women's Committee are requested to do so immediately.

The member-organisations are also requested to nominate women leaders to participate at the Regional Women's Forum and also the Regional Assembly in Seoul.

## Preliminary Schedule of Meetings in Korea ICA Regional Assembly and Related Meetings

### Sunday, 25 October, 1998 - all day

	Arrival of delegates
1400-1800	Registration
1400-1800	Standing Committee Meeting
1400-1700	Regional Women's Committee Meeting
1000-1300	Research Consultation Meeting
	APHCO Consultation Meeting

### Monday, 26th October, 1998

0900-1700	Regional Women's Forum
0900-1600	Agricultural Committee Meeting
0900-1600	Consumer Committee Meeting
0900-1600	HRD Committee Meeting
0900-1300	Fisheries Committee Meeting
1400-1600	RCBA Meeting
1600-1800	CICOPA-Asia Consultation Meeting

### Tuesday, 27th October, 1998

0900-1700	Special Workshop on "Agriculture-Consumers-Fisheries Strategic Alliance"
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### Wednesday, 28th October, 1998

0900-1700	ICA Regional Assembly Meeting (Theme : The Role of Co-ops in the Face of the Economic Crisis in the Region).
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### Thursday, 29th October, 1998

0900-1300	ICA Regional Assembly Meeting
Afternoon	ICA Global Forum to be decided by ICA Geneva/NACF.

### Friday, 30th October, 1998 - all day

ICA Global Forum

### Saturday, 31st October, 1998 - all day

Study Tour to Korean Co-operatives

## Seminar of People's Credit Funds

A seminar on People's Credit Funds was held in Hanoi, Vietnam- 23 April, 1998 which was organised by the State Bank of Vietnam and Developpement International Desjardins, Canada on the issue of Micro-Credit Finance.

Robby Tulus, the Regional Director of ICA participated at this important and successful seminar and presented a paper on 'Co-operative Networking'.

In his paper, Mr. Tulus emphasized the need for credit co-operatives to have a viable network to face rising competition in the market place.

He gave an overview of credit and financial sector co-operatives in the region and described the efforts by the International Co-operative Alliance and its regional office in this respect.

He also advocated the need to apply the recently adopted ICA Co-operative Identity Statement in practical business transactions of co-operatives to the benefit of its members.

## NTUC Media co-op launched

The Singapore's most powerful trade union, the NTUC has lauched the NTUC Media Co-operative Limited on 2 March, 1998.

The NTUC Media Co-operative, has been launched to establish a synergy with various other service co-operatives the NTUC has been operating, fulfilling felt social needs of the workers and the society.

Incidentally, the Singapore Amalgamated Co-operative Organisation (SASCO) is going ahead with building an S\$8.4 m old-age home.

According to Mr. S. Moganaruban, Chairperson of SASCO, this six-storey development will be the largest purpose-built sheltered home in Singapore.

## Course on 'Leadership Development for Youth through Non-formal Education'

International Institute-Histadrut, Israel will conduct a special course on 'Leadership Development for Youth through Non-formal Education' - 23 Nov - 17 Dec., 1998.

The course is intended for candidates who have at least three to five years of leadership experience and who are sponsored by an appropriate youth organisation from rural or urban areas, community organisations, development agencies, government departments, educational institutions, etc.

Admission forms and further information could be had from the Israeli embassy or diplomatic representative in the

applicant's country or directly from the Institute.

A few scholarship are available covering local costs and tutions, etc. However, the international airfare will not be covered. Some women-specific scholarship are also available.

For more information, contact:

Mr. Zavi Galor  
Academic Director  
The International Institute - Histadrut  
Levinson College, Beit Berl  
Kfar Saba 44905, Israel  
Tel: (972)9-7435-115  
Fax: (972)9-7421-868  
E-mail: machonb@actcom.co.il



## ICA Regional Office undergoes reform

**A**fter a series of discussions within the ICA Management and member-organisations and also with development partners, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has undertaken to make structural changes, effective January 1998.

Under the new organisational system, the Regional Director will be assisted by a Deputy Regional Director and four directors for four sub-regions- South, West and Central Asia, South-East Asia and South Pacific, East Asia and ICA/Japan Management Programmes.

While the Gender integration Project, Communication Department and the Bonow Trust administration will be directly responsible to the

## IFFCO chairman and vice chairman re-elected

The General Body Meeting on 9th March, 1998, of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO), the largest fertiliser co-operative in Asia, has re-elected Mr. Surinder Kumar Jakhar as its Chairman and Mr. Balvinder Singh Nakai as its Vice-Chairman for a second term of three years.

A 1400-strong Representative General Body (RGB), representing 35,000 co-operative all over India has also elected a board of eight (8) directors on the Board, including, B.S.Viswanathan, Ajit Kumar Singh, R.K. Dhami, Ramanlal C. Gandhi, Sheesh Pal Singh, Prahlad Singh.

### To the Readers

We request the member-organisations to supply us with information on their organisations, their operations and other changes in their countries on a regular basis, to enable us to improve the quality of your' newsletter. - Editor

Regional Director, the overall responsibility of Finance, General Administration, Documentation and Personnel will be delegated by the Regional Director to the Deputy Regional Director.

The reorganisation was premised on the need to be more cost efficient.

Team-work approach has been adopted in the Regional office, which now already started to show results.

Appreciation is due to our departing colleagues, namely, Upali Herath, A.H. Ganesan, Ram Prakash, Jagdish Singh, Ram Singh, Balam Singh, Rama Shankar and Janki Prasad. We wish them every success in their future endeavours.

## 'Caring' elected Chairperson of VICTO

Ms. Caridad Arquila Maadil, lovingly called 'Caring' has been elected as the Chairperson of Visayas Co-operative Development Center (VICTO).

VICTO is one of the affiliates of National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO, inc. in the Philippines, an ICA member organisation).

## Co-operatives to buy 31% of Bangchak 'Thai'

The Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) and the Finance Ministry of the Thai government are planning to dispose of 31% of their stake in Bangchak Petroleum plc., one of the petroleum giants in Thailand.

The Thai co-operatives using their reserves and revolving fund are aiming to buy the 31% stake in Bangchak Petroleum. More than 600 rural co-operatives in Thailand run more than half of the 1000 Bangchak oil filling stations nation-wide.

-The Bangkok Post

## Upali Herath completes his assignment



**U**pali Herath, who has been working with the ICA Regional Office for over 10 years as Advisor for Human Resource Development and Consumer Co-operative Development has completed his assignment with the ICA and left for his home in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Mr. Herath has a strong commitment to the co-operative cause, is very knowledgeable, and has been a capable advisor to the Regional Office.

Many co-operators in the Region will remember his whole-hearted dedication to co-operative development in the Region.

Mr. Herath will continue his involvement with the ICA activities in the consumer sector, albeit in a different capacity.

We wish him all success in his career in the future.

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## International Seminar on Value-based Professional Management in Co-ops



Participants at the seminar pose for a photograph

The ICA in collaboration with the National Co-operative Union of India held an International Seminar on "Value-based Professional Management in co-operatives" from 31 August to 11 September, 1998 in Pune, Western India.

The theme of the seminar was Value-based Professional Management in Co-operatives. The main objective of the Seminar was to help HRD institutes to facilitate the process of implementation of co-operative value-based professional management in co-operatives at all levels.

The frame work of seminar consisted of deliberations on ICA Co-operative Identify Statement, Concept of value-based management - professionalism with a heart, Managing in a global environment, Social responsibility and managerial ethics in co-operatives, managing organisational change and innovation, a co-operative leadership challenge, Role of HRD institutes in value based professional manage-

ment by resource persons so as to and define value based professional management in co-operatives.

Twenty-three participants and eight resource persons from nine countries participated at the seminar.

The seminar evolved a definition that "*Value-based Professional Management in Co-operatives deals with the processes, functions and systems that facilitate strengthening/revitalization of co-operative values and ensuring sustainability of member based and community-oriented co-operative enterprises in a competitive market.*"

There were two workshops organised within the Seminar and it was expected that the workshops would make recommendations for developing training modules for members and leaders of co-operatives; chief executive officers and employees of co-ops; government officials and administrators; and trainers, to incorporate value-based professional management in co-operatives.

## ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific and related meetings

The Third ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific and related meetings will be held at Seoul, Republic of Korea, 25-31 October, 1998.

Meetings of the specialized committees will be on 25-26 October, with a special workshop on Agriculture-Consumers-Fisheries Strategic Alliance on 27 October, 1998. The Regional Assmbeby will meet on 28-29 October.

There will be a Global Forum on the theme of **Food and Co-operatives** on 29-30 October, 1998.

Delegates and observers participating at the ICA Regional Assembly can participate at the Global Forum by paying an additional US\$50/- as registration fee.

### Contents

International seminar on Value-based Professional Management .....	1
ICA Regional Assembly meetings .....	1
Asian Women Farm Leaders meet in Tokyo .....	2
ICA Regional Protem Women's Committee meets in Kuala Lumpur .....	3
Rural Women Leaders' Training .....	3
Workshop on Joint-Buying Strategies .....	3
National Health Co-ops Seminar .....	4
IFFCO Awards .....	4
Forum for Co-ops .....	4
Kuwait issues commemorative stamps .....	5
Parliamentarians call for reforms .....	5
NCCT training programme .....	5
Japan organises women's forum .....	6
New staff at ICA ROAP .....	6
Nepal holds women's forum .....	7
ICA Regional Director meets the Indonesian Co-operative Minister .....	8
Schedule of ICA meetings in Korea .....	8

## Asian Women Farm Leaders of Agricultural Co-ops meet in Tokyo

The Third Asian Conference of Women Farm Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives was jointly organised by the International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP); the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives-Japan (JA-Zenchu) and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia-Japan (IDACA) at Tokyo, Japan, from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> September 1998. The 1<sup>st</sup> Conference was held in October 1996, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference in November 1997.

The Conference was attended by 35 senior level women leaders representing 13 countries (i.e., Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos,



Asian women farm leaders pose for a photograph

### **Resolution of the 3rd Asian Conference of Women Farm Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives**

*"The 3rd Asian Conference of Women Farm Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives held at Tokyo, 26<sup>th</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> September 1998, attended by 35 delegates representing 13 Asian countries and three international organisations, having taken note of the discussions held at the previously-held two conferences (1996 and 1997), hereby RESOLVES that :*

01. *The recommendations made and the resolutions adopted earlier which hereby stand endorsed by this Conference as well, and by this Conference be vigorously followed-up by the organisers, respective governments and sponsoring organisations;*
02. *The national co-operative organisations and the women's organisations in agricultural co-operative sector take note of the systematic development and activities of the Women's Associations of Japanese Agricultural Co-operative Movement and make an appropriate use of their valuable experiences;*
03. *The national co-operative organisations and women's organisations to appreciate, adopt and follow ICA Statement on Co-operative Identity, Principles of Co-operation and the Co-operative Values and provide support to all women's organisations/committees at national and international levels and participate in their programmes and activities; and*
04. *The organisers continue to convene such conferences at regular intervals to facilitate and enhance interaction among women leaders of agricultural co-operatives in the Region.*

*The Conference places on record its highest appreciation for the efforts of the organisers in holding this 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference."*

Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) and three international organisations (Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation-AARRO, the ILO and the ICA ROAP).

Senior leaders representing the organisations and supporting agencies, including Mr. Hiroshi Kohno, Executive Director of JA-Zenchu and ICA Board member; Ms. Ikuko Arimatsu of Prime Minister's Office; Mr. Takuji Hanatani of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Kazutoshi Yokota of the MAFF-Japan; and Dr. Daman Prakash, Director of the ICA ROAP, spoke at the inaugural session.

The Conference was also addressed by Dr. Bahar Munip, Secretary-General of the AARRO; and Mr. Nobuhiro Hayasaka of ILO Tokyo Branch.

The inaugural session of the Conference was held at the MAFF Annex building in down town Tokyo and the rest of the technical sessions at IDACA. A familiarisation field study visit to Niigata Prefecture was organised for the delegates.

The Conference, hosted by the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia, was coor-

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## ICA Regional Protem Women's Committee meets in Kuala Lumpur

**T**he ICA Regional Protem Women's Committee met at the ANGKASA offices (Wisma Royal Professor Ungku Aziz) on 14th August, 1998.

The meeting, which was hosted by ANGKASA, was attended by all the members, barring Ms. Leeladevi R. Prasad of India. Senator Hjh. Rahaiah bt. Baهران, Chairperson of the committee chaired meeting. Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director, ICA ROAP and Ms. Lota Bertulfo, Regional Co-

ordinator of AWCF also participated as observers and contributed to the deliberations of the meeting.

The committee reviewed the Constitution of the Regional Women's Committee and made certain minor changes to make the provisions clearer.

The meeting agreed on the agenda of the first meeting of the Regional Women's Committee scheduled to be held on 25 October, 1998 at Seoul. The meeting also fi-

nalized the programme for the ICA Regional Women's Forum scheduled in Seoul for 26 October, 1998.

The Forum is expected to adopt the strategy of panel discussions, group discussions, and group presentations and come out with a Declaration.

The meeting also requested the Secretary to prepare a 4-year draft Plan of activities for the Regional Women's Committee to be discussed at the first meeting.

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### Cont'd from page 2)

minated by Dr. Daman Prakash, Director, ICA ROAP and the officials of IDACA representing its Managing Director, Mr. Yoshitada Nakaoka.

The Conference took note of the development work done by the ICA ROAP and the IDACA in the field of agricultural co-operative development, and also of the discussions held at and the recommendations and conclusions of the previously-held two Conferences (1996 and 1997).

The objectives of the Conference were :

- to take stock of the current situation of farm women in agricultural sector in the Asian Region;
- identify problem areas facing women farm leaders in setting up supporting organisations and making them operational in the service of this group;
- suggest ways and means to develop leadership among farm women through education, training and extension and by other means;
- suggest possible areas in which agricultural co-operatives could provide the needed services/support; and
- identify the role of national and international organisations in promoting further the interests of such a group to enhance their bargaining power.

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## 8th Rural Women Leaders' Training Programme

The 8th Training Course for Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia was organised by the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific with the financial support of the Government of Japan at IDACA, Tokyo, August 24 to September 14, 1998.

Six participants from Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the programme. The main objective of the programme is to encourage rural women to organise themselves with

a view to improve living conditions of the farm women in the Region. The experiences of the Women's Associations of the Japanese Agricultural Co-ops in the field of better living are of great relevance to the movements in the Region. The participants, besides their classroom work, also observed the JA-WA activities in Niigata prefecture and also took part in the 3rd Asian Rural Women Farm Leaders conference held during 26 Aug to 6 Sept. 1998.

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## Workshop on Joint Buying Strategies

**T**he ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the JCCU have organised a Joint Buying Strategy Workshop in Bangkok during 5-8 August, 1998.

Forty participants from 8 countries attended the Workshop and discussed Joint Buying among Consumer coops.

Mr. Takeyoshi Fujioka, Executive Director, JCCU made the key presentation - Concept of Joint Buying - based on the rich experience gained by JCCU in Japan. Mr. Fujioka, in his presentation emphasized the need to innovate the way of doing business in co-operatives, especially under competitive open market situation in countries in the region.

Various case studies and group discussions followed the presen-

tation and finally the workshop reached a consensus on the relevance of joint buying, especially in the current economic situation, the pre-conditions and mechanism of joint buying, problems and constraints and their solutions.

All sessions were organised in a very participatory manner and every one contributed to the workshop as a facilitator or a coordinator apart from being participants.

The workshop requested the ICA and its counterpart, JCCU to take up follow-up actions, including publishing a guideline for joint buying.

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. W.U. Herath, a Consultant, who was the former ICA ROAP Consumer Advisor and Ms. Yukiko Yamamoto of ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

## **NCC organises National Seminar on Health Co-operatives**

The National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka organised a national seminar on Health Co-operative Services on 13 July, 1998 in Colombo.

More than 30 participants from various Co-operative Hospitals gathered together and discussed issues which they have been facing.

There are a number of Co-operative hospitals in Sri Lanka, but they did not have any network or a national level federation.

During the discussion the participants of the Seminar came to the conclusion that they needed a national network or federation, and organised a working committee in order to help establish a national federation.

Dr. Shoji Kato, chairperson of APHCO and IHCO joined the Seminar and gave a lot of advice and expressed fraternal greetings on behalf of Japanese Health Co-op as well as APHCO and IHCO.

Ms. Yukiko Yamamoto represented the ICA Regional Office at the seminar.

## **Forum for Co-ops in Educational Institutions**

A Forum for Co-operatives in Educational Institutions was held in Chennai, India on 4th May, 1998.

Ms. Yukiko Yamamoto, the Consumer Advisor participated in the first meeting.

The forum was instrumental in the formation of a network among University/Student consumer Co-operatives.

This network will work closely with National Co-operative Consumer Federation of India and the ICA University/Student Consumer Co-operative Sub-Committee. It aims to promote more such student co-ops in India.

## **IFFCO Sahakarita Ratna and Sahakarita Bandhu awards**

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited organised a function at the India International Centre, 2nd July, 1998, to award IFFCO Sahakarita Ratna and Sahakarita Bandhu awards for the year 1996-97, which carries a citation and a cash prize of Rs.51,000/- each.

Shri Shantubhai C. Patel of Gujarat received the Sahakarita Ratna award from Dr. A.K. Patel, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, while Shri Nathi Singh of Rajasthan received the Sahakarita Bandhu award from Mr. Sompal, Minister of State for Agriculture, for their exemplary services to the co-operative movement in India.

During this function, a compilation of patriotic songs, collected, conceived and compiled by Prof. Shiv Kumar Mishra, titled '*Azadi ki Agni Shikhayen*' - Torches of Freedom, was released by Shri Surjit Singh Barnala,

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers. The collection includes poems, lyrics and songs of several thinkers, literateurs, poets during the freedom movement from 1857 to 1947.

Releasing the compilation, Shri S.S. Barnala commended IFFCO for bringing out this publication which provides an insight into the scenario of sacrifices made during the independence struggle for younger and future generations.

Shri Sompal, Minister of State for Agriculture and Dr. A.K. Patel, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers also spoke on the occasion. Shri Surinder Kumar Jakhar, Chairman of IFFCO welcomed the gathering and Shri U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director spoke on the concept, compilation and background of the collection.

-IFFCO Press Release

## **IFFCO's Marketing Division awarded ISO 9002**

The Marketing Division of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited has been accredited with ISO 9002 Certificate of Approval by Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQI), London for 'Marketing Fertilisers, Strengthening Co-operatives and Providing Services to Farmers and the Rural Community'.

The certification is valid for a period of 3 years effective 5th June, 1998. Quality is a culture and way of life in IFFCO and the ISO 9002 international recognition for its standards match with IFFCO's overall Vision 2000.

Incidentally, IFFCO is the first marketing set up in India to have attained the ISO 9002 certification.

Earlier in 1996, IFFCO's Kalol manufacturing unit had also received the ISO award.

-IFFCO Press Release

## **IFFCO contributes towards Gujarat Cyclone Relief**

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) has contributed Rs.26.5 million for cyclone relief in Gujarat, which covers IFFCO's contribution and one-day's wages donated by IFFCO employees.

The cheques were handed over to Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, by IFFCO's Chairman Shri Surinder Kumar Jakhar on 15th June, 1998.

Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, senior officials from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers and IFFCO directors were also present at the function.

IFFCO has been contributing generously for relief of sufferings caused by such natural calamities in the past also.

-IFFCO Press Release

## Commemorative postage stamps issued by the State of Kuwait



The State of Kuwait has issued a set of three stamps and a first-day cover on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the **Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies** in Kuwait, together with an explanatory brochure.

The Union of Consumer Co-

## Parliamentarians call for reforms in co-op sector

Members of Parliament have urged the government to implement reforms in the co-operative sector to enunciate a clear and coherent co-operative policy.

The call was made at a meeting of Parliamentarians from several political parties like Congress, BJP, Shiv Sena, Samta Party, Lok Shakti, etc., including current and former ministers on 15th July, 1998 in New Delhi. The meeting also called for raising the import duties to moderate imports of major agricultural commodities produced in India.

The meet was attended among others by Environment Minister Suresh Prabhu, former Lok Sabha speaker Shivraj Patil, former agriculture minister Balram Jakhar, Mohan Dhariva, S. Mallikarjunaiah, Varghese Kurien, etc. The meeting was organised by the Co-operative Initiative Project, Anand, India on 15th July, 1998, in New Delhi.

operative Societies in Kuwait was founded in 1971.

The Union has been a member of the International Co-operative Alliance since 1981.

We wish the Union all success in their future co-operative business development endeavours.

## Co-operative Essay Competition Awards presented

The National Institute of Co-operative Management, Gandhinagar, promoted by the Gujarat State Co-op Bank Ltd. had organized, in collaboration with Jowher Managerial and Financial Services Private Ltd.(MANFIN) a national level Essay Competition on Human Resource Management in SCBs, DCCBs and PACSs - Challenges and Innovations' during May, 1998.

Entries submitted by the following have been awarded prizes:

Mr. S.S. Parulekar, NABARD, Pune, 1st Prize (Rs.5,000);

Mr. P. Balakrishnan, Tamil Nadu State Co-op Bank, Chennai, 2nd Prize (Rs.4000);

Mr. S.K. Mishra, Fishcopfed, New Delhi, 3rd prize(Rs.3000).

Consolation prizes of Rs.1000/- were awarded to 5 others who participated.

## NCCT offers various training programmes on Co-op Management for 1998-99

The National Council for Co-operative Training (NCCT) of the National Co-operative Union of India, which is the apex co-operative organisation in India, are offering numerous training programmes, both short-term and long-term, through their 20 regional training centres and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune, for the year 1998-99.

These courses covers management training on all sectors of co-operatives for co-operative leaders and employees of co-operatives in India and abroad.

More more details, please contact:

Mr. D.P. Neb, Secretary, National Council for Co-operative Training, Jawaharlal Nehru National Co-operative Complex, 3, August Kranti Marg (3rd floor), Post Bag No.2, Hauz Khas, New Delhi 110 016, India  
Tel.: 91-11-651-2062;  
Fax: 91-11-651-2062/686-5350.

## Lionel Samarasinghe re-elected President of NCC

Lionel Samarasinghe has been re-elected for the third consecutive term as the President of the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka.

Messrs. D.A. Hewagama and Dayawansa Weerathunga were elected as Vice Presidents, while Messrs. H.M.S. Dias, K.G. Wijesinghe, A. Ariyaratne, A.G. Nawasdeen, R. Rayappu, Chandrasena Bandara, SMDT Senaratne, W. Hemadasa, H.U. Weerakkodi, M.L. Piyadasa were elected as board members.

We wish Mr. Samarasinghe and his new team all success in the good work they have been doing for the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Co-operative Movement.

## Japanese Co-operatives organise Women's Forum



Group discussions in progress at the Forum

**T**hinking About Gender issues and Women's participation in Co-operatives was the theme of the Co-operative Women's Forum held in Tokyo during July 7-8, 1998.

This forum was organized by the JJC (Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives) in collaboration with JA ZENCHU, National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations and the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union.

Representing co-operatives nationwide, 123 women leaders from agriculture, fishery and consumer co-operatives gathered to discuss gender issues facing co-operatives today.

The participants had a lecture on "What we can do now to create Gender Equal Society". Reports on the current situation of women's participation in decision making in various co-operatives were also presented.

After the plenary meeting, all the members of the forum then divided up into four workshops where the discussions focused on two central themes, (1) Defining the gender problem, and (2) What are the issues and concerns with women partici-

pation in the decision making process of agriculture, fishery and consumer co-ops?

Participants were particularly interested and happy about the participatory style of discussions.

On the second day of the forum, representatives from each co-operative gathered for panel discussions. The discussion centered on the theme of the forum: "Gender issues and Women's Participation in Co-operatives, Today".

In the open discussion on the floor, a forum participant from Aomori Agricultural Co-operative described a case study involving herself who was elected as a member of Agricultural

Council. She was a member of the women's group of the Aomori Agricultural Co-op, which developed direct buying routes with Aomori Consumer Co-operative society.

The women's contributions to the business of the agricultural co-operatives were duly recognized, which consequently led to having contesting for the Agricultural Council and with the backing of the Agricultural co-operatives, she was successfully elected.

This case study stands as a positive example of how women are gaining recognition, and while contributing to the co-op movement, through cooperation among co-operatives.

The forum ended with the participants adopting a declaration that will be presented at the Asia and Pacific Regional Women's Forum during the the ICA Regional Assembly in Seoul.

### New staff at ICA ROAP

**Mr. B.D. Sharma**, who retired as the Chief Executive of the National Co-operative Union of India, has joined the services of ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, with effect from 01 July, 1998.

He will be responsible for the ICA activities in the South, West and Central Asia sub-region.

**Mr. Romulo Villamin**, who has been working with the Canadian Co-operative Association in their Zimbabwe project has joined the ICA effective 21st July, 1998.

He will continue to be associated with the CCA's activities, in addition to those of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

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## Declaration of Japanese Co-operative Women's Forum, 1998

We have only two and a half years to encounter the New Millennium. It was in the 20th century when discrimination among women and men all over the world has been universally recognized and actions taken to eliminate such problems.

We, who are living now, should play important roles to continuously strengthen these actions and create the peaceful and sustainable society where people can live human life.

We are very happy to hear that the ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific will be established by the efforts and the support of many concerned people since the ICA Tokyo Congress in 1992.

To take this opportunity, we have gathered at the Japanese Co-operative Women's Forum today. During these two days, we have discussed our 'presents' and 'futures' on the theme of the Forum, which is "Women co-operators now : From the Gender Perspectives".

In Japan, traditional notions based on stereotyped gender roles are still persisting in our society and co-operatives are not exceptions. Through discussion in this Forum, we have recognized that there are many issues which we, women co-operators, should work together to tackle with.

We would like to call all the participants to take actions regarding to following issues, when we go back to our own societies and communities;

- to review stereo-typed gender roles at homes and in our community in order to promote men's active participation in household chores, caring children and aged people and to enhance women's socio-economic status at homes and in communities.
- to increase women's participation at all the levels of co-operatives, from primary societies to prefectural, regional and national federations, particularly in policy and decision making, so as to reflect women's views and ideas to policies and business operations of co-ops.
- to review traditional gender roles at co-operatives as working places and to make efforts to create conducive environment for equal participation of women and men.
- to promote gender equal education and encourage attitudes which pay respect to children's personality, so that next generation would not reproduce sense of gender roles.
- to encourage understanding among co-operators and public on the policies on gender equality prepared by the government of Japan and local governments such as "**Plan for Gender Equality 2000**" and to promote its implementation.
- to strengthen network among women's groups and organizations which support gender-equal society at home and abroad.

Women's active participation is pre-requisite for the co-operative development in the next century. We pledge ourselves to work hard to make our co-operative organizations 'gender equal' and strongly support the activities of ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific.

## OBITUARY

**Jirozaemon Saito** died on 12 June 1998 at the age of 89. Mr. Saito served as President of primary level fishery co-operatives in Japan for 43 years. He was the Chairman of the ICA Fisheries Committee for 16 years from 1976 to 1992.

## Nepal holds national women's forum

A national women's forum was organized in Kathmandu on June 11-12, 1998 by the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal.

One hundred and ten women co-op leaders participated in the 2-day Forum. At the inaugural function, over 200 people, including participants, took part.

The Forum was inaugurated by Rt.Hon. Deputy Prime Minister Ms.Sailaja Acharya, who was the chief guest, praised the efforts of the women, saying that the women need a lot of efforts and stamina to fight various elements in the government and other sectors to get their right places in co-ops and the society.

Mr. S.R. Sharma, Managing Director of NCF, spoke on women's participation in co-ops, the Nepalese situation and the past, present and future programmes in this direction.

Ms. Anita Manchanda, Director of National Co-operative Union of India, who also represented ICA, spoke on behalf of ICA ROAP and read a message from Ms. Yukiko Yama-moto, Gender Programme Advisor of the ICA ROAP. Ms. Manchanda detailed the activities of NCUI and ICA in gender intergation front and contributed actively in the sessions.

The Forum was chaired by Mr. Deepak Baskota, Chairman of NCF. Ms. Mina Pandey, Hon. Minister of Women and Social Welfare, was the chief guest of the closing session. Ms.Kamala Pant, Hon.Asst. Minister was also present at the function.

At the closing session some participants felt that the Forum was a good start. Speeches also made supporting the cause of women.

## ***We are sorry!***

*There has been some problem with our fax connection as also power breakdowns for a few days, which may have caused difficulties for our members to contact us. We would request the members to use our E-mail facilities as much as possible.*



## ICA Regional Director meets Indonesian Co-operative Minister

ICA Regional Director, Mr. Robby Tulus, met with the new Minister for Co-operatives and Small Business Enterprises, Honourable Adi Sasono.

The Co-operative Minister is an old friend and co-operator of Mr. Tulus, when both were actively involved in the NGO community in the 1970s. Mr. Adi Sasono was then Director of the Institute for Development Studies, whereas Mr. Tulus was Managing Director of the Credit Union movement in Indonesia.

They discussed various co-operative issues, primarily about the need for alternative co-operative modalities that can be developed to help alleviate the suffering of the poor co-op members in rural areas, due to the impact of the worst financial crisis in the country.

The Regional Director also informed the Minister about the preparations being made towards the Fifth Co-operative Ministers' Conference planned for October 1999 in Beijing and re-

quested the Minister to send their officials to the sub-regional workshop, tentatively planned for Bangkok early in 1999. The visit was made in conjunction with a visit of the Regional Director to Indonesia at the request of the Canadian Co-operative Association, to discuss programming of mutual interest between ICA and CCA.

The Regional Director was accompanied by Messrs. Ibnoe Soedjono and Michael Casey during the visit.

### SCHEDULE OF ICA MEETINGS IN KOREA - 25-31 OCTOBER, 1998

Day/Date	Time	Meeting	Location	Address
Sunday 25th Oct.	All Day	Arrival of delegates		
	1400-1800	Registration	Westin Chosun Hotel	479-87 Sokong-Dong, Chung-ku, Seoul.
Monday 26th Oct	1500-1800	Standing Committee Meeting	NACF HQ. Room 1	75-1-Ka, Chungjeong-ro Jung-ku, Seoul 100-707.
	1400-1700	Regional Women's Committee Meeting	NACF HQ. Room 2	Phone : (82-2)397-5284
	1000-1300	Research Consultation Meeting	NACF HQ. Room 3	Fax : (82-2)397-5290.
	1000-1700	Cons. Sub-Com. on University Co-ops	NACF HQ. Room 4	
	0930-1700	Regional Women's Forum	Main Hall of Agriculture Co-op College	38-27 Wongdang-Dong,
	0930-1600	Consumer Committee Meeting	Seminar Room of NLCF	451, Sungnae-Dong, Kangdong-ku
	0930-1600	Agricultural Committee Meeting	NACF HQ. Room 2	75-1-Ka, Chungjeong-ro, Jung-ku.
Tuesday 27th Oct.	0930-1230	ICA Global HRD Committee Meeting	Conference Room of NACUFOK	874-1, Pangbae-dong, Socho-gu.
	1400-1700	Regional HRD Committee Meeting	Conference Room of NACUFOK	Tel.(82-2)590-5626.
	0930-1300	Fisheries Committee Meeting	Conference Room of NFFC	11-6 Shincheon-dong, Songpa-ku
	1400-1700	RCBA Meeting	Conference Room of KFCCC	164, Samsong-dong, Kangnam-gu
	0900-1800	Special Workshop on "Agriculture-Consumers-Fisheries Strategic Alliance".	Main Hall of Agricultural Co-op College of NACF.	38-27 Wongdang-Dong, Koyang-Si, Kyonggi-Do.
Wed'day 28th Oct.	1530-1800	CICOPA-Asia Consultation Meeting	Agricultural Co-op College of NACF	Phone: (82-344)604303. -do-
	0930-1700	ICA Regional Assembly Meeting (Theme: The Role of Co-ops in the Face of Economic Crisis in the Region).	Westin Chosun Hotel (Grand Ball Room)	479-87 Sokong-Dong, Chung-ku.
Thursday 29th Oct.	0830-1530	ICA Regional Assembly Meeting	Westin Chosun Hotel	Phone : (82-2)771-0500
	1700-1800	Opening of ICA Global Forum	Westin Chosun Hotel	Fax : (82-2)752-1443
Friday 30th Oct.	0900-1730	ICA Global Forum (Food and Co-ops/ Capital Requirements for Finl. Co-ops).	Westin Chosun Hotel	
Saturday 31st Oct.	0830-1700	Study Tour to Korean Co-operatives	Yangjae-dong & Yong-in	

**Note: Registration for the meetings will be held at the Westin Chosun Hotel. Buses will depart from Westin Chosun Hotel to the various venues of the meetings.**



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A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE ICA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC

## Third ICA Regional Assembly meets in Seoul, Korea

The 3rd ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at the Westin Chosun Hotel, Seoul, Korea, 28-29 October, 1998.

166 delegates and observers from 21 countries from the Asia-Pacific Region and outside, including Canada, Finland, Namibia and representatives from ADB, ESCAP, FAO, AARRO (Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization), ILO, CCA, CICOPA, ACCU, AWCF (Asian Women in Co-op Development Forum) participated.

The inaugural session, chaired by Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz from Malaysia, was addressed by Mr. Churil-Hee Won, Chairman and President of NACF; Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director General, ICA; Honourable Young-Jin Kim, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Committee of the National Assembly of Korea.

A message from Honourable Sung-Hoon Kim, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Republic of Korea was read by his Deputy Minister Mr. Chang-Jung Park. The Keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President.

As recommended by the Standing Committee of ICA in the Region, the Regional Assembly amended its rules.

As per the amendments, the Regional Assembly elected Mr. Churil-Hee Won as its Chairperson, and four Vice-Chairpersons: Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz - Malaysia, Dr.



A section of the delegates of the Regional Assembly - Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, Mr. Yang Deshou, ICA Vice President for Asia and Pacific and Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director, ICA ROAP are on the dias.

Yehudah Paz - Israel, Mr. Hiroshi Kohno - Japan, and Ms. Teresita M. deLeon - Philippines. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan will continue to be the Chairperson of the Executive Council until the next regional assembly in the year 2000.

Unlike the previous assemblies, this third one was highlighted by the inclusion of a Co-operative Forum with the theme "The Role of Co-operatives in the Face of the Asian Economic Crisis".

Also unique to this third Assembly was the fact that no less than 17 other meetings were held prior to and after the Assembly proper, including the ICA Global Forum on the 28th of October.

### Contents

Third ICA Regional Assembly Meeting	1
Women's Committee meets in Seoul	2
Regional Women's Forum	3
Agricultural Committee meeting	4
31st Meeting of Consumer Committee	5
Fisheries Committee meets	5
Special Workshop on Agri-Consumers-Fisheries Alliance	6
Banking Committee	6
Committee on HRD & Research	6
Greeing of Wasteland	7
FISHCOPFED registers as Exporter	7
IFFCO bags FAI awards	7
Workshop on Co-op Legislation	9
LN Suri - Eminent Co-operator	9
Apna Bazar in to Education	9
Dr. V. Kumar gets Agronomy award	10
All India Co-op Week	11
Milkvita Dairy Co-op	12

Prof. Ian MacPherson made presentation 'Co-operative Principles to Practice - Manchester to Seoul through Jaipur' which dealt with the ICA Co-operative Identity Statement (ICIS) and how the Principles could be put into practice.

The ICA President, Roberto Rodrigues said in his address, "There is no reason why co-operatives cannot survive and thrive, even in the face of difficult economic conditions which we find around the world.

Indeed, we know from history that co-operatives have always developed and grown precisely when economic conditions are

difficult, for the simple reason that this is when they are most needed by ordinary people. In most Asian countries co-operatives have strong roots and their structures are sufficiently strong that they are not going to be blown away by the winds of recession.

However, for co-operatives to cope successfully with this challenge, I believe that we need to make changes in our behaviour. The time has passed when co-operatives were a third way for socio-economic growth, occupying the space between socialism and capitalism. We have now entered into a different era. The failure of socialism, on one side, and the

inability of capitalism to solve social problems on the other side, have created a certain identity crisis for co-operatives."

All Specialized Committees of the ICA in the Region, and a Regional Women Forum, were held on October 25 and 26, followed by a Special Workshop on Food Security and Fair Trading, jointly designed and implemented by the Agriculture, Consumers and Fisheries Committees for Asia and the Pacific, on October 27, 1998.

A Global Forum on the theme "Doing Co-operative Business: Asian Experiences and Global Opportunities" was also held from 29-31 Oct., 1998.

## ICA Regional Women's Committee meets in Seoul

The 1st Meeting of the ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific was held in Seoul, 25 October, 1998. In 1996 a decision was made to form a Regional Women's Committee in Asia and the Pacific.

All delegates and participants spoke about the situation in their respective countries. Ms. Dewi Mötik Pramono (BKWK, Indonesia) spoke about the activities of her primary co-operative in Indonesia, where they were able to get support from the Swiss agencies. Ms. Nori Adriyani from Indonesia wanted to know what the Women's Committee could do to support the grassroots primary co-ops in terms of a proactive approach to international organizations. Ms. Anita Machanda (India) mentioned that for a long time now the agenda was "how the co-ops can support women". She wanted this changed to "how the women can support co-operatives".

Ms. Rahaiah Baharen has been unanimously elected as the



Members of the Committee pose for a photograph

Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee also unanimously elected Ms. Hatsuko Omori, Japan, and Ms. Rameshwari Ramchandra, Singapore, as Vice-chairpersons.

The Committee voted to admit AWCF (Asian Women in Co-operative Development Forum) as a member to the Committee.

The committee has suggested to set up networking of member co-operatives and appointing 'contact

persons' in each member organizations/countries, who could liaise with the Committee and the ICA Regional Office on women's activities in respective countries.

The committee also suggested that more and more exposure and exchange programmes be arranged for women co-operators. The other recommendation of the meeting was to organize co-operative leadership training activities for women in the region.

## First-ever ICA Regional Women's Forum: Senator Bahaiah Baharen exhorts women to come forward

**T**he 1st Regional Women's Forum was held on October 26, 1998 in Seoul, Korea.

A total of 130 women and men representing 19 co-operative organizations and an international development agency from 12 countries (India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Finland) participated in this landmark and historic event.

The Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee reported to the 3rd Regional Assembly as follows:

"This Forum was a far cry from our early days. If we look back, at our 1st Regional Assembly in Delhi in 1994, we had among us only two women, and they were not official delegates.

At the 2nd Regional Assembly in 1996, there were five women present; only one among them was an official delegate.

At today's 3rd Assembly, we have more women present, but only because we just had our Regional Women's Forum in conjunction with the Regional Assembly. We still only have one woman official delegate.

So the Regional Women's Forum that we just had two days ago is the first such forum organized by the ICA in Asia and the Pacific and it was a historic event. We shared, we discussed, and deliberated on important issues.

I would like to stress the need for each member organization to appoint a contact person in each of your organizations for ICA-ROAP and the Regional Women's



*Some of the participants of the Global Forum*

Committee to send its communications to as well as to coordinate the implementation and dissemination of information and activities related to women.

All of us present here know that the proportion of women and men delegates and observers in our Regional Assembly today is not representative of the ratio of women and men members in our co-operatives. But as we all see now, there are very few women in decision-making in our co-operatives.

Co-operatives are democratic institutions. If women comprise half the membership, they must comprise at least half of the leadership.

Women have their own experiences. Their perspective and way of viewing situations is different from men's. As such, they have a different way of solving problems.

When there are more women to be in leadership in co-ops, co-operatives would be enriched by

their contribution and approach to solving problems.

The need for women to be in leadership in co-ops is even more important and urgent as co-ops face serious threats from the current economic crisis besetting the region.

Various fora organized by the ICA-ROAP on the effects of the economic crisis on co-ops show that the worst affected are women and children. Yet, women can and will provide solutions to our current economic problem. Co-operatives have to listen to women's voice.

This Assembly in Seoul is a milestone for the ICA Regional Women's Committee and the women in the region as a whole.

And as I have said earlier, we have shared, discussed, and formed a bond among us.

I would like to refer to that bond as 'Seoul-mates'. I repeat: 'Seoul-mates'.

Kamsa Hamnida (thank you)".

## ICA Regional Agricultural Committee holds its 31st Meeting

The 31st meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and the Pacific was held in the NACF office, Seoul (Republic of Korea) on 26th October 1998. Sixteen participants from six countries attended the meeting.

Dr. V. Kumar (India) and Mr. D.P. Baskota (Nepal) were unanimously elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

The meeting unanimously adopted the following Resolution moved by the JA-Zenchu (Central Union of Agricultural Co-ops of Japan) and decided to forward the Resolution to the ICA Regional Assembly for approval.

### Resolution of Agricultural Co-operatives in Achieving Food Security

We, representing agricultural co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific region, pledge to further strengthen the mutual co-operative relationship which have been built over many years and to make every effort in achieving the world food security in our countries through sustainable agricultural development carried out by family farmers.

In the ICA Asia and Pacific member countries, there is a combined population of 3.1 billion, which accounts for 54% of the world population. Therefore, food security of our member countries will be the key for global food security.

However, we faced numerous difficulties in challenging to eradicate hunger and poverty in the region - urbanization, expanding populations, decreasing arable lands, and decreasing domestic agricultural production caused by



Members of the Agricultural Committee - Mr. D.P. Baskota, the Vice Chairperson is in the first row with the cap.

increasing imports to a large extent.

In recent years, unusual weather patterns combined with a region-wide financial crisis have made it more difficult to address the challenges.

However the conditions may be, we believe that the regions' food security can be accomplished if the countries would try to be self-sufficient in producing their staple food, with a complementary level of trade where appropriately to the given situations.

Food security in each country cannot be accomplished by solely relying on the trade in which principle of comparative advantage is indiscriminately applied.

It is our firm belief that food security can be achieved while taking into consideration the economic, social and historical background of each country by developing sustainable agriculture through balancing domestic

production, agricultural trade and food reserves.

In the same manner, sustainable agriculture can be positively developed by following self-sufficiency policies such as:

- \* appropriately managing farmlands,
- \* controlling pests and diseases, securing bio-diversity,
- \* providing access to new technologies for family farmers and developing rural and inter-urban/rural infrastructure.

Sustainable agriculture makes a concrete base for future generations too. Therefore, each country must continue to have the ability to support vulnerable farming activities that contribute to these multi-functional roles.

Self-sufficiency policies are essential to Food Security. At the same time, appropriate agricultural trade can contribute to food security by supplementing self-sufficiency

policies. With this common recognition overall in the IFAP World Farmer's Congress of last June, we, co-operators, clearly noted that liberalization of agricultural trade should not be regarded as an end in itself. Instead, liberalization of agriculture should only be invoked to improve the functioning of agricultural markets, increase farm incomes, eradicate poverty and promote socially and environmentally sustainable programmes for agricultural development.

It is common in Asia-Pacific region that family farms have been the key player in securing the food

and multi-functionality of agriculture as well although there are considerable variety of climate and geographic conditions among the countries. On this commonality and our mutual concerns for food security, we should convey a forceful and united message on the high necessity of supporting the family farms in the upcoming WTO agricultural negotiations.

Further, we must continue to advocate our voice that agricultural trade liberalization should not impair the multifunctional roles played by agriculture, but should encourage economically viable domestic agricultural production

and sound social policies whether or not a country is food-exporting or importing, developing or developed.

We, the agricultural co-operative members of the ICA Asia-Pacific region, strongly support the FAO's Rome Declaration on World Food Security of 1996 and recognize the importance of food security for all. It is our commitment to strengthen the solidarity as we move to the 21st century with other co-operative organizations of consumers, fishermen, foresters, women, and youth.

The next meeting will be held in Kathmandu in 1999.

## 31st Meeting of the Regional Consumer Committee

The 31st meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific was held on the 26th Oct' 98 at the offices of National Livestock Co-operative Federation.

26 members and observers from 11 countries, namely Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore attended the meeting.

Election of Office Bearers of the Committee: Mr. H. Tanaka of Japan was re-elected unanimously as Chairperson of the Committee for the second time, while Mr. K. Okayasu from Japan was elected Vice-Chairperson, which post was lying vacant since last meeting.

Indonesia offered to host the next meeting of the Consumer Committee as well as University Sub-Committee some time during October-November 1999.

## ICA Committee on Fisheries For Asia and the Pacific

The 23rd meeting of the Fisheries Committee was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on October 26, 1998 in conjunction with the Executive Meeting and Plenary Meeting of the International Co-operative Fisheries Organization (ICFO).

In view of a duly approved modified Constitution, it was decided that the priority should be given to secure a formal approval of the ICA Regional Assembly of the revised constitution of the Committee.

The revised constitution was later approved unanimously by the 3rd meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly held on 28th of October 1998.

The Committee also adopted a resolution on Contribution of Fisheries Co-operators to Food Security.

The Resolution was subsequently unanimously adopted by the 3rd meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly at Seoul on October 28, 1998. Essentially, the Resolution

pledges that members of ICFO and ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and the Pacific will make every effort towards contributing to food security in each country by mobilizing every possible resource of fisheries co-ops to realize sustainable fisheries development and stable production of fisheries products.

Members will take initiatives for the promotion and implementation of community-based fisheries management and environmental conservation, and actively take steps to promote national, regional and international co-operation among co-operatives.

### ***Request to our MOs.***

***Please send us news and Information about your co-operative organisations regularly.***

***Use E-mail: icaroap@vsnl.com***

***-Editor***

## Special Workshop on Agriculture-Consumers-Fisheries Strategic Alliance

A special workshop on Agriculture-Consumers-Fisheries Strategic Alliance was held on 27th of October 1998 at the Agricultural Co-operative College of NACF in Seoul, Korea.

- eries co-ops at national and regional levels; and;
- (3) to come to grips with the concept of 'fair trading' as seen from the perspective of the Asia-Pacific region.

successful experiences in this region from the consumer sector, agricultural sector and fishery sector; and d) to promote ventures, international trade and technology transfer.



Participants of the Special workshop in front of the NACF Co-op College, Seoul

The workshop was attended by 50 participants, which also included two international organizations. It was the first time in ICA's history in this region that three committees joined together to discuss important issues.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- (1) to reach a consensus on specific methods and mechanisms through which producer-consumer relations can be enhanced within the context of current socio-economic realities;
- (2) to formulate guidelines on a business strategy between agricultural, consumer and fish-

The participants felt that it is necessary to establish goals for the sectors to be effective and to bring economic benefits to the producers and consumers. Economic goal is the assured supply of quality goods through contract farming and have an assured market for the products to be sold. Business strategies between agricultural producers and consumers is essential to achieve this goal.

The workshop recommended:

- a) to organize more activities to exchange information between consumer, agriculture and fishery;
- b) to identify and formulate strategies directions for strategic alliances in the future;
- c) to select and promote

## Constitution of the ICA Housing Committee approved

The ICA Committee on Housing Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific had drafted a Constitution, which was recommended for adoption by the ICA Executive Council at its meeting held in Chiangmai, Thailand, on March 18, 1997.

The 3rd meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific, at Seoul, Korea, on the 28th of October 1998 unanimously approved the Constitution.

Although there are a large number of housing co-operatives in countries like Malaysia, India, Pakistan, and Japan, a lot of experience in the sector is available.

Given a proper forum and opportunities for interaction, the potential for useful work exists.

It was, therefore, relevant that a regional level committee on cooperative housing was established to facilitate an appropriate development process in the sector.

A global sectoral committee already exists.

The regional committee is expected to serve as a useful component of the network on cooperative housing.



## Meeting of ICA Consumer Sub-committee on University Co-operatives



*Some of the Sub-Committee members discussing future plans and programmes*

Ten participants and 12 observers from 10 countries were present at the 4th meeting of the ICA Consumer Sub-committee on University Co-operatives, on October 25, 1998: Japan, Philippines, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, Bangladesh and Nepal. A new member, Forum

for Co-operatives in Educational Institutions (FCEI) India, was admitted.

It is proposed to hold the 2nd youth seminar in the Philippines, in the second half of April '99. 30% of the participants will be elder people. Maximum 10 persons will be sent by each member country, ex-

cept Philippines. US \$100 will be the registration fee.

Mailing list of University Consumer Co-operatives is under preparation. All member organizations were requested to connect themselves to e-mail.

On the request of some member organizations it was decided to publish a propaganda leaflet on University/college/student Consumer Co-ops so that more students will be attracted to form/establish co-operatives.

It was also decided to circulate a questionnaire to member organizations to obtain their views on the design, objectives, contents, of the material before it is printed by the 31st of January 1999. The secretariat will put up the draft for discussion in Manila in April 1999.

Mr. K. Okayasu was re-elected as chairperson unanimously. Mr. Kadis from Malaysia voluntarily stepped down in favour of Mr. Mohammed Iqbal from Indonesia, who was unanimously accepted as vice-chairperson. It was also decided to retain Mrs. Climaco on the post of vice-chairperson.

## First meeting of Regional Co-operative Banking Association

The Regional Co-operative Banking Association met for the first time in Seoul on 26 October, 1998.

From the situations presented, it emerged that only a very small percentage of financial co-operatives have been impacted by the financial crisis as they were member-based and member-controlled. This reflected resistance of co-operative system during crisis.

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan was unanimously elected Chairperson; Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Vice-Chairperson, and a Korean delegate the Hony. Secretary.

The meeting identified the following activities to undertake in future:

- 1) Circulation of the publications of ICBA to all members,
- 2) Participation at the ACCU's Educational Forum being held in September '99.

RCBA's representatives may also participate.

ACCU may send invitations in this regard.

The ICA Regional Office will provide secretarial support.

## ICA Committee on HRD & Research

The ICA Committee on Human Resource Development and Research met at the office of National Credit Union Federation of Korea on 26 Oct., 1998.

Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz chaired the meeting.

The Committee felt that in future programmes on Information Technology and Distance Learning should be taken up. The chairman also suggested that CEMAS material must be updated and used.

The Global HRD Committee also met at the same day and venue.



## Research Consultation Meeting

A Co-operative Research Consultation was held on 25th October, 1998, at the NACF Headquarters in Seoul, Korea.

Based on the suggestions of the participants and after extensive discussions, the consultation decided to constitute a group consisting of Mr. Kurimoto (Japan) as chairperson, Mr. M.V. Madane (India), Prof. Chang (Korea), and a few nominees of the HRD and Research committee. Mr. B.D. Sharma, Director, ICAROAP, will be the secretary.

This group may work on:

- format of research register;
- the theme of the Asian Research Conference; and
- terms of reference of the conference.

It was decided that an independent Asian Research Forum be constituted, within the framework of Regional HRD and Research Committee.

## Greening of wasteland through IFFCO-promoted IFFDC

The Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd. (IFFDC), promoted by IFFCO has performed creditably well up to the year 1997-1998 by afforesting 11350 hectares of land and forming 85 primary farm forestry co-operative societies.

To ensure greater participation of women in this important activity, their membership swelled to over 37 percent.

Women members of these societies are motivated to organise savings groups by contributing a fixed amount every month at the village level society.

Elaborating these details, Dr. O.P. Gaur, Chief Executive, IFFDC, said that 145 savings groups have been constituted in the three year span of the project.

Similarly, 361 literacy groups have been formed to educate the

members on how to affix signatures, read and write.

182 women's nursery groups have also come into existence as a means to generate income by raising nurseries and producing seedlings.

Dr. Gaur further said that the success of the pilot project has led to the India-Canada Environment Facility (ICEF) and the Canadian International Development Agency in implementing IFFDC Project in right earnest.

The basic objective of this project is to develop 20,000 ha. of wasteland through 90 PFFCS in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Under this project various activities relating to promotion of village level co-operatives, farm forestry, training, research and development are undertaken.

## National Federation of Fisherman's Co-operatives Ltd. registers as Exporter

The National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives (FISH-COPFED) of India is a national level co-operative organization dedicated to the welfare and development of fisher members and their families all over in India.

To provide better support to the members, the Federation has registered itself as an 'Exporter' with the Government of India.

Initially, they would like to export a variety of fish like shrimp, ribbon fish, bombay duck, silver

pomfret, rohu/catla.

Specifications, packaging, quality etc. will be maintained as per agreed terms and will be of international standard. The rate will be competitive. Export will be made as per confirmed Letters of Credit.

## IFFCO Plants Bag Fertilizer Association of India Awards

The Kandla and Phulpur units of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) have won Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) Awards for Best Overall Performance amongst  $P_2O_5$  complex fertilizer producing units in the country and Best Environment Protection Award for achieving zero effluent emission level respectively for the

year 1997-1998. The Phulpur plant got this award for the third time in succession.

The awards were presented by Sh. Surjit Singh Barnala, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers at the inaugural session of the FAI Seminar here. The Society had the unique distinction of implementing its expansion projects at Aonla,

Kalol and Phulpur in a single year, which is a record achievement by any international standards.

The units have also received a number of awards for production and safety from different bodies earlier. IFFCO is the largest producer of fertiliser in the co-operative sector in Asia-Pacific region. □

## Workshop on co-operative legislation for self-reliant co-ops in Maharashtra

**A** workshop on Co-operative Legislation for Self-Reliant Co-operatives in Maharashtra was organized at Pune on August 1, 1998 by the Indian Society for Studies in Co-operation (ISSC), Pune, in collaboration with Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Sangh and Yashwantrao Chavan Pratisthan, Mumbai.

The consensus was that instead of amending the existing Act, there should be a separate law for Self-Reliant Co-ops.

There was also consensus that the direction of the new Act should unmistakably be towards minimum control of the government leading to de-officialization.

The participants also agreed that the Preamble of the new Act should stress preservation of Co-op Principles and basic co-op values as identified by the International Co-operative Alliance.

As regards pre-legislation scrutiny, the participants appreciated the need for it, though it was felt by many that the same should be related to education and viability.

The new Act should also protect the autonomy and democratic process of decision making in the co-operatives.

There was also consensus among the participants that the 'Principle of Accountability' should be clearly reinforced by making suitable provisions in the Act. There should be no rule-making power vested in the State Government or Registrar.

As regards machinery for settlement of disputes, the participants agreed that this should be through an independent outside agency and not any instrumentality of the co-op itself.

Finally, the participants agreed to constitute a core group to prepare a draft of the new Bill in light of the aforesaid directions.

It was also agreed that the new Bill, which might be framed by the Core Group, should be presented to the Sub-Committee of the State Co op Council (Pujari Committee) which is presently examining the question of amending the existing co-op law in Maharashtra.

## Eminent Co-operator award to L.N. Suri, GM Kendriya Bhandar

Shri L.N. Suri, General Manager, Kendriya Bhandar was honoured with Eminent Co-operator Award 1998 by the Government of Delhi for rendering excellent services in the Consumer Co-operative movement.

Shir Vijay Kapoor, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, presented the award in a glittering function at Constitution Club, Vithal Bhai, Patel House, New Delhi, jointly organized by Delhi State Co-operative Union and Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Delhi, recently.

Shri Suri joined Kendriya Bhandar as General Manager in 1991. Under his dynamic leadership the turnover, profits and the market shares of Kendriya Bhandar has gone up from Rs.45 to Rs.206 crores.

Due to efforts made by Shri Suri, it has registered its presence in the International Co-operative sector by being admitted to Consumer Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance for Asia and the Pacific.

## Apna Bazar enters into Management Education

Apna Bazar, one of the largest consumer co-operative chains, has set up Asoka Mehta Institute of Management and Research at Vashi, Navi Mumbai.

The Institute has three channels of courses: Management Education, Information Technology, conducting courses in C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) a PGDBM (Post Graduate Diploma in Management) and DBM. (Diploma in Management) apart from conducting regular diploma courses, the

Institute is also conducting a series of short-term courses under all these disciplines at an affordable fee structure..

The Institute has a well-developed infrastructure that includes six classrooms, one conference hall and a developing library. The computer lab.

Mr. M. Rajgopal, ta rank holder of Mumbai University and is M.M.S. from Bahah Institute of Management, is the Director of the Institute.

The Institute has already commenced management programmes

for NGO's, Credit Societies and Trade Unions. Tthe Institue has commenced all the three channels of course with one hundred students.

Those interested may write to:

The Director  
Asoka mehta Institute of  
Management and Research  
Apna Bazar Building  
Plot No.2, Sector 17  
Vashi, Navi Mumbai, India

Fax: (91)22-768-4026  
Tel:(91)22-761-1349/761/1355

## Dr. V. Kumar gets the Agronomy award



Dr. V. Kumar being presented with the Gold Medal by the President of India, Mr. K.R. Narayanan

The Indian Society of Agronomy (ICAR) conferred on him a Gold Medal recently for his outstanding performance in the field of agronomy.

The award, carrying a Gold Medal and citation, was presented to him by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, at the inaugural session of the First International Agronomy Congress at Vigyan Bhawan, in the presence of a galaxy of personalities like Shri Som Pal, Minister of State for Agriculture and Dr. R.S. Paroda, Director General of ICAR

Dr. Kumar, who has won wide acclaim nationally and internationally, is instrumental in evolving a realistic marketing strategy for IFFCO and formulating and implementing a wide range of need-based promotional, education, and social welfare programmes aimed at improving rural environment as well as enriching the quality of farmers' lives. A fellow of Indian Society

of Agronomy, Dr. Kumar is an internationally known Agriculture scientist and has contributed immensely in the field of fertiliser production, agricultural extension and rural development.

Under Dr. Kumar's inspired leadership, IFFCO has acquired the prestigious ISO-9002 Certificate of Approval from Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQI), London, in June this year for marketing fertilisers, strengthening co-operatives and providing services to the farmers and rural community.

IFFCO has the unique distinction of becoming the country's first marketing set-up to independently attain ISO 9002. His visionary zeal has a target to market five million tonnes of fertiliser during 1998-99, the highest in the country by a single fertiliser manufacturer.

Dr. Virendra Kumar is a member of several national and international committees related to fertiliser, co-ops and rural deve-

lopment. He has been unanimously elected Chairman of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and the Pacific at its 31st meeting held at Seoul on 26 October, 1998.

Widely traveled in India and abroad, Dr. Kumar has contributed over 100 research papers on marketing, agronomy and sales promotion in reputed journals.

Dr. Kumar is also a consultant with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

### Calendar of Activities January - March, 1999

Sub-Regional Workshop on Policy Reform, Kathmandu, 11-17 January, 1999.

Asia-Pacific Health Co-op Organisation (APHCO) board meeting 24-25 February, 1999.

First part of the 13th ICA-Japan Training Course, Anand, India; 24 January to 26 Feb., 1999.

Sub-Regional Workshop on Policy Reform, Bangkok, Thailand, 22-28 Feb., 1999.

Steering Committee Meeting on Women Leadership Development Manual, 29 Feb-02 March, 1999.

Second part of the 13th ICA-Japan Training Course - Study Visits, Nepal, 27 Feb-03 March, 1999

3rd Part of the 13th ICA-Japan Training Course, Tokyo, 05 March to 24 April, 1999.

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## 'Sakhi' pre-cooperative women's group formed

A group of 23 women, among the Afghan refugees settled in New Delhi, formed themselves into a self-help pre-cooperative by the name of 'Sakhi'. The aim of group is income generation and self-help through mutual co-operation among the community.

They have elected Ms. Simar Kaur as their President and Ms. Ravil Kaur as the Secretary. The group collected a sum of Rs.230/-. The membership fee of the group is a mere Re.1/- and a compulsory deposit of Rs.10/- per month.

Ms. Sunila Singh, Deputy Project Coordinator of National Council of YMCAs of India has been behind the efforts to mobilise the women, who were looking for a sustainable livelihood scheme.

YMCA National Council has been active among the refugees from Afghanistan, Somalia, Burma, Iran, etc. for some time now. They have implemented a number of initiatives in collaboration with UNHCR to promote socio-economic independence of refugees, specially women and children.

Mr. Singh got guidance and support from Ms. Anita Manchanda, Director at the National Co-operative Union of India. The group has been able to draw up a bye-law with the help of Ms. Manchanda.

*(Sakhi, the self-help group is looking for possible support from organisations, who can provide them technical training in income generating activities. Any organisation who wish to support them may contact Ms. Singh through Ms. Manchanda at the NCUI or the Editor of this newsletter)*

## All India Co-operative Week celebrated in India by National Co-operative Union of India and its affiliates

The 45th All India Co-operative Week was celebrated by the National Union of India and its affiliates celebrated from 14-20 November, 1998.

The celebrations were inaugurated by Shri Satyapal Singh Yadav, Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs of the Government of India.

Several dignitaries including the President of India, the Vice President, the ICA President, etc. have sent messages of congratulations to NCUI during this occasion.

Inaugurating the celebrations, Shri Satyapal Singh Yadav exhorted the co-operatives and co-operative leaders to evolve immediate and long-term perspective plans to facilitate from 'state-protected' to 'self-reliant' co-operatives. He also said that co-operatives alone can survive in the wake of the liberalisation of economy and global competition, as co-operatives are members' organisations.



Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director lights the inaugural lamp. Also seen in the picture are Mr. Shivaji Rao Patil, Chairman, National Co-operative Sugar Federation of India (left), Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, President, NCUI (right), Shri Satyapal Singh Yadav, the Minister (in white dress).

Mr. Robby Tulus, the Regional Director also participated at the Co-operative Week, apart from other officials of the ICA Regional Office in New Delhi.

This year's Co-operative Week was unique. Each day of the week was marked such as Co-ops and Nation Building Day; Co-ops, Agri-

culture and Rural Development Day; Co-op Marketing, processing and Consumer Day; Co-ops and Environment and Better Living Day; Co-ops Revival and Reconstruction Day; Co-ops for Women, Youth and Weaker Sections Day; and Co-ops and People's Participation Day.

□

## Milk Co-operatives make Rapid Progress in Bangladesh

**A**mong other co-operative activity sectors, milk co-operatives in Bangladesh have registered steady progress in terms of business transacted and services provided to dairy farmers. The demand for milk is increasing rapidly because of the increase in population, growing consciousness about milk and its diversified use.

The country consumes about 18 million tonnes of liquid milk, roughly 13 million tons of which is produced locally. Over 360 milk co-operatives with a total membership of 48,000 dairy farmers are the principal contributors to milk production. The Bangladesh Milk Producers' Co-operative Union Limited (BMPCUL), established in 1973 under a FAO-UNDP project, collects milk from six main milk-shed areas i.e., Tangail, Manikgonj, Tekerhat, Baghabarighat, Rangpur and Sree Nagar through primary level co-operatives. The milk procurement, handling, processing and distribution methods are based on the 'Anand Pattern' developed by the National Dairy Development Board of India. Products of the Union are sold under the MILKVITA brand.

The product range include: fresh milk, milk powder, butter, cheese, flavoured milk, lassi, mistee, ghee, sweet curd, etc.

MILKVITA has been able to establish a firm foothold in the market [market share is nearly 86%] and earn confidence and loyalty of the consumer merely because of steady supply of quality products. This can be seen from the financial status figures of the Union: income from marketing in 1991-92 was Tk 192.23 million while in 1996-97 it was Tk 527.48 million; price paid to dairy farmers in 1987-88 was Tk 34.52 million while in 1996-97 it was Tk 305.05 million.

The success of MILKVITA is largely due to the development of milk-shed areas, incentives and development opportunities provided to the primary milk co-operatives, provision of extension and animal health-care services. Quick payments to dairy farmers, maintenance of a dairy development fund and free-supply of milk cans have also contributed to the success of MILKVITA. Besides



*Milk collection at a MILKVITA Co-op*

its six chilling centres, the Union operates a full-scale dairy processing plant in Dhaka city [60,000 ltrs. per day]. The Union has its own fleet of transfer tankers and products supply vans.

Some of services provided by the Union among others, are:

- Free treatment of dairy cattle;
- Free vaccination at regular intervals;
- Free artificial insemination service;
- Fodder extension to ensure nutritional value of milk;
- Production and distribution of quality cattle-feed;

- Continuous training for field staff and plant operators;
- Motivation programmes for agents and dairy farmers;
- Incentives for increased milk supplies; and
- Credit facilities to dairy farmers on low-interest.

The Union is alive to the needs of the dairy farmers and the preferences of consumers. It has also to retain its hold in the market in view of other private dairy enterprises. The following development projects have now been proposed to be implemented:

- Balancing, Modernization, Rehabilitation and Extension of Co-operative Dairy Complex project with a total input of nearly Tk 270 million [partly being financially supported by the Government];
- Diversification of product line e.g., candy and chocolate plant;
- Development primary co-operatives and setting up new chilling centres in potential areas;

The Union business and promotional affairs are managed by a 9-member Managing Committee which is elected by the general assembly of members [6 are elected from among the primary milk producers' co-operatives and 3 nominated by the Government.]

The Union, through its activities, has been able to generate employment opportunities in the rural areas especially among the marginal farmers. The MILKVITA is a household name in the country and the consumers indicate their product-loyalty when they prefer to go in for MILKVITA.

**-Daman Prakash**

*Project Director, AGMT, ICA ROAP*